

absolute india

VOL. 9, ISSUE 128, MUMBAI | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI



NATION >02
Central Government Responsible West Bengal Governor...



HOLLYWOOD > 06
Paul McCartney's 'Got Back' tour to cover 13 US cities...



SPORTS > 07
Rohit Sharma named Test captain as Pujara, Rahane dropped...

PRIME MINISTER MEETS AFGHAN SIKH-HINDU DELEGATION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met the members of the Sikh-Hindu delegation from Afghanistan who came to thank him for their safe evacuation from the war-torn nation along with the Guru Granth Sahib Swaroop.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met the members of the Sikh-Hindu delegation from Afghanistan who came to thank him for their safe evacuation from the war-torn nation along with the Guru Granth Sahib Swaroop. Welcoming the team at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, his official residence, the Prime Minister underscored the works his government did for the community. The discussion also included the difficulties faced by them in Afghanistan and the help extended

by the government in bringing them to India safely. "In this light, Modi also talked about the significance of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and its benefits for the community, a release from the Prime Minister's Office said. He also assured them of continuous support in future as well. Prime Minister Modi also high-

lighted the significance of the tradition of honouring Guru Granth Sahib, in light of which special arrangements were made to bring back Swaroop of Guru Granth Sahib from Afghanistan. He spoke about the immense love that he has received from Afghans over the years and fondly recalled his visit to Kabul. Delegate member Manjinder

Singh Sirsa thanked the Prime Minister for sending help from India for bringing back the community safely, and said that when no one stood by them, it was the Prime Minister who extended timely help. Other members of the delegation also expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for the same. Emotions ran high when they heard him talking about making special arrangements to bring back Swaroop of Guru Granth Sahib from Afghanistan to India with proper reverence, they said. Hailing the PM for bringing about CAA, they said it would help the community immensely. He is not just the Prime Minister of India, but of the entire world since he understands the difficulties faced especially by Hindus and Sikhs across the world and makes all-out efforts to provide immediate help during crisis, the delegation members said. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Union Minister of State Meenakshi Lekhi were also present on the occasion, the release added.

President Kovind arrives in Odisha on two-day visit

President Ram Nath Kovind, along with his wife Savita Kovind, arrived here this afternoon on a two-day Odisha visit.



BHUBANESWAR | Agencies

President Ram Nath Kovind, along with his wife Savita Kovind, arrived here this afternoon on a two-day Odisha visit. A special plane carrying him landed at the Biju Patnaik International Airport, where Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, chief secretary, DGP and other senior officials received him. Kovind left for Puri in a special IAF aircraft soon after arriving here at the airport. After a short halt in the Puri Raj Bhawan, the President and his wife will be visiting Jagannath temple in the evening. In view of his

visit, no devotees are being allowed inside the shrine from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., officials said. After visiting the temple, the President will stay the night at the Raj Bhawan in Puri. On Sunday, the President will inaugurate the three-year celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Srimad Bhakti Sidhant Saraswati Gossami Prabhupada, the founder of Goudiya Mission. He will also visit Sri Chaitanya Gaudiya Mutt at 10.30 a.m., the officials informed. Tight security has been put

in place in the Puri town for the visit. Around 40 platoons of police force have been deployed as part of the security arrangement in the pilgrim town. Puri Superintendent of Police, Kanwar Vishal Singh said that the security arrangements have been made as per the protocols. Special forces have been deployed on the route and venues, Singh said. This is the President's third visit to Puri. Last time, the President and the first lady had visited the pilgrim town in March 2021.

SC allows 100% visually impaired to appear in counselling for MD psychiatry

KERALA HAS SET AN AMBITIOUS TARGET OF HAVING OVER 15,000 STARTUPS AND 200,000 JOBS IN EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN FIVE YEARS, CHIEF MINISTER PINARAYI VIJAYAN SAID HERE ON SATURDAY.

The Supreme Court has allowed a 100 per cent visually impaired student to appear for counselling for admission to MD psychiatry. A bench comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said: "Issue notice... Pending further orders, the provisional allotment of a seat to the petitioner in the MD Psychiatry course at Topiwala National Medical College, Mumbai, shall not be disturbed to his detriment and the petitioner would be permitted to participate in the ongoing process of counselling." The top court order came on a special leave petition

filed by Iyer Seetharaman Venugopalan challenging the Bombay High Court order passed on February 2, which declined to entertain the petitioner's interim prayer to permit him to participate in the counselling process of NEET for post-graduate medical courses. The petitioner, a young MBBS doctor, was declared ineligible for post-graduate medical course by the Disability Assessment Board due to his disability -- 100 per cent impaired vision in both eyes -- due to which he was denied admission in the course. The petitioner, who cleared NEET-PG entrance exam, challenged the decision of the Board in the Bombay High Court along

Centre provides 'Y' category security to Kumar Vishwas

The Centre has provided 'Y' category VIP security to former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and poet Kumar Vishwas, government sources said here on Saturday.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre has provided 'Y' category VIP security to former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and poet Kumar Vishwas, government sources said here on Saturday. After a thorough review and based on intelligence inputs, the Centre decided to provide Vishwas VIP security through the Central Reserve Police Force, sources added. The security of Vishwas was reviewed on Friday following his statement that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wanted to become



the Prime Minister of "Independent Khalistan." Reacting to the allegations levelled against him, Kejriwal on Friday said he is the "world's sweetest terrorist" who provides hospitals, schools, elec-

tricity etc. Recently, a video clip went viral which showed the former AAP leader alleging that Kejriwal wanted to become either the Punjab Chief Minister or Prime Minister of an

Independent Khalistan without naming him. The AAP chief was also seen meeting separatist elements during 2017 Punjab Assembly polls, Vishwas alleged. The Election Commission banned the circulation of the video clip on Wednesday, but lifted the ban on Thursday. The AAP termed the video as "false, misleading and a handiwork of rival parties." Reacting to the developments, Kejriwal said on Friday, "This is comedy. If their allegations are to be believed, I am a big terrorist and if that is the case, what were security agencies doing in the last 10 years?" "I must thank the poet (Kumar Vishwas) for identifying me, I would be the world's sweetest terrorist, a terrorist who provides schools, hospitals, electricity, roads, water..."

NGT directs Punjab govt to act on panel report on illegal mining

Team Absolute | New Delhi

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Punjab government to take action as per the report of an NGT-assigned committee which found environmental violations due to illegal mining and use of excavated soil for leveling the agriculture fields in Fatehgarh Sahib district in the state. The bench of Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel was dealing a plea alleging illegal mining at village Bhalhmajra, near Chanarthal in connivance with the authorities. It was stated that heavy tippers, trucks, JCB machines, and cranes are used in the course of mining. Acting on the complaint, the tribunal had formed a committee headed by Justice Jasbir Singh, former Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court last year to visit the soil excavation and mining sites of the vil-



lages. Accordingly, a report has been filed by the Committee and it was observed that the excavated soil from the agriculture fields, which are on the high-

er altitude, has been used to level agriculture fields, which are at lower altitude and agriculture corps are being sown regularly during the last five years by some landowners. The Monitoring Committee is of the view that legal action and environmental compensation has to be taken upon the landowners of Bhalhmajra and Sohagari villages, where mining has been found in an area of 5.5 acres of land. Using the excavated soil for leveling the agriculture fields, which are at low altitudes, may not be justified, the committee noted. The committee also recommended that the roads which have been damaged due to movement of overloaded tippers, carrying soil, may be repaired within two months by getting the cost of repair from the owners of overloaded vehicles. In view of the Monitoring Committee recommends the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD

Kerala's first woman IPS officer, R Sreelekha, who retired on Saturday, said that women police officers in the state face a tough time while on duty.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After a thorough review and based on intelligence inputs, the Centre decided to provide Vishwas VIP security through the Central Reserve Police Force, sources added. The security of Vishwas was reviewed on Friday following his statement that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wanted to become the Prime Minister of "Independent Khalistan." Reacting to the allegations levelled against him, Kejriwal on Friday said he is the "world's

sweetest terrorist" who provides hospitals, schools, electricity etc. Recently, a video clip went viral which showed the former AAP leader alleging that Kejriwal wanted to become either the Punjab Chief Minister or Prime Minister of an Independent Khalistan without naming him. The AAP chief was also seen meeting separatist elements during 2017 Punjab Assembly polls, Vishwas alleged. The Election Commission banned the circulation of the video clip on Wednesday, but lifted the ban on

Thursday. The AAP termed the video as "false, misleading and a handiwork of rival parties." Reacting to the developments, Kejriwal said on Friday, "This is comedy. If their allegations are to be believed, I am a big terrorist and if that is the case, what were security agencies doing in the last 10 years?" "I must thank the poet (Kumar Vishwas) for identifying me, I would be the world's sweetest terrorist, a terrorist who provides schools, hospitals, electricity, roads, water..."

KERALA TARGETS 15,000 STARTUPS WITH 2 LAKH JOBS IN 5 YRS

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala has set an ambitious target of having over 15,000 startups and 200,000 jobs in emerging technologies in five years, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here on Saturday. He said this while inaugurating the third edition of the 'Huddle Global 2022', organised by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM). 'Huddle Global 2022' offers startups a platform to showcase products and interact with technology/industry leaders, besides providing them the scope to explore ways on moving ahead in the world emerging from Covid-19. KSUM is the nodal agency of the Kerala government for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities in the state. "Startups being the future of the country, Kerala is committed to providing the right ecosystem. Our startups have raised Rs 3,200 crore as equity investments since 2015. Along with startup infrastructure in the Technology Innovation Zone Kochi, the government is considering a similar campus at Thiruvananthapuram, focusing on emerging technologies," said Vijayan. "Given that India is the world's third-largest startup ecosystem with more than 55,000 startups, the government is aware of the significance of each state's contribution to the overall development of this national startup ecosystem.



Startup India ranking places Kerala as one of the top Indian states for startup environment," said Vijayan. Minister for Industries, Law and Coir, P. Rajeev said Kerala has built a unique model to nurture startups from ideation to the scale up stage. "KSUM is dedicated to fostering global entrepreneurship to strengthen the startup community in the state as well as across the nation. The goal of Huddle Global is to create an environment where the passion meets the purpose to learn, network, bridge the gap between business, expose potential and see actual result," said Rajeev. Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) also announced a collaboration with global tech firm Google for startups to connect with the global startup community. This wider network enables local startups to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams to help scale up their solutions. The partnership was announced by Paul Ravindranath, Head of Google for Startups Accelerator, India, at the 'Huddle Global' conclave of KSUM. The collaboration will enable Kerala's startups to join a wider network to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams for scaled-up solutions.

CONFUSION OVER APPOINTMENT OF SWAPNA SURESH IN NGO

A day after Swapna Suresh, a prime accused in the infamous gold smuggling case joined HRDS India, an RSS backed NGO, things turned turtle after a rift broke out between NGO officials over her appointment and state BJP president K Surendran who said that the BJP has nothing to do with the NGO. Former Congress Union Minister and presently a BJP leader based in Delhi - S Krishnakumar, who is the chairman, said the board has no clue of the appointment of Swapna Suresh and if it's done then any salary paid will be recovered from those who have appointed her. Reacting to it was Biju Krishnan, project director of the NGO who said that six months back Krishnakumar was ousted from the post of chairman and her appointment is valid and it stays.

ment and state BJP president K Surendran who said that the BJP has nothing to do with the NGO. Former Congress Union Minister and presently a BJP leader based in Delhi - S Krishnakumar, who is the chairman, said the board has no clue of the appointment of Swapna Suresh and if it's done then any salary paid will be recovered from those who have appointed her. Reacting to it was Biju Krishnan, project director of the NGO who said that six months back Krishnakumar was ousted from the post of chairman and her appointment is valid and it stays.



PM MODI FLAGS OFF 100 KISAN DRONES

▶ IN A SPECIAL DRIVE AIMED AT HELPING FARMERS, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON SATURDAY FLAGGED OFF 100 KISAN DRONES ACROSS DIFFERENT CITIES AND TOWNS FOR SPRAYING PESTICIDES OR CARRYING AGRO-PRODUCTS TO MARKETS.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a special drive aimed at helping farmers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged off 100 kisan drones across different cities and towns for spraying pesticides or carrying agro-products to markets.

Participating in a virtual



ceremony coordinated from Manesar, PM Modi enumerated the various sectors where the drones are already being used. He cited examples of 1,000 drones displayed during the Beating Retreat, SVAMITVA scheme for surveying and documenting land records and supplying of medicines, vaccines in inaccessible areas.

"Spraying of fertilisers is also being done by drones. 'Kisan drones' is a new age revolution. Very soon, high-capacity drones will help the farmers send fresh vegetables, fruits and flowers straight to the market. Fisherfolks can send fresh catch from lakes, rivers or from seas directly for selling," Modi said.

"If the farmers' or fishers

get to send their produce in the shortest time with minimal damage, it will lead to an increased income for them, the Prime Minister said, and added, "A whole lot of such opportunities are knocking at our doors. I am happy that many other companies in the country are headed in this direction."

India is witnessing a new ecosystem for drone StartUps. Soon, they will be in thousands, he said, and asserted: "I am sure, India will lead the world in this field."

The occasion, he said, will not just be a milestone for the drone sector but also open up multitude of possibilities as he said: "I have been told that Garuda Aerospace has planned 1 lakh 'Made in India' drones in the next two years. This will give employment and opportunities to hundreds of youths."

The budget announcements this year had prioritised technology and innovations and mentioned use of kisan drones among the varied sectors wherein drones can be used.

TELANGANA CONGRESS LEADER DECIDES TO QUIT PARTY

■ Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) working president T Jayaprakash Reddy on Saturday decided to quit the party, taking a U-turn hours after declaring that he will stay in the organisation.

HYDERABAD | Agencies

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) working president T Jayaprakash Reddy on Saturday decided to quit the party, taking a U-turn hours after declaring that he will stay in the organisation.

In his letters addressed to All India Congress Committee (AICC) chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, he said he would be resigning from the post of TPCC working president and party's primary membership.

Jagga Reddy, as the leader is popularly known, announced the decision to quit hours after declaring that for now he will not be leaving the party.

The member of Telangana State Legislative Assembly made it clear that he would not join any other party and would continue to serve the people independently. He, however, said he would continue to respect Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi as he always



held the Gandhi family in high esteem.

The MLA from Sangareddy said he never thought that he would be leaving the party in his lifetime but the circumstances have forced him to take a decision. He said some people were not comfortable with his continuation in the party and hence he decided to quit.

Jagga Reddy said several senior leaders tried to persuade him not

to quit and at their request he deferred it for 2-3 days. In letters addressed to Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Jagga Reddy said he was pained over the campaign being carried out against him by some people in the party by branding him a 'covert' of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

Earlier, he called on senior party leader V. Hanumantha Rao, who advised him not to leave the party. Rao wanted him to fight

injustice by staying in the party. The MLA told him that he would take a final decision after consulting party workers. During their meeting, TPCC general secretary B. Kishan fell at the feet of Jagga Reddy, begging him not to quit the party.

Hanumantha Rao said a misinformation campaign was being run against him and Jagga Reddy on social media. He alleged that their detractors were spreading lies that they were planning to join TRS. The former MP said they have lodged a complaint with Jubilee Hills police station and will also complain to the Election Commission.

In December, Jagga Reddy had written to Sonia Gandhi complaining about TPCC president A. Revanth Reddy's style of functioning. He had urged her to direct Revanth Reddy to change his style of functioning or appoint a new TPCC chief who works for the party's prospects.

The MLA had taken strong exception to Revanth Reddy calling for a protest program 'Rachabanda' at Erravelli near Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao's farmhouse without prior intimation to him despite him being the local MLA. Jagga Reddy said the TPCC chief was not functioning along party lines and was instead using such programs for his own benefit.

Hijab crisis: K'taka Principal gets life threat for turning away students wearing hijab

BENGALURU | Agencies

Principal of a Junior College in Karnataka's Madikeri district on Saturday lodged a police complaint against a man for issuing a life threat after he sent back hijab-clad students from the college.

Based on the complaint of the Principal of Madikeri Junior College, Vijay, the Cyber Crime police have taken up the case for investigation. The complaint has been lodged against one Mohammad Tousif, who has issued a life threat on social media. "You won't live any longer," the accused threatened. Principal Vijay explained that he had only tried to explain to children about the government order and the interim order of the Karnataka High Court.

"The children argued over the issue and back answered which hurt us. We are sad but they are innocent. There are good messages also. But, this person has abused and issued threats,"



Vijay stated. The video of Principal Vijay, talking to girl students on a high pitch and directing the police to take action against them for wearing hijab and insisting on attending classes, had gone viral on social media.

Meanwhile, Minister for Revenue

R. Ashok alleged terror outfit ISIS's hand behind the hijab row in the state. "It started in a small town, Udipi and how could it reach a global level in one week? The children can't possibly do this," he said.

An international terror organisation

is instrumental in the hijab crisis. There is a terrorist organisation link which is operating in Pakistan, Iraq and Iran countries. School children need to be careful and they can't take their religious practices to classes. There should neither hijab nor saffron shawl, he maintained.

"We can't interrogate children all of a sudden for conspiracy on hijab row. We will take it easy. The investigation will be conducted in a phased manner. There is a need to expose terror elements behind the controversy and it will happen. The terror plot is to make children say that their religious more important than the education," Minister Ashok stated.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai when asked about FIRs being lodged against students, said involvement of outsiders has led to so much of confusion. If college authorities, students and parents were to resolve the issue, it would hav

K'taka Shocker: Mother killed by daughter to cover up affair with cousin

Karnataka police have arrested a girl who allegedly killed her mother to cover up her affair with her cousin brother in Tumakuru city in Koratagere city in Tumakuru district. Both the girl and her cousin, identified as Shailaja (21) and Puneeth (26), have been arrested by the police.

TUMAKURU | Agencies

Karnataka police have arrested a girl who allegedly killed her mother to cover up her affair with her cousin brother in



Koratagere city in Tumakuru district. Both the girl and her cousin, identified as Shailaja (21) and Puneeth (26), have been arrested by the police.

The duo allegedly killed Savithamma (45), who objected to their relationship, by suffocating her to death before dumping the body in a water sump. After Savithamma found about their affair, she reprimanded them and asked them to discontinue the affair. They were also warned not to be in touch over phone calls or

messages. However, the accused continued the affair and after a few days, hatched a conspiracy to kill Savithamma. On January 30, the duo suffocated her to death and to make it look like an accident, they had dumped her body into a water sump. While the case was considered as an accident initially, the police soon grew suspicious about the activities of the accused. When they were picked up and grilled, they confessed to the crime.

NIA FIR reveals D-company's sinister plan against India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The NIA has learnt that underworld don Dawood Ibrahim has been spreading terror activities across India through his recently formed Special Unit.

On February 7, the probe agency lodged a case against Dawood Ibrahim and others under various sections of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act after receiving the vital inputs in this respect.

The NIA has learnt that top politicians and businessmen living Delhi and in Mumbai are on the radar of the D-Company.

He planned to carry out terrorists activities through his men. Their main intention was to execute bomb blast operation across

India.

Recently, the home ministry had given approval to NIA to look after the D-company cases and start a thorough probe.

An NIA official told IANS that the name of Dawood Ibrahim and his aides were mentioned in the FIR filed by the NIA.

For quite a long time, Dawood had been spreading terror activities across India. He has also pumped money through Hawala channels to financially help those who are working at his behest to create unrest across India, he said.

The agencies have been keeping a close eye on the activities of the D-company and has found that in recent past they have recruited people across India to create riot-like situation.

They are promoting anti-national activities and are also trying to create rift between different religious groups.

Earlier, a lot of information was shared with the NIA regarding the involvement of Dawood in a lot of anti-national activities that took place across India. The probe agency learnt that Dawood was recruiting people in India and was financially and logistically helping them to create a riot like situation.

Different social media platforms were being used by D-company to communicate. NIA had intercepted a few of them and came to know that how a deep root-ed conspiracy was being hatched. On the basis of the materials available, the NIA had lodged an FIR against Dawood and D company.

VOTING FOR 171 ZILLA PARISHAD SEATS IN ODISHA ON FEB 20

The State Election Commission (SEC), Odisha has made elaborate arrangements for the third phase of Panchayat election to be held on Sunday.

BHUBANESWAR | Agencies

The State Election Commission (SEC), Odisha has made elaborate arrangements for the third phase of Panchayat election to be held on Sunday.

As many as 171 Zilla Parishad seats in 63 blocks under 29 districts of the state will go to polls in this phase, an official said on Saturday.

The third phase of Panchayat election will be held at 18,495 booths in 1,382 Gram Panchayats under 63 blocks of 29 districts. Of the total booths, 2,773 have been identified as



"sensitive", said secretary to State Election Commission (SEC), R.N. Sahu. Over 56.53 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in this phase. As many as 679 candidates are in the fray for the 171 Zilla Parishad seats, those will go to polls tomorrow, he said. Polling parties have reached the booths while additional polling personnel will reach by this evening, the secretary said.

Informing about the final polling data on second phase voting for Panchayat election held on Friday, Sahu said there was a 78.3 per cent voters' turnout during the second phase.

Subarnapur district has recorded the highest voters' turnout of 85.67 per cent, while lowest 64.86 per cent polling was recorded in Ganjam district during the second phase of vot-

ing. Sahu said the Commission has received proposals for re-polling at 13 booths due to disturbances while error in ballot papers were reported in another three booths during the second phase voting. It had received such proposals from districts for re-polling at 25 booths. The Commission is examining the proposals and very soon a decision will be taken, he added.

Meanwhile, three village guards on Panchayat election duty were killed and several injured when their bus overturned in Nabarangpur district. The incident happened at Sorispadar village near Mokia in Papadahandi block on Friday night.

The SEC secretary said an ex-gratia of Rs 15 lakh will be provided to the family of each deceased.

The fourth phase and the fifth and the final phase of elections will be held on February 22 and 24, respectively. The counting of votes will be conducted from February 26 to 28.

KERALA GOV SLAMS LIFELONG PENSION TO RETD MINISTERIAL STAFF AFTER 2 YRS SERVICE

KERALA | Agencies

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Saturday said he will raise the issue of recruitment by state cabinet ministers of personal staff members, who become eligible for lifelong pension after they complete two years of service.

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Saturday said he will raise the issue of recruitment by state cabinet ministers of personal staff members, who become eligible for lifelong pension after they complete two years of service.

This statement by the Governor comes a day after his address to the state Assembly.

Things went for a toss on Thursday evening when news surfaced that Khan had refused to sign his address to the Assembly. This led to a war of words between Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Khan after which the Chief Secretary had to intervene to smoothen matters.

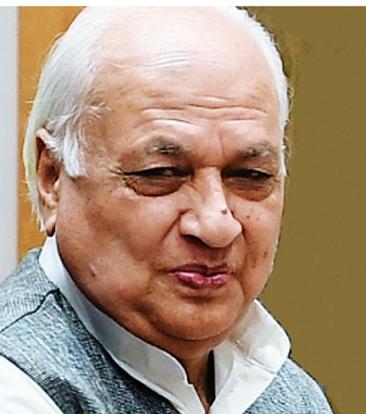
It was only after that, that news spread that Khan was angry about the way CPI(M) leaders appointed their staff members

and replaced them after two years, who then become eligible for lifelong pension.

Another reason why the Governor was upset was the controversy surrounding the appointment of senior journalist Hari S. Kartha, who is also a state BJP committee member.

Khan was angry after a letter from KR Jyothish, the General Administration Secretary, cleared the appointment of Kartha. The letter mentioned that such an appointment is being made for the first time. On Thursday, Khan signed his address after Jyothish was removed from his position.

Before flying to Delhi, the Governor on Saturday said he



came to know about the appointment of staff only from the CPI(M) just three days back.

"I raised this issue and wanted to end it by implementing it as a policy. I was a Union Minister and had just 11 staff members. But in Kerala every Cabinet Minister has more than 20 staff. Nowhere in the country such a thing exists where these appointees, who retire after two years, gets lifelong pension and a new set of staff is appointed," he added.

"I am not going to leave this issue and will pursue it. I have asked for all the files on this matter and want to make it clear that I will not allow anyone to run the Raj Bhavan. I am only answerable to the President," Khan said.

Asked about the allegations of appointing a BJP leader to his staff, Khan said he is preparing a list of the total number of

political appointments made to the Raj Bhavan in the past, adding that Kartha has resigned from the state BJP committee. "I never asked for the removal of anyone. A Secretary alone can't write that letter, which was unacceptable to me. Poor thing (Secretary) only carries out what he is being told, but I will not allow anyone to control the Raj Bhavan," the Governor added. Khan slammed former State Electricity Minister A.K. Balan for his rude comments.

"He lost his job as a Cabinet Minister and therefore, to please someone he might have made such remarks," the Governor said.

Khan added that Balan should refrain from using "Balanish" statements (word 'Balan' in Malayalam means a child) The Governor slammed the Leader of Opposition V.D. Sathesan and said it would be better if he learns from former Opposition leaders Oommen Chandy and Ramesh Chennithala. Sathesan said he does not require advice from Khan.

"I don't need advice from the Governor, who in his political career has worked with five different parties," he added.

One can take the path of revolution but the revolution should not give a shock to the society. There is no place for violence in revolution.



Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel

NIA CARRIES OUT RAIDS IN J&K, RAJASTHAN IN TERROR CASE

▶ THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA), ON SATURDAY CONDUCTED RAIDS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR AS WELL AS RAJASTHAN IN CONNECTION WITH A TERROR CASE.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), on Saturday conducted raids in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Rajasthan in connection with a terror case. Searches were carried out simultaneously in districts Sopore, Kupwara, Shopian, Rajouri, Budgam, Ganderbal of Jammu & Kashmir and Jodhpur district of Rajasthan to gather evidence against the suspects, an NIA official said. "The case relates to planning and conspiracy for undertaking violent terrorist acts in J&K and other major cities, including New Delhi, by cadres of prescribed terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al Badr and their affiliates such as The Resistance Front (TRF), People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF). We have arrested 28 persons in the case so far," he added. During the raids, various incriminating documents, digital devices, SIM cards, digital storage devices have been seized. Further investigation in the matter is underway.

PM MODI INAUGURATES GARUDA AEROSPACE'S MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the drone manufacturing facilities of Garuda Aerospace at Manesar in Gurugram and in Chennai, said a top company official. The Chennai-based Garuda Aerospace is a drone-as-a-service (DAAS) company. According to Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder & CEO, Garuda Aerospace, Modi virtually inaugurated the drone manufacturing facilities in two locations and also pressed a button resulting in the taking off of 100 Kisan drones simultaneously in 100 villages. The 100 drones commenced agriculture spraying operations in 16 different states to celebrate 75 years of Independence as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Jayaprakash added.



"Glad to have witnessed Kisan Drones in action at 100 places across the country. This is a commendable initiative by a vibrant start-up, @garuda_india. Innovative technology will empower our farmers and make agriculture more profitable," Modi tweeted. Modi said the occasion will not

just be a milestone for the drone sector but also open up a multitude of possibilities. "I have been told that Garuda Aerospace has planned 1 lakh 'Made in India' drones in the next two years. This will give employment and opportunities to hundreds of youth,"

Modi said. The Budget announcements this year had prioritised technology and innovation and mentioned the use of kisan drones among the varied sectors wherein drones can be used.

"Having liberalised the Drone Rules in 2021, the government has consistently been encouraging Aatmanirbhar Bharat with major policy decisions on Drone Shakti and banning the import of foreign Drones," Modi added.

"We have reposed our faith in the young talent and brought in new suitable policies," the Prime Minister said and appreciated the youngsters taking risks in the new field even as he assured that the Centre will always back them.

Garuda has taken a space on lease for making its drones from Defsys Solutions in Gurugram, Jayaprakash said.

FLIGHT SERVICE FROM AGARTALA TO DHAKA AND CHITTAGONG SOON

■ Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said on Saturday that operations of passenger aircraft from Agartala airport to two important Bangladesh cities -- Dhaka and Chittagong -- would be started soon.



AGARTALA | Agencies

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said on Saturday that operations of passenger aircraft from Agartala airport to two important Bangladesh cities -- Dhaka and Chittagong -- would be started soon.

Taking to Twitter, the Chief Minister said: "Finally, MBB Airport in Agartala is now set to have international flight service with Dhaka and Chittagong. My heartfelt thanks to

Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji and Civil Aviation Minister Shri JM Scindia ji for this initiative to fulfil the dream of the people of Tripura."

"The proposed international flight service with Bangladesh will surely boost Tripura's tourism and take the state to a new height in terms of air connectivity. It will also benefit the people of Bangladesh in various ways and strengthen the cordial relation between the two countries," Deb said

in another tweet. An official from the transport department said that under the UDAN-RCS, bids would soon be floated by the Civil Aviation Ministry to finalise the routes.

"In the proposed tender, expression of interest would be sought from the airline companies keen to operate flights in the Agartala-Dhaka-Chittagong routes," the official said, adding that the entire process would

be completed within the next six months.

The Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport in Agartala became ready to operate international flights after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new integrated terminal building on January 4.

According to the officials of the Airport Authority of India, the MBB airport, located 20 km north of Agartala, is the second busiest airport in the northeast after the Guwahati airport in terms of handling of aircraft and passengers. The Guwahati and Manipur airports were earlier declared international airports.

Built at a cost of Rs 500 crore and with a built-up area of 30,000 sq mt, the new integrated terminal building at the MBB airport has been designed to handle 1,500 passengers, including 200 international passengers, during peak hours and it is equipped with all modern amenities.

Cong to spend another night in K'taka assembly over saffron flag row

■ The Karnataka Congress will continue the round the clock agitation by spending another night in the state assembly on Saturday demanding dismissal of Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj K.S. Eshwarappa for his remark that one day the saffron flag will be hoisted at the Red Fort.

BENGALURU | Agencies

The Karnataka Congress will continue the round the clock agitation by spending another night in the state assembly on Saturday demanding dismissal of Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj K.S. Eshwarappa for his remark that one day the saffron flag will be hoisted at the Red Fort.

The protest which has been led by Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and state Congress President D.K. Shivakumar at assembly entered the third day on Saturday. All attempts by the ruling BJP to convince Congress leaders to withdraw their agitation went in vain. Speaker Vishveshwara

Hegde Kageri has adjourned the session to Monday. While announcing adjournment, he said he is doing it with a heavy heart. Congress state President Shivakumar has reiterated that he will not budge until Eshwarappa is sacked for insulting the national flag. "We will see to it that he is sacked, I will see how BJP can save him," he has challenged.

Meanwhile, Congress legislators spent Friday night by playing 'antakshari' in the house. Legislators sung Kannada and Hindi film songs and enjoyed themselves. They sang Bollywood hit songs "Lo chali mein", "mere rang me rangne wali" and Kannada hit songs "naa nanna mareyalare" and others.

West Bengal Guv sends back CM's recommendation to convene assembly

Team Absolute | Kolkata

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhanekar and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee again ran into confrontation when the former returned the latter's recommendation to convene an assembly session from March 7, stating that the proposal did not meet constitutional norms.

In a video tweet the governor said, "Constitution permits the governor to summon the House on the recommendation of the cabinet. This is spelled out in the constitution as also the process is laid down in the rule of business."

"The government sent me

a file on February 17 seeking to summon the assembly on March 7. However, that had the endorsement of only the Chief Minister. The role of the cabinet decision in this situation is necessary," the governor said.

"The only option that I had was to send the file back to the government so that they can send it back with constitutional compliance. As and when the file comes the matter will be considered in accordance with the constitution," he added.

"Hon'ble CM Mamata Banerjee's recommendation to summon assembly on March 7 had to be returned for constitutional compliance as Guv summons assembly

on the recommendation made by the Cabinet after due compliance of Rules of Business under article 166(3) of constitution," Dhanekar also wrote in his tweet.

The governor attached a letter that he wrote to the government as he sent back the file. "Only option was to remit the file and for constitutional compliance," he added. Expressing disappointment, TMC national spokesperson Sukhendu Sekhar Roy noted that Dhanekar had previously "sat over files" duly approved by people's representatives, and returning the recommendation for assembly session was the latest move to "stall administrative work".

Enamul Haque sent to 7-day ED custody in cattle smuggling case

■ The Rouse Avenue District Court in the national capital on Saturday afternoon sent Hawala dealer Mohd. Enamul Haque to a seven-day Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to cattle smuggling across the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Rouse Avenue District Court in the national capital on Saturday afternoon sent Hawala dealer Mohd. Enamul Haque to a seven-day Enforcement Directorate



(ED) custody in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to cattle smuggling across the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal.

Earlier, Haque was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday and produced before the Rouse Avenue District Court.

He is the kingpin in cross-border smuggling racket and had recently been charge-sheeted by the Central

Bureau of Investigation.

ED officials told the court that Haque was required for the custodial interrogation and sought his custody. The court after going through their plea and hearing to their contention allowed their move.

The CBI during its investigation said Haque had allegedly been running a Hawala racket of Rs 1,000 crore and was paying hefty bribe to BSF officials. One of the officials was also

arrested by the central probe agency. "He is the owner of three private companies and was running this entire racket with the help of his aides -- Gulam Mustafa and Anarul Shiekh," said an ED source.

Trinamool Congress leader Vinay Mishra and his brother Vikas Mishra are also involved in the matter. In March 2021, the ED had arrested Vikas and attached the property of Vinay. It had been alleged that they had been receiving money from Haque through Hawala channel.

In November 2020, Haque was placed under arrest by the CBI. He was accused of bribing BSF officials to keep his illegal cattle smuggling business running through India-Bangladesh border.

The ED's case is on the basis of the CBI's FIR.

THREE COACHES OF SWATANTRATA SENANI EXPRESS CATCHES FIRE AT MADHUBANI JUNCTION IN BIHAR

Patna: Three coaches of New Delhi-bound Swatantrata Senani Express were gutted in a fire at Madhubani railway station on Saturday morning.

Three coaches of New Delhi-bound Swatantrata Senani Express were gutted in a fire at Madhubani railway station on Saturday morning. According to eastern railway CPRO, no injuries were reported as the train was empty.

The fire first caught two coaches of the train at 9.13 a.m. Soon, it spread to the third coach, he said.

"We immediately swung into action and doused the blaze with the help of the district fire brigade at 9.50 a.m. The train was empty at the time of mishap, so no casualty was reported," he said.

Sadar SDO Ashwani Kumar, Sadar SDPO Rajiv Kumar and town police station Amit Kumar were also involved in the rescue operation.

An inquiry has been initiated to ascertain the actual cause of mishap, he said.

K'TAKA HIJAB ROW: 58 COLLEGE STUDENTS SUSPENDED

▶ AT LEAST 58 FEMALE STUDENTS FROM A COLLEGE IN KARNATAKA'S SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT WERE SUSPENDED ON SATURDAY FOR WEARING HIJAB AND ALSO STAGING AN AGITATION DEMANDING THAT THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND CLASSES.

BENGALURU | Agencies

At least 58 female students from a college in Karnataka's Shivamogga district were suspended on Saturday for wearing hijab and also staging an agitation demanding that they should be allowed to attend classes. The students were from Government Pre-University College of Shiralakkoppa.



Although the college management, development committee tried to explain to the hijab-clad students the interim order of the High Court, they did not listen and pressed for wearing of hijab, according to the principal.

Hence, they were suspended from the college temporarily. The enraged students got into arguments with college authorities, leading to an intervention by the police to disperse them.

Tension also prevailed in Belagavi, Yadgir, Bellary, Chitradurgam and Shivamogga districts when students wearing hijab demanded entry into the class-

rooms. While the administration of Vijay Para-Medical College in Belagavi has declared a holiday for an indefinite period due to the protests, students of the SJVP College in Harihara boycotted classes after being denied entry to classrooms for hearing hijab.

Hijab-clad students also gathered in the playground of the Ballary Saraladevi College after they were turned out from classes. They refused to speak to the police and in turn asked not to be disturbed.

In Kodagu, hijab-clad students staged a protest holding placards before the gate of the college.

In a statement, state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said: "The hijab row is not in all colleges. Very few colleges are facing the agitations and they are being warned. Section 144 has been clamped in the surrounding areas of the colleges."

Those who have violated it have been arrested and FIR has been lodged against many, he added.

The Minister further said there were communal forces behind the row who have been warned and cases were lodged against them.

If someone says constitution and court can be ignored, they will not be spared, he stated. He stated that on Friday, minority community legislators submitted a memorandum to him regarding hijab row. "I have told them that school should have uniformity. I have asked them that jointly we should overcome this situation."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that he would get all the details regarding hijab row.

Education Minister BC Nagesh has said that Muslim community leaders are with the interim order issued by the court. "We will continue to explain people about the interim order regarding hijab row and most of them are following the order. There is a propaganda which is trying to put religion over education," he said.

2 soldiers, LeT man killed in encounter at J&K's Shopian

SRINAGAR | Agencies

A terrorist was killed and two army soldiers were martyred in an ongoing encounter with security forces at Chermarg Zainapora area in South Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said on Saturday.

Police said, based on a specific input regarding the presence of terrorist in village Chermarg Zainapora area of Shopian, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by police, army's 1st RR and CRPF.

Police said during the operation, a cluster of houses were taken into cordon and the process of evacuating civilians was initiated.

During the process, as the search party started searching house belonging to Gowhar Ahmad Bhat, the house-owner intentionally misled the search party and denied sheltering the terrorist in his house. While questioning the said person, a terrorist hiding in his house opened fire on the search party resulting in grievous injuries to two Army Jawans.

"The fire was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter. The injured

Jawans were immediately evacuated to hospital for treatment however; both of them succumbed to their injuries and attained martyrdom," police said.

In the ensuing encounter, the hiding terrorist was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter. He has been identified as Abdul Qayoom Dar, resident of Laroo Kakapora, Pulwama and linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT.

"As per police records, the killed terrorist had a history of terror crime cases as he was working as terrorist associate before joining terror ranks. It is pertinent to mention that his house was also being used as hideout for terrorists and in April-2020 an encounter took place in his house and subsequently he was booked under PSA," police said.

"Post his release in August-2021, he continuously kept on working as an associate for active terrorists. Earlier this week, SSP Pulwama officially intimated that he had left house and joined terror folds of LeT outfit. Consequently he was listed as 'C' category terrorist."



In clean energy push, PM Modi launches Asia's biggest Bio-CNG plant in Indore

ALL DUMPING SITES TO BE CONVERTED INTO GREEN ZONES IN 2-3 YRS: PM

All waste dumping sites in the country will be converted into green zones in the next two-three years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while digitally inaugurating Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant in Madhya Pradesh's financial capital Indore, on Saturday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

All waste dumping sites in the country will be converted into green zones in the next two-three years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while digitally inaugurating Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant in Indore, on Saturday.

The Prime Minister asserted that in almost every city in the country, several acres of land is being used for dumping wastes. In the last few years, many dumping sites have been converted into green zones through modern technology and Indore is one of them.

"Under the Clean India Mission part-2, our government decided to remove these waste dumping sites and convert them into a green zone. Centre is providing all help to the states and the municipal corporations," he said.

Congratulating Madhya Pradesh government and the Indore Municipal Corporation for setting up Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant, the Prime Minister said, this development will not only help in removing municipal waste and to convert into energy but it will also improve tourism in the city.

"The site where this Bio-CNG plant



has been set up, till a few years back, was a huge garbage mountain, but today that waste dumping site has been converted into a green zone. I congratulate Indore Municipal Corporation and the state government for their relentless efforts in this sector. I believe that municipal corporations of other cities will follow Indore and will make their cities clean and green," Modi said.

He said the municipal waste that has been a bigger problem in the country, so far, especially in the big cities, is now becoming a source of renewable energy. "The technology for converting waste into energy was available in the country, but it did not get appropriate attention. My government has decided to make this dumped waste into a source of

energy," PM added.

Touted as the largest such facility in Asia by local civic officials, the plant will produce 18,000 kg of Bio-CNG daily, which will be used to power Indore Municipal Corporation's transport buses. It will also produce a large quantity of compost.

The technology for Indore's Bio-CNG has been imported from Denmark. The preparation of Bio-CNG takes around 20 to 25 days. This biogas contains 55-60 per cent methane. For converting biogas to CNG, 95 per cent methane is required. So, after cleaning and upgrading it gets converted to Bio-CNG. A filling station has also been built where city buses of the municipal corporation can get CNG.

Madhya Pradesh will fulfil PM's cleanliness pledge: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan welcomed all the guests present virtually and actually, including Prime Minister i Modi, in the dedication programme of Indore's unique Gobar-Dhan CNG plant. He said that with the inspiration of Modi, Indore has created a new history in the field of 'Waste to Wealth'. We are proud that today the Prime Minister is virtually inaugurating this Asia's largest Gobar-Dhan plant that makes CNG from wet waste. PM has given direction to the world on the subject related to cleanliness and environment. The heads of other countries of the world use words of compliment like One Sun, One World, One Grid and One Narendra Modi for the Prime Minister.

Chouhan said that Modi has put forth the matter of welfare of the whole world through Global Good, P-3 Approach, Mission Life, Waste-to-Wealth and



Panchamrut.

To fulfil this environment-friendly mantra and resolve of the Prime Minister, Madhya Pradesh has started implementation. Madhya Pradesh will leave no stone unturned to bring this mantra to the ground. The Amrit Mahotsav of independence is not just Amrit Mahotsav for India's progress but it is the golden period. Madhya Pradesh will show better work in the field of cleanliness and environment.

Chouhan said that Indore

is the first water plus city of the country. Here dust free city, zero waste colonies along with Indore bin free, zero waste events, zero waste markets and zero waste wards are being developed. 21 markets of Indore city have been declared as Zero Waste Market, where single use plastic is completely banned. Chouhan informed that Jholadhari Indori campaign has also been started in Indore. He said that work is being done continuously to develop slum settlements of Indore

urban area as green slums. The Saraswati and Kanh River Life Line Project is a symbol of the movement for the rejuvenation of rivers. The old garbage piles of Indore city have been eliminated using scientific method. Similar efforts are being made in Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan said that Modi has given the mantra of Panchamrita. According to this mantra, the use of solar energy and biomass is also being given the form of a movement in Madhya Pradesh.

Chouhan said that this would be a money generating plant as cow dung and other waste will be purchased from the cattle rearers and farmers from the nearby villages of Indore. Many families are getting permanent employment from this plant. The dung along with the waste will be processed to develop bacteria. There will be availability of CNG for city buses in Indore at a cost less than the market price by Rs 5 per kg.

CM to be the Chief Guest at State-Level Rozgar Mela

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The state-level Rozgar Mela (employment fair) will be organised at Kushabhau Thakre Auditorium on February 25 in the chief guest of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Industries Commissioner and Secretary, MSME Department, P Narhari informed that this state-level employment fair is being organised in Bhopal under the statewide Rozgar Diwas programme.

Narhari said that on this day the programme will be broadcast live through news channels and social media

platforms. Arrangements will be made to show the broadcast in the district level programme also at the local level by the district administration.

Along with this, on this day, Rozgar Diwas programme will be organised in all the districts at the district headquarters, in which maximum 100 beneficiaries of various self-employment schemes will be invited and sanction disbursement letters will be given through public representatives in a symbolic way. The concerned banks, departments will ensure the process of acceptance, disbursement on February 25 to the remaining other beneficiar-

ies.

The programme to be organised in the districts will be finalised under the direction of the District Collector and the event will be organised. There will be participation of concerned departments and banks in the programme and public representatives will be invited. Virtual dialogue will be done by the Chief Minister with some beneficiaries of 04 districts - Jhabua, Sidhi, Bhand and Betul, for which necessary arrangements will be made by the district administration.

It will be ensured to compulsorily follow the guidelines of Covid in the event.

LIGHT RAIN WITH LIGHTNING LIKELY IN PARTS OF MP

Light rain, accompanied with lightning, has been forecast in parts of Madhya Pradesh for Saturday, according to the India Meteorological Department in Bhopal.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Light rain, accompanied with lightning, has been forecast in parts of Madhya Pradesh for Saturday, according to the India Meteorological Department in Bhopal.

Light shower with lightning is expected in Chhindwara, Seoni, Balaghat and Dindori districts, while moderate rain with thunder-shower is predicted in Mandla district.



The Met department has also predicted drizzle in Hoshangabad, Jabalpur and Anuppur.

Tourist places like Kanha and Pench tigers reserves, Amarkantak and Pachmarhi may witness light

rain and the weather department has issued an orange alert for these areas.

The rain is caused due to a Western Disturbance over Nepal and adjoining areas. Another Western Disturbance is over North Pakistan and adjoining Jammu and Kashmir. A cyclone circulation is lying over Southeast Bay of Bengal and South Andaman Sea, the weather office said. The Met office has also predicted that light rain may continue in some western parts of the state for the next couple of days. Bhopal saw a partially cloudy sky and dry wind on Saturday morning. On Friday, Bhopal recorded 29 degrees Celsius day temperature, which was normal, while the night temperature was 13.4 degrees Celsius. Nowgaon and Rewa recorded up to seven degrees Celsius, the lowest temperature in the last 24 hours in the state.

MP sees 1,013 new COVID-19 cases; two more fatalities

As many as 2,353 patients were discharged from hospitals, taking the count of recoveries to 10,14,413, the official said. The state is now left with 8,364 active cases and the positivity rate stands at 1.4 per cent, he said.



to 10,713, an official from the state health department said on Saturday. As many as 2,353 patients were discharged from hospitals, taking the count of recoveries to 10,14,413, the official said. The state is now left with 8,364 active cases and the positivity rate stands at 1.4 per cent, he said. Bhopal and

Indore, the two worst coronavirus-hit cities of the state, registered 261 and 74 cases respectively in the last 24 hours, he said.

With the addition of 68,926 samples examined during the day, the number of tests conducted in the state rose to 2,72,99,967, the official added.

As per an official release, 11,29,98,387 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the state so far, of which 1,34,458 jabs were given on Saturday. Coronavirus figures in MP are as follows: Total cases 10,33,490, new cases 1,013, death toll 10,713, recoveries 10,14,413, active cases 8,364, number of tests so far 2,72,99,967.

CM PLANTS COCONUT SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a coconut sapling in the residence premises today. Chouhan has been planting saplings every day since the last Narmada Jayanti. It has been one year since last Friday since he has been planting saplings every day. Coconut is also called Shriphal. Apart from its religious significance, coconut is also beneficial for health.

Chief Minister gives unique message of environment protection by planting saplings for 365 days

Team Absolute | Bhopal

For environmental protection, 365 days ago i.e. a year ago, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had taken a pledge on 19th February on Narmada Jayanti, to plant a sapling every day and ever since every morning Chouhan starts his day with planting a sapling. Wherever he may be, whether in Bhopal or Delhi, or in any division, district, tehsil or village, not a single day has he missed planting a sapling and this series has completed one year on Friday. Chouhan not only plants saplings, but also takes full care of them. He says, "All the plants I have planted so far are like my children and family members."

Chouhan's resolve to plant saplings every day was not only a message of environmental protection for the people of the state, but it was also a successful attempt to mobilize public participation for the environment, which is also becoming fruitful today. Impressed by this resolution of the Chief Minister, the atmosphere that was created for plantation in the state inspired people from urban and rural areas to join along with many institutions. Chief Minister has also adopted innovation in plantation work. Now it is his endeavour to ensure that while planting saplings every day, eminent personalities from all walks of life, environmentalists, social organizations, public representatives, students and volunteers should also accom-

pany him. With this unique initiative, the people of the state have also started taking interest in plantation.

Fully committed to his resolve, never fails to mention about planting saplings during his address in public programmes. In every event/programme he urges people - "Every citizen must plant a sapling on the occasion of his family's / auspicious programmes if not every day. By doing so, you can give a big gift to the coming generations." Chouhan has also been saying that in the troubles we have faced during the Corona period last year, shortage of oxygen has been one of the important aspects. Trees and plants not only give us free natural oxygen, but also save the world from global warming.

CM PAYS TRIBUTE ON CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI, GURU GOLWALKAR'S AND GOKHALE



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid obeisance to Chhatrapati Shivaji, Madhav Sadashivrao Golwalkar (Guru Golwalkar) on his birth anniversary and Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his death anniversary by garlanding him in the Chief Minister's residence hall on Saturday. Chouhan remembered the great warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Guru Golwalkar for their contribution on their birth anniversaries. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan also remembered the works of freedom fighter Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

Inspire students to participate in social causes: Governor

- Life becomes fruitful when backward class is also involved in the service to humanity
- Humans have been given special abilities to serve others
- Fourth Foundation Day Celebration of Mansarovar Global University

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that human life is the best creation of nature. Nature has provided human beings with the necessary capabilities to serve others. Life turns meaningful when the backward section is also taken along while serving humanity according to our capacity. He said that Foundation Day is an opportunity to make the university management, teachers and students commit for their best contribution towards education that is useful for the society.

Patel was addressing the fourth foundation day celebrations of Mansarovar Global

University today. In the programme, the Governor honored the Principal of Mansarovar Dental College, Gurudutt Nayak and the Principal of Mansarovar Ayurvedic Medical College Anurag Singh Acharya.

Patel said that university education should develop social responsibility, sense of duty and moral values among the students. By motivating the students for participation in social concerns, they should be inspired to follow life values, high standards of truthfulness and responsibilities. He said that a large part of the state's population was suffering from sickle cell disease. This is one of the major social concerns. This congenital, life-threatening disease is being found in large numbers among the Scheduled Tribes. The state government has made concerted efforts for the treatment and management of the disease. To make them more effective, everyone's cooperation and effort is necessary. For this the work of disease survey should be



done at a fast pace, for this, universities should also come forward and cooperate.

Governor said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made efforts to establish coordination in India's tradition, heritage, cultural values, knowledge and skill devel-

opment in the new National Education Policy and education system. For the success of the policy, the environment of the university campus should be student oriented, enhancing the originality of the students, motivating and encouraging innovations. Students should be able to contribute in making the country self-reliant with their abilities, qualification by acquiring quality education. They should be helpful in taking the benefits of Digital India, Start-up India to rural, backward areas, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and deprived sections.

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang said that education is a project to make the society orderly and well organized. He said that for systematic education, it is necessary for the educational institution to be well organized and well-resolved. He said that PM Modi has given impetus to the development of the country. Along with this, the work of changing the dark chapters of history has also been done. He has strengthened the country's base and its roots through the National Education Policy, so that every student is imbued with the feeling of patriotism. They should be dedicated towards building the nation and the society. He said that today is a special day in the sequence of development of the state. Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore is a gift of Waste-to-Wealth by the Prime Minister to the state. The Governor congratulated the University Management for the effective presentation of national sentiments in the Foundation Day celebrations.

Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav said that Madhya Pradesh is the leading state in the country to adopt and implement the new education policy.



THOSE MAKING ALLEGATIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN MEDICAL TREATMENT: CM THACKERAY SLAMS OPPOSITION

UDDHAV THACKERAY WAS SPEAKING VIRTUALLY AT THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW BUILDING OF THE PUBLIC TRUST REGISTRATION OFFICE IN JALNA. TOPE ALSO ATTENDED THE EVENT VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCE. REFERRING TO A POEM RECITED DURING THE PROGRAMME BY SOMEONE IN HIS PRAISE, THACKERAY QUOTED A DIALOGUE FROM A HINDI MOVIE - "THAPPAD SE DAR NAHI LAGTA, PYAAR SE LAGTA HAI. (NOT AFRAID OF GETTING SLAPPED, BUT SCARED OF BEING LOVED)."



speaking virtually at the inauguration of a new building of the Public Trust Registration office in Jalna. Tope also attended the event via video-conference.

Referring to a poem recited during the programme by someone in his praise, Thackeray quoted a dialogue from a Hindi movie - "Thappad se dar nahi lagta, pyaar se lagta hai. (Not afraid of getting slapped, but scared of being loved)."

He said he wanted to attend the inauguration of the new building in person, but he could not do so as he had undergone a cervical spine surgery a few months back and gradually recovering from it.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Taking a dig at the opposition BJP, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday told his cabinet colleague and Health Minister Rajesh Tope that those levelling allegations against him and the state government should be given free medical treatment.

Original Make in India champion Rahul Bajaj no more; funeral on Sunday

Renowned industrialist Rahul Bajaj the doyen of the Bajaj Group, who made his two-wheelers a household name with the catchy slogan 'Hamara Bajaj' passed away in Pune following a prolonged illness.

Pune | Agencies

Renowned industrialist Rahul Bajaj the doyen of the Bajaj Group, who made his two-wheelers a household name with the catchy slogan 'Hamara Bajaj' passed away in Pune following a prolonged illness.

A former Chairman of the now-defunct domestic carrier, Indian Airlines, he was ailing from cancer for a long time and the end came at the Ruby Hospital at around 2.30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, sending waves of grief in corporate and political circles.

Bajaj was 83 and is survived by two sons, Rajiv and Sanjiv, and a daughter Sunaina Kejriwal, and other family members who were present beside when he breathed his last.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced that Bajaj will be accorded full state honours for his funeral slated on Sunday afternoon in Pune.

"It is with deep sorrow that I inform you about the passing of Shri Rahul Bajaj, husband of the late Rupa Bajaj, and father of Rajiv/Deepa, Sanjiv/Shefali, Sunaina/Manish (Kejriwal). He passed away on the afternoon of 12th February in the presence of his closest family members," said a statement from the Bajaj Group on Saturday evening.

Born on June 10, 1938 in (now) Kolkata, Bajaj graduated in 1958 from St. Stephens College, in Delhi University, with an Honours degree in Economics.

Later, he acquired a Law degree from University of Bombay and an MBA from the Harvard Business



School. Joining the family enterprise founded by his grandfather, the industrialist-philanthropist-freedom fighter Jammalal Bajaj, Rahul Bajaj became the CEO of the flagship Bajaj Auto in 1968 and its Managing Director in 1972.

It was during his captaincy of the Bajaj Group which soared from small family concern to one of the biggest in the sub-continent with immense contribution in nation-building, helping lay the foundations of its economy and creating a global mark with its two-wheelers and three-wheelers among other products over the decades.

A Rajya Sabha Member (2006-2010) and conferred the Padmashri and Padma Bhushan, he

stepped down as the Chairman of Bajaj Auto in April 2021 but was appointed as Chairman Emeritus for another five years.

Bajaj's mortal remains shall be kept for public 'darshan' on Sunday morning at the company's plant premises and the last rites shall be performed at the Vaikunth Crematorium later with full state honours.

Top business and political leaders like Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, his close family friends Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar, Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan, Kishore Tiwari and Raghunath Kuchik, both MoS, Deputy Chairperson of Legislative Council Neelam Gorhe, Supriya Sule, MP, top Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders, Bharatiya Janata Party leader Nitin Gadkari and Raosaheb Danve-Patil, Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis and others condoled Bajaj's passing.

"I am deeply shocked to learn about the sad demise of Padma Bhushan Shri Rahul Bajaj, my very close friend.

The grandson of eminent freedom fighter Jammalal Bajaj brought transformation in society, especially in poor and middle-class people with his two-wheel technology - a Bajaj bike," said Sharad Pawar.

Saying India has lost an industrialist, a philanthropist and a lighthouse for young entrepreneurs, the NCP supremo said the affordable vehicle - 'Hamara Bajaj' - increased mobility, eased struggle for getting means of livelihood and became the tool of socio-economic change, for which "we Indians are deeply indebted".

CBI SEARCHES PREMISES OF EX-MAHA HM'S CAS IN PMLA CASE

The premises reportedly belonging to the chartered accountants of former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh were raided by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case lodged against the minister.



A source said that CBI officials reached Mumbai on Friday night and the search operation was started earlier on Saturday morning.

"Searches were conducted at 12 locations in Nagpur and Mumbai. We have recorded the statements of CAs," said the source. On April 21, 2021 the CBI had filed an FIR against Deshmukh and had initiated a probe. The raids are in connection with this FIR. The source said that they were scanning the financial transactions of the last three years. The team is also gathering information about the business dealing of Deshmukh. The CBI wants to know about the business associates of Deshmukh. The transactions made between them will be scanned by the team.

On November 1, 2021 Deshmukh was placed under arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with Rs 100 crore PMLA case pertaining to the alleged posting and transfer of officials.

Deshmukh is currently in Judicial Custody.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The premises reportedly belonging to the chartered accountants of former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh were raided by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case lodged against the minister.

Captains of industry mourn Rahul Bajaj's passing away

Captains of Indian Industry on Saturday mourned the passing away of industrialist Rahul Bajaj. The renowned industrialist passed away in Pune following a prolonged illness. He was 83.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Captains of Indian Industry on Saturday mourned the passing away of industrialist Rahul Bajaj. The renowned industrialist passed away in Pune following a prolonged illness. He was 83. On Twitter, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon said:

"Industrialist Rahul Bajaj, Former Chairman Of Bajaj Group, Dies At 83 - I am devastated - he was a dear dear friend and will miss him dearly. The country has lost a great son & a nation builder. Om Shanthi." On his part, Uday Kotak, CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank tweeted: "Rahul Bajaj: bold and fearless. A rare businessman who spoke truth to power. A proud Indian. Built world class enterprise. I am truly honoured to know him. Will miss him." Further, Harsh Goenka, Chairman of RPG Enterprises said: "The 'spine' of Indian business cracks. A close family friend, he was a visionary, straight talking and very respected for his value systems. An era ends! He leaves

behind the two most capable sons in Indian industry, Rajiv and Sanjiv. #RahulBajaj Om shantia"

Bajaj had taken charge of the Bajaj Group in 1965 and during his captaincy, the group soared to one of the biggest in the sub-continent.

Rahul Bajaj is credited with the ubiquitous two wheeler in Bajaj Auto and the cult campaign of 'Hamara Bajaj-Buland Bharat ki Buland Tasveer' which brought slick world class advertising to Indian TV screens and a corporate brand campaign that resonated with the Indian public much before TV ads took off. He was a former Rajya Sabha member and was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2001.

Father-in-law saves life of ailing daughter-in-law by donating kidney

A 25-year-old woman, diagnosed with kidney ailment, from Jalna district in Maharashtra's Aurangabad has received a new lease of life after her father-in-law donated one of his kidneys with the help of doctors at Medcover Hospitals.

Aurangabad has received a new lease of life after her father-in-law donated one of his kidneys with the help of doctors at Medcover Hospitals.

The woman was diagnosed with kidney failure 6 months back. Her urine output had stopped leading to swelling all over the body and repeated episodes of hemoptysis (blood in sputum). "On many counts, kidney transplantation in this patient was indeed challenging," Neha Jain, Center Head, said in a statement. She required dialysis treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU). For her condition, Sachin Soni, a Kidney specialist had advised a kidney transplantation surgery which was getting postponed

due to the unavailability of a donor. In this situation, the father-in-law of the lady decided to become a kidney donor for his daughter-in-law. The challenges were not less as his blood group (B+) was not compatible with that of the patient (O+).

In absence of any other donor, the kidney transplant team at the Hospital took up the challenge of performing ABO incompatible kidney transplant in December 2021.

Another hurdle came in the form of Covid-19 infection of the patient and the surgery was finally performed on February 2, 2022. However, the doctors said that now the donor and the recipient are in healthy condition with normal kidney functions.

'NO LATA MEMORIAL' AT SHIVAJI PARK: CONGRESS BACKS MANGESHKAR FAMILY

In future too, the highway traffic police intend to take this route for collecting pending dues totalling up to Rs 1,125 crore - Rs 413 crore from Mumbai alone - from 2.94 crore motorists.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Day after music director Hridaynath Mangeshkar said that he was against constructing a memorial for his sister, the late Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar at Shivaji Park, the Maharashtra Congress came out in support of the family, here on Saturday.

Simultaneously, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) activist has moved the Bombay High Court in a PIL challenging the use of the 28-acre ground - known as the 'Cradle of Indian Cricket' for public funerals or memorials. State Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant said that the sprawling park was established during the British Rule by the erstwhile Bombay Municipal Corporation in 1925 and named as 'Shivaji Park' ahead of the great Maratha



warrior's 300th birth anniversary. "Taking into consideration the sentiments of the Marathi people, the then British Government had allowed the name and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's equestrian statue was also installed there," Sawant said.

He pointed out that since the park is already a monument dedicated to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, then how can another memorial in the name of Lata Didi be erected there. "On one hand, the BJP is playing dirty politics in

the name of a memorial for Lata Mangeshkara on the other, their own party activist is filing a PIL in the court demanding there should not be a memorial there. The BJP had resorted to similar dual-politics during the issue of reservations for Marathas and OBCs," Sawant said.

On Friday, Hridaynath Mangeshkar made it clear the family was not supportive of the memorial at Shivaji Park, while Dadar resident Prakash Belwade-Patil moved the court saying the ground is for sports, a memorial for the late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray was built there and now there is a demand for even for one dedicated to Lata Mangeshkar. Considering their stature, both Balasaheb Thackeray and Lata Mangeshkar were accorded rare public funerals at Shivaji Park on November 18, 2012, and February 6, 2022, respectively, to accommodate the massive crowds of mourners and VIPs attending.

Earlier, BJP MLA Ram Kadam and others like Congress President Nana Patole had demanded a memorial for Lata Mangeshkar at the site, but the ruling ally Shiv Sena urged that the issue should not be politicised but assured a grand memorial for the late melody queen.

Relief to Maharashtra MLAs was judicial victory; presidential reference bid 'invalid,': Shelar

BJP legislator thanks Assembly deputy speaker, legislative council chairman and deputy chairman for accepting the court verdict and announcing the cancellation of the suspension order



Stating that the developments had "badly bruised the Maha Vikas Aghadi government's ego", Shelar said the Opposition "would like to humbly and politely clarify" that the court had ruled the suspension as "irrational, illegal and unconstitutional." The Assembly deputy speaker and the chairman and deputy chairperson of the legislative council told Kovind the Supreme Court had over-

stepped its brief and that the verdict should be sent to a larger bench under Article 143 of the Constitution.

"Today we are humbly defending our stance to ensure there is no misunderstanding."

On the legislature's request for a presidential reference, he said the opportunity had been lost. "The Supreme Court had not only given the MLAs an opportunity but also asked the legislature to put forth its stance. But they failed to make the best of the opportunity. So their claim that the court is interfering in the matters of the legislature does not make sense as the court had given them the opportunity," he said. "And now they have missed the boat and lost their right to make such a demand."

Shelar further explained that the court had first asked the MLAs to approach the legislature to get their suspension withdrawn but no action was initiated during the Assembly session. "Unfortunately, a hearing was held after the conclusion of the session, which was of no use," said the BJP leader.

The 12 BJP MLAs were suspended from the Assembly on July 5, 2021 for misbehaviour. The government had passed a resolution suspending them for one year.

Unwinding of lockdowns, RBI's accommodative stance to boost industrial output

Unwinding of lockdown restrictions as well as RBI's monetary policy stance are expected to boost India's industrial output.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Unwinding of lockdown restrictions as well as RBI's monetary policy stance are expected to boost India's industrial output.

Notably, subdued manufacturing growth as well as unfavourable base eased India's industrial output sequentially as well as on a year-on-year basis in December 2021.

Last Friday, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for December 2021 rose by

only 0.4 per cent from a rise of 1.34 per cent reported for November 2021.

Similarly, the production rate was lower on a year-on-year basis. In December 2020, the IIP had risen by 2.2 per cent. On a YoY basis, the mining excavation output grew by 2.6 per cent (-) 3 per cent in December 2021.

However, manufacturing production slipped by 0.1 per cent from a rise of 2.7 per cent and electricity generation rose at a slower rate of 2.8 per cent from 5.1 per cent.

"While the improvement of industrial output on sequential basis is encouraging, the emergence of the third Covid wave amidst significant proliferation of Omicron cases in Jan-22 may have some impact on the production in Jan-22," Acuite Ratings & Research said in a research

note. "Additionally, the rise in input price pressures due to substantial rise in commodity prices may lead to a further pass through to end consumers in the medium-term impacting demand and thereby overall production."

However, the ratings agency believes that good progress in the pace of vaccinations, unwinding of lockdown restrictions by states amidst recent downdraft in Covid infections along with the accommodative monetary policies will support industrial recovery going forward. "Further, thrust on infrastructure segment with the government embarking upon massive capital outlay underscored in the Union Budget FY23 will help in bolstering steel, cement and capital goods output over the next few quarters."



PAUL MCCARTNEY'S 'GOT BACK' TOUR TO COVER 13 US CITIES

Paul McCartney, the co-lead vocalist and bassist of 'The Beatles', has announced a 13-city, 14-gig outing 'Got Back' tour through the US that will begin just a little more than two months from now, reports 'Variety'.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Paul McCartney, the co-lead vocalist and bassist of 'The Beatles', has announced a 13-city, 14-gig outing 'Got Back' tour through the US that will begin just a little more than two months from now, reports 'Variety'.

Representing his first live shows since 2019, McCartney said in an announcement accessed by Variety, "I said at the end of the last tour that I'd see you next time. I said I was going to get back to you. Well, I got back."

As per variety, the said tour will visit a mixture of stadiums and arenas. One of which is scheduled for May 13 at LA's SoFi Stadium. McCartney will be performing a handful of shows in cities that he has never played before in. The tour will start with the very opening night at the Spokane Arena.

In addition, McCartney will be making his live debut in Hollywood, Florida, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He's returning to a few areas that are long overdue for to brace his presence - Baltimore, where he hasn't played since the Beatles came through in 1964; Fort Worth, which last saw a McCartney show since his first post-Beatles outing with the 'Wings Over America' tour of 1976; and Oakland, which he last visited 20 years ago.



Other venues for the tour are Fenway Park in Boston and the brand new Climate Pledge Arena in Seattle, the only location to get a two-night stand.



TAKING OVER CAMERA FROM MICHAEL BAY, JAKE GYLLENHAAL SHOT 'AMBULANCE' SCENES

Hollywood star Jake Gyllenhaal took over the reins for camera and direction from Michael Bay for a scene during the making of the upcoming movie 'Ambulance' thereby surprising his co-star Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, reports 'Variety.'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jake Gyllenhaal took over the reins for camera and direction from Michael Bay for a scene during the making of the upcoming movie 'Ambulance' thereby surprising his co-star Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, reports 'Variety.'

Abdul-Mateen recently told Esquire as part of the magazine's Gyllenhaal cover story, "There were times when he would take the camera from Mike (Bay) and then you look around and Jake is shooting the scene. I had never seen anything like that before. I'm curious about those things, but I would never ask the director if I could shoot a scene."

As quoted by Abdul-Mateen, Gyllenhaal made the entire 'Ambulance' set "his playground" during production. Gyllenhaal often used to wonder as to what filming a Bay movie would be like, adding the filmmaker "can be brash and he can be awkward" on set.



The film stars Abdul-Mateen as an army veteran in the depth of despair, he turns to "brother" Gyllenhaal for help when he needs \$231,000 to pay for his wife's surgery. As a solution, Gyllenhaal cooks up a plan to pull off a \$32 million bank robbery.

Things go downhill when Gyllenhaal's character, who has a checkered past, mistakenly lets a cop,

who ultimately gets shot, into the bank during the robbery. They steal an ambulance to use as a getaway vehicle when the heist goes south. Of course, it turns out to be carrying said police officer and an EMT, turning the already-complicated ordeal into a hostage situation.

The film is set to debut in theaters on April 8.

'JUNO' STAR ELLIOT PAGE'S STORY OF HOW HE COPED WITH HOMOPHOBIA FETCHES \$3 MN

'Pageboy', the memoir of Canadian actor-producer Elliot Page has been sold to Flatiron Books for a sum of \$3 million. The deal was made based on a 49-page proposal shopped by UTA, reports Deadline.

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Pageboy', the memoir of Canadian actor-producer Elliot Page has been sold to Flatiron Books for a sum of \$3 million. The deal was made based on a 49-page proposal shopped by UTA, reports Deadline.

As per Deadline, Page has a truly compelling story to tell about a long battle against homophobic hatred, both in his hometown of Halifax, Nova Scotia and in Hollywood. Before his transition, Page lists several occasions where homophobic bullies bogged him down, with few willing to help. A beer thrown in Toronto, a menacing loudmouth chasing Page into a restaurant in Hollywood, this was something that happened often to Page.

Although the loathsome industry people in Hollywood weren't named,

there was one particular male film director who tried to seduce Page when the latter was 16; and the time that a big movie star - who would later say he was ossified and blacked out in a clumsy apology - berated Page at a party in an outrageous homophobic rant. This second incident happened just after Page had come out as queer. The actor accused Page's bold announcement of being false in a torrent that grew louder. However, nobody in the room, not even Page's closest friends, came to his rescue. It remains unclear if they were shocked, or afraid to say anything because of the powerful position of the actor, who at that time was one of the biggest stars in town.

The memoir will be published in 2023, and has the potential to be groundbreaking not only about transgender identity, but about courage in the face of adversity.

Bob Saget's final role in Designer's new music video is full of surprises

The music video for the song 'Bakin' by American rapper Designer, features American actor, comic and television host Bob Saget in a never seen before avatar in his final role, reports Deadline.

Los Angeles | Agencies

The music video for the song 'Bakin' by American rapper Designer, features American actor, comic and television host Bob Saget in a never seen before avatar in his final role, reports Deadline.

Bob, who passed away in January, can be seen as the chef trying to give a different meaning to the song title, working at a party house in the Hollywood Hills where parental guidance is definitely suggested. The music video features an opening cameo by Snoop Dogg, who suggests that Designer "Get Bob on the job."

The video shows Saget cooking some bacon and grabbing cash in the kitchen, along with porn star Kendra Sunderland. The song presents a different side of Saget that was only known to friends and comedy clubgoers. His fans, who know him only through his Full



House character, Danny Tanner, are in for a surprise with the video.

As per Deadline, the music video was shot in December, just a few weeks before Saget's death on January 9 in an Orlando, Florida hotel room. The end of the video has a memorial, with "Rest In Peace Bob Saget" and added footage from the shoot.

'DESPICABLE ME 4' RELEASE PLANNED FOR 2024, SPINOFF TO HIT SCREENS THIS JULY 1

Los Angeles | Agencies

The release date of the animated movie, 'Despicable Me 4', has been announced. The film, which will see Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Pierre Coffin, Miranda Cosgrove and Steve Coogan returning to their parts, will arrive in cinemas on July 3, 2024, reports 'Variety'.

The next chapter of the animated, family-friendly series about a reformed super-villain and his army of yellow Minions, will see Chris Renaud's return as director along with Patrick Delage as co-director for the script penned by Mike White. Renaud directed the first two 'Despicable Me' movies. The film will be produced jointly by Universal Pictures and Illumination.

Before the release of 'Despicable Me 4', Illumination and Universal will release an original animated film about a family of ducks, titled 'Migration', on June 30, 2023. Benjamin Renner will direct 'Migration', which is written by White and produced by Illumination founder Chris Meledandri. Apart from this, the second 'Despicable Me' spinoff, 'Minions: The Rise of Gru', is set to hit theatres on July 1 after being delayed by two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The movie will trace Gru's childhood exploits and his attempts to join a supervillain team called Vicious 6.

HOLLYWOOD RELEASES: TOM HANKS-STARRER 'A MAN CALLED OTTO', WHITNEY BIOPIC FOR XMAS SEASON

Los Angeles | Agencies

'A Man Called Otto', starring Tom Hanks, has been booked for a Christmas Day release. The film was acquired by Sony last week for \$60 million out of the European Film Market, reports 'Variety'.

Directed by Marc Forster with a screenplay adapted by David Magee from a best-selling novel by Fredrik Backman, the film narrates the story of a grumpy widower who holds the rest of his neighbourhood to his staunch rules.

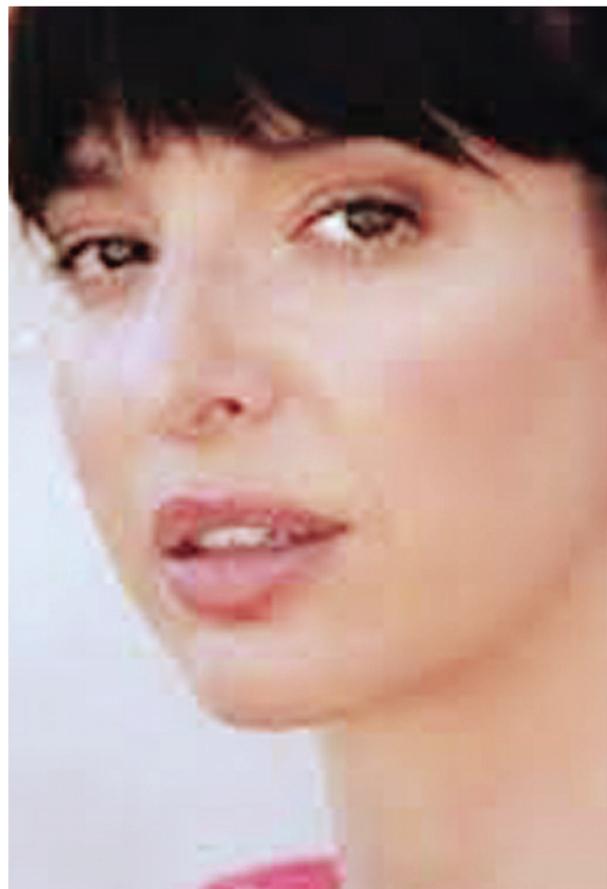
But just as Otto is about to give up on his life, he sparks a new friendship with his neighbours, prompting him to undergo a transformation.

The Whitney Houston biopic 'I Wanna Dance With Somebody' will be released within days of the Tom Hanks-starrer.

With Naomi Ackie playing Houston, the film has been moved from December 23 to December 21 to accommodate the release of 'A Man Called Otto' and to avoid a box-office clash.

The film, with screenplay by Anthony McCarten, will see filmmaker Kasi Lemmons taking the director's chair to helm the cast of Stanley Tucci, Nafessa Williams, Clarke Peters, Tamara Tunie and Ashton Sanders.

Meanwhile, Scott Beck and Bryan Woods's '65', starring Adam Driver, Ariana Greenblatt and Chloe Coleman, has been delayed by a year to April 14, 2023.



Missing since Feb 13, 'Chicago Justice' actress Lindsey Pearlman found dead

Los Angeles | Agencies

Details of her disappearance and death were not immediately available, according to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). An update posted on the LAPD website and quoted by 'Variety' reads: "Today around 8:30 a.m., Hollywood Area officers responded to a radio call for a death investigation at Franklin Avenue and North Sierra Bonita Avenue."

The update further read: "The L.A. County Coroner's Office has since confirmed the individual to be Lindsey Erin Pearlman. The cause of death will be determined by the coroner."

According to the LAPD website, Pearlman was last seen on February 13 at 12 noon in the 1600 Block of N. Mariposa Ave. in Los Angeles. Her husband, Vance Smith, took to his Instagram to share the update.

Smith wrote: "The police found Lindsey. She's gone. I'm broken. I will share more later, but I wanted to thank everyone for their love and efforts and ask you to respect the privacy of her family at this time."

Missing since Feb 13, 'Chicago Justice' actress Lindsey Pearlman found dead

Los Angeles | Agencies

TV actress Lindsey Pearlman, who is known for her work in shows such as 'General Hospital' and the legal drama series, 'Chicago Justice', was found dead on Friday (US Pacific Standard Time) after being reported missing, reports 'Variety.'

Details of her disappearance and death were not immediately available, according to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). An update posted

on the LAPD website and quoted by 'Variety' reads: "Today around 8:30 a.m., Hollywood Area officers responded to a radio call for a death investigation at Franklin Avenue and North Sierra Bonita Avenue." The update further read: "The L.A. County Coroner's Office has since confirmed the individual to be Lindsey Erin Pearlman. The cause of death will be determined by the coroner." Smith wrote: "The police found Lindsey. She's gone."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Nicky Hilton



MUMBAI ANNOUNCED AS HOST CITY FOR IOC SESSION IN 2023

The city of Mumbai on Saturday was announced as the host of the 2023 International Olympic Committee's (IOC) session after successfully bidding for it in the 139th IOC session being held in Beijing alongside the ongoing Winter Olympics. This will be the second time India will host an IOC session after hosting it in New Delhi, 1983.



Batra and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur. Mumbai received 99 per cent of the votes from the delegates participating in the process, with 75 members endorsing its candidature to host the IOC session in 2023. "I thank Nita Ambani for her vision and leadership and also thank all my IOC Member colleagues for their support, I cannot wait to see you here in Mumbai next year. This is the start of a new era for India sport -- an era that features the long-term goal of hosting the Olympic Games in India. We are ambitious and recognise our objectives are bold," said Batra. The session, to be held in the summer of 2023, will be hosted at the Jio World Convention Centre (JWC) in Bandra Kurla Complex at Mumbai.

The JWC will start operations in early 2022. "But India is on an exciting journey and we want the Olympic Movement to play a central part in building a brighter future for our next generation. Delivering a truly memorable IOC Session in Mumbai in 2023, with a strong emphasis on youth potential, sustainability, and innovation, will be one of the first steps to showcase India's new sporting capacity," added Batra. An IOC session is the annual meeting of the members of the IOC, comprising 101 voting members and 45 honorary members. It discusses and decides on the key activities of the global Olympics movement including adoption or amendment of the Olympic Charter, election of IOC members and office

bearers and election of the host city of Olympics. "The Olympic Movement is back to India after a 40-year wait! I am truly grateful to the International Olympic Committee for entrusting India with the honour of hosting the IOC Session in Mumbai in 2023. This will be a significant development for India's Olympic aspiration and will herald the start of a new era for Indian sport," said Nita Ambani. "Sport has always been a beacon of hope and inspiration for millions around the world," she added. "We are one of the youngest countries in the world today and I'm excited for the youth of India to embrace and experience first-hand the magic of the Olympics. It is our dream to strengthen this partnership further and host the Olympic Games in India in the years to come!" In her speech to the IOC delegates in the virtual session, Nita said, "Nearly half of India's population, over 600 million, are under 25 years of age. This makes India one of the most crucial and exciting places to nurture and grow the Olympic Movement. Inspired by the Olympic Values Education Programme, it is our mission to identify potential talent and guide them to greatness in the world of sport, coincide with the Olympic Session 2023, we propose to launch a series of elite sports development programmes for youth across deprived communities."

Rohit Sharma named Test captain as Pujara, Rahane dropped from squad against Sri Lanka

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rohit Sharma on Saturday was named as the Test captain of India when chief selector Chetan Sharma announced the squad for three T20Is and two Tests against Sri Lanka. Sharma also announced that senior batters Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane were dropped from the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka in March.

Sharma said in the virtual press conference that both batters had been spoken to about the decision and have been told to get runs in the ongoing 2021/22 Ranji Trophy. He added that the Indian team is looking to groom future captains under Sharma.

The appointment of Sharma, already the white-ball captain of India, makes him the full-time all-format skipper for India, completing his takeover from Virat Kohli. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah, rested from the white-ball series against West Indies, will be serving as Sharma's deputy in Tests as well as T20Is.

Ravindra Jadeja makes a comeback to the Sri Lanka series from injury which caused him to miss the second Test against New Zealand and the tours of South Africa and West Indies. In the Test squad, Wriddhiman Saha and Ishant Sharma failed to find spots while Uttar Pradesh's left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar is the new face alongside a returning Kuldeep Yadav. In the T20I squad against Sri Lanka, Sanju Samson will be the back-up keeper-batter as Rishabh Pant and Virat Kohli have been sent home for rest ahead of the third T20I against the West Indies on Sunday and T20Is against Sri Lanka. Sharma further gave fitness updates on other injured cricketers. Shardul Thakur has been given a rest from the Sri Lanka series while Washington Sundar and KL Rahul, nursing hamstring and upper thigh



strain injuries, are ruled out for the entirety of the Sri Lanka series. He also said that Ashwin, undergoing rehab for his injury at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), will be assessed by team management ahead of Mohali Test and hoped that left-arm spinner Axar Patel will be fit by the second Test in Bengaluru. The T20Is against Sri Lanka begins from Lucknow on February 24 followed by second and third matches at Dharamshala on February 26 and 27. The Tests will be held in Mohali and Bengaluru from March 4 to 8 and March 12 to 16 respectively. T20I squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan (wicketkeeper), Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Jasprit Bumrah (vice-captain), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Harshal Patel, Mohammed Siraj, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav and Avesh Khan. Test Squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Mayank Agarwal, Priyank Panchal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), KS Bharat (wicketkeeper), Ravichandran Ashwin (subject to fitness), Ravindra Jadeja, Jayant Yadav, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah (vice-captain), Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav and Saurabh Kumar.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The city of Mumbai on Saturday was announced as the host of the 2023 International Olympic Committee's (IOC) session after successfully bidding for it in the 139th IOC session being held in Beijing alongside the ongoing Winter Olympics. This will be the second time India will host an IOC session after hosting it in New Delhi, 1983.

Leading the Indian presentation in Beijing were Abhinav Bindra, the country's first individual Olympics gold medalist in 2008, IOC Member Nita Ambani, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder

3rd T20I: India look to test bench strength, West Indies eye elusive win

With the series already in their kitty, India will look to experiment and test their bench strength when they take on West Indies in the third and final T20I at the Eden Gardens, here on Sunday.

Kolkata | Agencies

With the series already in their kitty, India will look to experiment and test their bench strength when they take on West Indies in the third and final T20I at the Eden Gardens, here on Sunday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma has often stressed that the side wants to give certain players a consistent run but India will make at least two changes with Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant rested for the final match. With the T20 World Cup scheduled in less than eight months in Australia, the Indian team has been trying to build as many options as possible for every possible slot. In the absence of KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan opened the innings for India along with Rohit Sharma. However, he has failed to impress with his batting performances and struggled against both fast and spin bowling. Ishan, who picked by Mumbai Indians for a whopping Rs 15.25 crore in the IPL mega auction recently has crawled to scores of 35 off 42 and 2 off 10 balls so far in the



series. In his place, Ruturaj Gaikwad, who last played a T20I in July 2021, could be given a chance in the last match. In the middle-order, Shreyas Iyer is likely to replace Kohli. Other middle batters Suryakumar Yadav, Venkatesh Iyer have done quite well and the team will look to give them a continued run. In the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, Harshal Patel has shown his death-bowling expertise, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar proved he still had it in him, and Ravi Bishnoi bagged wickets with an economy under six in both games combined. It remains to be seen whether India will make any change in their bowling attack. They have Shardul Thakur, ohammed Siraj, Avesh Khan and Kuldeep Yadav as options. On the other hand, the Windies are yet

to win a match in ongoing tour of India, having lost the preceding ODI series 0-3. In the opening game, the Kieron Pollard-led side lost its footing after a good powerplay and could post only 157. In the second, they were chasing in dewy conditions but left too much for the end by posting just 41 runs in the powerplay and 73 in the first ten and eventually lost the game. However, the likes of Rovman Powell, Nicholas Pooran have impressed with their batting performance. The visitors have also not found much support from their sixth bowler, possibly because they have played only two frontline bowlers and the rest of the job rests with their numerous all-rounders. West Indies were also beaten in the boundary count by the hosts and that is one area Pollard's men will look order void the whitewash.

India's Chandni goes down to Korean in WBO Asia-Pacific title bout

Indian pugilist Chandni Mehra went down to Korean Bo Mi Re Shin by a TKO in the 8th round in the WBO Asia-Pacific women's title fight at Gangwan-do, Korea, on Saturday.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian pugilist Chandni Mehra went down to Korean Bo Mi Re Shin by a TKO in the 8th round in the WBO Asia-Pacific women's title fight at Gangwan-do, Korea, on Saturday.

The 20-year-old boxer from Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, took the home favourite and much more fancied 27-year-old Bo Mi Re Shin until the 8th round before the referee stopped the contest. Chandni, who had suffered the first-ever knockout of her career in this fight in the 8th round, informed the Indian Boxing Council, which has been handling domestic affairs for Indian professional boxers in collaboration with the World Boxing Council. The IBC has been set up to offer a "pathway for domestic championship success for aspiring professional boxers throughout the region and afford Indian fighters more significant global opportunities, using the WBC India as a platform for development, progression, and inclusion".

Both Chandni and Bo Mi Re Shin started the fight aggressively with the intent to lay down a marker in the early rounds. This was the first time that Chandni Mehra was fighting in a



10-round fight. It was always an uphill task considering that the Korean had already had fought three 10-rounder bouts before this fight. The Korean was faster with a wider

repertoire of combinations that she could throw. She led with a left hook and followed that up with solid right hooks which almost every time pierced through Chandni's defences.

The Indian boxer gave a good account of herself in the first six rounds by countering punch-for-punch while standing and delivering blows after blows.

In the 5th round, Chandni looked to have fallen upon a clear game plan to stay on the outside and work on counters. She had some success in the 5th round but, it was quickly negated by the Korean who increased her work rate and target body shots. Chandni had started tiring after the 6th round and Shi Bo quickly attempted to capitalise with body shots that were causing a lot of damage to Chandni.

Early in the 8th round, the Korean came out all guns blazing. A Left hook followed by a right hook caught Chandni very hard on her chin. Shin Bo followed that with a few more hooks. Chandni dropped to the canvas. This was her first-ever knock-down in her 11 fight pro career.

She was tired and had taken a lot of punishment in the 7th and 8th rounds. A few more seconds into the round, the WBO-appointed referee called an end to the fight and declared the fight in favour of the Korean. With this loss, Chandni now has a record of eight wins and three defeats in her 11 fight Pro career.

ICC Men's T20 WC Qualifier A: Oman beat Canada by 9 wickets; Nepal thrash the Philippines

Unbeaten half-centuries by Kashyap Prajapati and skipper Zeeshan Maqsood powered hosts Oman to a nine-wicket win over Canada in the Group A match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A, at the Oman Academy ground, here on Saturday.

Al Amerat | Agencies

Unbeaten half-centuries by Kashyap Prajapati and skipper Zeeshan Maqsood powered hosts Oman to a nine-wicket win over Canada in the Group A match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A, at the Oman Academy ground, here on Saturday.

In the second game, Nepal registered a 136-run win over the Philippines to top the group with four points after their back-to-back victories. Both, Canada and Oman have two points each now. Oman's win helped them bounce back to keep their hopes alive for a spot in the semi-finals. The top two teams in each group will advance to the knockout round. Chasing a target of 156 to win, Oman lost



opening batter, Jatinder Singh, in the fifth over with the total at 30. Maqsood joined Prajapati in the middle and the pair exhibited some fine strokes all around the park. The duo took the attack to the bowlers to share a 129-run unbroken partnership to secure a comfortable win

with 12 balls to spare. Prajapati was unbeaten for 74 off 56 balls and his knock was studded with five boundaries and four sixes. Maqsood displayed more attacking intent to race to his 76 off just 44 balls, with six boundaries and five maximums. On the other

hand, Rayyan Pathan and Matharu went for plenty in their spell as they gave away 24 and 23 runs respectively in their two-over spells.

Earlier, Ravinderpal Singh anchored Canada's innings with a partnership with Saad Zafar to guide the team to 83 before Maqsood broke the stand.

Canadian opening pair Rayyan Pathan and Matthew Spoor -- got off to a bright start. Pathan was in fine form as he found the early boundaries in the power play but was run out in the fifth over for 26, which included four boundaries.

Matthew Spoor, who made a century on his T20I debut on Friday, followed his partner in the pavilion soon as Kaleemullah came up with a splendid wicket- maiden sixth over. Canada skipper Navneet Dhalwal departed in the next over to leave the side at 43-3. Singh and Zafar revived the innings with a 42-run stand.

Oman bowlers restricted their opponents to a 62-3 at the halfway mark. Hamza Tariq and Singh gradually accelerated the run rate as they took 12 off Syed Amir Kaleem's 14th over. Singh finally fell in the 17th over, caught brilliantly by Prajapati off Bilal Khan. Dillon Heyliger struck some hits in the death overs, blasting a six and two successive boundaries in

the 18th over to stay unbeaten on 21 off ten balls. Tariq ended Canada's innings with a six to help the team's total of 155 for six.

In another game of the day, Kushal Bhurtel slammed an unbeaten 61-ball century as Nepal defeated the Philippines by 136 runs at Oman Academy 2 ground. Coming out to bat after the Philippines won the toss, Nepal scored 218/3 in their 20 overs. Opener Aasif Sheikh was sent back for a duck in the second over and soon after, Kushal Malla followed.

A 171-run fourth-wicket stand between Bhurtel and experienced Dipendra Singh Airee (83 off 47) meant that the Philippines went into the break, looking at a big target. Dipendra's innings included six fours and four sixes while Bhurtel's inning was studded with 13 boundaries and one maximum. The Philippines were then restricted to only 82/8 with contributions from Daniel Smith, Jordan Alegria, and captain Jonathan Hull. After defending a low score against Oman on Friday, Nepal were impressive with the ball once again. Sandeep Lamichhane led from the front, with figures of 3/9. This is the third-highest margin of victory in T20 Internationals for Nepal. After a rest day on Sunday, Nepal will face Canada whilst the Philippines take on Oman on Monday.



Mohit Chauhan, Saumya Upadhyay lend their voice to 'Teri Ada'

Mohit Chauhan along with Saumya Upadhyay has given voice to the new song titled 'Teri Ada', featuring popular TV actors Mohsin Khan and Shivangi Joshi.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mohit Chauhan along with Saumya Upadhyay has given voice to the new song titled 'Teri Ada', featuring popular TV actors Mohsin Khan and Shivangi Joshi.

The lyrics to this were penned by Kunaal Vermaa. The music is given by Kaushik-Guddu and the film is directed by Aditya Datt. Sharing her excitement about the song, Saumya Upadhyay says: "This new music video has filled my heart with excitement and I cannot wait to discern the response it gets. I'm so elated and pleased that I stood a chance to work with the beloved singer Mohit Chauhan." "It was a great experience to work on a project that was surrounded by so many talents. I hope that this music video takes its place in everyone's playlist," adds the singer who has shared the stage with stars like late composer and singer Bappi Lahiri, Rishi Kapoor, Ila Arun, and others.

Ravi Bhatia to star in Naseem Khan's 'Zufash'

Actor Ravi Bhatia is excited to star in the upcoming Bollywood movie 'Zufash', directed by Naseem Khan and Sakib Shaikh.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ravi Bhatia is excited to star in the upcoming Bollywood movie 'Zufash', directed by Naseem Khan and Sakib Shaikh.

Ravi says: "I'm very much delighted to star in the upcoming movie 'Zufash'. Naseem is a very good friend and working along with him is a wonderful experience. I'm playing the hero in the movie and my role this time will be a treat for my audience."

Ravi rose to fame after he essayed the role of Salim in Ekta Kapoor's 'Jodha Akbar' and there was no looking back for him. He also featured in shows 'Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat', 'Hamaari Beti Raaj Karegi', 'Do Dil Bandhe Ek Dori Se', 'Ishq Subhan Allah' among others. Earlier he made a successful run on digital platforms with 'Shukla The Tiger'.

Ravi was in Kashmir for the shoot.

He says: "I was shooting in Kashmir for the movie. And we as a team had a great time shooting there in a very cold climate. It will be a great memory for life."

The film is produced by Yahya Ibrahim. It stars popular actors like Mushtaq Kak, Amit Antil, and Vikas Shukla, among others.



AAKANKSHA SAREEN TALKS ABOUT PLAYING PROMINENT ROLE IN PUNJABI FILM 'GURMUKH'

Punjabi film actress Aakanksha Sareen best known for her hit songs like 'Teeji Seat', 'Dil Darda' and roles in Punjabi films like 'Dulla Vaily', Amrindra Gill's 'Angrej' and many more, now will be next seen in the film 'Gurmukh'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Punjabi film actress Aakanksha Sareen best known for her hit songs like 'Teeji Seat', 'Dil Darda' and roles in Punjabi films like 'Dulla Vaily', Amrindra Gill's 'Angrej' and many more, now will be next seen in the film 'Gurmukh'.

She will be starring alongside Kuljinder Singh Sidhu and Sara Guralp. The film is directed by Pali Bhupinder Singh and it has been produced by Rana Ahluwalia and Jasbir Dhillon is set to release this year soon.

Aakanksha gets candid about her role and working experience in the film.

Talking about the film she says: "Gurmukh" is made on a very sensitive topic. It highlights a very serious subject. It emphasises on how the society works in terms of values, good deeds and helping each other for a better environment. It is directed by a very fine writer Pali Bhupinder who has written many hit Punjabi films like

'Laavan Phere', 'Lock' by Gippy Grewal and 'Mein Teri Tu Mera'. He has directed the film in a brilliant way. The audience will love what he has to display."

Revealing about her role, she adds: "I have a very prominent role in the film. The entire film and storyline is based on my role and what happens with it. It is the core subject of the film and people will love to see me doing something extremely different and challenging which I have never done before."

Sharing her working experience with Kuljinder Singh and Sara Guralp she adds: "The experience was wonderful. I have already worked 2-3 times with Sara on the sets of music videos. We are super friendly with each other and share a decent friendship. After the pack up, we would sometimes go to her home and enjoy a lot. She is a wonderful co actor to work with." "However, with Kuljinder Singh ji, it was my first time. I learnt a lot from him by just observing him. He is such a fine actor that you can really learn a lot from him as an artist."

Javed Akhtar reads out a poem, Shankar sings as Farhan marries Shibani

One of Bollywood's foremost talents, Farhan Akhtar, tied the knot with his long-time girlfriend, reality show regular Shibani Dandekar, on Saturday at Javed Akhtar's Sukun farmhouse in Khandala on the outskirts of Mumbai.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One of Bollywood's foremost talents, Farhan Akhtar, tied the knot with his long-time girlfriend, reality show regular Shibani Dandekar, on Saturday at Javed Akhtar's Sukun farmhouse in Khandala on the outskirts of Mumbai.

Javed Akhtar, Farhan's father, read out a poem that he had especially composed for the occasion. Farhan was dressed in a black tuxedo; Shibani stuck to a traditional red-and-cream wedding outfit. They read out vows they had written themselves.

After the wedding, the newlyweds were treated to a song by Shankar Mahadevan. The singer sang the title track from Farhan's directorial debut film 'Dil Chahta Hai', which got the guests swaying to the music.

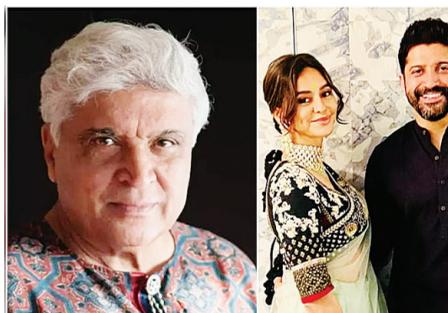
The guest list at Saturday's close-knit celebration included Farhan's 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' co-star Hrithik Roshan, who was with his parents, Rakesh and Vinnie Roshan, musical trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, director-choreographer Farah Khan (who's also Farhan's first cousin), directors Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra and Ashutosh Gowariker, Farhan's creative and business partner, Excel Entertainment co-founder Ritesh Sidhwani, and the couple's close friend, Rhea Chakraborty, who came along with her brother, Shouvik.

On the night before the wedding, Shibani's sister, VJ Anusha Dandekar, danced to the DDLJ number, 'Mehndi Laga Ke Rakhna', with Rhea. Farhan and Shibani had steadfastly stood by Rhea and Shouvik when they were being targeted by the media in the wake of the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide.

Earlier, Shibani had shared a picture of her wedding footwear on Instagram. She wrote over the picture of her red heels: "Let's do this."

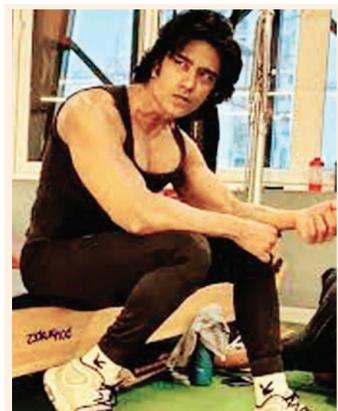
This is 48-year-old Farhan's second marriage. Adhuna Bhabani, hairstylist and founder of BBlunt, is his first wife and mother of their two daughters, Shakya (22) and Akira (15).

Farhan and Shibani first met on the sets of the 2015 reality show 'I Can Do It', which the actor-director-singer had hosted. The two started dating soon thereafter and made their first



public appearance as a couple during Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone's wedding reception.

Pune-born Shibani, who acted in Farhan's sister Zoya Akhtar's 2015 film 'Roy', starring Ranbir Kapoor, was raised in Australia and Africa. Shibani started life as a singer -- she and her two sisters had a band named D-Major -- before turning into a model and reality show regular (she's a former 'Khatron Ke Khiladi' and 'Jhalak Dikha Jaa' participant). She was also one of the television hosts of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup held in England and Wales.



VINIT KAKAR ONCE AGAIN TEAMS UP WITH CAST OF 'RADHAKRISHN' IN VOICE ROLE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Vinit Kakar has once again joined the cast of the mythological television show 'RadhaKrishn' as a voice artiste. Earlier he had feature as the voice of Garuda, and now he will give his voice for Dwividha, an animated creation.

Vinit says: "I enjoy my collaboration with the team of 'RadhaKrishn'. Earlier I played the role of Shishupal

'RANG SONEYA' POSTER FEATURING PRATIK SEHAJPAL, AROOB KHAN SETS MOOD FOR TRACK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The poster of the upcoming song 'Rang Soneya' featuring the first runner-up of 'Bigg Boss 15' Pratik Sehajpal and Aroob Khan was released on Saturday.

The romantic number has been performed by Aroob with lyrics penned by Babbu and music composed by Black Virus.

Sharing his excitement about the poster of Rang Soneya, Pratik Sehajpal says, "I am very excited that I don't have to keep 'Rang Soneya' a secret anymore. This was one of my first projects after 'Bigg Boss 15'. I'm happy to be sharing this poster with listeners and viewers."

Aroob Khan says, "We're in February, the month of love and to have sung my interpretation of love through 'Rang Soneya' is truly special. Working with Pratik, who has



a phenomenal energy has been amazing. I hope the listeners are as excited about the poster as all of us."

The song will be released on February 23 via music label Desi Music Factory.

Commenting on the poster launch Anshul Garg, Founder, and CEO, Desi Music Factory says, "It's a pleasure to have collaborated with Pratik Sehajpal for the very first time. 'Rang Soneya' represents the Indian way of expressing love.

and Takshak in the show. Later, I gave voice for the animated character Garuda and now I'm excited to be voice for Dwividha, who was a huge monkey in our mythological tales. Dwividha was very significant during Ramayana."

Vinit was last seen in the role of demon 'Mayasur' in the mythological drama 'Baal Shiv', reveals he shares a great rapport with Sumedh Mudgalkar who plays Lord Krishna.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Hansika Motwani