

absolute india

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COVID-19 THIRD WAVE: IIT-KANPUR PROFESSOR SAYS EIGHT LAKH CASES IN A DAY EXPECTED

DELHI-MUMBAI TO WITNESS PEAK BY MID JANUARY

SCOURGE SHARPEN THE EDGES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India entered the new year with the third Covid-19 wave on its toe, driven this time by the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2. With most of the metropolitan cities experiencing an exponential surge in cases, it is an indicator that the country is already in the early throes of a third wave. But on the brighter side, experts predict that the peak of the ongoing wave will come early, hopefully by early next month and even earlier in Delhi-Mumbai after which there will be consistent fall in cases. Based on current trends and data, IIT-Kanpur professor and mathematician Manindra Agrawal predicted that India might witness up to 8 lakh cases a day - twice that of the Covid-19 Delta variant driven second wave. The all-India curve has just started to rise and will take another month to come down. Hopefully, by March, the third wave of the pandemic will be more or less over, his preliminary projections say. Agrawal who along with other researchers runs SUTRA computer model to track Covid-19 progression in India, said that while upcoming polls do contribute to the rising cases, they are just one factor behind the case count. Even if the election is taken out of the equation, the overall equation does not change much, he said based on analysis over elections held last year ahead of the second wave. His remarks come in the backdrop of the Election Commission announcing poll dates in five states and freezing physical rallies, roadshows by political parties. Agrawal further said that based on five parameters that determined how fast the pandemic would spread if poll-bound and non-poll bound states could be out in sepa-

HOSPITALISATIONS COULD DOUBLE COMPARATIVELY TO SECOND WAVE

New Delhi: India is witnessing a hospitalisation rate of 5-10 per cent in the third Covid wave, the government said, adding that the situation is "dynamic and evolving and the need of hospital care may change rapidly". In the second wave, the official data says, the hospitalisation rate was in the range of 20-23 per cent. Warning of a bigger surge in cases than the previous wave, the government, however, warns that for every 100 Delta cases, there could be 400-500 Omicron cases. There could be 125-250 hospitalisations for every 100 in the second wave, the data indicates. All states and union territories have been asked to keep a daily watch on oxygen beds, ICU beds, and ventilator support. The Covid Care centres have to be upgraded to oxygen-supported beds when required, the government has said, also underscoring on engaging junior doctors, nursing, and MBBS students to ensure adequate healthcare staff.



SYMPTOM NEW COVID VARIANT IN KIDS

As reported, fever, sore throat, cough and throat pain are some of the common symptoms that children might experience. Fever, runny nose, throat pain, body ache, and a dry cough are the most common symptoms of Omicron in children. The best way to keep kids safe is to follow Covid's guidelines. Adults should be careful and practice necessary precautions like wearing masks and doing their best not to bring the infection home.

CONTACTS OF CONFIRMED COVID 19 CASES DO NOT NEED TESTING: ICMR

New Delhi: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Monday said that the contacts of confirmed cases of Covid 19 do not need testing amid rising daily Covid caseload. "Contacts of confirmed cases of Covid-19, unless identified as high risk based on age and comorbidities, do not need to be tested," it said in an advisory on Purposive Testing Strategy for Covid-19 in India. The guidelines also underline that asymptomatic individuals in community settings don't need testing. Along with patients who stand discharged as per home isolation guidelines, patients being discharged from a Covid-19 facility as per revised discharge policy and individuals undertaking inter-state domestic travel do not need testing, as per the advisory. The health apex body has said Covid testing is needed for early detection of symptomatic cases for quick isolation and care and of infections in elderly and individuals with co-morbidities for quick care.

BOOSTER DOSES FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS, SENIORS BEGINS

New Delhi: Precautionary third doses of vaccines are now being given to health and frontline workers and immuno-compromised seniors as Covid numbers spike in the country, driven by Omicron. About 10 lakh doses were given on Day 1 till 8 PM. About 5.75 crore people are eligible for the third doses in the ongoing drive - 2.75 crore above the age of 60, 1 crore healthcare workers and 2 crore frontline workers. The Health Ministry has said there is no need to register for the pre-

cautionary vaccine doses. Those eligible can directly take an appointment or walk into any vaccination centre. There is no decision yet on booster doses for all adults. Those above the age of 60 years who have co-morbidities like diabetes, hypertension and other chronic ailments have the option of getting the "Precaution Dose" on the advice of their doctor. Those eligible for booster shots will, however, get them only 9 months after receiving the second dose of the Covid vaccine.

INDIA LOGS 1,79,723 NEW COVID CASES, 12.5% HIGHER

New Delhi: Amid the unprecedented Covid-19 resurgence, India reported 1,79,723 new cases in the last 24 hours, which is 12.5 per cent higher than the previous day's figure, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Monday. The nationwide death toll has increased to 4,83,936 after an additional 146 fatalities were also registered in the same period, the Ministry said. The active caseload has jumped to 7,23,619, accounting for 1.66 per cent of the country's total positive cases. Meanwhile, the Omicron case tally has climbed to 4,033, of which 1,552 have been discharged from hospitals. So far total 27 states have reported the new variant, according to the Ministry.

KAZAKHSTAN BURNING, RUSSIAN TROOPS ARE IN; INDIA CLOSELY FOLLOWING SITUATION

New Delhi: Over 160 persons have reportedly died in several days of unrest in Kazakhstan, Central Asia's largest country, which has been rocked by a week of turmoil. Internet services were resumed after five days in Kazakhstan on Monday, where 8,000 people have been detained by the security forces led by the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). The nation is witnessing a massive upheaval since January 2, when violence erupted in all the major cities against the government's decision to hike fuel prices. Responding to media queries on the recent developments in Kazakhstan, Arindam Bagchi, official spokesperson in Ministry of External Affairs, said, "India is closely following the recent developments in Kazakhstan. We express our deepest condolences to the families of innocent victims who have lost their lives in the violence."

PM SECURITY BREACH

Lawyers' body ask SC for action against threatening caller

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court Advocates-Record Association (SCAORA) has written to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court seeking action against anonymous caller, who took responsibility for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security breach in Punjab last week. In a communication, SCAORA Secretary Joseph Aristotle S. said several advocates-on-record of the top court received an anonymous automated pre-recorded call from +447418365564, one at 10.40 a.m. and another call at about 12.36 p.m. on Monday. "Fastening responsibility for Prime Minister Modi's security breach during his visit to Punjab



on January 5, on Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) from USA, wherein it was stated that SFJ is responsible for blocking PM Modi's cavalcade at Hussainiwala flyover in Punjab," added the communication. The caller warned the top court judges

to refrain from hearing the PIL by NGO Lawyer's Voice seeking probe into the security breach on the ground that the Supreme Court has not been able to punish the culprits of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, in a tweet, said: "The audio sent by the 'Sikhs for Justice USA' to AORs in the SC must be treated with circumspection. The audio could be a hoax motivated by publicity or to blur the trail to the guilty. But since it contains a veiled threat to SC judges/AORs the NIA must investigate it forthwith." The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to set up a committee headed by a former top judge to probe the PM's security breach in Punjab.

MARRIAGE GIVES LEGAL RIGHT TO EXPECT REASONABLE SEXUAL RELATIONS: DELHI HIGH COURT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Observing the difference between married and unmarried relationships, the Delhi High Court said on Monday that marriage gives a legal right to expect reasonable sexual relations from the partner.

Hearing a batch of pleas on marital rape, Justice C. Hari Shankar noted that there is a qualitative difference and expectation of conjugal relationship for both parties.

"We are not recognising the difference if we are saying that they are at par. When a party gets married, each has an expectation, and to an extent a right also, to expect normal sexual relationship from each other, which does not exist if there is no marriage," observed the bench also comprising Justice Rajiv Shakdher.



However, Justice Shankar also said that there is no denying the fact that marital rapes should be punished. "There is no compromise with a woman's right to sexual and bodily integrity. A husband has no business to compel," he said.

NW India to see dense fog, cold wave conditions in next few days

► There are cold wave conditions in isolated pockets very likely over Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh during January 12-15, and over north Rajasthan during January 11-13. ► Cold wave conditions in isolated pockets are very likely over Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat during next 2 days even as dense/very dense fog in isolated pockets in night/morning hours is very likely over Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh during next 4-5 days, and north Rajasthan during the next three days.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said dense fog, and cold wave conditions would be observed over parts of northwest India during the next 4-5 days. Dense to very dense fog in some places over Punjab, in isolated pockets over northwest Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha was seen on Sunday. Minimum temperatures are above normal by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius over many parts of plains of northwest, cen-

tral and east India but a fall in minimum temperatures by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius is very likely over most parts of plains of northwest India during next 48 hours and no significant change thereafter. Gradual rise in minimum temperatures by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius over east India during next 24 hours and no significant change thereafter is likely, the IMD bulletin said, adding that a fall in minimum temperatures by 2-4 degrees Celsius is very likely over north central Maharashtra during next 2-3 days and no significant change thereafter.



ELECTIONS RIGHT OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEAT HATRED: RAHUL GANDHI

New Delhi: After announcement of five state elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that the elections are right opportunity to defeat hatred.



Rahul Gandhi in a tweet in Hindi on Monday said, "Nafrat ko harane ka sahi mauka hai." (It is the right opportunity to defeat hatred). The Congress has been critical of hate campaigns and has been alleging that BJP is behind it. The party said, "Enough is enough. The #BJPHateFactory should come clean in front of the entire nation and lay bear the extent to which they have damaged our society. Otherwise, we will." The party posted series of tweets and said, "By categorically targeting individuals on the basis of gender, religion, region, occupation, physical attributes, etc, the #BJPHateFactory not only violates their privacy, not only violates their dignity, but also completely violates our Constitutional morality."



STUDENTS CLAIM NEET EXAM NOT APPLICABLE FOR AYUSH COURSES, HC ISSUES NOTICE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A group of students on Monday approached the Delhi High Court claiming that AYUSH courses cannot come under National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) as the examination is restricted to Modern Scientific medicine and does not include traditional medicine courses. Seeking the stand of the Centre and National Testing Agency in this regard, a division bench headed by Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice on the plea filed by six AYUSH aspirants. Further, the court said it will hear the matter on March 30 along with another plea filed by a group of Allopathic doctors who have moved the Court against allowing AYUSH practitioners to perform some surgeries. It also asked Centre's counsel Monika Arora to furnish details of allopathic doc-



tors' plea. During the course of the hearing, the court also remarked that there is a double standard in

the plea. "On a lighter side, you on one hand are saying you are competitive. But when asked to appear

in NEET, you are saying we are not," the court said while listing both the matters for the next hearing.

In the AYUSH aspirants' petition, it was contended that their courses operate differently and they are fundamentally different from Medical Institutions that grant degrees, diplomas, or licenses in Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, or Homoeopathy medicines. They also said that the common entrance test is not structured to take into account the eligibility criteria for admission to AYUSH courses. Claiming that NEET for AYUSH courses is in violation of Article 14 which provides equality before the law or equal protection of the laws, the aspirants said they are not against the entrance test system but against NEET for taking admission to AYUSH courses—Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Sowa Rigpa.

Police bust terror module behind Pathankot army camp attack

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

Punjab Police have cracked the case of hand grenade attacks, including the attack at the Pathankot army camp, by busting a major terror module backed by International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) with the arrest of its six operatives.

The SBS Nagar police have also recovered six hand-grenades, one pistol (9 mm), one rifle (.30 bore) along with bullets and magazines from their possession, Director General of Police (DGP), V.K. Bhawra, said here on Monday. Those arrested have been identified as Amandeep, Gurwinder Singh, Parminder Kumar, Rajinder Singh, Harpreet Singh and Raman Kumar, all from Gurdaspur.

As per the information, in two instances, some unidentified persons had hurled hand grenades at Pathankot -- one near Chakki Pull on November 11, 2021 at about 9.30 pm, another outside Triveni Dwar, 21 sub-area of the army in Pathankot, on November 21 at about 9 pm.

Separate FIRs in this regard were registered in Pathankot. The DGP said during preliminary interrogation, the accused revealed that they were directly in touch with self-proclaimed chief of ISYF (Rode), Lakhbir Singh Rode, and his close aides, Sukhmeetpal Singh



alias Sukh Bhikharwal and Sukhpreet alias Sukh, for planning the terror attacks.

"The entire cache of the recovered hand grenades, arms and ammunition were pushed in from across the international border by Lakhbir Rode, and the arrested accused persons had been tasked for further attacking the pre-identified targets which were mainly police and defence establishments, religious places etc.," the DGP said, adding that the accused also confessed to have lobbed hand grenades twice in Pathankot.

SBS Nagar SSP Kanwardeep Kaur said the police have also registered a case at a police station in Nawanshahr. "Further investigations are on," she added.

Rajnath Singh, JP Nadda, others tests positive for Covid

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP chief JP Nadda on Monday said that they had tested positive for Covid.

In a tweet, Defence Minister said, "I have tested positive for Corona today with mild symptoms. I am under home quarantine. I request everyone who have recently come in my contact to isolate themselves and get tested."

BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda on Monday tested positive for the novel coronavirus. He also wrote in twitter, "I got my covid test done after showing initial symptoms. My report has come positive. I am feeling fine now." The BJP leader



has isolated himself after testing positive for the novel coronavirus.

Former Union Minister and Lok Sabha member Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore also tested positive for Covid on Monday.

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrashekhar tested positive on Sunday. In a tweet, he had said, "And after succeeding in avoiding #COVID19 for last 21 months, it finally catches up with me today as I tested +ve today."

HC notice to Delhi govt, RBI on PIL against auction of Raisina Bengali School

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued a notice on a PIL filed against the auction of government-aided Raisina Bengali School in CR Park, highlighting that the auction will affect around 900 students, teachers and other staff members.

The bench presided over by Chief Justice D.N. Patel issued notice to all the respondents, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Delhi government, Delhi Police's Economic Offence Wing, among others on the PIL filed by Advocate Khagesh B. Jha for the petitioner Justice for All, an NGO.

ASREC India vs Raisina Bengali School directed the auction of the Property of School, to put on E-auc-



tion at the reserve price of Rs 81 crore, which would hamper the education of not only the existing students but the other prospective stu-

dents of the locality, thereby violating the rights guaranteed to the students, under Article 21A of the Constitution, it said. As per the PIL, the land is sub-

ject to the application of SARFESI ACT, 2002. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) cannot allot a plot to anyone without the sponsorship from the user department of the Delhi government and cannot change the usage of the land without adding the provision of NOC in the lease deed and issuing the NOC contrary to the statutory provisions.

In case of failure of loan repayment, even if the bank sells the property, the balance amount is received by the DDA. The land usage, which cannot be changed directly, is then converted from a school plot into a plot for commercial malls, hotels or multiplexes, thus denying vulnerable and voiceless children of the city their basic rights.

Entranced in PUBG, two brothers run over by train in Alwar

JAIPUR | Agencies

Two brothers were run over by a train in Rajasthan's Alwar when they were busy playing PUBG while squatting on the railway tracks, police said.

The victims were identified as Lokesh Meena, 21, and Rahul Meena, 18, who were studying in Alwar.

They had gone to railway tracks on Saturday to relieve themselves when they were run over by the Rankhet Express running from Delhi to Jaipur. According to the police, they were engaged in playing the game that they took no notice of the



approaching train.

Police have seized their mobiles on which the PUBG game app was on. Their post-mortem examination has been done and the bodies handed over to their families. Their father Ram Kishore Meena said that his sons were attending

coaching in Alwar. While the elder son was pursuing coaching for competitive exams, the second son was undergoing graduation. They were at home in their village for the last two years due to pandemic, however, for the last one month, they had been in Alwar.

2 TERRORISTS KILLED IN J&K ENCOUNTER IDENTIFIED

Srinagar: The two terrorists killed in an encounter by security forces at Hasanpora area in south Kashmir's Kulgam district have been identified, officials said on Monday.

The slain terrorists have been identified as Imad Muzaffar Wani, a resident of Arigam Pulwama, and Abdul Rashid Thoker from Hasanpora. The police said that based on a specific input about the presence of terrorists in Hasanpora village situated on the border between Kulgam and Anantnag, a joint cordon and search operation was launched on Sunday evening by the police and the army.

"During the search operation, as the joint search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists started firing indiscriminately, which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter," the police said. In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists of proscribed terror outfit Al-Badr were killed.

Pollution levels that dipped during 2020 lockdown threaten to bounce back: CSE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the levels of pollution rising this year, the downward dip, induced by the hard lockdown phases of the pandemic in 2020, will not persist, a new analysis of regional pollution trends done by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) showed.

"This analysis of real time air quality data for the period 2019-2021 shows that the downward dip in pollution that was induced by the hard lockdown phases of the pandemic in 2020 is threatening to bounce back with the levels in 2021 already rising. But in many cases, the levels are still lower than 2019. This underscores the urgency of scaling up action across all sectors to prevent further worsening and to arrest the trend in this region," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy at CSE.

As a result, the eastern states of India i.e. Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha -- are now feeling the sting of increased winter air pollution, the study showed.

As the winter smog that engulfs north India during early November begins to extend eastwards during late December and early January, Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha are affected mostly during this time when winter inversion and the cool and calm con-



ditions trap the local pollution that is already high.

"Even though real time air quality monitoring has begun to expand in these states to provide more up to date and real time information on air quality, there are serious concerns around missing data and gaps that makes proper risk assessment difficult. In some stations of Bihar and Odisha, data availability is so low that the trend cannot be assessed. Quality control of data is necessary," said Avikal Somvanshi, programme manager at Urban Data Analytics Lab, CSE.

This new analysis of real-time pollution data by the CSE is a part of the air quality tracker initiative of its Urban Data Analytics Lab, whose objective is to understand the trend and magnitude of pollution in different regions that have real-time air quality monitoring systems. This is an assessment of annual and seasonal trends in PM2.5 concentration for the period January 1, 2019, to January 4, 2022, which covers 29 continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) spread across 12 cities in the above mentioned three states.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपकार A Government of India Undertaking

सिंडिकेट Syndicate

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Recovery & Legal Section, Circle Office, 2nd Floor, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh
Ph. No. 0172-2602431, 2663733, E-mail: rlcchd@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
SALE NOTICE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER RULES 6(2), 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Last Date of Receipt of EMD 27.01.2022 upto 4:00 P.M.
Date of E-Auction: 29.01.2022 at 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
(with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold through E-auction on the following terms and conditions. E-auction arranged by service provider M/s Canbank Computer Services Ltd. through the website www.indianbankseaauction.com. For detailed terms & conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com).

Sl. No.	Branch Name / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Brief Description of Property/ies	Total Liabilities as on specified Date	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Details of A/c No. / Possession Type
1.	Canara Bank, SARM Chandigarh Branch, Sh. Arvind Kumar Assistant General Manager, Ph.: 0172-2601664, 2602336 E-mail: cb5220@canarabank.com	Land and Building measuring 4.141 Hectares (63 Kanals and 6 Marlas) situated at Patwari Halka No 24, Survey No 626 and 628/1/2 in the name of M/s Ecogreen Food Storages situated at Village Nagjhini, Tehsil Gogawa, District Khargone, Madhya Pradesh registered vide Release Deed No. 1A/343 Granth No. 5010 dt. 19.08.2013, Sale Deed No. 1A/91 Granth No. 4964 Dt. 03.05.2013 and Sale Deed No. 1A/91 Granth No. 4962 Dt. 03.05.2013 registered with Sub-Registrar Khargone (M.P.).	Total liabilities as on 31.07.2021: Rs. 5,26,52,396/- as on 30.09.2021 plus further interest from 01.10.2021	Rs. 450.00 Lakhs	Rs. 45.00 Lakhs	2452201001335 / CNRB0002452 / SYMBOLIC POSSESSION

Borrowers:- (1) M/s Ecogreen Food Grain Storage, through - Sh. Harinderjit Singh Samra, Sadik Road, Near Canal, Faridkot Punjab - 151203 (2) M/s Ecogreen Food Grain Storage, through - Sh. Harinderjit Singh Samra, Patwari Halka 24, Survey No. 626 and 628/1/2, Village Nagjhini, Tehsil Gogawa, Distt. Khargone, Madhya Pradesh - 451001 (3) Sh. Harinderjit Singh Samra, Sadik Road, Near Canal, Faridkot, Punjab - 151203 (4) Sh. Rajbir Singh S/o Sh. Harinderjit Singh Samra, Sadik Road, Near Canal, Faridkot, Punjab - 151203 (5) Sh. Sukhbir Singh S/o Sh. Harinderjit Singh Samra, Sadik Road, Near Canal, Faridkot, Punjab - 151203 (6) Smt. Bhupinder Kaur W/o Sh. Harinderjit Singh Samra, Sadik Road, Near Canal, Faridkot, Punjab - 151203 (7) M/s Golden Agrarian Pvt. Ltd., Sadik Road, Near Canal, Faridkot, Punjab - 151203.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:- The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following conditions. a. E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS & WHATEVER IS THERE" basis. b. As per bank record, the outstanding dues of the Local Self Government against the property are not known to bank, as no notice received for the same. The Purchaser is liable to incur the dues, if any. c. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website www.indianbankseaauction.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. d. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, from 20.01.2022 & 21.01.2022, between 03:00 PM to 05:00 PM. e. The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process. f. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of Demand Draft in favour of Authorised Officer, Canara Bank Branch or shall be deposited through RTGS / NEFT / Fund Transfer / Bankers Cheque (any other mode) to credit the Account of respective branch of Canara Bank on or before 27.01.2022, upto 4:00 PM. g. Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider M/s Canbank Computer Services Ltd., No. 218, J.P. Royale, First Floor, Sampige Road, Malleswaram, and for any property related query may Contact Person: Mr. Pakhare D. D. / Mr. Ramesh T H, Mobile Number: 9480691777 / 8553643144, E-mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in. Immediately on the same date of payment of the EMD amount the bidders shall approach the said service provider for obtaining digital signature (if not holding a valid digital signature) h. After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 27.01.2022, upto 5:00 PM, at Canara Bank Branch by hand or by email. 1) Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS / NEFT, acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No. 2) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. 3) Bidders Name, Contact No. Address, E-Mail-id. 4) Bidder's A/c details for online refund of EMD. i. The intending bidders should register their names at portal www.indianbankseaauction.com and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider M/s Canbank Computer Services Ltd., Contact Person: Mr. Pakhare D. D. / Mr. Ramesh T H, Mobile Number: 9480691777 / 8553643144. j. EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them within 2 days of finalization of sale. The EMD shall not carry any interest. k. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs. 10,000/-. The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. l. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/hers as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him/hers shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. i. All charges for conveyance, stamp duty and registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. m. Where the sale consideration, of the property to be transferred is Rs. 50.00 Lacs and above the successful bidder will have to deduct Tax Deducted at Source (TDS @1% on the sale proceeds and deposit the same by furnishing the Challan in Form 26QB and submit the original receipt of TDS Certificate to the Bank. n. The sale of Movable Assets are subject to applicable GST over and above the sale price. o. Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone / cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof. p. For further details contact Branch or the service provider M/s Canbank Computer Services Ltd., Contact Person: Mr. Pakhare D. D. / Mr. Ramesh T H, Mobile Number: 9480691777 / 8553643144 or Canara Bank's website www.canarabank.com. For detailed terms & conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com).

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION / CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE (AS PER AMENDMENT TO SECURITY INTEREST RULES 2002 WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 2016) UNDER THE SARFESI ACT 2002

Date: 10.01.2022 Place: Chandigarh **AUTHORISED OFFICER, Canara Bank**



Chief Minister Launches Precaution Dose campaign

WAR AGAINST COVID WILL BE WON ONLY WITH THE COOPERATION OF PEOPLE: CM

Chouhan took Stock of Vaccination Work

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the work of vaccination has been done well in the state with the cooperation of all sections, so that we will be successful in combating the third wave of corona. The war against Covid will be won only with the cooperation of the people. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect against corona. Chouhan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi first provided protection to citizens from corona by providing free vaccine. Now teenagers in the age group of 15 to 18, frontline workers and brothers-sisters above 60 years are also being given protection from corona.



Mega Campaign. So far, 96.16 percent citizens have been given the first dose of vaccine and 94 percent citizens have been given both doses. The 40.38 percent vaccination of children has also been done. Chouhan congratulated the people of the state for getting the vaccination done and said that it has become easier to face the third wave of corona only after vaccination. Chief Minister said that we

have to fight against corona without affecting the life and keeping economic activities uninterrupted. For this it is necessary that citizens wear masks as a precaution, avoid going to crowded places. He said that children are also enthusiastic about vaccination and in a week more than 46 percent children have been vaccinated. Efforts are on to achieve this target by next 15 January.

Chouhan said that he starts the day by reviewing corona every day. The corona cases that are coming right now are not very frightening. Infected persons are recovering at home, due to which beds in hospitals are also empty and oxygen is also not needed.

Chouhan said that with the cooperation of the administration, doctors, para-medical staff, social organisations, public representatives, social workers and citizens, we are successful in controlling the situation in the state. The media has also made the general public aware by playing an active part. He said that today 2317 cases have come to the fore. We all have to be careful and stay alert.

He took stock of the vaccination of the elderly and frontline workers above 60 years at the vaccination centre and also took selfies with them. The Chief Minister got the vaccination of State Immunization Officer Dr. Santosh Shukla, Anganwadi workers Manorama Tomar and Husn Bano etc. done before him and appreciated the members of the vaccination team.

Court Notices To CM Chouhan, 2 Others In Defamation Case

THE RESPONDENTS MADE CERTAIN DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS AGAINST TANKHA IN CONNECTION WITH THE OBC RESERVATION CASE IN THE SUPREME COURT, WHICH DAMAGED HIS REPUTATION, THE COUNSEL SAID.

crore filed against them by Congress Rajya Sabha MP and senior lawyer Vivek Tankha. The 8th Additional District Judge Vivek Patel served notices on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state BJP State chief VD Sharma and state Urban Administration minister Bhupendra Singh and has asked the respondents to file their replies by February 25, said Tankha's counsel Wajid Hyder. The respondents made certain defamatory statements against Tankha in connection with the OBC reservation case in the Supreme Court, which damaged his reputation, the counsel said.

During the tenure of the then Congress government, the OBC quota was introduced in the three-tier panchayats system, Hyder said. The top court stayed the OBC quota in panchayat polls in Madhya Pradesh after Congress leader Manmohan Nagar, who is president of Bhopal Jila Panchayat, moved the SC claiming the state government had violated Constitutional provisions on reservation rotation and delimitation. Tankha was Nagar's lawyer. BJP leaders in the state then alleged the Congress was against the OBCs, with minister Bhupendra Singh claiming the stay came about because the opposition party dragged the issue to court.

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

A court on Monday issued notices to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and two others in a civil defamation suit of Rs 10

Chief Minister Planted Saplings of Almond and Black Rosewood

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted almond and black rosewood saplings in Smart Garden on Monday. Member of Parliament Shankar Lalwani and office bearers of social organisation Nav Rachna also planted saplings. Chouhan congratulated the organisation for working in the field of environmental protection.



Almond is a fruit. Technically, it is the seed of the fruit of the almond tree. The almond tree bears pink and white fragrant flowers. It flourishes more in mountainous areas. In Asia, it occurs in greater numbers in Iran-Iraq. Almonds are rich in fiber aids in digestion. Almonds are useful in the treatment of high blood pressure, constipation and heart diseases. It is rich in potassium, magnesium, calcium and vitamin E. Black rosewood wood is purple in colour, with high-grade finishing and shining.

Mineral wealth important for employment and revenue generation: Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that mineral wealth is important for employment and revenue generation. Work should be done expeditiously for the goal of providing employment by scientific exploitation of mineral resources. Tasks must be completed in a transparent, well-planned and systematic manner. Efforts to generate revenue should not be lacking. Necessary coordination should be done with the Government of India to complete the survey work of availability of minerals in the districts at the earliest. Chouhan also directed to start the process of filling up the vacant posts in the Mineral Resources Department.



Chouhan was reviewing the works of Mineral Resources Department in Mantralaya today. It was informed in the meeting that survey work is going on in various agreements in the state. As a result of the agreements executed between Manganese and India Limited (MOIL Ltd.) and the Department of Minerals, survey work has been started in 14 blocks. These include 20 areas of dia-

Manganese, Fireclay, Dolomite and Laterite by setting a target of 100 inactive mines of main minerals. Notification of amendment in Madhya Pradesh Minor Mineral Rules 1996 in the new minor mineral policy for auction of major minerals, rationalization of dead rent rates of minor minerals and stone mineral and re-revision of royalty rates of 31 minor minerals has been published. The Mineral Resources Department has given approval to allot two blocks of Singrauli district to the private sector for mining of coal minerals. It was informed that on the basis of road map and long-term goals of Atmanirbhar

Madhya Pradesh, there has been an increase in mineral revenue as a result of the department's vision and its implementation in the financial year.

Programmes of Backward Class Welfare Will Be Implemented With Full Force: CM



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the objective of the state government is the welfare of all sections of the citizens living in the state including backward classes. In this direction, necessary steps will be

taken for the development of the people by eliminating all the obstacles. Efforts will be made to benefit the backward classes in all the works related to their rights including representation. The Madhya Pradesh government is committed for this. Chouhan was addressing at his resi-

dence on Monday in response to his felicitation by various Backward Classes organisations. Chief Minister said that with the necessary legal provisions, all other welfare programmes including reservation in bodies will be implemented with full force in the interest of backward classes. Various organisations honoured Chouhan with flowers and greeting cards in the presence of backward class ministers, MPs and MLAs. Member of Parliament Vishnu Dutt Sharma said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chouhan, work is going on to benefit the backward classes with adequate representation from the schemes. Madhya Pradesh is the leader in this field. Madhya Pradesh's initiative in the field of tribal development has also been appreciated at the national level. By organising seminars in the districts, information about the efforts of backward class welfare has been made available to the public. Sharma gave detailed information about the action taken regarding reservation to the backward classes in the Panchayat elections at the court level.

CM PAID TRIBUTE TO MAHENDRA PRATAP SINGH TOMAR



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tribute to Late Mahendra Pratap Singh Tomar after reaching the residence of Tomar family at Shahpura. Mahendra Pratap Singh Tomar passed away on December 28 last. Chouhan consoled the family members including Tomar's wife Meena Singh Tomar, sons Harendra, Dharendra and Gyanendra Bahadur Singh Tomar and prayed to God to grant peace to the departed soul.

Statewide Employment & Self-Employment Day Will Be observed on January 12

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Employment and Self-Employment Day will be observed in the state on January 12. On this day one day programmes will be organised at district and state level. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will attend the state level programme of Employment Day at Minto Hall, Bhopal. In the programme, sanction and disbursement letters of employment / self-employment will be given to the beneficiaries. Chouhan will also interact virtually with two beneficiaries each of Jhabua, Neemuch, Balaghat, Rewa, Gwalior and Tikamgarh districts. Employment Day will be organised at all district

headquarters as per the Covid protocol. In this, approval/disbursement letters will be given to maximum 100 beneficiaries of self-employment schemes. Loans will be sanctioned and distributed through banks to the beneficiaries of Mukhya Mantri Gramin Path-Vikreta, Pradhan Mantri Mudra, Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Srijan, Mukhya Mantri Udyam Kranti Yojna and trained youths from Rural Self-employment Training Institute (RSETI).

The state level programme will be telecast live on January 12 at 1 pm from Kushabhau Thakre Auditorium, Bhopal through news channels and various social media platforms.

Advertisement for Mission Family Welfare (मिशन परिवार विकास) featuring a woman and text about vaccination and family welfare services.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Massive outreach plan of BJP in UP

The *Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP)* in Uttar Pradesh will launch a massive outreach drive on Tuesday, listing the Yogi Adityanath-led government's achievements before the public. After the announcement of election dates, which will be held in seven phases, the party will now go door-to-door, adhering to Covid protocols, and establish a mass contact with over one crore people, appealing them to extend their support once again to the saffron party. According to party sources, the BJP has formed groups of around five people, including workers, leaders and public representatives, to create awareness among the people in every village and city, especially the beneficiaries and women about the various schemes of the Central and state governments. With this door-to-door mass contact drive, the party workers will distribute leaflets showing the achievements of the government along with masks and sanitisers to prevent the spread of Coronavirus at 1,74,000 booths. Through this mass contact drive, the BJP will also work to strengthen its base ahead of the coming Assembly elections by motivating the voters of all sections and groups of the state to extend their support to the government. The BJP workers will make people aware of various schemes of the Central and state governments, including PM Awas Yojana and CM Awas Yojana, distribution of free ration to 15 crore people every month, the Ujjwala scheme under which free gas connection were given to 1.67 crore beneficiaries, the Ujala scheme, Kisan Samman Nidhi and other farmer welfare schemes, Kanya Sumangala and Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana for girls, employment schemes like ODOP, development in education, construction of toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission, infrastructure development and confiscation of properties of mafias, among others.

IS PUNJAB HEADING FOR HUNG ASSEMBLY?

Manish Kumar Gupta

From the past six months, Punjab is in news for all the wrong reasons that started with the removal of state chief minister Captain Amrinder Singh which reached its zenith with lapses in the security of Prime Minister Narendra Modi till the time elections are announced for five states - Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur. But amid all these developments, politics in Punjab has got completely changed. Let's understand what are these changes that have happened? A likely bipolar electoral battle in Punjab between the Congress and AAP with an edge for the Congress with Capt. Amrinder Singh at the helm has become a five-cornered contest. Capt. Amrinder Singh is out of the Congress and is in alliance with the BJP along with a faction of Akali Dal led by Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa. Farmers' organisations have launched a party called Sanyukta Samaj Morcha. AAP is quite upbeat with its performance in Chandigarh. These alliances and new launches will relegate the Congress to the third or fourth position as political analysts with good understanding of Punjab say. The Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Akali Dal alliance, BJP alliance and recently launched political party of 14 farmers' group are going to be in the fray in this Assembly elections. The leader who single-handedly brought the



Congress to power in 2017 will be fielding candidates against the Congress candidates. His party Punjab Lok Congress, the BJP and the SAD (Sanyukta) are in alliance. Capt. Amrinder Singh will try hard that Navjot Singh Sidhu is not able to be anointed chief minister of the state. Former Punjab chief minister is a Jat Sikh and has very strong influence in the Doaba region of Punjab. The way a section of radical Sikhs has cornered Hindus in Punjab, it is likely that they will unitedly vote for the BJP. The BJP alliance may prove to be a dark horse as there is a sizable number of Sikh following of the BJP. There is a constant infighting going on in the Congress causing disappointment among the foot soldiers. There is no unanimity among the party leadership and the Congress

claiming to have appointed a Dalit CM has not many takers as it removed Sunil Jakhar another Dalit from the post of party president to appoint Navjot S Sidhu as party president. BSP is in alliance with Shiromani Akali Dal, so Dalit vote, which constitute 29 per cent of the Punjab voters, may get divided among the four players - the BJP alliance, AAP, SAD alliance and the Congress. Jat Sikh votes too will be divided between SAD and Punjab Lok Congress. AAP that claims to be forming the government in Punjab does not have any specific segment voting for the party. It solely relies on the anti-incumbency of the Congress which has many claimants this time round. SAD, BJP, AAP and political outfit led by farmers are banking on anger of the people. Some are appealing people to vote for it against the Congress in the state while party of farmers' wants people to vote for it for the wrong policies of the BJP government at the Centre for its so-called anti-Farm laws which are scrapped but farmers feel that there are many issues that still need to be addressed. Farmers are still in the protest mode and disrupting PM's rallies and during the PM's programme on January 5, 2022 at least at 32 places BJP workers were beaten up. They are silently waiting for the poll date to cost their vote on February 14, 2022. AAP is buoyant with its success in Chandigarh Municipal Corporation elections where it emerged as the single

largest political party but failed to get Mayor's seat. The confusion caused by Arvind Kejriwal that the Centre may announce Chandigarh to be the sole capital may be played up during Punjab elections but the way AAP Lok Sabha MP Bhagwant Mann was trolled in social media for his addiction, its excise policy in Delhi allowing more liquor shops may have spillover effect in Punjab. Corruption charges against its co-in-charge Raghav Chaddha might go expose the party which claims to be waging a war against corruption. So, the party that was solely claiming anti-corruption and anti-incumbency votes in its favour that may get divided into three or four. Amidst all these developments, if something does not happen dramatically in favour of any political group in Punjab just before February 14 polls when polling is scheduled for the state, there is a possibility of hung Assembly with BJP alliance and AAP fighting neck and neck with advantage for the BJP alliance. Ruling Congress and SAD+BJP may be fighting for the third and fourth place if one looks at the present situation. The political outfit launched by farmers' union Sanyukta Samaj Morcha may not be able to do much and may end up votkatuwa harming the Congress and AAP.

(The author is a Delhi-based political Analyst)

5 unmistakable signs you're dating a narcissist

Upassna B Singh

Narcissist is someone who despises modesty and celebrates vanity. Everything is an inflated and unrealistic mirror of self in narcissism. Every narcissist sees themselves as Godlike, and their deep-seated anxieties and insecurities are obscured by the false notion that they are unique. The two foundations of narcissism are malignant self-obsession and self-centeredness, in which a person is unconcerned about the wishes, needs, or interests of others. This type of behaviour is associated with personality problems, according to psychologists. The name was derived from the Greek mythology narrative of Narcissus, a child who fell in love with his own reflection, which dates back to at least 8 A.D. This tale was offered by Sigmund Freud as a representation of a self-absorbed person. Exaggerated ambition, grandiose fantasy, sentiments of entitlement, and exhibitionism have all been used by psychoanalysts

and thinkers throughout history to boost a narcissist's self-esteem. **Narcissist a good partner?** On paper, narcissists often have it all - a fantastic career, money, success, and attractiveness. All of these awe-inspiring outward features are said to be important in a long-term partner. However, you should discard this preconceived view because fantasising about such a companion can lead to you being on the wrong side of the story. When you're in a relationship with a narcissist, the dynamics shift more subtly. At first, a narcissist begins "love bombing" - you are showered with constant texts, presents, and compliments, and they exhibit generosity to the core, but it's always about their own gains on the other side of the coin. They try to control you by withholding your affection and attention. As your relationship with a narcissist spouse progresses, you'll notice some mysterious characteristics and be disillusioned by their sudden change in behaviour. It may come as a shock

to you because you had no idea that the charismatic charmer with whom you fell in love had narcissistic personality traits at first. In most cases, the relationship deteriorates and the toxicity level rises. You might be wondering whether a narcissist can be a decent companion. Unfortunately, "no" is virtually always the response. Because they are self-serving and feel no remorse when they damage their relationship, narcissism is a difficult tendency to change, and this trait makes them difficult to be around. But what if you're already in a relationship with one? If you find yourself justifying your partner's toxicity and conduct, you are most likely in a narcissistic relationship. You must seek for these undeniable signals that can assist you in uncovering your partner's hidden personality. **These 5 signs should help your spot the red flags:** Take control of the conversation - Although relationships are two-way streets, people have a

tendency to guide the conversation back to themselves. They enjoy being the centre of attention and commanding the conversation's focus. They don't pay attention to their partners and are prone to interrupting them in the middle of a conversation to share their own points of view or altogether changing the topic of the conversation, which is heavily focused on them. Lack of empathy - Narcissism is characterised by a lack of empathy. There is no genuine affection or love. It may be difficult to catch their attention and have them care about your feelings and wants. The urge for self-protection makes narcissists weak, and this builds a barrier between them and their relationship. They lack true compassion when it comes to recognising and considering their partner's sentiments. (Upassna B Singh is a Life Coach and Mentor)

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN REJECTS REQUEST TO COOPERATE ON CAPITOL RIOT INQUIRY

Washington | Agencies
Republican Congressman Jim Jordan has rejected a request from the House select committee investigating the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot to voluntarily cooperate with the probe. "This request is far outside the bounds of any legitimate inquiry, violates core Constitutional principles, and would serve to further erode legislative norms," Xinhua news agency reported citing a letter Jordan wrote to Bennie Thompson, a Democrat from Mississippi who chairs the committee. "As you well know, I have no relevant information that would assist the Select Committee in advancing any legitimate legislative pur-



pose," Jordan said in the letter sent on Sunday. The committee in late December wrote to the Republican House member, requesting an interview with him about the riot, claiming that Jordan, as a staunch ally of Donald Trump, regularly interacted with the former President both in the lead-up to the 2020 presidential election and in the aftermath of it. "We understand that you had at

least one and possibly multiple communications with President Trump on January 6. We would like to discuss each such communication with you in detail," Thompson wrote in his letter. The committee requested that the interview be arranged on either January 3 or 4, or that Jordan meet investigators during the week starting January 10. Jordan has repeatedly blasted the committee's effort as politically motivated, once acknowledging that he did speak with Trump on the day of the riot. "I spoke with him on January 6. I mean, I talked with President Trump all the time and that's... I don't think that's unusual," he said in an interview with Spectrum News in the summer of 2021.

S KOREAN PREZ TO EMBARK ON MIDDLE EAST TRIP THIS WEEK

Seoul | South Korean President Moon Jae-in will embark on three-country Middle East trip later this week as Seoul seeks to boost ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia and Egypt in the fields of energy, construction and infrastructure, officials said on Monday. On the first leg of the trip, Moon will attend a business forum in the UAE on January 16 as well as an official ceremony for "Day of Korea" at the Dubai Expo. Yonhap news Agency quoted the presidential office as saying. The following day, he will hold talks with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on how to further develop bilateral ties. After the UAE, the President will visit Saudi Arabia on January 18-19 to hold talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and to attend a business forum. On January 20-21, the South Korean leader will make a state visit to Egypt at the invitation of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Moon and Sisi are expected to discuss ways to further develop the comprehensive cooperative partnership between the two nations. Moon will attend a business forum where he will discuss ways to promote cooperation in eco-friendly businesses.



1,837 FIJIAN IN EVACUATION CENTRES DUE TO TROPICAL CYCLONE CODY

Suva | Agencies
A total of 1,837 people are currently taking shelter in 110 evacuation centres across Fiji due to flooding and heavy rain brought by tropical cyclone Cody, Minister for Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu said on Monday. Seruiratu said that of the 1,837 people, 1,045 have taken shelter in 76 centres in the western part of the island nation while 553 are in 28 facilities in the central part of the country, reports Xinhua news agency. Seven major rivers of the island nation have reportedly broken their banks. The Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) said that the Kings and Queens Highways, the two major highways in the main island of Viti Levu, remain closed at various locations due to flooding. A 35-year-old man was reportedly swept away on Sunday by



strong currents while trying to cross a river in Tavua, about 91 km from Fiji's third largest city of Nadi. The Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) said on Monday that cyclone

Cody is moving away from Fiji, however, flash flooding is expected in the next few days due to rain. The Pacific cyclone season is regularly from November to April.

CYCLONE TIFFANY TO HIT AUSTRALIA

Canberra | Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has said that the tropical Cyclone Tiffany is expected to hit the coast of the northern tip of the state of Queensland on Monday. The BoM issued a warning on Monday morning that the cyclone showed wind speeds of 130 km per hour and was moving west at 18 km per hour just 30 km from the coast, reports Xinhua news agency. "Tiffany will weaken slightly over land but may maintain tropical cyclone strength as it moves westward across the Cape," said the warning. Residents have been asked to expect and prepare for gale force, destructive winds, up to 250 mm of heavy rainfall and abnormally high tides along the coast. "Tropical cyclones can intensify very quickly, and shift direction, so we will be updating our warnings and advice to the community and our emergency services colleagues as this system progresses." Meteorologist from the University of Technology Sydney Milton Speer told Xinhua that the cyclone is likely a result of high sea surface temperatures. "Tiffany developed over sea surface temperatures in the Coral Sea of about 29 degree Celsius, which are up to 1 degree Celsius above average and will likely re-intensify over similar sea surfaces in the Gulf of Carpentaria," said Speer. "As Tiffany approaches landfall today, damaging winds can be expected in the Cooktown area." He said the cyclone is part of an active monsoon trough which has caused torrential rainfall near the coast of northern Queensland. On Friday, a 22-year-old man died after his vehicle was submerged in flood waters, and a 14-year-old girl also went missing, after it was believed she was swept away in floodwaters. A police search was underway. The Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) has responded to over 140 requests for assistance in the region.



IRAQI PARLIAMENT HOLDS 1ST SESSION UNDER 5TH TERM

Bghdad | Agencies
The Iraqi parliament has held the first session in its fifth legislative term, signaling important progress in forming a new government. A total of 228 lawmakers in the 329-seat Assembly attended the session which was held on Sunday afternoon under the chairmanship of Khalid al-Darraj, reports Xinhua news agency. During the session, parliament re-elected Mohammed al-Halbousi as the Speaker. Al-Halbousi won by an overwhelming majority of 200 votes while Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, a former speaker, secured only 14, with the remaining ballots confirmed invalid. According to the Iraqi Constitution, the Council of Representatives, or Parliament, must elect its Speaker, and his first deputy and second deputy by an absolute majority of the total number of the lawmakers. According to Iraq's power-sharing system, the first deputy must be from the Shia community and the second from the Kurds. Parliament should also elect a new Iraqi president from the candidates by a two-thirds majority of its members within 30 days of the first session. According to the power-sharing system, the President should be reserved for the Kurds, the speaker for the Sunnis and the Prime Minister for the Shias. The new president will



ask the largest parliamentary alliance to name a prime minister-designate to form a government within 30 days. The Iraqi parliamentary elections,

originally scheduled for 2022, were held on October 10, 2021 in response to months of protests against corruption, poor governance, and a lack of public services.

Fresh protests demanding civilian rule erupt in Sudan

Khartoum | Agencies
A fresh round of demonstrations took place in Sudan's capital Khartoum and other cities to demand civilian rule in the North African country. Groups of protesters set out from Bashdar bus station in the capital city and marched towards the Republican Palace in central Khartoum, reports Xinhua news agency. In a bid to contain the demonstrations, authorities have closed most of the state's bridges linking the three major cities of Khartoum, Omdurman, and Bahri, leaving only Al-Halfaya and Suba bridges open to traffic. The security bodies have also closed most of the roads around the army's general command headquarters and those leading to the presidential palace. On Saturday, the UN launched an intra-Sudanese political process to end the crisis. Volker Perthes, the UN envoy for Sudan, said in a statement that the political process would seek a "sustainable path forward towards democracy and peace" in the country. It was not immediately clear when discussions might begin. On January 2, Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok announced his resignation amid a political crisis and waves of protests in the country. Sudan has been suffering a political crisis after the general commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan declared a state of emergency on October 25, 2021 and dissolved the Sovereign Council and the government. More than 55 people have been killed in protests since the coup.





DON'T BECOME 'CORONA AGENTS,' CM THACKERAY WARNS RECKLESS PEOPLE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an unusually tough statement, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday warned reckless people "not to become Corona agents" by flouting norms and risking the lives of others as the third wave of the pandemic has set in the state massively.



through initiatives like 'Break the Chain' and Mission Begin Again. While lauding a majority of the citizens who diligently follow directives, he pulled up "the handful" of those irresponsible persons who flout them.

said in many places doctors, nurses and other frontline medical workers are also being infected and "this is a warning for all". "We have augmented all the medical facilities in the past two years, but if doctors also get ill, from where shall we get the manpower?" he asked, as hundreds of medicos, paramedics, police personnel and others are being afflicted in the state.

Maha continues to be worst Omicron hit, Rajasthan outnumbers Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With 410 fresh Omicron infections detected in the last 24 hours, the national tally of this highly transmissible variant of the coronavirus has climbed to 4,033. Of the total, 1,552 people have recovered from the new strain nationwide so far, said Union Health Ministry on Monday morning.



followed by Karnataka with 441 cases of this variant. Kerala has registered 333 Omicron cases so far. Among other states, Gujarat has so far detected 236 cases, while Tamil Nadu continues with 185 cases.

health ministry data. Madhya Pradesh has reported one fresh Omicron case in 24 hours, taking the tally to 10. However, the Omicron case count continues in single digit for Assam at 9 and Uttarakhand at 8.

MUMBAI AIRPORT: BLAZE ENGULFS PUSHBACK TRUCK, NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE

Mumbai: In a freak accident, a pushback truck caught fire when it was preparing to tow out an aircraft at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), officials said here on Monday.



The incident occurred when the massive truck was getting engaged with the aircraft before readying to push back the Air India Mumbai-Jamnagar flight with 85 passengers on board. However, as thick fumes were seen billowing out of the conflagration, an airport fire brigade team in the vicinity managed to extinguish the flames on the pushback truck within barely 10 minutes, said an official.

MUMBAI REGISTERS DIP IN DAILY COVID-19 CASES FOR SECOND DAY

44,388 new Covid-19 cases were reported in Maharashtra with 19,474 infections in Mumbai.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

While Mumbai registered a slight dip in coronavirus cases for the second day running, Pune saw its biggest single-day jump during the third wave and recorded 6,464 new cases on Sunday. Mumbai reported 19,474 cases on Sunday, slightly less than 20,318 cases registered on Saturday.



ed positive cases because of at-home antigen testing kits and backlog of RT-PCR test reports. Maharashtra on Sunday reported 207 new cases of the Omicron variant of coronavirus, taking the state's overall tally of such patients to 1,216, an official statement said.

Mumbai, 22 in Pune city, 21 in Nagpur, 15 in Pimpri Chinchwad, 12 in Thane city, 8 in Kolhapur, 6 in Amravati, and 5 in Osmanabad. Buldhana and Akola each added four such cases, Gondia 3, while Nandurbar, Satara, and Gadchiroli added 2 Omicron cases.

each, news agency PTI reported. Of the total 1,216 cases so far, 454 have been discharged after the negative test report. 44,388 new Covid-19 cases were reported in Maharashtra on Sunday. The state also recorded 12 related deaths. Meanwhile, Mumbai on Sunday logged 19,474 fresh Covid infections and seven related deaths.

One killed, 2 hurt in Mumbai factory gas leak



Team Absolute | Mumbai

One person was killed and at least two injured in a gas leak incident from an industrial area in suburban Ghatkopar here on Monday morning, BMC Disaster Control said. The incident occurred around 8 a.m. when methanol and cyanuric chloride gas leaked, in the premises of a factory in Kurla Industrial Estate, north-east Mumbai. According to the

Mumbai Fire Brigade which rushed there, one person Ramnivas Sarod, 36, died due to inhaling the toxic gas. Two others - Rubin Solkar, 36, Sarvansh Sonavane, 25, have been admitted to BMC's Rajawadi Hospital where their condition is described as stable. The cause of the gas leak, how many persons were present in the factory premises at that time and other aspects are being investigated, said an official.

NCW writes to DGP to take action against actor Siddharth for comments on Saina Nehwal

National Commission for Women has written to DGP Maharashtra complaining against an 'outrageous' Twitter post by actor Siddharth on national Badminton player Saina Nehwal.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

National Commission for Women (NCW) has condemned actor Siddharth's Twitter post on badminton player Saina Nehwal saying it is outrageous and misogynist. In a letter, the NCW has urged DGP Maharashtra to take action against the same. The Commission in its notice has asked for filing of an FIR against the actor while asking the police to investigate the matter further.



meant. I used to like him as an actor but this was not nice. He can express himself with better words but I guess it's Twitter and you remain noticed with such words and comments. If the security of the

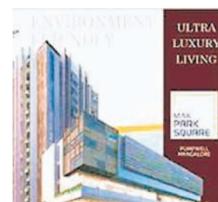
PM of India is an issue then I'm not sure what is secure in the country." "The Commission condemns such lewd and inappropriate remarks made by actor Siddharth and requires you, to immediately

investigate the matter and register FIR under the aforementioned provision of Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Information Technology Act, 2000 along with other relevant provisions of the law. The Police must take prompt and strict action against such persons using indecent language for women on social media," the Commission said. The Commission said that Siddharth's tweet invited Section 354A of the Indian Penal Code, which covers Sexual Harassment and Punishment for Sexual Harassment in addition to Section 67 of The Information Technology Act, 2000 for Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form. On Monday after the outrage, Siddharth clarified his stance saying he was referring to the 'Cock and Bull' idiom. "COCK & BULL" That's the reference. Reading otherwise is unfair and leading! Nothing disrespectful was intended, said or insinuated. Period," he wrote in his Tweet.

ED likely to use Iqbal Mirchi's seized property to run its zonal office

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is likely to move its Mumbai zonal office to the two floors (third and fourth floor) of Worli-based Ceejay House, which belongs to the late drug dealer Iqbal Mirchi. Ceejay House is a prime building in Mumbai and a number of politicians are running their offices from there. Millennium Developer Private Ltd, the company of former Union Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel, had constructed this building. The top floor of the building is the residence of Patel. The ED had lodged a case of Prevention of Money Laundering Act against Iqbal Mirchi, his family members and others which includes DHFL and its promoters. The probe agency had detected a few suspicious transactions related to real



estate dealings following which the case was lodged. The ED had recently moved before the concerned Mumbai court seeking its permission to confiscate Iqbal Mirchi's properties worth Rs 100 crore. The two floors of the building are part of the total properties that had to be confiscated. In February 2021, the concerned PMLA court had declared Mirchi's wife Hajra and his two sons, Asif and Junaid, as fugitive economic offenders. The order was passed by the court to seize their property. Now ED wants

to shift its zonal office to the third and fourth floor of Ceejay House, which belongs to Mirchi and his family. Sources have claimed that the ED officials have been visiting the Ceejay Building to make necessary arrangements so that their zonal office could be shifted. As of now ED is running its office from the Ballard Estate situated in the Kaiser-e-Hind Building. Patel's company, Millennium Developer Private Ltd, bought the rights of Mirchi's Discotheque and Fishermen Wharf Pub in 2004. A deal was struck between the family members of Mirchi and the company in 2004. Following this deal the third and fourth floor of the Ceejay Buildings were given to Mirchi's family. There are 15 properties of Mirchi seized by the ED. As of now ED has not decided to auction his real estate.

Bulli Bai accused Vishal Jha tests Covid positive, quarantined

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In latest update in Bulli Bai controversy, Vishal Kumar Jha, 21, an engineering student who was the first one to be arrested by Mumbai Police from Bengaluru, has tested positive for Covid-19. He has been sent to a quarantine centre by the BMC. His lawyers and family members have been informed by the Police. He was arrested on January 3 by the a Mumbai Police team from Bengaluru following technical inputs. On January 4, Mumbai Police arrested one Shweta Singh, a resident of Uttarakhand. She was second person who was arrested in the controversy. Mayank Rawal was the third person who was arrested by Mumbai police. Apart from Mumbai Police, the Special Cell of Delhi Police which was doing a parallel probe has made two arrests. The special cell arrested Niraj Bishnoi, the main accused of



Bulli Bai and Aumkareshwar Thakur the main accused behind Sulli Deal. On January 1, Bulli Bai app which was on GitHub's space posted the photos of a number of women of a particular religion including of journalists, social workers, students and famous personalities. It happened six months after the controversy of Sulli Deals. Jha was one of the followers of Bulli Bai which led the Police team to other accused. Hosting platform GitHub provided space to Sulli Deals and this time too the Bulli Bai

was created on GitHub platform. Later, after the controversy, GitHub removed the user from its hosting platform. But by then Bulli Bai had sparked a nationwide controversy. The Bulli Bai app was also being promoted by a twitter handle with the name @bullibai, with the display picture of a Khalistani supporter. This twitter handle was endorsing the Bulli Bai app saying the women can be booked from the app. This handle was also promoting Khalistani content at the same time.

Maharashtra begins administering Covid vaccine precaution dose

On Sunday, Maharashtra had reported 44,388 new Covid-19 cases and 12 fatalities, taking the tally of infections to 69,20,044 and the death toll to 1,41,639

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The state of Maharashtra started administering the precautionary dose of vaccine against the novel coronavirus on 10 January. The dose is being administered to healthcare workers, frontline workers and comorbid people aged above 60, and a total of 91,648 doses had been administered till noon. Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Monday said that 13,91,98,359 vaccine doses has been administered in Maharashtra till Monday. On 25 December in a public address Prime Minister Narendra Modi had informed the citizens of the country about the 'precautionary dose' or the third shot of vaccine to be administered along with the start of vaccination for the age group 15-17 years. "The state has administered 91,648 doses so far," Tope tweeted as the precaution dose is being adminis-



tered to eligible people. The state has also been administering vaccination doses to the age group between 15-17 years from 3 January and has completed administering 17,78,427 vaccination doses. As per state government data, a total of 11,73,278 second doses have been provided to health care workers, followed by 19,65,985 to frontline workers. It said 2,97,62,262 doses have been given in the 18-44 age group, while 2,31,04,370 doses have been administered to the 45 plus

segment. According to guidelines issued by the Union Health Ministry, the gap between the date of administering the second dose of vaccine and the precaution dose would be nine months (39 weeks). Online appointments for precaution dose began on the CoWin portal on Saturday evening. However, there is also the option of an onsite appointment and it will start on 10 January. According to the Health Ministry, private hospitals that function as Covid-19

Vaccination Centres can inoculate their eligible staff members. Those aged 60 years and above with comorbidities will not be required to produce or submit any certificate from a doctor at the time of administration of the precautionary dose of vaccine. On Sunday, Maharashtra had reported 44,388 new Covid-19 cases and 12 fatalities, taking the tally of infections to 69,20,044 and the death toll to 1,41,639, as per the state health department.



MJ RODRIGUEZ: FIRST BLACK TRANS WOMAN TO WIN A GOLDEN GLOBE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress MJ Rodriguez has become the first black transgender woman in history to win a Golden Globe. The 31-year-old actress was named Best Actress in a Drama Series for her role as Blanca Rodriguez-Evangelista in the hit show 'Pose', which centers on the drag culture of the 1980s, reports femalefirst.co.uk. Reacting on Instagram, Mj wrote: "OMG OMGGG!!!! @goldenglobes Wow! You talking about sickening birthday present! Thank you! This is the door that is going to Open the door for many more young talented individuals. They will see that it is more than possible." The star, who had celebrated her 31st birthday just two days before her win, added how the "door is now open" for fellow LGBTQAI talent to "reach the stars." She added: "They will see that a young Black Latina girl from Newark New Jersey who had a dream, to change the minds others would WITH LOVE. LOVE WINS. To my young LGBTQAI babies WE ARE HERE the door is now open now reach the stars!!!! @goldenglobes." Mj concluded her statement by speaking out about her fellow nominees, which included the likes of Uzo Aduba for 'In Treatment' and Jennifer Aniston for her role in 'The Morning Show'. She wrote: "To the nominees we are Queens. I'm so happy to share space with you! Each and every last one of you women are phenomenal."



Golden Globes takes to Twitter



The Power of the Dog' named best

Los Angeles | Agencies

The controversy-racked Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) named the winners of the 2022 Golden Globes via Twitter on Sunday night (U.S. time), with no media in attendance or celebrities walking the red carpet like in the past.

'The Power of the Dog' (Netflix) picked up best drama and Steven Spielberg's 'West Side Story' (20th Century/Disney) won best musical or comedy, reports 'Variety'. Jane Campion scooped the best director trophy for helming 'The Power of the Dog', and Australian actor Kodi Smit-McPhee won best supporting actor for the west-

ern set in Montana of the 1920s.

Ryusuke Hamaguchi's Japanese film 'Drive My Car', which is based on a Haruki Murakami short story, continued its winning streak, driving home with the trophy for the best picture in a foreign language.

'West Side Story' star Rachel Zegler won best actress in a musical or comedy; her co-star Ariana DeBose picked up the prize for supporting actress. Nicole Kidman ('Being the Ricardos') won best actress in a drama, while Will Smith ('King Richard') won best actor. Andrew Garfield ('Tick, Tick... Boom!') won best actor in a musical or comedy. For TV, 'Succession' won best drama series and 'Hacks' won best musical or comedy series, both from HBO.

The awards body has been embroiled in scandals since the 2021 show, around when it was revealed that the HFPA had no Black members and participated in questionable business practices, 'Variety' reports.

The American television network NBC pulled out of the telecast for this year's ceremony, and since then the HFPA has diversified its membership and revamped its bylaws in attempts to save face in Hollywood, according to 'Variety'.

In her opening remarks during Sunday's sparse ceremony, HFPA President Helen Hoehne emphasised that with members from more than 50 countries, "we have a unique place in the awards universe".

In addition to announcing the winners, the HFPA showcased its philanthropic efforts and spotlighted organisations such as St. Elmo Village, which provides a place for people to explore their creativity, and Get Lit, which uses poetry to increase teen literacy.



PETER DINKLAGE: DON'T TRY TO RECREATE 'GAME OF THRONES'

Los Angeles: Actor Peter Dinklage, who played the part of Tyrion Lannister in the hit TV series 'Game of Thrones', has warned HBO about the potential pitfalls facing the makers of 'House of the Dragon', the upcoming prequel show. The 52-year-old actor explained: "I think the trick is not to try to recreate 'Thrones'. If you try to recreate it, that feels like a money grab. With a lot of sequels, the reason for them is that the first one made a lot of money, which is why they aren't as strong. He added: "But I am excited to watch the 'House of the Dragon', purely as a viewer, not knowing what will happen next." 'Game of Thrones' came to an end in 2019 and although some viewers were disappointed by the finale, the actor suggested that their frustration was over the top, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He told The Independent: "People were just mad because nobody wanted it to be over. I know a lot of people were supposedly surprised by the ending, but if you paid attention, the clues were there."

In December, Dinklage called on 'Game of Thrones' fans to "move on" from the show's finale. The actor urged viewers to rethink their criticisms of the much-maligned final season.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Kevin Smith spoke in detail about an unsuccessful attempt to get a 'Superman' movie off the ground with Hollywood star Ben Affleck in the title role.

Smith was the inaugural guest on Yahoo Entertainment's 'The Never-Weres' series, reports variety.com.

Both men were coming off the success of 'Mallrats' at the time.

Warner Bros. was in development on a new 'Superman' movie titled 'Superman Reborn', but Smith thought the screenplay was "terrible".

That's when Smith pitched his own 'Superman' movie based on 'The Death of Superman' comic series. Smith's script went into development with producer Jon Peters, but the two clashed over casting.

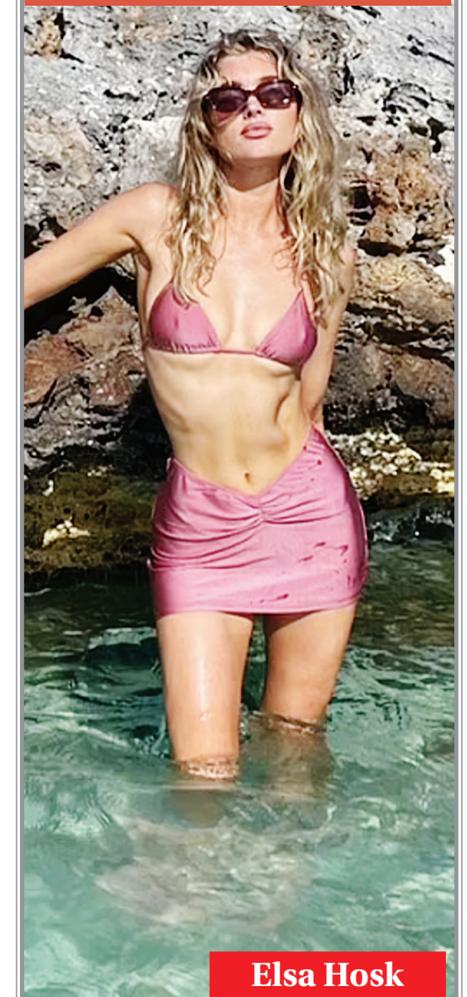
"I was writing it for Affleck," Smith said.

"Ben was heating up. Like he was there. I think he'd been hired for 'Armageddon'. Affleck, he's a f***ing giant, like he's built like a superhero, built like a giant action figure, particularly with the height. And then he puts on the muscles there too. So in my head and heart, it was always Ben and Michael Rooker."

Smith wanted Affleck for Superman and Rooker for the villainous role of Lex Luther, but Peters had a different idea. The Hollywood producer wanted to cast Sean Penn as Superman, as the actor was hot off an Oscar nomination for Best Actor thanks to his role in the 1995 drama 'Dead Man Walking'.

Kevin Smith recalls writing failed 'Superman' movie for Ben Affleck

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Elsa Hosk



'TRANSFORMERS' STAR JOSHUA DUHAMEL GETS ENGAGED TO AUDRA MARI

Joshua Duhamel, who is known for his work as William Lennox in the megahit franchise 'Transformers', recently announced his engagement with former Miss World America Audra Mari.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The two started dating in 2019, after Joshua separated from his ex-wife, singer Stacy Ann Ferguson, better known by her stage name Fergie, reports Entertainment Weekly.

Joshua took to his Instagram to make the announcement about the engagement. The actor posted a picture of himself with Audra, holding his proposal note against the picturesque backdrop of the sun.

The actor popped the question through a special note that he slipped inside a bottle at the shore. He captioned the picture, "It's on!! She found a message in a bottle that washed ashore and said YES!! @audramari." What made the occasion all the more special was Audra's birthday falling concurrently with the proposal.

After eight years of marriage, Fergie filed for divorce in late May 2019, nearly two years after she and Duhamel announced their split.



SA v IND, 3rd Test Match

SOUTH AFRICA AND INDIA ITCHING TO GO ALL-OUT IN A WINNER TAKES IT ALL DECIDER

In the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series of 2021, India had bounced back from 36-all out in Adelaide to win at Melbourne, enforce a draw in Sydney and then register a famous win at Brisbane to take the series. At home against England, India lost the first match in Chennai but came back to win the next three games. Again, in England, India came back from a crushing loss in Leeds to win at The Oval.



SuperSport Park in Centurion, thanks to a 117-run opening stand by KL Rahul (123) and Mayank Agarwal (60) in the first innings. However, India failed to repeat their big runs plan at Johannesburg and ended on the losing side, with a rock-solid Dean Elgar spearheading a chase of 240 and breaching the Centurion fortress and failing to maintain their stronghold at the Wanderers, India now have got the uphill task to win a Test at Cape Town, something which hasn't happened in the past in order to win their first-ever Test series in the Rainbow Nation. But, in the past year, if there has been one trend which has been seen with the Indian team, it is their bounceback ability. All India needs is

to recollect their ability to bounce back and continue the trend in Cape Town. They will also be boosted by Virat Kohli's expected return into the playing eleven. Kohli had missed out on the second Test due to an upper back spasm. In his absence, India missed a key batter (though he's in a lean patch) and his fiery, competitive on-field attitude. It is likely that Hanuma Vihari, despite his nice show, will make way for Kohli to return. South Africa will be buoyed by their show at Johannesburg, mainly the performances from captain Dean Elgar and pacer Kagiso Rabada. Elgar was the immovable rock at the top, taking blows after blows but stood tall to lead his team to victory. He will also be delighted by performances of

Keegan Petersen, Rassie van der Dussen and Temba Bavuma. As the captain, his talk with pace spearhead Rabada and firing him up by giving a reality check spoke volumes about what he wanted out of his players.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (captain), KL Rahul, Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, Priyank Panchal, Hanuma Vihari, Shreyas Iyer, Mayank Agarwal, Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Jayant Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Shardul Thakur and Umesh Yadav.

South Africa: Dean Elgar (captain), Aiden Markram, Keegan Petersen, Rassie van der Dussen, Temba Bavuma, Sarel Erwee, George Linde, Marco Jansen, Wiaan Mulder, Prenelan Subrayen, Kyle Verreyne (wicketkeeper), Ryan Rickelton, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Beuran Hendricks, Keshav Maharaj, Glenton Stuurman, Sisanda Magala and Duanne Olivier

Cape Town | Agencies

One couldn't have asked for anything better in the Test series between South Africa and India. The series is poised at 1-1 and with the decider Test starting from Tuesday at Newlands in Cape Town, a place which favours pacers due to bounce and lateral movement, one is in store for a cracking winner takes it all affair. India began their tour of South Africa on a perfect note, defeating the hosts by 113 runs at

Testing draws for Srikanth, Sindhu in India Open badminton

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's top-seeded Kidambi Srikanth was on Monday handed a competitive draw in the men's singles section of the India Open 2022 badminton championship with a clash with reigning World Champion Singapore's Loh Kean Yew, the fifth seed, lined up in the semi-finals. In the women's singles, top seed and two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu starts favourite with Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan, the second seed, Singapore's Yeo Jia Min and India's Saina Nehwal as the other contenders. Sindhu will open her campaign on Tuesday against compatriot Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli, the 24-year-old semi-finalist at Polish Open 2021. Srikanth, the World



Championships silver medalist, and World Champion Loh Kean Yew are in the same half of the draw. Srikanth will open his campaign against compatriot Siril Verma in the first round and run into Kim Bruun of Denmark in the second round if the Dane gets the better of Indian Shubhankar Dey. Up next for the 28-year-old from Hyderabad will be

compatriot and sixth seed Sameer Verma upfront in the quarter-finals if things go as per the draw. Loh Kean Yew, who beat Srikanth 21-15, 22-20 in the BWF World Championship final at Huelva, Spain, last month, starts his campaign against Canada's Sheng Xiaodong in the first round. He has a comparatively easier path to the semis.

NZ IN FIRM CONTROL AGAINST BANGLADESH AFTER LATHAM'S DOUBLE TON, BOULT FIFER

Christchurch | Agencies

New Zealand ended the second day of the Christchurch Test firmly in control after taking a 395-run lead over Bangladesh, here on Monday. Bangladesh were bowled out for 126 by the end of the day - trailing New Zealand's 521/6 by a mammoth 395 - with Boult going past the milestone of 300 Test wickets with his 5/43. New Zealand resumed on the second morning on 349/1, with Devon Conway bringing up his third century in only his fifth Test match. Captain Tom Latham brought up his double century at the other end, as New Zealand continued their domination in the first session. Conway was eventually run out for 109, ending a 215-run partnership with Latham. New Zealand declared at 521/7, but not before wicketkeeper Tom Blundell joined the party and scored a quickfire 57 (not out) off just 60 balls.

Bangladesh were looking to build on their historic Test win at Mount Maunganui but Boult and Southee came out firing, claiming four wickets before Tea to leave the visitors struggling at 27/4. Boult then returned for another spell, and soon had Mehidy cleaned up for his 300th Test scalp -- he became just the fourth New Zealander to take 300 Test wickets, after Richard Hadlee, Daniel Vettori, and Southee.



Brief scores

New Zealand 521/6 dec. (T Latham 252, Conway 109, Young 54, Ross Taylor 28; Shoriful Islam 2-79, Ebadot Hossain 2-143) v Bangladesh 126 all out in 41.2 overs (Yasir Ali 55, Nurul Hasan 41; Trent Boult 5-43, Tim Southee 3-28).

AJAZ PATEL WINS ICC MEN'S PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARD FOR DECEMBER 2021

Dubai: Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel won the ICC Player of the Month award for December following his record 10-wicket haul in a Test innings against India at the Wankhede stadium in Mumbai, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said in a release on Monday. Ajaz was nominated for the award alongside Mayank Agarwal and Mitchell Starc but beat them to it on the back of his incredibly rare feat. Ajaz picked up 14 wickets in the Mumbai Test match in early December against India, including all 10 in the first innings, thereby becoming just the third player in Test history, after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble, to achieve the remarkable milestone. The Mumbai-born Ajaz made a fairy tale comeback to his birth city in his first-ever tour of India with the Test team. Ajaz ended the first day of the Test with all four Indian wickets to fall under his name and made an impact on the first session the following day with wickets off back-to-back deliveries. While he was denied a hat-trick, Ajaz went on to take all ten wickets in the innings, inducing applause from even the opposition camp.

Hockey: Women's Junior World Cup to be played in South Africa in April

Lausanne (Switzerland) | Agencies

The FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup, which was initially scheduled to be played in December 2021 but was put on hold due to the Covid-19 Omicron variant outbreak, will be held at the same venue the North-West University of Potchefstroom in South Africa, from April 2-13, 2022.

The decision was taken by the Executive Board (EB) of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), which met virtually for its first meeting of the year, on Monday.

A total of 16 teams including Argentina, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, England, Spain, Asian Games winners Japan, and hosts South Africa will be in the fray for top honours in the event. Meanwhile, FIH and Hockey Belgium have been forced to cancel the FIH Indoor Hockey World



Cup Belgium 2022. This decision has been taken based on the current health situation in Belgium and after extensive

consultations with and recommendations from all official and competent authorities in the country.

Hockey India appoints two new scientific advisors; analytical coach for women's team

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With an aim to build on their historic Tokyo Olympics campaign, Hockey India on Monday announced the appointment of new analytical coach for the women's team and scientific advisors for both senior men and women's teams. South Africa's Patrick Tshutshani will take over as the analytical coach of the Indian women's hockey team. He takes over the role from Janneke Schopman of the Netherlands, who has been



elevated to head coach's post. Taren Naidoo, also a South African, takes charge as scientific advisor for the Indian men's hockey team. Australia's Mitchell Pemberton will take charge as scientific advisor for the

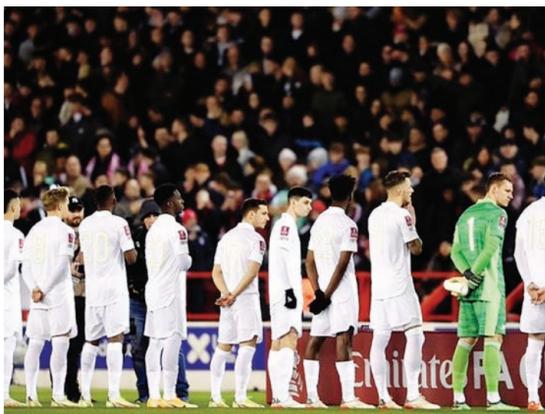
Nottingham Forrest knock Arsenal out of FA Cup; Liverpool, West Ham and Spurs all go through

London | Agencies

Arsenal were knocked out of the third round of the FA Cup by Championship (second division) Nottingham Forrest, here on Sunday.

Mikel Arteta's side follow Newcastle United (who were beaten by third-tier Cambridge United) in losing to lower league opposition after Lewis Grabban scored the only goal of the game from close range to remind the home side of their glory days of the late 1970's and the 1980's. Arsenal swapped their traditional red shirts for an all-white kit for the game to draw attention to the need to stop knife crime but produced a poor display against a rival that has been in good form in their division.

Liverpool cruised into the fourth round of the FA Cup on Sunday after a much-changed side brushed past Shrewsbury Town 4-1 after suffering an early shock. Youngster Kaide Gordon took his chance when



he opened the scoring for Liverpool in the 34th minute, just seven minutes after Daniel Udoh had given the visitors a surprise lead, reports Xinhua. A Fabinho penalty in the 44th

minute put Liverpool ahead and it stayed 2-1 until Roberto Firmino added a 3rd in the 78th minute, and Fabinho's second of the game rounded off the scoring in injury time.

Controversial goals from Manuel Lanzini and Jarrod Bowen gave West Ham United a 2-0 win at home to Leeds United in an all-Premier League tie.

Tottenham were given a big shock by League One (third tier) Morecambe, who opened the scoring with Anthony O'Conner's 33rd minute goal. The visitors held on to their lead until 74th minute when Harry Winks drew Spurs level but it wasn't until the last five minutes of the game that goals from Lucas Moura and Harry Kane won the game for the north-London side.

Daniel Podence netted twice and Nelson Semedo added a third as Wolverhampton Wanderers enjoyed an easy afternoon at home to Sheffield United from the Championship.

Sunday's winner join Manchester City, Chelsea, Everton, Leicester City, Brighton and Southampton in the draw for the fourth round, while Manchester United play Aston Villa on Monday.

Dakar 2022: Harith Noah shows resilience to take 26th spot after Stage 8

Wadi Ad Dawasir (Saudi Arabia) | Agencies

TWS Racing Factory rider Harith Noah pocketed another stage as he showed enough resilience after initial hiccups and completed Stage 8 in his inimitable style, pushing hard towards the end as he gained two more positions in the overall ranking.

The Kerala ace is sitting pretty at 26th position in the general rankings after finishing 26th on Monday. The stage was won by Sam Sunderland of Great Britain. Noah clocked 4 hours, 12 minutes, and 30 seconds to complete the timed special of almost 400 km.

Starting at 22nd on Monday and treading a cautious path for the first 86 km in the long liaisons, and action-packed dunes, the 5-time Indian National Supercross champion saw the trek to southern Saudi Arabia and its tough sands, drag on, and lost about 10 places. Undaunted, he progressed later on, even as the minds and bodies of the competitors were put to a hard test. Noah attacked the next 200 kms of the special, and by WayPoint 6, he moved up and further improved thereafter as he jumped from one valley to another. Eventually, the landscape changed and the tough negotiator ended up the day in a respectable 26th in the stage after traversing a distance of 820 km, which got him an overall 26th position, two places bet-



ter than the previous day. Competing in RallyGP, the premier class of the Moto section in the 44th Dakar Rally, Harith Noah, who had a tough first week due to extreme cold conditions and a couple of falls, has come into his own and is looking forward to the last four stages.



Kirti Kulhari turns producer with upcoming movie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kirti Kulhari has made her name in the entertainment industry with movies such as 'Pink' and 'Uri: The Surgical Strike', now the actress is all set to show her talent as a producer with the upcoming feature film 'Nayeka'. The actress shares about the movie and says: "Nayeka" is a story of a struggling actress who gets caught in a crime by mistake followed by a cat and mouse chase further leading into a series of crazy events."

Kirti started shooting for the film on January 2.

She further elaborates on her new journey as a producer, saying: "When Vashisht (producer) first brought the film to me last year, I was immediate-

ly on board as an actor and I can proudly say I couldn't have asked for a better start to my journey as a producer as well. The kind of content I choose as an actor is pretty much the content I would want to make as a producer too. 'Nayeka' is a fun space for me to explore something I've never done before."

"It's a fast paced dark comedy thriller and consists of very young, dynamic and talented people coming together. Director and writer Ajaykiran Nair has done a wonderful job. A unique script such as this makes for a perfect beginning to my journey as a producer."

Kirti has launched her own production house called Kintsukuroi Films, whose first project will be a dark comedy thriller 'Nayeka' and she will be featuring in it.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shweta Tripathi Sharma, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming series 'Yeh Kaali Kaali Aankhein', is a huge fan of the drama genre both as a person and as an actor. What really connected with her was the love story bit of the otherwise thriller that 'Yeh Kaali Kaali Aankhein' is.

Commenting on the same, the actress said, "The most exciting thing for me in this series is the drama. Although I want to explore other genres as well, there is a certain satisfaction that I get as an actor by performing in dramas. What really clicked for me in this series is the love story." Shweta believes that the emotion of love is a powerful stimuli, "Love is the driving force for everything in this show and that goes for life as well. If you make love a priority then everything falls in place. A

LOVE
THE ELEMENT OF
DRAMA IN 'YEH KAALI
...': SHWETA
TRIPATHI

relationship where you encourage each other, grow together and respect each other is a healthy relationship." Revealing her reason for signing the series, she said, "After the hard core stuff that I have been doing of late, I really wanted to enjoy the process of doing a love story on my part. At the start of the series, there is a college sequence between my and Tahir's character and while doing that I realised why actors readily take up love stories, it's such a light experience. It helps you as an actor to cleanse your mind of all the emotional stress that your earlier characters brought with themselves."

SALMAN KHAN ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF SHOW FOR TWO WEEKS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The latest promo of 'Big Boss 15' has made a confirmed announcement that the show is going to be extended for two weeks.

In the promo, host Salman Khan informs the housemates that Ticket To Finale will continue and the show is going to be extended for two weeks. Therefore, 'Big Boss 15' will have its grand finale by January-end.

Earlier it was expected to have the finale on January 16. But, now the makers have made an official announcement to extend the show for two weeks, so it will continue till January-end.

Meanwhile, a few wild card contestants may enter the house. Vishal Kotian and Rajiv Adatia were supposed to enter as wild card contestants but after Vishal tested positive for Covid-19, his entry has been delayed. Rajiv will also enter after a while. As per the sources, Simba Nagpal was also approached but he was not keen to enter the show again as wild card contestant.

During the 'Weekend Ka Vaar', Umar Riaz was evicted. Several celebrities entered the show to support the housemates, such as Divya Agarwal, Kashmera Shah, Rahul Mahajan, Geeta Kapur, Debina Bonnerjee and Vishal Singh.

'BIG BOSS 15'



'Hunarbaaz: Desh Ki Shaan': Parineeti breaks down on hearing contestant's moving story

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra broke down in tears after listening to the story of contestant Aakash Singh in the latest promo of talent show 'Hunarbaaz: Desh Ki Shaan'. The talent-based reality show 'Hunarbaaz: Desh Ki Shaan' is all set to start from January 22. Parineeti has been roped in for the reality show and she will be joining Mithun Chakraborty and Karan Johar on the panel of judges.

After looking at his pole climbing, Karan Johar says: "I have not seen any performance better than this." Mithun Chakraborty adds: "I can make out from your face that you had struggled a lot." Aakash replies: "Yes I had to face a lot of obstacles after coming to Mumbai. There was no proper place to stay in Mumbai. I had to sleep under a tree and often pray to God that at least someone offers me food." Listening to his painful story, Parineeti gets emotional and breaks down in tears, saying: "Genuine people touch me to the core of my heart." 'Hunarbaaz: Desh Ki Shaan' will air from January 22 at 9 p.m. on Colors.



AMIT SADH:
ART IS AN
EVOLUTION OF
SORTS FOR
ANY ARTISTE

Akshay Acharya | Mumbai

Actor Amit Sadh, who has recovered from Covid, is using the third wave-induced downtime to sketch and prepare his character for the upcoming edition of 'Breathe: Into The Shadows'.

For him, art demands constant evolution from an artist to push the boundaries and create something truly spectacular.

Recollecting the time when he was under recovery from Covid, Amit said, "COVID affects people differently. I had milder symptoms despite taking utmost precautions and following COVID-appropriate behaviour. I was at home with my four-legged fur babies.

Throughout my isolation period, I was aware of my situation and stayed calm, followed what doctors advised me, eating good food, resting, staying hydrated, and sleeping enough. It went well for me."

Sharing what 'Breathe: Into The Shadows' is for him as an actor, he said, "A lot has been invested into making what 'Breathe' is right now. Emotionally, physically, mentally, it has been a long journey to get into the skin of Kabir Sawant for each season. Kabir Sawant's character makes me realise what extreme limit human strength can go and at what length - redemption, resurrection, and more."

He praises the show's writing

and his director for bringing out the best in him, "It's an internalised process backed by great writing and a lot of support from my director Mayank, who is with me all the time. When we are filming, he directs me so well."

The actor ends the conversation by speaking about the value system of his character of Kabir Sawant in the show, "Kabir Sawant's core value system keeps growing firm in each season. Just like how any one of us in real life grows. We are working round the clock to bring the third season to the audience. I cannot delve more into the details. We are doing everything that we can to make it worth your watch."

Shubhangi Atre emphasises relevance of Hindi on World Hindi Day

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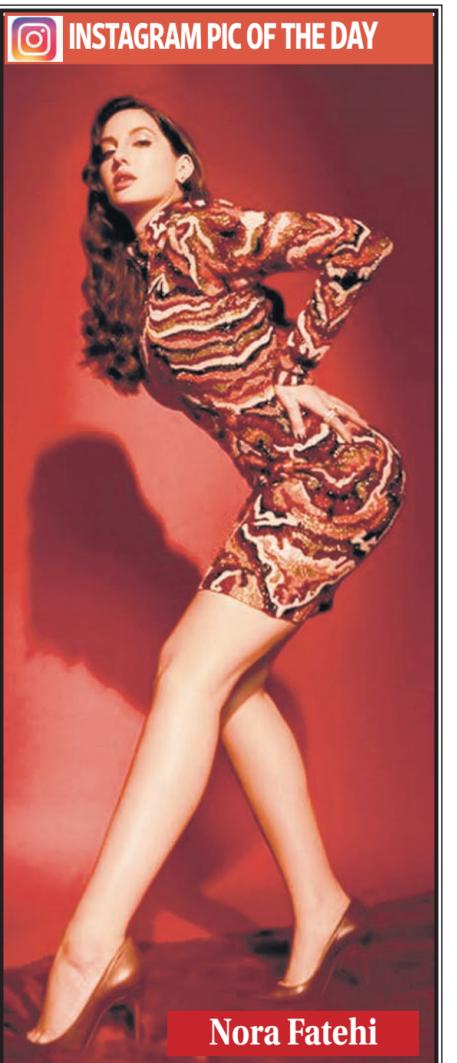
On World Hindi Day, 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain' actress Shubhangi Atre urges Indian parents to teach their children to speak in Hindi to communicate in daily life.

World Hindi Day or 'Vishwa Hindi Divas' is celebrated every year on January 10 to mark the first World Hindi Conference that was held on January 10, 1975 in Nagpur. The main motive is to promote the usage of Hindi language across the world.

The actress further expresses her worry on how Hindi as a language is getting no attention.

"Hindi is certainly the home language of we Indians. Hindi is a very beautiful language, it's very aesthetic in its tone. Now, though learning Hindi comes across as less fashionable, people are getting more fascinated by foreign languages and forgetting the essence of Hindi. The emphasis on English is widely growing and that's causing a major threat to the importance and the significance of Hindi. Hindi has become an alien language in its own territory," she adds.

Shubhangi, known for her acting in 'Kasturi', 'Do Hanson Ka Jodaa', 'Stories by Rabindranath Tagore' among others.



Nora Fatehi