

# absolute india

VOL. 5, ISSUE 13, NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

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## 84 STUDENTS IN ODISHA TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID - 19, TOLL MAY RISE

# SURGING AGAIN!

Team Absolute | Bhubaneswar

At least 53 girl students of a school in Odisha's Sundargarh district were found Covid-19 positive while 31 students of a government medical college in the state also tested positive for the virus, officials said on Tuesday. "When one student complained about cough and cold, we sent her for medication and later, the doctor asked her to undergo Covid-19 test. Another girl who accompanied the girl also later tested positive," said Sister Petrica, Headmistress of St. Mary's Girls High School. Following this, the matter was informed to the chief district medical officer (CDMO) and subsequently, testing of other students in the school were also carried out on November 21 and 22. The condition of all students is stable and they are under quarantine and taking medicines as per doctor's advice, she added.



### 12 STUDENTS IN JAIPUR SCHOOL TEST POSITIVE

Jaipur: As many as 12 students of a private school have tested positive for Covid-19 here on Tuesday, triggering worries among the parents. Since Diwali (November 4), around 19 children have tested positive for the virus, especially after schools were opened with 100 per cent capacity from November 15. On Tuesday, 12 students of Jaishree Perival International School tested positive for the virus. A school official said that a student who had come from Mumbai had tested positive following which 185 students were tested, of which the reports of 12 have returned positive. The school said in a message, "Since there has been a report of Covid cases in Class 11, as a precautionary measure, we

are screening all school faculty and staff starting today to ensure continued safety of our students and staff. This process will take four days. Hence, classes will be held online for Classes 6-12 from Wednesday onwards. Physical school will resume on Monday (November 29). "On November 17, a 2.5-year-old child had succumbed to Covid-19 in Jaipur, the first fatality reported in the city after three months. Earlier, two students of SMS School one student of Neerja Modi School had also tested positive. Overall, 18 people tested positive for Covid-19 in Jaipur on Tuesday, down from 22 on Monday. All students are having mild symptoms or asymptomatic and under isolation, she added.

### WHO 'very worried' about Europe Covid surge

London: The World Health Organization said that it is "very worried" as Covid cases continue to spike in Europe.

According to regional director Dr. Hans Kluge, the risk is due to low mask use and vaccine hesitancy, winter season, and dominance of the more transmissible Delta variant. Several European countries have loosened masking requirements, citing vaccine efficacy. The warning comes as several nations report record-high infection rates and introduce full and partial lockdowns. He said that an increase in mask wearing could immediately help. Europe is again becoming the region most seriously affected by the pandemic. Austria on Friday became the first European country to announce that Covid-19 vaccination would become a legal requirement. The new rules are set to come into force in February, as details of how the measure will be enforced are still being discussed.

The announcement, alongside that of a new national lockdown was made in response to record case numbers and low vaccination levels. Other European countries are also imposing new measures as cases rise, the report said.

## India witnessing strong demand for legally guaranteed MSP

**MORE THAN 61 PER CENT OF INDIANS SEEMED TO AGREE WITH THE DEMAND FOR LEGALLY GUARANTEED MSP, WITH JUST 21 PER CENT OPPOSED TO IT. EXPECTEDLY, A HIGHER SHARE OF OPPOSITION VOTERS SUPPORTED THIS DEMAND THAN NDA VOTERS. BUT MORE THAN 54 PER CENT OF NDA SUPPORTERS AGREED WITH THE DEMAND.**



**CLOSE TO 70 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS MADE IT CLEAR THEY WOULD AGREE WITH THIS DEMAND MADE BY OTHER FARMERS FOR LEGALLY GUARANTEED MSP ON FOOD ITEMS LIKE MILK, FRUITS, VEGETABLES, EGGS, CHICKEN AND THE LIKE.**

finances to buy all food grains and horticulture products at legally guaranteed prices. But the respondents in an IANS-CVoter snap poll did not seem to share this worry. 62.6 per cent suggested that the government can afford to pay legally guaranteed MSP for all crops. A majority of opposition supporters also agreed. Respondents in an IANS-CVoter snap poll were asked if they would agree with a similar demand made by other farmers for legally guaranteed MSP on food items like milk, fruits, vegetables, eggs, chicken and the like. Close to 70 per cent of the respondents made it clear they would agree with this

demand if it came up. More than 63 per cent of NDA supporters agreed with this hypothetical demand. IANS-CVoter conducted a snap poll across India to find out what ordinary Indians think about the demand by farm leaders that Parliament must pass a new law providing legal guarantee to minimum support price. As of today, the government provides MSP for 23 crops. More than 61 per cent of the respondents seemed to agree with the demand for legally guaranteed MSP, with just 21 per cent opposed to it. Expectedly, a higher share of opposition voters supported this demand than NDA voters. But more than 54 per cent of NDA supporters agreed with the demand.

## Bill to ban all cryptocurrencies to be tabled in Winter Session of Parliament

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Union government will move a Bill which seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India in the Winter Session of Parliament starting November 29.

It will be called The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021. However, it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its usage.

The government's objective is "to create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India".

The Bill has been listed for introduction, consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha. It is among 26 new



Bills, which are to be introduced in the Parliament session beginning November 29.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier said that all democratic countries need to work together on cryptocurrency and ensure that it does not end up in the wrong hands.

Giving an example of the virtual currency, he had said, "Take cryptocurrency or

Bitcoin for example. It is important that all nations work together on this and ensure it does not end up in the wrong hands, which can spoil our youth."

Several high meetings have been held to discuss the regulation of cryptocurrencies. The Parliamentary Standing Committee had also called for the regulation.

## Government should have acted after 26/11 Mumbai attacks: Manish Tewari in his book

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress MP Manish Tewari in his latest book has questioned the UPA-1 government's inaction after the Mumbai attacks. The book is to be officially released on December 2, almost coinciding with the anniversary of the Mumbai attacks.

The Congress leader, who was a Minister in the UPA-2 government, said that after the Mumbai attacks the government should have taken a decisive action against Pakistan, but it showed restraint, which is not the sign of strength.

The Congress leader's criticism of his own erstwhile regime could give a fodder to the BJP, which will have a point on the Balakot airstrike after Pulwama terror attack.

The Congress leadership will have to deal with a second book in a month, which could stir another controversy. Earlier, Salman Khurshid's book created a contro-



versy where he compared Hindutva with IS and Boko Haram.

Tewari in the book says that with the rise of Taliban the threat has increased, "In the past two decades the challenges to India's national security had exacerbated both in complexity and intensity." This week, the nation will

observe the 13th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, which paralysed the nation's commercial capital for three days in 2008, in which more than 160 people were killed by terrorists from Pakistan.

The security forces had to launch an operation for three days and rescued 300 people from the Taj, 250

### EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK

"For a state that has no compunctions in brutally slaughtering hundreds of innocent people, restraint is not a sign of strength; it is perceived as a symbol of weakness. There comes a time when actions must speak louder than words. 26/11 was one such time when it just should have been done. It, therefore, is my considered opinion that India should have acted a kinetic response in the days following India's 9/11."

from the Trident and 60 people (members of 12 different families) from Nariman House.

### ALLAHABAD HC FINDS ORAL SEX WITH CHILD 'LESS SERIOUS' FOR RS 20

Prayagraj: In a decision that has sent shock waves all around, the Allahabad High Court has lowered the penalty imposed by the Special Sessions Court on one Sonu Kushwaha, a convict, found guilty of having oral sex with a 10-year-old minor child in lieu of Rs 20.

The single-judge bench of Justice Anil Kumar Ojha reduced Sonu Kushwaha's punishment from 10 years to 7 years, observing that the crime committed by him is 'less serious'.

The judgment said that it would not fall within the purview of either of the two sections, but it is punishable under section 4 of the POCSO Act.

The Court reduced the sentence of the appellant from 10 years of rigorous imprisonment to 7 years, and a fine of Rs 5,000, since 'penetrative sexual assault' under Section 4 is a 'lesser offence' than 'aggravated penetrative sexual assault' under Section 6.

The appellant Sonu Kushwaha was accused of going to the complainant's house and taking the complainant's 10-year-old kid with him. "In exchange for Rs 20, he urged the child to put his penis in his mouth.

## NOW DISCOUNT ON LIQUOR PURCHASE IF COVID VACCINATION CERTIFICATE PRESENTED

**BJP MLA from Mandsaur Yashpal Singh Sisodia in a tweet raised objection over the innovative idea of the excise and made it clear that the decision is not that of the state government and that such thing would attract people towards drinking.**

The order of the District Excise Officer elaborated that this discount will be available at the country liquor shops at Sitamau Phatak, Bhuniakhedi and Old Bus Stand.

Nemichand Rathore | Mandsaur

District Excise Officer Mandsaur informed that ten a discount of per cent will be provided at country liquor shops at Sitamau Phatak, Bhuniakhedi and Old Bus Stand on production of proof of both doses of Covid-19 vaccination.

The order said that in order to make the mega vaccination drive a huge success to contain Covid 19 and to get cooperation of people in the camps at liquor shops the administration on instructions of district collector Mandsaur offers this discount.

Mega vaccination campaign is going on for the prevention of infection of Covid-19. In order to make this campaign successful, the country liquor shops at Sitamau Phatak, Bhuniakhedi and outside the old bus stand of Mandsaur city, as an experiment to make necessary cooperation in the camp set up for vaccination by the district administration and to attract and encourage the liquor consumers towards vaccination. Consumers who bring certificates of both doses of "Covid Vaccine" by the license will be given 10 percent discount on the purchase of liquor. Also, take special care that there is no misuse in the said work.

### 70 STUDENTS OF ANDHRA SCHOOL FALL SICK AFTER EATING 'STALE' FOOD

Visakhapatnam: At least 70 girl students of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam district have fallen sick due to food poisoning after eating 'stale' food in the school.

The incident occurred late Monday night at Paderu. The students were rushed to a government hospital and most of them were discharged on Tuesday. The students complained that the rice and sambar served to them in dinner was stale. A few minutes after the dinner, the students suffered from vomiting and stomach ache. A couple of them fell unconscious. The school authorities immediately shifted the students to the hospital. According to doctors, 40 of the students were "very sick" on Monday night but their condition improved later as doctors provided them necessary treatment including intravenous fluids. As the news about students falling sick spread, anxious parents rushed to the hospital and pulled up by the school officials. The school has 200 students and of them 100 students had dinner in the first round. After seeing many students falling sick, others did not have dinner.

### Lok Sabha bulletin lists Farm Laws Repeal Bill for Winter Session

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha bulletin on Tuesday listed 'The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021' to repeal the three contentious farm laws as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19.

The Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021 will be introduced most likely on the first day of the Winter Session of the Parliament beginning November 29.

"The Bill will be introduced to repeal the 'Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance, Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020," the Lok Sabha bulletin said. Nearly a year-long farmers' agitation has been demanding the repeal of the three laws along with legal backing for minimum support price (MSP), among other things.



# GOVT APPROVES PROPOSAL FOR GSAT-7C SATELLITE FOR AIR FORCE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Defence Ministry on Tuesday approved the procurement of GSAT-7C satellite and ground hubs worth Rs 2,236 crore for the Indian Air Force for real-time connectivity of software defined radios.

The complete design, development and launching of satellite will be in India, and it will enhance the ability of Armed Forces to communicate beyond the line of sight, the ministry said.

The decision was taken during Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting held under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

During the meeting, it was accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for one Capital Acquisition proposal of Indian Air Force for its modernisation and operational needs amounting to Rs 2,236 crore under the category of 'Make in India'. The procurement proposal of Air



Force was for GSAT-7C satellite and ground hubs for real-time connectivity of software defined radios (SDRs). Induction of GSAT-7C satellite and ground hubs for software defined radios (SDRs) will enhance the ability of Armed Forces to communicate among one another in all circumstances in a secure mode. SAT-7A is the latest addition to the GSAT series of geosyn-

chronous communications satellites designed and manufactured by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It will enhance the Air Force's global operations and network-centric warfare capabilities. GSAT-7A spacecraft is configured on ISRO's standard I-2000 kg (I-2K) Bus. The satellite is built to provide communication capability to the

users in Ku-band over the Indian region. ISRO had launched first GSAT-7A on December 19, 2018. At present, the satellite is placed in an orbit with a perigee (nearest point to earth) of 35,800 km and Apogee (farthest point to earth) of 36,092 km with 0.2 deg inclination which is very close to the its final orbit, the ISRO said.

# BENGAL GOVT CHALLENGES HC'S CBI PROBE ORDER ON RECRUITMENT ISSUE

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Challenging the Calcutta High Court single bench order for a CBI inquiry into the alleged gross misappropriation regarding the recruitment of SSC Group D staff by School Service Commission (SSC), the West Bengal government on Tuesday moved the division of bench of the court. The case has been admitted, and is likely to be heard on Wednesday.

The state moved the division bench after the single bench of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay handed over the inquiry of faulty recruitment of Group D staff in West Bengal Board of Secondary Education into the alleged misappropriation to the Central Board of Investigation (CBI) on Monday.

Earlier, the Calcutta High Court stopped the salary of 25 Group D staff on the ground of alleged foul play over appointment by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBSE) based on "recommendations" of the West Bengal Central School Service (WBSSC). The court had also asked both the SSC

and the WBSE to file an affidavit on the recruitment. The petitioners had alleged that there were more than 5,000 people who had been given appointments after the recruitment process was over. In 2016, the state recommended for the recruitment of about 13,000 fourth

panel. There were allegations that recruitments have been made from the regional office of the commission. A case was filed in the High Court against the appointment of 25 of them and it came up in a single bench of Justice Gangopadhyay on Tuesday. Initially, the judge thought that there was confusion in the recommendation of that appointment.

"Enough is enough," he told the commission. This means that the commission has no control over the regional office. I do not want another scandal - Gangopadhyay had said and the commission was asked to file the affidavit. The Court on Wednesday not only stopped the salary of the alleged 25 Group D staff but also said that the court will do everything necessary to unearth the truth.

If needed, the SSC office will be cordoned off by CISF for the investigation.

The commission on Thursday admitted that they had no clue about the recruitment and pleaded for a judicial enquiry into the matter. The court, however, did not give any enquiry order but asked the WBSE to come up with an affidavit on Monday.



class staffer in different schools of the state and accordingly the WBSSC conducted examinations and interviews periodically and a panel was formed. The term of that panel ended in 2019.

There were widespread allegations that the commission made lots of irregular recruitments - not less than 500 - even after the expiry of the

# Srinagar salesman's murder case solved, 3 arrested

Archana Sharma | Srinagar

The police in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar district on Tuesday said it has solved the murder case of the salesman who was killed in Bohri Kadal area of the city, adding three accused have also been arrested.

"The case of Ibrahim Ahmad who was working at the shop of Sandeep Kumar Mawa and was murdered on November 9 has been solved," a police statement said on Tuesday.

"Three persons have been arrested who were involved in the commission of the murder by the militants," the statement said. Police said that regarding this militancy incident, a case under relevant sections of law was registered.

"To investigate the said militancy crime, a special investigation team was constituted," the police said. "During the course of investigation, the officials learnt about the involve-



ment of three persons -- Aejaz Ahmad Lone, Naseer Ahmad Shah and Showkat Ahmad Dar, all residents of Lelhar Pulwama in the said militancy crime. "Subsequently, they were arrested in the instant case and during questioning they confessed about their involvement in the commission of said crime," the statement said. Preliminary investigations revealed that the above mentioned arrested trio is linked with militant outfit LeT (TRF) and have executed the said militant attack on the directions of militant handler from across the border.

"It was further revealed that the arrested trio have been in touch with Pakistan based militant handler for the last four months. "On their disclosure, weapon of offence -- pistol along with 7 rounds and other incriminating materials including a grenade have been recovered from their possession. "Besides, the Alto car which was used during the commission of crime on the day of attack has also been seized on their disclosure. Further investigation in the case is in progress," the police statement said.

# Delhi Police told to file FIR against Sambit Patra

Team Absolute | New Delhi:

A court here on Tuesday directed Delhi Police to register an FIR against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sambit Patra for allegedly posting a doctored video of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on social media, in which he was seen speaking about the farm laws.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rishabh Kapoor of Tis Hazari Court ordered registration of FIR against BJP spokesperson Patra under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), allowing a complaint of Aam Aadmi Party's Atishi. Advocates Rishikesh and Mohd. Irshad, representing the petitioner said the accused fraudulently and knowingly forged the original



video and uploaded the false, fabricated, and tampered with video on social media with the only intention to incite members of the society against the complainant and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The plea stated that, since the complaint clearly disclosed the commission of a cognizable offence, it is the utmost duty of the police

officials receiving the complaint to register an FIR under relevant provisions of law.

Even otherwise, it is a settled law that whenever information is laid before the police officer regarding the commission of cognizable offence, the said police officer has no option but to immediately register an FIR, the plea read.

# Heavy rains cause extensive damage to farmers in K'taka

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Heavy and unrelenting rains have caused extensive damage to standing and harvested agricultural crops in Karnataka. The rains have damaged jawar crop in north Karnataka and ragi in southern districts of the state.

Jowar is the staple food of north Karnataka, whereas ragi is staple diet of the people of south districts.

Heavy rains in Karnataka since September have caused loss of agricultural crops in five lakh hectares in the state. Horticulture crop loss has been assessed for 30,114 hectares.

In Chikkaballapur district known for horticultural produce, as many as 3,000 hectares of grape yards and other horticultural produce worth an estimated Rs 50 crore have been destroyed. The farmers will now have to wait for another one-and-a-

half month to reap fruits and vegetables.

It is estimated that 60,000 hectares of crops including 25,000 hectares of Ragi crop and hundreds of acres of rose farms in Chikkaballapur have been destroyed.

Officers of the agriculture department at all levels were instructed to engage themselves in conducting surveys of crop losses.

It is estimated that crops in 3.43 lakh hectares were affected due to incessant rains in August and September affecting 1.5 lakh farmers. Since, the copious rains continued throughout November, the damage to the farming community is immense.

Rs 130 crore has been released for the farmers so far by the Karnataka government. Compensation for 79,000 farmers is pending and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has instructed for release of Rs 79 crore towards clearing the compensation due to battered farmers.

# Punjab to have bio-fuel projects to prevent stubble burning

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Invest Punjab has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Punjab State Office-Renewable Gas Association of India for setting up bio-fuel projects and compressed bio-gas plants (Bio-CNG) that will help in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions generated by stubble burning. The Renewable Gas Association of India (RGAI) was set up to offer solutions for improving and maximising renewable gas production and usage.

Responding to the signing of the pact, Subodh Kumar, former Executive Director with Indian Oil and RGAI President, said: "This will serve as an advocacy voice for the protection, preservation and promotion of renewable gas to create additional and diverse market demand for renewable gas."

Maninder Singh, RGAI General Secretary, said they will encourage renewable gas produced from all feedstocks, using competing and sustainable technologies for all end-use applications.

# 4 houses collapse in TN's Salem due to heavy rains

Team Absolute | Chennai

Four houses in Tamil Nadu's Salem district collapsed on Tuesday as heavy rains continued to lash the state, authorities said, adding that four people were believed to be trapped in the debris, while 13 others have been rescued and shifted to a hospital for treatment.

Police and Fire and Rescue personnel are involved in the rescue operations currently underway in Karungalpatti area. A team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is also likely to reach the affected area. The Regional Centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a yellow alert for Tamil Nadu for



Tuesday and Wednesday and an orange alert for Thursday and Friday. The alerts were issued following the possibility of the formation of a low pressure and a cyclonic circulation over the southeast Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood extending up

to 3.1 km above mean sea level. Heavy showers in several parts of Chennai have led to water-logging and the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has deployed pumps to flush out the excess water. According to the GCC officers, 794 pumps have been deployed.

# Will bring lakh farmers to Delhi in support of reforms: SC panel member

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Member of the Supreme Court appointed committee on farm laws, Anil Ghanwat, on Tuesday wrote to the apex court to release their committee's report and also said he will mobilise a lakh farmers, who support farm reforms, to Delhi.

Ghanwat's Committee has submitted a report in connection with the three contentious farm laws, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced to repeal on November 19. The Shetkari Sanghatana leader from Maharashtra reached Delhi on Monday

and held a meeting with another member of the panel, agriculture economist, Ashok Gulati. Ghanwat told media, "I have written a letter to the Supreme Court again demanding it to release our report. Now that the three laws are going to be repealed, this report can play an educational role."

Whether or not the Committee will bring out that report in public by itself will be decided later, he said. Explaining that he and his team never wanted to pitch farmers against farmers and therefore never took to streets till date, Ghanwat said, however, now that the

PM has announced to repeal the laws, we will take to the streets if needed.

"But we don't want to disturb Delhi. We will bring at least a lakh genuinely worried farmers, who support reforms in agriculture," Ghanwat said.

Commenting on the Samyukt Kisan Morcha's demand to legalise Minimum Support Price (MSP) along with cancelling the three laws, Ghanwat said, "MSP is not the answer, it can never be. Farmers need to diversify. Look at progressive farmers in Maharashtra - farmers are doing dairy, fisheries, poultry and orchards."

# Srinagar shivers at minus 2.3, Drass in deep freeze at minus 12.8

Team Absolute | Srinagar

At minus 2.3 degrees Celsius, Srinagar recorded the coldest night on Tuesday while the Drass town of Ladakh froze at minus 12.8. An official of the Meteorological Department (MeT) said, "It was Srinagar's

coldest night of this season so far at minus 2.3 on Tuesday while the Drass town of Ladakh was frozen at minus 12.8. "As the weather is likely to remain generally clear during the next 48 hours, the minimum temperatures would drop further during this period. "Pahalgam had minus 4.4 and

Gulmarg minus 0.6 as the minimum temperature. "Leh town of Ladakh had minus 11.5 and Kargil minus 6.5 as the night's lowest temperature. "Jammu city had 9.0, Katra 9.6, Batote 6.2, Banihal 5.8 and Baderwah 2.2 as the minimum temperature."



# Uttar Pradesh cop arrested for allegedly raping woman

Team Absolute | Jhansi

A police constable has been arrested for allegedly raping a 23-year-old woman from Kannauj, who had come to visit her relative in Jhansi. The woman has alleged that she was raped by the accused on the Chirgaon police station campus on November 16. The constable has been arrested and was sent to jail on Monday. As per the complaint lodged by the victim's mother at the Chirgaon police station here, she had sent her daughter-in-law to look after her daughter-in-law who had conceived recently. Her daughter-in-law lives near the Chirgaon police station. She



further stated in the complaint that the accused, Gautam, who also hails from Kannauj district,

is posted as a constable at the station. On the night of November 16, he

had called the woman on the pretext of some enquiry and took her to his room on the police station campus and raped her.

Gautam also threatened her with dire consequences if she revealed the incident to anyone. On Sunday, the woman narrated the incident to her mother who then lodged the complaint. The accused Gautam has been booked under Sections 376 (rape), 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC and has been sent to jail, police said.

SSP Jhansi Shivhari Meena said that the victim has undergone medical examination and her statement under Section 164 will be recorded on Tuesday.



# PATALPANI RAILWAY STATION WILL BE NAMED AFTER IMMORTAL REVOLUTIONARY TANTYA BHIL

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that a grand programme will be organised at Patalpani on December 4 with the aim of paying homage to the immortal revolutionary Tantya Bhil. Tantya Bhil fought against exploitation and sacrificed himself to free Mother India from the shackles of subjugation. Chouhan said that to keep the memory of Tantya Bhil intact, a proposal to rename Patalpani railway station as Amar Krantikari Tantya Bhil railway station would be sent to the Central Government immediately. Chouhan said this in his address before the meeting of the Council of Ministers in Mantralaya. The meeting of the Cabinet began with the recitation of Vande Mataram. Chouhan said that Veer Tantya Bhil was hanged in Jabalpur Jail. His last rites were performed at Patalpani near Mhow. He is revered by us. The state government has decided that tributes will be paid to him with full respect. Tantya Mama was born in Baroda Ahir village near Pandhana in Khandwa district. Chouhan said that the line "Shaheedon ki chitona par



lagenge har baras meevatan par mitne walon ka yahi baki nisan hoga" (Fairs will be held every year at the pyres of the martyrs - this will be the last mark of those who made supreme sacrifice for the nation) is the source of inspiration for the programme. Chouhan said that the birthday of Atal Bihari Vajpayee is also celebrated as Good Governance Day on 25th December. Therefore, a special campaign will be conducted in the state from December 25 to January 26. Chouhan said that vaccina-

tion mega campaign will be held again on November 24. All restrictions related to Corona have been lifted by the state government. Chief Minister informed that in the corona test held yesterday, 12 cases have come positive in the state. Twelve cases is not much, but this number has come from units to tens. A total of 12 people have also recovered. There are about 90 active cases in the state. Therefore vaccination is necessary. Chouhan said that it is the duty of the people of the state to get the corona vaccine. Vaccination has

been made mandatory in colleges, schools, hostels along with for government employees. Chouhan said that the ministers in charge of the districts should ensure creation of atmosphere and make intensive efforts to ensure cent percent vaccination in their respective districts by the end of December. Chouhan congratulated Indore for coming first in cleanliness for the first time in a row. The people of Indore, all public representatives, MPs, MLAs, administrative staff deserve congrat-

ulations. Indore has developed a wonderful and exemplary model of cleanliness on the basis of public participation. The state has overall performed well in the field of sanitation. Our state is at number three in the country. The Chief Minister congratulated all the bodies of the state which have made achievements in the field of cleanliness. Chouhan said that after reviewing the supply of manure in the districts under their charge, all the ministers should keep an eye on the availability of manure during sowing and the status of procurement of paddy in paddy producing districts. Home, Jail, Parliamentary Affairs, Law and Legislative Affairs Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra expressed gratitude for the implementation of Police Commissioner system in Indore and Bhopal by Chief Minister Chouhan. Water Resources, Fishermen Welfare and Fisheries Development Minister Tulsi Silawat congratulated on behalf of the people of Indore for Indore coming first for the fifth consecutive time in cleanliness under the leadership of Chouhan and expressed gratitude to Chief Minister.

# Kamal Nath asks women wing to reach out to people in villages

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Tuesday advised the women wing of the state to organise programmes in each constituency to expose the BJP-led central and state government's policies. Nath, who is also state Congress chief, said that women are easily gullible and the BJP is expert on cheating people. "Women wing of the party should actively reach out to the people, especially housewives and explain how BJP's policies are responsible for the price rise in the country," Nath said while addressing a programme organised by the women wing of the Congress at the party headquarters here in Bhopal on Tuesday. He said each woman associated with the party should prepare a list of villages she will focus on. "It will not only expose the BJP, but will help strengthen the party's reach in the state," he added. "We need to look into all the reasons why we lost elections. Women power is the biggest power but they are gullible and BJP is an expert in playing tricks. Therefore, women should be made



aware and warned about it," Nath said. Later talking to the press, Nath also said that he was holding meetings of various wings of the party to strengthen the organisation. "We are fighting against not only the BJP but its organisation. We are revitalising our party organisational structure and asking it to connect

with as many people as possible," he said. Nath's advisory to the party's women wing came a day after he met Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi on Monday, during which a lengthy discussion was held on revitalising and restructuring the party's state unit in view of assembly elections in 2023.

## Schools To Open With Full Capacity; Government Issues Guidelines

**In the previous order, the state government had allowed reopening of schools with 50 per cent capacity for classes 1 to 5 and with 100 per cent capacity for Classes 8, 10 and 12.**

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

After a significant improvement in the COVID-19 situation in the state, the Madhya Pradesh government has decided to reopen schools for all classes with 100 per cent capacity. In the previous order, the state government had allowed reopening of schools with 50 per cent capacity for classes 1 to 5 and with 100 per cent capacity for Classes 8, 10 and 12. All schools can resume offline teaching learning activities with 100 per cent capacity for classes 1 to 12, the School Education Department said in the revised order. Residential schools and hostels can also start with full capacity, the order said. To attend schools and stay at hostels, parents' consent will

be mandatory, the School Education Department said. Schools will decide on continuing online and digital education, the order said, adding that broadcast of study materials on Doordarshan and via WhatsApp groups will continue. All school and hostel teachers, staff members must take both doses of COVID-19 vaccines, the order said. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the state and central government to control the spread of Covid infection must be followed by the schools, it said. Recently, the Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE) has announced Class 10, Class 12 board exam dates. MP Board Class 10 exams will begin on February 18 and Class 12 exams will start on February 17, 2022.



## Taj Mahal-like home in MP catching people's fancy

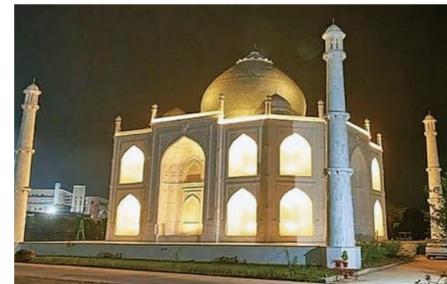
**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

An intricate replica of the historical Taj Mahal built in Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur district has become a big hit among the people, specially the local artists, YouTubers and couples. Locals and people from surrounding districts visit not only to see the imitation of the monument of love but also for pre-wedding shoots. Spread on a 90 square metres area, it is a residential building with four bedrooms. One third of the structure has been built in the line of the Taj Mahal. Though the replica is a gift for a wife as an expression of love, it was also built to add an historical value to Burhanpur. Anand Prakash Chouksey, who has constructed the building for his wife Manjusha Chouksey, told IANS: "People always wondered why the Taj Mahal was not built in Burhanpur as Shah Jahana's

wife Mumtaz had died in the city. Also, people randomly ask what Burhanpur is famous for and being a teacher I decided to give a historical value to my district. This is the reason I decided to build my home as a replica of Taj Mahal in the name of my wife." This building is not just a replica of Taj Mahal, but more interestingly it has some other connections with Agra. White Marble tiles used for its beautification are from Agra. More interestingly, carving

(nakkashee) and its design have been done by people belonging to Agra. One of the two engineers who designed the entire structure is a Muslim a" Mustak Ali, said Chouksey. Chouksey said he got inspired during his visit to the Taj Mahal. He, then studied its architecture closely and asked the engineers to take note of the structural details. The basic structure occupies 60 square metres. The dome is 29 feet high and consists of two

bedrooms on two floors. The house also has a kitchen, a library and meditation room. He said he wanted a house 80 feet high but could not get permission for it. Following the rejection, he decided to build a Taj Mahal-like structure. Chouksey's unique house was built over a period of three years. Not only this, the lighting both inside and outside the house makes the structure shine in the dark just like the real Taj Mahal. Chouksey believes that his house will be a spectacle no tourist can afford to miss while visiting Burhanpur. "Generally, people see the Taj Mahal as a tomb, but we can think beyond. It is a symbol of love, which teaches us to be united. I think, in the coming days, more people will build the same replica as an expression of love for their partners. And above all, I am happy that I could give prominence to my home town," Chouksey said.



## CM planted Karanj and Gulmohar saplings

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with mtiaz Ali and Vishnu Prasad of Sarthak Sanstha planted saplings of Karanj and Gulmohar in Smart Garden. Chouhan is planting saplings every day as per his resolve. In order to encourage the active participation of the society in the activities of environmental protection, Chouhan does tree plantation every day with social-voluntary organisations and people working in the field of environmental protection.

Sarthak Sanstha does the work of plastic management along with picking waste. Since 2004, the organisation has been working as a special associate with the Bhopal Municipal Corporation in the field of cleanliness. The organisation has been honoured with 14 national and international awards. On behalf of the organisation, Chief Minister Chouhan was also presented a water bottle made of clay and a watch made on a plate made by recycling of plastic bags

and gutkha pouches. Chouhan planted saplings of Karanj and Gulmohar today. Karanj is considered important in Ayurvedic medicine. Karanj is also used in religious works. The Gulmohar planted today is considered one of the most beautiful trees in the world. Flowers blooming in large bunches between the leaves of Gulmohar give a distinct attraction to this tree. In summer, Gulmohar trees are full of flowers instead of leaves. It is also rich in medicinal properties.



## AGAR-SHAJAPUR-NEEMUCH SOLAR PARK

**Bhopal:** In the presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Energy and Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh, power purchase agreement signing (PPA) and foundation stone laying ceremony of 1500 MW capacity Agar-Shajapur-Neemuch Solar Park will be held on November 25. State Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar and New and Renewable Energy Minister Hardeep Singh Dang will also be present in the programme which will start at 12 noon at ITI Premises in Shajapur district headquarters. Dang will give information about Agar-Shajapur-Neemuch Solar Park and upcoming projects. Energy literacy campaign will also be launched in the function along with the signing of power purchase and other project contracts and exchange of documents. After this, the efforts being made in the field of green energy will be reviewed by Chief Minister and Union Minister of Energy and Renewable Energy RK Singh in Bhopal. CM condole the death of wife of former DGP Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has condole the demise of Ravi Prabha Tripathi, wife of former Director General of Police Subhash Chandra Tripathi. Chouhan has prayed to Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul at his lotus feet and strength to the family members to bear this loss.

## CM CHAIRS CABINET MEETING

# Urja Saksharta Abhiyan to be launched in Madhya Pradesh

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

In a meeting of the Cabinet held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, it was decided that 'Urja Saksharta Abhiyan' would be launched in the state to make all the citizens energy literate. Through the campaign, the citizens of the state will be given information about energy saving. Efforts will be made to make all the citizens of the state energy literate according to a time bound action plan under the Urja Saksharta Abhiyan. The activities to be included in this campaign are to develop an understanding of the expenditure and dissipation of energy in the general public, to give information about traditional and alternative sources of energy and to create an understanding of their impact on the environment, meaningful dialogue about the use of energy, energy conser-

vation and management, to create the ability to make decisions for efficient use of energy based on its awareness, understanding of the effects, consequences of energy consumption, mitigating the environmental risks and negative impact of climate change and enabling the selection of different energy technologies. Taking a step towards tackling the effects of global warming and climate change, the state government is starting an 'Urja Saksharta Abhiyan'. Through this unique campaign, the students of schools and colleges and the general public will be given information about energy and energy saving. The campaign will be implemented in the form of a mission. The Cabinet has approved the decision of the state government to give guarantee to Project development by the state government - one of the major factors for the competitiveness and minimum tariff received in

the tender issued for more than 10 times the total capacity of 1500 MW of Agar-Shajapur-Neemuch Solar Park. Due to this the lowest solar tariff has been achieved in the country. The guarantee of the state government has resulted in several benefits. The project development got loans at low interest rates due to payment security. International developers were interested in setting up the project, as they could get loans from foreign institutions at low interest rates. Due to low payment risk, developers are willing to set up the project even at low return i.e. low share capital return. In view of the guarantee of the state government in multi-layered payment security, less working capital is required. Interest on working capital is higher than term loan. Therefore, due to the availability of state guarantee, the additional interest on working capital cost has been saved. Renewable energy capacity of about 5100

MW capacity has been established in the state till September 2021. It has solar power capacity of 2432 MW and wind power capacity of 2444 MW. About 21 percent of the total power supply available in Madhya Pradesh comes from renewable energy. In its continuous efforts to reduce carbon emissions, the state government is committed to increase the share of electricity supply from renewable energy to 40 per cent by 2030. In the same context, the Solar Energy Corporation of India and Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam's joint venture company 'Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL) had invited a tender on January 26, 2020 to develop Agar-Shajapur-Neemuch Solar Park of 1500 MW capacity. With the establishment of the proposed solar park project, a total of 3775 million units of energy will be generated and the state will get about 3018 million units of solar power and the rest will be given to Indian Railways.

As a result of other innovations adopted in the project like availability of land on contract signing date, sub-station for internal power connection, pre-fixed power purchase agreement, World Bank loan and state government guarantee, the state has created history by achieving contemporary lowest tariff across the country in 1500 MW capacity Agar-Shajapur-Neemuch Solar Park. The Cabinet has ratified the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill 2021 related to the proposal for creation of a cyber tehsil for one or more districts for speedy disposal of such revenue cases of undisputed category, in which orders can be made on the basis of registered documents, but which are pending due to lack of personal presence of the parties. Similarly, the Cabinet also ratified the Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Raj Evam Gram Swaraj (Amendment) Ordinance 2021.



EDITOR'S SPECS

## RSS planning big in West Bengal

With the BJP's infighting and internal rifts reaching a flashpoint, the RSS apparently no longer wants to depend on its political outfit and has decided to take over the reins from the party and carry out an extensive expansion programme across the state. The decision to reorganise the structural design at the grass-root level was taken during RSS chief Mohan Bhagwats visit to the state a couple of days ago. As a part of the new organisational module the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has decided to recruit nearly 1000 whole-timers in the party. Being a full-timer is not a new thing in Bengal politics. The whole-timers in the Left parties not only carried out the policies and the responsibilities entrusted to them to the grass-root level but provided the party a detailed demographic and socio-political map of the particular area which in turn helped the party in formulating its strategies. The decision to reorganise the organisation in the state percolates out of an important organisational meet that took place in Dharwad in Karnataka this October. According to senior members of the party, the Sangh has a target to add around 700 more shakhas (branches) to its existing network of 1,900 shakhas in West Bengal by 2024. The decision is part of the discussions between members and Sarsanghchalak (chief) Mohan Bhagwat during his visit to the state. A second project that the RSS intends to work on is to discover and highlight the role of unsung heroes in the freedom struggle. Also, the institutions and places that played an important part in the freedom struggle will be brought out and presented before the people. The Sangh during its two-day Chintan Programme has suggested that the younger members be assigned a two-year responsibility, and seniors to take days off from work, as and when needed, for the campaign.

# K'TAKA WOMAN COMES UP WITH MOTHERS' MILK JEWELLERY TO PRESERVE MEMORIES FOREVER

Ashoka MK

When a family is blessed with a child, everything else just disappears and the newborn forms the whole new world for the parents. The baby just gives magical touch to mundane days of routine life. Parents, especially mothers, want to preserve every single blissful moment of their child. Namitha Naveen, from Bengaluru, keeping these feelings in mind, has come up with unique breastmilk jewellery and a wide range of keepsakes using umbilical cord, milk teeth, first cut nails and hair of a new born kid. Namitha felt to preserve the memories, when she gave birth to her son. She wanted to cherish the memories of breastfeeding and childhood of the baby forever. As the child grew, her idea also took shape in terms of making jewels using mother's milk, umbilical cord of the child, first cut nails, and hair. Namitha had done her MSc in

Biotechnology which came in handy with her research. Today, her jewels reverberate with life and tokens of their memories which could be carried throughout. Namitha Naveen, whose passion to preserve memories took the shape of entrepreneurship by launching Mumma's Milkylale jewels. Namitha told IANS, that many parents keep first cut fingers with them in paper or box to cherish the memories of their child. But, it will get lost. "When they are with you as a pendant, ring, ear rings, the memories could be cherished forever, in a beautiful way. The jewels are also being made with milk teeth, umbilical cord, first cut nails, hair and mother's milk," she says. Sudha Anand from Bengaluru told IANS, "I got the umbilical cord and milk both preserved in the form of jewellery. I think it is one of the best jewelleryes that I have in my locker at the moment. It is something that she has made for her son, so that she could gift it to him on his 18th birthday and tell him how they were



connected for nine months and after the pregnancy. It's a great memory or souvenir to keep for life time. "I had no idea on making a jewel like that. A friend of mine told me that I should actually do something like this. My son was born on May 10 and I ensured that we got this jewellery done because it is a lifetime keepsake," she explained. "We have been trying to have a baby for a long time, almost eight years. We understand the value of parenthood more than anything else. I think it's a most cherished moment. Sooner or later the baby is going to grow up. Only these kinds of keepsakes are the ones that bring back

those beautiful memories that we connected throughout the journey," she explained. Divya from Hyderabad said, loved everything that has been made, the gift is so beautiful, she has no words to thank, it has made her breastfeeding journey beautiful. Namitha was into arts and crafts from childhood. She first started with life casting five years ago. Mostly young mothers are her clients. She began her research by searching on the Internet and came up with her own formulation. "It was challenging as the milk turned into black or brown. It took a long time of 6 to 8 months of research," she said. "Recently we did one couple ring for parents from Mumbai. The jewellery was made using the umbilical cord of their departed baby. It was so touching, we had emotional tears," Namitha recalled. "We get the jewels made from a Jeweller and in that piece we preserve mother's milk or baby's hair, nail or umbilical cord. The orders are received from Across India. We are first I guess to make

this unique type of jewels," she says. Some are getting the pendants made with four inclusions of breast milk, baby hair, nails and umbilical cord. Mother's milk heart jewel and simple heart keepsake have also become popular. She explains that processing is very tedious. Mother's milk has to be preserved for one day and after using the chemical it has to be dried again. Then, it has to be crushed again and it has to dry. These steps are very important. Each one has to be followed. So, that is why everything is customised, she adds. The jewellery is available from Rs 1,300 to Rs 3,500 for silver and gold coated jewel articles. Customised articles will be charged on weight and making charges. Namitha is single-handedly carrying out the tasks with the support of her husband. "There is an increase in demand for umbilical cord jewellery. They will be crushed and added into jewellery or made into pendants where a piece of umbilical cord is floating in a glass ball," she says.

## INDIANS IN US THRILLED WITH UNCLE JOE'S THUMBS UP FOR KID-SIZE COVID-19 SHOTS

If Pfizer-BioNTech and President Joe Biden held an election among Indians in America, they would have nearly every single vote. Several thousand Indians and people of Indian origin (PIOs), many with young children, had to skip the annual "naani-dadi" pilgrimage in 2020 due to severe Covid-19 restrictions. Even after Biden ramped up vaccinations with great gusto, the spoiler lingered: no vaccine for kids under 12. That changed Tuesday. US health officials gave the final greenlight to Pfizer's kid-size Covid-19 shot, which expands the country's vaccination campaign to children as young as 5. Biden called the decision "a turning point". This opens up Covid-19 vaccines to 28 million youngsters in the 5-11 years age group. "It will allow parents to end months of anxious worrying about their kids, and reduce the extent to which children spread the virus to



others. It is a major step forward for our nation in our fight to defeat the virus," Biden said. Parents worried about the constant risk of an uptick in cases during the school term are welcoming the news as colder weather blankets large swathes of the US. Shilpa and Sunder, from Pune and Chennai, see a "ray of hope". Shilpa, now a resident of Springfield, New Jersey, texted: "Being a firm believer in vaccinations, I think

this plan for getting 5yr old children to teens vaccinated seems promising. We are very enthusiastic but there is a tiny bit of fear thinking about possible side effects" Atlanta resident Rashi is relieved that "it's not like last year anymore" but she'll be holding off before taking her 7-year-old for the jab. "I will watch how things go for about three or four months and then get him vaccinated," she said over phone. Like Shilpa and Sunder, Rashi, who hails from New Delhi, worries about side effects. US CDC advisers said that the decision for many parents on getting children vaccinated may turn on the risks involved in scenarios. "The risk of some sort of bad heart involvement is much higher if you get Covid than if you get this vaccine," Dr Matthew Oster, a paediatric cardiologist at Emory University, told a CDC panel before the final approval on Tuesday. "Covid is much riskier to the heart, with roots in Mumbai, plans to ferry her younger child for the shot.

"This is welcome news as a parent and I am relieved that my younger child will be protected soon." Jindani, a resident of Summit, New Jersey, lost family members in India to Covid-19 last year. "The issue of vaccine equity is very close to my heart...we need to work harder to provide global access to vaccines, not just to high income countries but low medium income countries as well. As for the US, paediatric doses have begun arriving at thousands of locations across the country. Doses will be a third of the amount given to teens and adults. For the 5-11 cohort, Pfizer studied 2,268 youngsters and reported that its shot is 91% effective at preventing symptomatic Covid-19, based on 16 diagnoses among kids given dummy shots versus those who got the vaccine. Pfizer is testing shots for babies and under-5s, it expects data by year-end.

## international

# New Zealand passes drug-checking law

Wellington | Agencies

New Zealand Health Minister Andrew Little on Tuesday said drug-checking services will continue to operate legally at festivals, pop-up clinics, university orientation and other places this summer and beyond after a law was passed earlier in the day. The services have been legal since last summer under temporary legislation that expires next month, reports Xinhua news agency. The Drug and Substance Checking Legislation Bill (No. 2), which passed its third reading and will come into effect on December 7, means services can now continue and be expanded as required, Little said in a statement. "This legislation is about keeping people safe," he said, adding that the current drug-checking services have detected and intercepted potentially deadly substances circulating in the community. Evidence shows that when people are told substances are not what they think they are, they'll often choose not to take them, potentially saving lives, Little said. Research by the Wellington-based Victoria University on behalf of the Ministry of Health showed that 68 per cent of festival-goers who used drug-checking services



said they had changed their behaviour once they saw the results, said the Minister. The government has also approved three new organisations to perform drug-checking services. The New Zealand Drug Foundation, the NZ Needle Exchange Program and the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) will work alongside existing provider KnowYourStuffNZ. The government is also contributing NZ\$800,000 towards the cost of the service, Little said.

# Pak agrees to swallow bitter IMF pill to revive financial bailout

Islamabad | Agencies

In a major decision taken by the Imran Khan-led government in Pakistan, which may lead to a further surge in the sufferings of the poor, Islamabad has agreed to take steps worth PKR 800 billion by cutting expenditures and enforcing more taxes to ensure revival of the \$6 billion bailout package it took from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Pakistan government has also revealed that the steps will have to be taken within two months, intimating a major jump in inflation in the country in the coming days. Shoukat Tarin, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance, briefed about what he called harsh and difficult negotiations that came with very challenging conditions, which he said would not only consume significant political capital, but also unleash another wave of inflation if implemented in letter and spirit. "The tax collection target of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has



been increased to Rs 6.1 trillion -- an additional of roughly Rs 300 billion -- and the government will also have to get the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) amendment bill approved in the Parliament," said Tarin. Tarin said that there will be an increase in power tariff in the next few months, which is currently estimated at about 50 paise per unit. However, Tarin also clarified that the quantum would be determined at the level of circular debt. Pakistan's agreement to IMF's tough conditions is being taken as yet another bitter pill that will have to be swallowed by the locals, who are already suffering because of the increased tariff by Rs 3.63 per unit. Additionally, fuel prices have also been increased by approximately by

Rs 20 within a span of 90 days. The revelation was made after Pakistan's agreement with IMF to take measures to secure approval of \$1 billion loan tranche. "The Pakistani authorities and the IMF staff have reached a staff-level agreement on policies and reforms needed to complete the sixth review under the EFF," read a statement issued by the IMF. Tarin also admitted that the steps would further bring miseries and difficulties in the lives of the lower income groups, who he said will be facilitated through targeted subsidies. Pakistan has been directed to ensure a primary budget surplus after paying the cost of debt servicing as against the budget target of Rs 376 billion deficits, requiring strict fiscal discipline that would have severe implications for the economy. It seems that the IMF did not budge from its stiff position during the negotiations, leaving Pakistan no other option but to concede to its shortfalls and agree to the tough conditions to revive its financial bailout.

# EU diplomats oppose Israeli settlement policy in West Bank

Brussels | Agencies

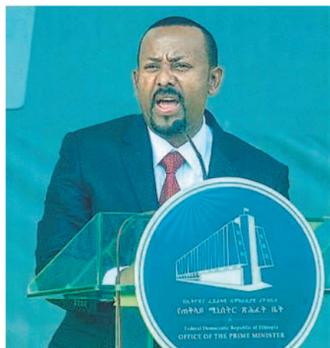
Heads of missions and representatives from the European Union (EU) have affirmed strong opposition to Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank. The diplomats visited several areas in the West Bank and those near East Jerusalem, following a recent announcement by the Israeli government to advance major settlement plans in the areas, according to a report by official Palestinian news agency Wafa. "The visit was organised by the Israeli NGO Ir Amim, which briefed the diplomats about the extremely worrying consequences of the settlement plans for Givat Hamatos, Har Homa, E1 and Qalandia/Atarot," Xinhua news agency quoted the Wafa report as saying. During the visit, the diplomats was quoted as saying that "settlements are illegal under international law and significantly undermine ongoing efforts to rebuild trust" between Israel and Palestine, and that their countries "will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties". Also on Monday, the Office of the EU Representative for the West Bank and Gaza Strip published a press release, in which it quoted EU Representative

in Palestine Sven Kuhn von Burgsdorff as saying, "the recent approvals of thousands of housing units for Israeli settlers aim at disconnecting the Palestinians from their city and changing East Jerusalem's identity". "Israeli settlements are in clear violation of international law and constitute a major obstacle to a just, last and comprehensive peace between Israel and Palestinians," Burgsdorff said. In October, Israel's Higher Planning Council approved the advancement of plans to build 2,860 new housing units in 30 settlements in occupied Palestinian territories, according to local media reports. Part of the plans received final approval for validation, while others will be submitted for final approval at a later stage, the reports said. The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee will hold a hearing on December 6 to discuss the construction of 9,000 housing units in the Israeli settlement of Atarot in East Jerusalem. In the June 1967 Middle East war, Israel occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which are claimed by the Palestinians, and has controlled them ever since. Since then, the Palestinians have been seeking self-determination in a bid to establish a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

# Ethiopian PM to lead frontline combat against rebel forces

Addis Ababa | Agencies

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced his decision to lead frontline combat from Tuesday against rebel forces amid the expanding conflict in the northern part of the country. Ahmed called on "all patriotic Ethiopians" to join him in frontline combat against forces loyal to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), reports Xinhua news agency. "The time necessitates leading the nation through martyrdom. To this end, I will march to the battlefield from tomorrow onwards to lead our defence forces," Ahmed said an address to the nation. "All of you who aspire to be one of Ethiopia's most admired children, stand up for your country and join me on the frontline," he said in a statement posted on social media late on Monday. The conflict, which erupted on November 4 last year in the conflict-hit Tigray between forces loyal to the TPLF and the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF), has over the past months spread across neighbouring Amhara and Afar regions. Over the past months, forces loyal to the rebel group TPLF have advanced southward



into central parts of the East African country. This was, eventually, followed by huge popular mobilisation in the Amhara and Afar regions as well as other regional states in the country to fight back the TPLF's expansion. Earlier this month, the Ethiopian House of People's Representatives (HoPR) ratified a six-month state of emergency rule to contain the rebel group's advancement and to ensure the country's peace and security.

# Israel urged to release 90 Palestinian corpses withheld for years

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Dozens of Palestinians rallied in the West Bank city of Jenin, demanding the return of 90 corpses withheld by Israel for years. Director of the Palestinian rights group "Jerusalem Legal Aid Center" Issam Arouri told the rally that apart from keeping 90 corpses in Israeli morgues, authorities in the Jewish state have also buried 254 others in numbered graveyards, reports Xinhua news agency. Palestinian Minister of Justice Mohammed al-Shalaladeh plans to pursue this issue at the UN, he added. Palestinian observers believe that Israel is withholding Palestinian corpses as bargaining chips in any future prisoner swap deal. In 2017, the armed wing of



the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in the Gaza Strip announced that it held four Israeli captives, including two soldiers and two civilians, without giving any details on their fate. In 2011, Egypt brokered a prisoner swap deal between Israel and Hamas, in which Israel released more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in return for the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. This was the first and only prisoner swap deal between Israel and Hamas in 10 years.



'ABSCONDER' NOTICE PASTED AT EX-MUMBAI TOP COP'S HOME



appear before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Esplanade Court, Mumbai, or Investigating Officer to answer the said complaint within 30 days."

It said that a complaint has been lodged before the Court under various sections of the Indian Penal Code related to extortion and criminal conspiracy, and the court is satisfied that the accused, Singh, has absconded or concealed himself to avoid the service of the warrant.



ing summonses, bailable and non-bailable warrants of arrest since the past few months, informed the Supreme Court on Monday that he is not absconding and is present in the country, after which he was granted interim protection from arrest till December 6.

Investigation and Maharashtra government in the matter: An officer of 1998 IPS batch, Singh was removed from the post as CoP and promoted as Commandant General, Maharashtra Home Guards, after which he targeted Deshmukh, leading to his resignation and subsequent arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai court order declaring former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh as 'absconder' was pasted outside his Juhu home here on Tuesday, officials said, adding the court order directed him to report before the magistrate.

Maharashtra Winter assembly session likely to begin from Dec 20 in Mumbai instead of Nagpur

Sources said the assembly session was scheduled to commence on December 7 but has been deferred following the code of conduct in force for the election of the six seats of the legislative council to be held on December 10

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government is likely to hold the winter session of the state assembly between December 20 and 29 in Mumbai instead of Nagpur. Sources in the government said the preliminary discussions have taken place but the final decision will be taken in the state cabinet soon.

ing in the hospital. It is likely that the doctors may advise him to take rest for a couple of weeks and may restrict his travel movements including air travel. If doctors advise him against air travel, then the session may need to be held in Mumbai," the minister added. Thackeray underwent a surgery to address a cervical complaint on November 12 and is now being given physiotherapy at the HN Reliance Hospital.

BJP are keen on holding the session in Nagpur. Shiv Sena is also not against it but it all depends on Thackeray's recovery from the surgery," said the minister. The minister further said that the final decision on the duration and place of the session will be taken by the state legislature's Business Advisory Committee.

Mumbai Police bust inter-state gang selling fake e-insurance policies

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Cyber Police have bust an inter-state gang allegedly selling fake online life insurance policies of various prominent companies and cheating people of huge amounts, an official said here on Tuesday.

accused are Bani Singh and Vijay Mehta of Bharti AXA insurance and Deepak Dube, Sneha and Pooja of PNB MetLife insurance. They sold him an online policy and sent the policy documents from the purported email of bhartiataxa@aol.com, claiming that they were authorised representatives of IRDA in Hyderabad.

Investigations unravelled the huge scam spread across at least five states - Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra - using fake SIM cards acquired in the name of genuine customers by misusing their KYC documents submitted with mobile card retailers.

Aurangabad Imposes Penalty For Not Taking 1st Vaccine Shot

As per official data, out of the 32,24,677 targeted population in the Aurangabad district, 64.36% of people have received the first dose and 27.78% the second dose till November 22

Team Absolute | Aurangabad

In a bid to ramp up anti-COVID-19 vaccination coverage in Aurangabad district, authorities have ordered impounding of autorickshaws if their drivers are found to have not taken even a single jab.

operators cannot sell tickets to passengers who are not inoculated, as per the orders issued late Monday night by district collector Sunil Chavan. These orders will come into effect from November 25. Aurangabad district in the Marathwada region is one of the laggard districts in terms of vaccination coverage.

impound the autorickshaw and impose a fine," an official release said. The new set of instructions comes days after the district administration directed operators of petrol pumps not to sell petrol to those who have not taken either dose of vaccine.

"If it is found that workers and owner of the shop or commercial establishment have not received even a single jab, such shop or establishment will be sealed. If a non-vaccinated employee is found in a liquor shop, the shop will also face action through the excise department," an official said.

Supporters of NCP leader hurl stones at party officer after he loses co-op bank election

Shashikant Shinde was defeated by his nearest rival Dnyandeo Ranjane by just one vote in the elections, the results of which were declared on Tuesday

Pune: NCP MLC Shashikant Shinde on Tuesday lost the election to the Satara District Central Cooperative Bank by one vote, following which his supporters allegedly hurled stones at the party office in Satara city in western Maharashtra.

CM undergoing physiotherapy sessions: CMO

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over a week after his surgery for solving problems in the cervical spine, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is recovering well and is currently undergoing a physiotherapy course, an official said here on Monday.

government comprising Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and Congress. He was admitted to the HNRFH on November 10. He underwent the successful procedure under a team of experts and has been recuperating in the hospital since.



November 17. Fresh apprehensions are being raised in political quarters if the CM will be able to join the MVA's proposed second anniversary celebrations here on Sunday (November 28), or even attend the upcoming winter session of the Maharashtra Legislature.

NCB Seizes Over 100 Kg Poppy Straw, Other Drugs

The Narcotics Control Bureau also seized Rs 1.55 lakh in cash, two grinding machines used for poppy seeds, electronic scale and a note counting machine in Maharashtra's Nanded.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) seized 111 kg of poppy straw (commercial quantity), 1.4 kg of opium, Rs 1.55 lakh in cash, two grinding machines used for poppy seeds, electronic scale and a note counting machine in Maharashtra on Monday, the NCB Mumbai said.



ating. Searches in multiple locations in Madhya Pradesh have also begun," said Sameer Wankhede, Zonal Director, NCB Mumbai. Earlier, the NCB informed that a drug factory was busted in Nanded.

Param Bir Singh's lawyer claims his client was told to withdraw complaint against Anil Deshmukh

After Param Bir Singh wrote to Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray accusing then home minister Anil Deshmukh of corruption and misconduct, six cases of corruption and extortion were filed against the former Mumbai CP.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh's lawyer Puneet Bali has claimed that his client was told to withdraw his complaint against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh.

court on Monday. A bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul also sent notices to the Maharashtra government, its DGP Sanjay Pandey and the CBI on the former Mumbai police commissioner's petition. A hearing is scheduled for December 6 in the case.

could happen to a common man. This matter has become curiouse and curiouse between the then home minister and then commissioner..." "Issue notice to Respondents. Returnable on December 6. Meantime, the petitioner shall join the investigation and shall not be arrested," ordered the bench.

Black Paint Thrown On Maharashtra Minister's Residence

For the last 27 days, Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) staffers have been demanding a merger of the undertaking with the state government

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Black oil paint was thrown on the official residence of Maharashtra Transport Minister Anil Parab today by around 4-5 protestors, who were later detained, over the ongoing state transport strike issue.

Maharashtra. In a video of the incident, security personnel at the Maharashtra Minister's residence can be seen dragging the workers from the residence and detaining them, while they continue to shout slogans against the state government.

When asked who is responsible for his defeat, Shinde said he would talk about it later. "What I can say now is that I lacked somewhere on the trust the party had shown in me. I will speak on this issue later in detail," he said.



## 49TH INTERNATIONAL EMMYS

**David Tennant, 'Tehran', 'Call My Agent 4' get top awards**

New York | Agencies

The Indian challenge at the 49th International Emmy Awards, which concluded at Casa Cipriani in New York City on late Monday night (US Eastern Time), ended with Nawazuddin Siddiqui losing out to Scottish actor David Tennant in the Best Performance by an Actor category. Ram Madhvani's 'Aarya' was edged out by the Israeli spy thriller series 'Tehran', which got The International Emmy for Drama Series. And Vir Das's comic take on Indian history, 'Vir Das: For India', made way for yet another Netflix acquisition, 'Call My Agent: Season 4', which walked away with The International Emmy for Comedy.

Tennant, who became famous as The Doctor in the British TV series 'Doctor Who', was honoured for his work in the three-part crime drama miniseries 'Des', which centres around the Scottish serial killer Dennis Nilsen, who was arrested in 1983, after the discovery of human remains which had blocked a drain near his London home. Moshe Zander's 'Tehran' tracks the story of a Mossad agent on her first mission in the Iranian capital, which also happens to be her place of birth. The Indian adaptation of 'Call My Agent!', the French comedy series that takes us behind the scenes of the world of celebrity, premiered not long ago in its avatar of 'Call My Agent: Bollywood'. The International Emmy Awards honour the best in television programming outside of the US. This year, the awards were presented in 11 categories and the nominees were from 24 countries. The ceremony started with the event host Nigerian-American actress-comedian Yvonne Orji taking the stage dressed in a mustard gown. She kickstarted the show with a few crisp punchlines revolving around the pandemic era and the cultural differences highlighting the overarching theme of the International Emmy Awards. Orji

went on to mention the hugely popular South Korean series 'Squid Game' and also gave a shout out to Egypt for getting the first-ever nomination in the International Emmy Awards. She then invited presenter Brian d'Arcy James on stage, who announced the winner for the Arts Programming category. The International Emmy went to 'Kubrick By Kubrick', a documentary from France built around previously unheard audiotaped interviews with the maestro, Stanley Kubrick.

Joshua Jackson presented the trophy to Hayley Squires as she bagged The International Emmy for Best Performance by an Actress in the four-part British drama series 'Adult Material'. 'INSIDE', the comic thriller from New Zealand inspired by the lockdown induced by the Covid-19 pandemic, The International Emmy for Short-Form Series.

Univision Network's '21st Annual Latin Grammy Awards' was the award in the Non-English Language US Primetime Programme category. The Netflix-acquired Thai documentary 'Hope Frozen: A Quest To Live Twice' was honoured for the way it narrated the story of a Thai couple who decide to cryogenically preserve their three-year-old daughter's body after she dies of brain cancer in 2015.

British reality singing competition television series 'The Masked Singer' got the award for Non-Scripted Entertainment, the top honour for TV Movie/Mini-Series went to the Norwegian historical drama 'Atlantic Crossing', and The International Emmy for Telenovela was conferred upon the Chinese television series 'The Song of Glory'.



**THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS' POSTERS: PRIYANKA CHOPRA'S GOT THE LOOK**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Fans were perplexed as to why Priyanka Chopra wasn't featured on the 'The Matrix Resurrections' main poster along with Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Jessica Henwick and Yahya Abdul-Mateen II. The makers of the hit franchise have now released fresh character posters from the film.

Priyanka took to her Instagram to share her poster, she wrote in the caption, "And she's here. Re-enter #TheMatrix 12.22.21."

The poster features dual tones of red and blue which go pretty well with Priyanka's two-toned outfit and also subtly hint at the red and blue pills which Neo is forced to choose from upon

discovering the truth of the Matrix in the first film from the franchise.

Other character posters feature actors from the fourth instalment in varying shades like Keanu's in cyan, Carrie's in sea green, Yahya's in dual shades of cantaloupe and purple, Jessica's in the tone of cobalt blue, Erendira's in purple and Jonathan Groff in royal blue. 'The Matrix Resurrections', produced, co-written, and directed by Lana Wachowski, tells the story 20 years after 'The Matrix Revolutions'. The film is all set to release theatrically in the US on December 22.

## 'Blade Runner', 'Alien' to be made into live-action TV series

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ridley Scott, in the news for his biographical crime drama 'The House of Gucci', has confirmed that the live-action TV series of two of his most enduring movies, the 1982 Harrison Ford-starrer 'Blade Runner' and 'Alien', made first in 1979 with Sigourney Weaver playing the lead role, are fast progressing, with pilots written for both shows. Speaking to the BBC on Monday, Scott suggested that the 'Blade Runner' adaptation is being plotted as a 10-episode series, reports 'Variety'. "We [have already] written the pilot for 'Blade Runner' and the 'bible'. So, we're already presenting 'Blade Runner' as a TV show, the first 10 hours." Scott, speaking with the BBC's Mishal Husain, said 'Alien' was getting a "similar" treatment. A pilot is being written along with a 'bible' of what transpires in eight to ten hours of the show. The creator of some of Hollywood's most iconic films hasn't previously discussed a 'Blade Runner' TV show.

News of an 'Alien' series was first announced in December 2020. The show is being set up at the cable TV network, FX, with Noah Hawley attached as showrunner. FX boss John Landgraf described the project last year as "the first 'Alien' story set on Earth -- and by blending both the timeless horror of the first 'Alien' film with the non-stop action of the second, it is going to be a scary thrill ride that will blow people back in their seats."



## 'I'm not a Marvel material'

**SANDRA BULLOCK SHUTS DOWN 'BIG RUMOR' THAT SHE'S IN UPCOMING SPIDER-MAN SEQUEL ON JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sandra Bullock shut down a rumor that she's in the upcoming third Spider-Man movie on Monday during an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live on ABC.

The 57-year-old actress was asked by Jimmy, 54, if she knew about the "big rumor" that she was going to be in the highly anticipated sequel due out next month.

"You know what? If that were a rumor that my son had heard, do you know how much I would get him to do in the house? I would be so successful in my requests," Sandra said referencing her 11-year-old son Louis.

"Who did they say I was going to be, like his grandmother or something?," asked Sandra, who also has nine-year-old daughter Laila. Jimmy explained that she was rumored to be the Madame Web character who possesses psychic powers. "Has Marvel approached you about being in a movie?," Jimmy asked her.

"I don't think I'm Marvel material. ...I've never been approached by Marvel," Sandra said. She did reveal that she was approached severally years for a non-Marvel movie, but Louis told her not to do it.

## KEVIN SPACEY ORDERED TO PAY \$31 MN TO 'HOUSE OF CARDS' PRODUCTION COMPANY

Los Angeles | Agencies

An arbitrator has ordered Kevin Spacey and his companies to pay nearly \$31 million to MRC, the production company behind the popular OTT political thriller series 'House of Cards', after finding that the Hollywood star had breached his contract by violating the company's sexual harassment policy, reports 'Variety'.

MRC severed its relationship with Spacey and scrapped a season of the show in 2017, after multiple people came forward to allege a pattern of sexually predatory conduct.

MRC filed a petition on Monday in the Los Angeles Superior Court to confirm the arbitration award, after it was upheld in a confidential appeal. Spacey and his companies, M. Profit Productions and Trigger Street Productions, were ordered to pay \$29.5 million in damages plus \$1.2 million in attorneys' fees and \$235,000 in costs.

Spacey, according to 'Variety', was among the first major Hollywood figures to be accused in the wake of the Harvey



Weinstein scandal in October 2017.

On November 2, 2017, CNN reported that Spacey -- the star and an executive producer of 'House of Cards' -- had created a "toxic" environment by making crude comments and engaging in non-consensual touching of young male staffers, citing eight production sources.

MRC said it had "no knowledge whatsoever" of Spacey's alleged on-set misconduct prior to the CNN



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Helena Christensen



## JR HOCKEY WORLD CUP

# INDIA TO BEGIN TITLE DEFENCE AGAINST FRANCE TODAY

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

India's preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympics, and medals beyond, will begin here with the mega sporting spectacle -- FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup -- which is all set to kick-start on Wednesday.

With the senior men's team winning a bronze medal in Tokyo 2020 in August this year after a gap of four decades, Indian hockey lovers are now expecting the junior side to gain experience from here in order to change the color of the medal in 2024 Games.

Though there are nearly three years for the Paris Olympics, it is a fact that the current lot of junior players are likely to form the nucleus of that team and a good start in the World Junior Championships Bhubaneswar 2021 will put them on that route.

With big events like Commonwealth Games, FIH Pro League, and Asian Games lined up next year, chief coach Graham Reid will be trying many of these players in the next couple of years as he builds up a squad for Paris.

Chief coach Graham Reid, who has been made in charge of the junior team, said scouting for talented players for the senior team is a natural process and some of these players have an opportunity to make it to the senior team in near future.



Meanwhile, as the world's top teams gather in Bhubaneswar, all eyes will be on hosts India and the

question uppermost on their minds will be whether they can defend the World Junior title they won in 2016 at home in Lucknow.

India are among the 16 teams that have been divided into four groups of four each and will play in the preliminary stage in a round-robin format

with the top two teams from each group qualifying for the quarterfinals.

France, on the other hand, are facing an uphill task considering the huge difference in the standard of play and rankings -- India are ranked third in the world while France are 13th. They will however take heart from their performance in the 2013 edition in New Delhi when they reached the final, losing to Germany 5-2. The main aim for them will be to finish second in Pool B and take up things from there.

With the tournament being held in an empty stadium because of strict Covid-19 protocols, the home advantage will be minimal for India and as there won't be vociferous support from the crowd.

Schedule for Wednesday

12:00 pm: GSchedule for Wednesday

9.30 am: Belgium v South Africa

12:00 pm: Germany v Pakistan

2:30 pm: Canada v Poland

5.00 pm: Malaysia v Chile

8.00 pm: India v France

## ICC ODI rankings

# Mithali retains 3rd spot, Jhulan ranked 2nd among bowlers

Dubai | Agencies

India captain Mithali Raj retained her number three spot among batters while her compatriot Jhulan Goswami maintained her second position among bowlers in the latest ICC women's ODI rankings, released on Tuesday.

Raj, who has 738 rating points, is behind Lizelle Lee (761) of South Africa and Alyssa Healy (750) of Australia while Goswami with 727 points is at second spot with Jess Jonassen (760) of Australia leading the bowling chart in ODIs.

Opener Smriti Mandhana, who remained on sixth spot with 710 points, is the only other India batter in top 10 of women ODI rankings. Meanwhile, Bangladesh batters Fargana Hoque and Rumana Ahmed made notable gains after helping their team beat Pakistan in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2021, Group B match in Harare on Sunday. Fargana's steady 45 that laid the foundation for the three-wicket win, helped her gain one slot to reach 25th position in the latest women's rankings while Rumana's unbeaten 50, that got the team over the line with two balls to spare, has lifted



her five places to 29th position.

Off-spinner Salma Khatun is up four places to 35th among bowlers while left-arm spinner Nahida Akter has progressed four slots to 41st position after their team's opening match in the nine-team tournament being played across four venues in Harare.

For Pakistan, Aliya Riaz and Nida Dar have made significant progress among batters after putting on 137 runs for the sixth wicket. Aliya, who scored 61 not out off 82 balls, is up five places to 32nd while Nida's 111-ball 87 has helped her gain seven slots and reach 37th position.

Left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu's two wickets have carried her four places to 17th position while Nida is also up four places to 29th after taking one for 17 in 10 overs. Anam Amin has gone from 43rd to 40th position.

# Controversy erupts over Team India's new diet plan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ahead of India's first Test against New Zealand in Kanpur on Thursday, a major off-the-field controversy has erupted over reports on cricket teams' new diet regime. As per reports, the national cricket board (BCCI) has banned beef and pork in any form in Team India's new diet regime. It has also been learned that the players are only allowed to consume meat in only 'halal' form. "According to the new dietary plan of the Indian cricket team, players aren't allowed to eat pork and beef in any form and variety in order to keep themselves fit and healthy. If anyone wants to have meat then it should be only in halal form, players can't eat any other form of meat whatsoever," said a Sports Tak report.

The report further said that the Indian cricket board has introduced a new diet plan in order to ensure the health and fitness of the players ahead of the upcoming events.

However, BCCI's decision has divided the netizens. While many are criticising the



board's move, few are also happy. The "#BCCI\_Promotes\_Halal" is in the top trending list on Twitter and people are continuously expressing their opinions.

While social media is abuzz with the issue, the BCCI hasn't issued any clarification on the whole matter till now.

On the field, India, who registered a 3-0 whitewash over New Zealand in the recently concluded T20I series, are all set to face Kan' Williamson's side in the Test series, starting on Thursday in Kanpur.

# KL Rahul ruled out of first Test, Suryakumar replaces him in squad

Kanpur | Agencies

Star India opener KL Rahul was on Tuesday ruled out of the two-Test series against New Zealand, scheduled to begin here from Thursday, due to a muscle strain in his left thigh.

The 29-year-old will now undergo rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and Suryakumar Yadav has been added to the India squad in his place.

"He (Rahul) will now undergo rehabilitation at NCA in preparation for the series against South Africa scheduled next month. The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Mr Suryakumar Yadav as KL Rahul's replacement," the BCCI said in a statement.

Rahul regained his spot in the Test side recently in England where he formed a partnership at the top of the order alongside Rohit Sharma. Even though the workload of several senior players were managed during the ongoing home series against New Zealand, the attacking batter continued to be present in all squads. However, he was



India squad NZ Test series: Ajinkya Rahane (capt), Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara (vice-capt), Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), KS Bharat (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Axar Patel, Jayant Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna; Virat Kohli to join squad for second Test and lead the side.

n't in the playing XI on Sunday for the final T20I against New Zealand.

Suryakumar, who has been picked as his replacement for the New Zealand Tests, hasn't played for India in the red-ball format till now. He was a late addition to India's Test squad that had toured England earlier this year. The 31-year-old middle-order batter has been a key player for Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy. In the most recent first-class season, in 2019-20, Suryakumar amassed 508 runs in ten innings at an average of 56.44 and strike rate of 95.13, with two hundreds and two fifties. There is a possibility that either Shreyas Iyer or Suryakumar Yadav will make his Test debut and bat in the middle order in the first Test. Young Shubman Gill was expected to bat in the middle order but now in the absence of Rahul, he and Mayank Agarwal will be the likely opening pair for India. Notably, India will already be without Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for the opening Test with Ajinkya Rahane leading the side. Kohli will return to lead the side in the second Test in Mumbai that begins on December 3.

# Rahane just one innings away from getting his rhythm back: Pujara

Kanpur | Agencies

Indian batter Cheteshwar Pujara on Tuesday backed Ajinkya Rahane ahead of the first Test against New Zealand, saying that the stand-in skipper is a great cricketer and is "just one inning away from getting his rhythm back".

Pujara, who has also had an ordinary year with the bat by his own standards, will be Rahane's deputy in the first game against the World Test champions on November 25 here.

Rahane has averaged just over 19 in 11 Tests, and will be looking to regain his form.

Asked about his teammate's rough patch, Pujara, in a virtual press conference, said, "Rahane is a great player. There are times when a player goes through these periods. He is just one innings away from getting the rhythm back. He will get good runs in the



series." Since 2019, the 33-year-old Mumbai batter has played 40 Tests and scored seven half-centuries and three tons. Rahane will be leading the Indian

team in the first Test of the series in Kanpur, with Virat Kohli returning for the second Test. He will join newly-appointed head coach Rahul Dravid in the dressing room.

# Sindhu to contest BWF Athletes' Commission elections again

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

Two-time Olympic Games medalist and star Indian badminton player PV Sindhu will stand for re-election in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes' Commission polls in Huelva, Spain on December 17.

"World champion and two-time Olympic medalist Puserla V. Sindhu is the only current Athletes' Commission member standing for re-election. Nine candidates have been nominated for the available six positions," BWF said in a statement.

Sindhu has not been in her best form of late and



had crashed out of the Indonesia Masters last week in the semifinal, losing to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in a one-sided match. Women's doubles

specialist and gold medalist at the Tokyo Olympics, Greysia Polli of Indonesia, is also contesting the elections. "I would like to assist my fellow players to

achieve their dreams and help them out with their requests around competing on the international circuit," said Polli after her nomination.

# THREE NEW FACES IN ATP'S TOP-10 AS DJOKOVIC LEADS THE CHARTS



New York | Agencies

Three new faces -- Casper Ruud of Norway, Hubert Hurkacz of Poland and Jannik Sinner of Italy -- have made it to the Top-10 of the ATP Rankings for the first time in their careers, even as world No. 1 Novak Djokovic continues to lead the charts, clinching his seventh year-end No.1 spot in

the latest rankings released by the men's tennis body. As per the latest ATP Rankings released late on Monday, the 22-year-old Ruud is No. 8, 24-year-old Hurkacz is No. 9, while the 20-year-old Sinner has become the youngest to finish in the Top-10 since No. 9 Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina, who was only 20 when he achieved the distinction in 2008. Serbia's Djokovic had earlier earned a

record seventh year-end No. 1 finish, breaking a tie with Pete Sampras for the most in history when he had entered the Rolex Paris Masters semifinals recently. Spaniard Rafael Nadal finished in the Top-10 for a record 17th consecutive year at No. 6, breaking the record he shared with Jimmy Connors. Russia's Daniil Medvedev became the first player outside Djokovic, Swiss ace Roger Federer, Great Britain's Andy Murray and Nadal to finish year-end No. 2 since American Andy Roddick in 2004. He also became the first Russian to finish No. 2 since Marat Safin in 2000. There were eight players aged 25-and-under in the year-end Top-10 for the first time since 1995. Four of the Top-5 players were 25-and-under, the first year-end occurrence since 2009. The average age of the Top-10 was less than 26 years old (at 25.6), the youngest since 2009

(25.0). There were no changes at No. 1 during the season for the first time since 2015, the only other time Djokovic held the top spot without any interruptions in the year. The United States led all countries with 12 players in the Top-100 (most since 1996), followed by Spain with 10, France with nine, Italy with eight and Argentina with seven. It was the third straight year eight Italians were in the year-end Top-100. Spain and the US had the most players in the Top-50 with six followed by Italy with four. The six Americans in the year-end Top-50 was the most since seven in 2003, according to atptour.com.

Roger Federer, 40, finished as the oldest player in the Top-100, at No. 16. It was the Swiss superstar's record 21st consecutive year in the Top-20. There were 31 players 30 and older in the year-end Top-100.

# Australia unveil Indigenous ODI kit for men's and women's team

Melbourne | Agencies

Australia on Tuesday unveiled the newly designed indigenous-themed kits for their men's and women's cricket teams for the upcoming summer home season in order to continue their efforts to better recognise and encourage the involvement of Indigenous Aussies in the game. The new design, to be worn by the Australian teams in home one-day internationals, is similar to one worn last summer by

the men's team, in black for T20s against India. It will be worn by Meg Lanning's team in their three ODIs against England in February that forms part of the multi-format Women's Ashes. However, the men will wear the indigenous kit in just one of their three home ODIs this summer, the first ODI against New Zealand in Perth on January 30. They will revert to a plain gold one-day kit for the subsequent ODIs in Hobart and Sydney in early February



## SALMAN KHAN, ABHISHEK BACHCHAN TO APPEAR AS SPECIAL GUESTS ON 'SA RE GA MA PA'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The weekend special episode of singing reality show 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' will see Bollywood superstar Salman Khan along with his 'Antim: The Final Truth' co-actors Aayush Sharma and Mahima Makwana as special guests. They are coming to promote their movie. Furthermore, Abhishek Bachchan will also appear as celebrity guest on the show to promote his crime thriller film 'Bob Biswas'. The actors will be sharing few anecdotes from their movies and personal lives and contestants will be performing on a few tracks from their movies. 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' will showcase top 16 contestants competing with each other. The show judged by Himesh Reshammiya, Vishal Dadlani and Shankar Mahadevan airs on Zee TV.



## 'RRR': Upcoming 'soul anthem' to stir emotions

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

S.S. Rajamouli's upcoming directorial venture 'RRR' is to feature Telugu's top heroes Ram Charan and Jr NTR together on screen and the makers are set to release its 'soul anthem', a song titled 'Janani'.

This is the first time that the two Telugu stars have come together to work for a movie. Rajamouli's direction is another aspect that has drawn the craze for 'RRR'.

The makers of 'RRR', who took the internet by storm with 'Naatu Naatu', are all set for the emotional musical, termed as 'soul anthem', the song is titled 'Janani' in Telugu. The makers claim that they have contemplated the song to bring sentimentality and patriotism into

the grid. Sharing the poster, Director Rajamouli tweeted, "Peddanna's soulful composition for #Janani is the window to #RRRMovie's powerful and heartfelt emotions. #RRRSoulAnthem will be out on 26th...)" Gear up for an emotionally captivating experience...".

Rajamouli refers to his cousin M.M. Keeravani, who is the music composer for 'RRR', as he mentions 'peddanna'.

The poster which was unveiled, features the captivating still of Ram Charan and NTR from the movie with Ajay Devgn's powerful eyes. The song is slated for release on November 26, and the makers will release the song in all the languages the movie is being made in. 'RRR' has been scheduled for release on January 7.

## Rajkummar Rao, Janhvi Kapoor roped as 'Mr And Mrs Mahi'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rajkummar Rao and Janhvi Kapoor will soon reunite as the two have been roped in for Dharma Productions' next 'Mr And Mrs Mahi'. This will be their second outing after the hit horror-comedy 'Roohi'.

Dharma head honcho Karan took to his social media to announce the film through a 2D motion graphics animation video. Karan wrote on his Instagram, "One dream, chased by two hearts. Presenting #MrAndMrsMahi, directed by Sharan Sharma who is back with another heart-warming story to tell with his touch of magic! Starring Rajkummar Rao & Janhvi Kapoor, a partnership to look forward to. See you on the field aka the cinemas on 7th October, 2022."

Underlined by mellow piano notes soon enveloped by cricket commentary, the video lists the names of its two leads along with their respective characters as it approaches the crescendo. The film which will soon go into production, will be helmed by 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl' director Sharan Sharma and is slated to hit the theatres on October 7, 2022.

While Rajkummar recently tied the knot with Patralekhaa, the producer of 'Mr And Mrs Mahi', Karan Johar is currently busy directing Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt in 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani'.



## Poonam Dhillon: I joined politics to see a bigger change in society

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran actress-turned-politician Poonam Dhillon who is playing a pivotal role in the upcoming web series 'Dil Bekaraar', says she is a passionate actor and joined politics only to contribute to society to see a positive change.

The actress joined the Bhartiya Janta Party in 2004 and in 2019 she was appointed as vice president of

the Mumbai unit.

Asked about if politics kept her away from acting, Poonam told IANS: "My personality type is such that whenever I do anything, I put all my energy into that and do not feel that I am missing out on anything. So when I was very busy with my work as a politician, I was not really missing acting because I have no sense of dissatisfaction."

"I joined politics with the emotion to bring about a change in our society. I used to do a lot of social activities because there are few causes that are close to my heart and with social work, I know I can touch many lives. Eventually, I realised that if I want to see the bigger

change, joining politics is the right way to do it.

"But I think politics is a time-consuming occupation that requires aggression and passion both. I am a compassionate human being but not sure if I am aggressive. But my interest in doing social work for the greater good of human beings is very much there in my mind. Having said that, acting is my forever love."

While in her earlier days, the 1977 Miss India was known for delivering some fine performance in films like 'Noorie', 'Red Rose', 'Dard', and 'Romance', she has also worked closely with NGOs for social causes like drug awareness, AIDS awareness, organ donation.

## RAVEENA TANDON UNVEILS TRAILER OF 'ARANYAK', TALKS ABOUT WOMEN IN UNIFORM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

She ruled the 1990s with her effortless performances and swept the audiences off their feet with her dance moves, now actress Raveena Tandon is all set to make her digital debut with Netflix's upcoming crime thriller 'Aranyak', where she will be seen playing a police officer.

The series spotlights the hardships and prejudices female officers face as they try to strike a balance between their work and personal lives. The over two-minute-long trailer was unveiled in Lonavla. Set in the dense forest, Raveena plays a local cop, who all her life waits for a "big case" and one fine day a news of a teenage tourist's murder shakes her up and joins forces with her city-bred replacement Angad played by Parambrata Chatterjee to solve the case.

As the two struggle to find the serial killing entity, a forgotten folklore is revived. The trailer also features Ashutosh Rana, Meghna Mali and Zakir Hussain. The 47-year-old actress will be seen playing a "fierce" officer named Kasturi Dogra and says her "character in itself is so strong she would reach out to you anyhow." Describing the character-



istics of Kasturi, Raveena added: "She's a fiercely independent, super talented cop, who is waiting for an opportunity to excel in her life. She's surrounded by her male counterparts, wants to achieve something in her career and the way we women juggle our career, lives, emotional support that we get or don't get from home." The actress during the trailer launch of 'Aranyak' added: "Our priorities are our children, in-laws, family, that's what completely attracted me to her character. A lot of women can identify with that, especially our women in uniform."

## Sikandar Kher can't stop gushing over his 'Monica, O My Darling' co-actors

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sikandar Kher, who was recently seen in Rohit Shetty's 'Sooryavanshi', has wrapped the shoot of Vasan Bala's 'Monica, O My Darling' where he will be seen sharing the screen with some fine talents like Rajkummar Rao and Huma Qureshi and Sikandar can't stop praising his co-actors.

The actor recently spoke about his experience of working in the film and shared that he is awestruck by his co-actors' sheer dedication towards their work. He said, "I have truly been blessed to work with some of the best in the business. I mean, look at their dedication. Each one of them has inspired me to do better on set everyday. Our endless conversations revolved around the characters we play and the scope it has to improvise impromptu."

It's not just their work ethics that inspire Sikandar but, also their humility, as the actor further states, "Trust me when I say this, they are good actors no doubt but my co-stars are fabulous human beings too. I would like to work with them again. Actors are prone to moving away to the next set once the shoot is over but I am taking home some of the best memories of set life." 'Monica, O My Darling', is a Netflix production, which also marks Bala's third directorial venture. The film tells the story of a young man desperately trying to make it big with some uncanny allies and a plan to pull off the perfect murder. The film also stars Radhika Apte, Bagavathi Perumal, Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, Sukant Goel and Zayn Marie Khan and is currently in post-production.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shama Sikander