

# absolute india

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## LATA MANGESHKAR: THE NIGHTINGALE OF INDIA, PASSES AWAY

Lata Mangeshkar, India's most loved singer who had once moved Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to tears, leaves behind a teary-eyed nation of admirers who grew up listening to her immutable voice give wings to the words of poets and the screen careers of legions of heroines. She was lovingly addressed as the 'Nightingale of India'. The singer was admitted to Breach Candy hospital on January 8, 2022 since she was tested Covid positive and was later diagnosed with pneumonia. Though having recovered from Covid the singer was put on ventilator support after her condition worsened on Saturday.

### LATA DIDI'S BODY CONSIGNED TO FLAMES

Mumbai: Amid chanting of vedic hymns and elaborate rituals performed by Hindu priests, legendary singer Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar's mortal remains were consigned to flames in a public funeral with full state honours, held at Shivaji Park, here on Sunday evening. After the mourners paid their last respects to Lata's body draped in the National Tricolour on a flower-bedecked pedestal, the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force contingents sounded the Last Post and accorded a salute as the gathering stood in attention. Shortly after the religious rituals were completed, the Mumbai Police contingent honoured her with another gun salute booming above the Shivaji Park. Then, the sole brother among the five sibling, Hridaynath Mangeshkar stepped forward with other family members and he lit the funeral pyre with grief writ on his face - as his legendary Lata became immortal in a cloud of smoke - around 7.15 p.m., 11 hours after she breathed her last at 8.12 a.m. in the morning.



### PM MODI PAYS LAST RESPECTS

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday evening paid his respects to the mortal remains of legendary singer Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar, whom he referred to as his 'Badi Didi' (elder sister). Modi was among the first of VVIPs who went to the spot where Lata's body was kept for people to pay their last respects at Shivaji Park. He was accompanied by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, and other dignitaries like Deputy CM Ajit Pawar and Union Minister Piyush Goyal, many of whom enjoyed family relations with the Mangeshkars. Several top Bollywood personalities including superstar Shah Rukh Khan and wife Gauri, Javed Akhtar, Shankar Desai, Madhur Bhandarkar, Anuradha Paudwal, Shradha Kapoor and others were present at the funeral besides several thousands of ordinary Mumbaikars mourning for the departed singer.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's Melody Queen, who also composed music for Marathi films and was a producer as well, and had the distinction of being conferred with the highest civilian honours of India and France, passed away on Sunday morning at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai, where she had been admitted because of Covid-related complications on January 11. Lata Didi, as she was known among her family and followers, was 92 and is survived by her siblings -- playback singer and composer Meena Khadilkar, popular singer and restaurateur Asha Bhosale, singer Usha Mangeshkar, and music director Hridayanath Mangeshkar.

She never married, but was close to the late Raj Singh Dungarpur, the aristocratic former cricketer and President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from 1996 to 1999.

One of India's most loved voices, Lata Mangeshkar was the recipient of three National Film Awards, seven Filmfare awards, and of course, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1989. She was conferred the Bharat Ratna in 2001, becoming the second singer after M.S. Subbulakshmi to be so honoured, and the French awarded her the Officer of the Legion of Honour.

Born in what was then the princely state of Indore on September 28, 1929, to the classical singer, Marathi theatre actor and writer of musical plays Deenanath Mangeshkar and his wife Shevanti (Shudhamati), Lata Mangeshkar was originally named Hema by her parents, but they later changed it to Lata after the character Latika from one of her father's musical plays. Lata Mangeshkar's association

### 'INDIA HAS LOST A GREAT DAUGHTER': MANMOHAN SINGH

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has offered condolences on the demise of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar who passed away on Sunday morning and said India has lost its great daughter. In a statement the former Prime Minister said, "I have learnt with deepest sorrow about the passing away of Lata Mangeshkar. India has lost a great daughter. She was the 'Nightingale of India' and through her songs made an



immense contribution to the cultural integration of the country. Her passing away is an immense loss to our nation and the void is going to be impossible to fill." The Congress official Twitter handle said: "The passing away of legendary singer Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar ji comes as a huge loss for our country. Her voice mesmerised millions, and inspired people all over the world. Our condolences to her family, friends and fans."

with the performing arts began when she was five and started appearing in her father's musical plays, and it continued even after her father's premature death in 1942.

It was Master Vinayak who took Lata Mangeshkar to Mumbai, paved her way into the world of Marathi cinema, got her to take Hindustani classical music lessons from Ustad Aman Ali Khan of the Bhandi Bazaar Gharana, and introduced her to Vasant Desai, V. Shantaram's favourite music composer.

But it was not until Master Vinayak's death in 1948 that the struggling singer-actor found the person whom she considered to be her "godfather" -- the music composer Ghulam Haider, who gave Lata Mangeshkar her first big break with the song 'Dil Mera Toda, Mujhe Kahin Ka Na Chhora' in the

movie 'Majboor' (1948). It was her first big break. Haider took his protégé to Shashadhar Mukherjee, the Filmistan boss for his film, 'Shaheed' (1948), but he turned her down because he found her voice to be "too thin".

Lata Mangeshkar proved him oh-so wrong just a year later when her song 'Aayega Aanewala', filmed on the gorgeous Madhubala in Kamal Amrohi's debut directorial, 'Mahal' (1949), became an ageless hit.

Since 'Mahal', Lata Mangeshkar was courted by just about every music director of note -- from Anil Biswas to S.D. Burman (and his son Rahul Dev, whose first and last song she sang), Naushad (who had asked her to sing like the then reigning nightingale, Noorjehan), Madan Mohan, Shankar-Jaikishan, Laxmikant-Pyarelal (for

### PAKISTAN MOURNS DEMISE OF INDIA'S NIGHTINGALE

Islamabad: Legendary playback singer Lata Mangeshkar's demise has left her fans across the world saddened and heartbroken.

As soon as the news of her sad demise was announced, people from all walks of life, including Pakistani leaders and celebrities turned to social media to pay tribute to the veteran singer, Geo News reported.

Expressing his grief and sorrow over the demise of Lata Mangeshkar, Pakistan Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said that Lata ruled the world of music for decades and the magic of her voice will live on forever. He said wherever Urdu is spoken and understood, there were admirers of Lata Mangeshkar. "A legend is no more, #LataMangeshkar was a melodious queen who ruled the world of music for decades," he wrote.

whom she's said to have sung 700 songs in 35 years), and Kalyanji-Anandji.

And she worked with every contemporary composer of note -- from Anand-Milind, sons of Chitragupt, with whom she had also worked, and Anu Malik, Sardar Malik's son, to Ilaiyaraaja and A.R. Rahman. It is said she worked with music directors from 13 states in her star-studded career. In 1974, the Guinness Book of Records listed Lata Mangeshkar as the most recorded artiste in human history, stating that

### 2-DAY NATIONAL MOURNING

New Delhi: Centre has decided to give a state funeral and observe two-day national mourning on the sad demise of the Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced on Sunday. According to the MHA officials, the Union government has also decided that as a mark of respect, two days of state mourning will be observed from Sunday (February 6) and Monday (February 7). "During State Mourning, the National Flag will be flown at half-mast both days throughout India and there will be no official entertainment.

### World mourn for 'Nightingale of India'

New Delhi: Music has no borders. When the world heard the news of the demise of 'Nightingale of India' Lata Mangeshkar, condolence messages started pouring in. "We join India in paying tribute to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who passed away today at the age of 92. History will mark her contribution to India's music in golden words. #LataMangeshkar #LataDidi", wrote the US Embassy in India in its message. "We are saddened to hear about the demise of the Nightingale of India, #LataMangeshkar Ji. Her contribution to music and her voice will always be remembered. We join the people of India in mourning. May her memory be a blessing. Om Shanti," wrote Embassy of Israel in India in its condolence message.

"Deeply saddened by the demise of Bharat Ratna #LataMangeshkar. An institution in herself, she was conferred Officier de la Légion d'honneur in recognition of her incomparable singing career. Our heartfelt condolences to her loved ones and fans across the world," was the message of Emmanuel Lenain, the Ambassador of France in India. "Saddened by the tragic death of #LataMangeshkar, one of India's greatest playback singers for over seven-decades. As the Queen of Melody, her songs spanned every genre & connected cultures through music. She would be remembered for her lasting legacy for generations to come," wrote Farid Mamundzay, the Ambassador of Afghanistan to India.

she had recorded "not less than 25,000 solo, duet and chorus-backed songs in 20 Indian languages" between 1948 and 1974. The claim was contested by her long-time rival, Mohammad Rafi, who claimed to have sung around 28,000 songs. After Rafi's death, the

Guinness Book in its 1984 edition listed Lata Mangeshkar in its entry for 'Most Recordings', but it also recorded Rafi's claim. Later editions of the Guinness Book said Lata Mangeshkar had sung no less than 30,000 songs from 1948 to 1987.

### UNDER-19 CRICKET WORLD CUP

## India clinches record-extending 5th title

Antigua | Agencies

**THIS IS INDIA'S RECORD FIFTH TITLE IN THE TOURNAMENT'S HISTORY AND CAME AFTER PREVIOUSLY WINNING IT IN 2000, 2008, 2012 AND 2018. THE YASH DHULL-LED INDIA U19 FINISHED THE TOURNAMENT WITH AN UNBEATEN RUN IN THE WEST INDIES, FLAUNTING THE STRENGTH OF THE ASSEMBLY LINE OF NEXT-GEN INDIA CRICKETERS.**



here on Saturday. With this, Dhull joins the illustrious list of captains -- Mohammad Kaif (2000), Virat Kohli (2008), Unmukt Chand (2012), Prithvi Shaw (2018) -- who have lifted the U19 trophy for India in the past. A superb bowling performance by Raj Bawa (5/31) and Ravi Kumar (4/34) helped India bowl out England for 189 despite a fighting fifty by James Rew (95). In reply, Shaik Rasheed (50 off 84) and Nishant Sindhu (50 not out off 54) smashed fifties while Raj Bawa (35 off 54) also played a vital knock and helped India chase the target in 47.4 overs, with four wickets in hand.

### CHANNI DECLARED AS CONGRESS CM FACE FOR PUNJAB POLLS

Ludhiana | Agencies

Just two weeks ahead of Assembly polls in the Congress-ruled Punjab, party leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday announced incumbent Charanjit Singh Channi as the party's chief ministerial face for the polls. State party chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, who was in the race, hugged Channi on the stage as Gandhi announced his name after over 45 min-

utes of his speech, televised across the 117 Assembly seats. Political observers believe the decision of the Congress to go to the polls in the state, which is witnessing a five-cornered contest, under the leadership of Channi, the state's first Dalit Chief Minister, is to woo the Dalit Sikh votes that are 32 per cent in the state. "It is Punjab's decision. It is not my decision. I didn't decide. I asked workers,



candidates, MLAs, people, youth of Punjab. What people said has led me to my final decision," said Gandhi during his address at the 'Aawaz Punjab Di' virtual rally. He praised Channi for his humble background.



# MYANMAR REFUGEES' NUMBER IN MIZORAM RISE TO OVER 22K

AIZAWL | Agencies

With fresh influx of around 8,000 refugees in the last one week following the violent clashes between the Myanmar army and the local civilian defence forces in Chin state of the neighbouring country, the number of Myanmar who crossed over to the bordering Indian state has risen to over 22,000, officials said on Sunday.

According to officials, over 8,000 displaced people including women and children braving the chilly winter had crossed the international unfenced border and took shelter in Mizoram during the past one week.

"The hapless men, women and children had crossed the Tiau river by small country boat and were tracking the forested routes reached in different districts of Mizoram," a Mizoram government official told IANS, refusing to be quoted.

Though six of Mizoram's 11 districts - Champai, Siaha, Lawngtlai, Serchhip, Hnahthial and Saitual share an unfenced 510 km long international border with Myanmar's Chin state - the displaced Myanmar also took shelter in Mizoram's other districts - Aizawl, Lunglei, Khawzawl. Among



The Mizoram districts, over 8,000 immigrants took shelter in Champai district alone.

The majority of those who have taken shelter belong to the Chin community, also known as the Zo community, who share the same ancestry, ethnicity and culture as the Mizos of Mizoram. The mountainous north-eastern state has been witnessing the influx of refugees from Myanmar

since the military junta seized power through a coup on February 1 last year. The refugees include some law-makers and Myanmar leaders.

Chief Minister Zoramthanga had written several letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to provide relief, required aids and asylum to the Myanmar nationals as the state government was facing a financial crisis to deal with the Covid-

19 pandemic and related problems.

Several delegations from Mizoram led by state's Lok Sabha member C. Lalrosanga and Rajya Sabha member K. Vanlalvena had also met Union ministers including Union Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister G. Kishan Reddy in Delhi and senior officials of Home and External Affairs Ministries over the Myanmar nationals and requested them to provide shelter officially and release financial assistance. Mizoram Planning Board Vice Chairman H. Rammavi, who is closely dealing with the Myanmar refugee affairs, said that the Chief Minister, besides writing letters, has also talked to Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah over phone on a number of occasions, requesting them to extend humanitarian assistance to the Myanmar refugees.

Mizoram's MPs and Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister, Rosangzuala are regularly in touch with Central ministers and officials to provide financial assistance and other support to the refugees.

Earlier, Reddy while talking to the Mizoram MPs indicated to treat the Myanmar refugees as "tourists" not refugees.

# Delimitation draft report seems to be an exercise in disruption: JKPC

The Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) led by Sajad Lone on Sunday said that the delimitation draft report seems to be an exercise in disruption.

SRINAGAR | Agencies

J&K People's Conference always believed that the exercise of delimitation was an attempt to disempower and disenfranchise the people of Kashmir and we still believe that this process is designed to disempower the people of Kashmir," a statement by JKPC said.

"The delimitation commission's refusal to change its earlier assertions are least surprising. And as if to add salt to the wounds of the Kashmiris we have a new wondrous invention in the form of a parliamentary constituency invented by merging two regions - South Kashmir and Rajouri."

The statement added that the inhabitants of these two regions have totally different aspirations, the problems and challenges they face are completely different, and the topography is different and



yet for reasons best known to the commission they actually merged two distinct regions to carve out a single Parliamentary Constituency.

"The people of Kashmir are going through some of the most troubled times. There seems to be no let up in belittling them and showing them their place. Irrationalism is an ugly and a sad constant in the delimitation exercise. And it is not the macro division only. Even

when it comes to internal redrawing of the respective constituencies, there is a lot of invention and creation," the statement said.

"This whole exercise seems to be an exercise in disruption. They are trying to act as the new disruptors - disrupt the political system, disrupt the political equilibrium and disrupt and confuse the existing political class," the statement added.

# MAN LYNCHED IN UP AFTER HITTING CYCLIST

Bhadohi (UP): A 30-year-old man was allegedly lynched in Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi after he lost control of the vehicle he was driving and hit a cyclist.

Munshi Gautam, a Dalit, was driving a tractor in an inebriated state when he lost control of the vehicle after going over a speed breaker and hit the cyclist in Berwa Paharpur village.

As he tried to flee, he was caught by the local people and beaten to death.

Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar said: "As people tried to catch him, he accelerated in a bid to escape but hit a tree and fell on the road. The crowd caught hold of him and physically assaulted him. Later, he was taken to the community health centre where doctors



declared him brought dead." A case has been registered against one Jai

Shankar Pandey and three unknown people, the officer said, adding that Pandey has been arrested.

# 3 PAK SMUGGLERS KILLED BY BSF AT BORDER IN JAMMU'S SAMBA SECTOR

Jammu: Three Pakistani smugglers have been neutralised on the International Border (IB) in the Samba sector of Jammu and 36 packets of narcotics were recovered from them, BSF said on Sunday. "In the early hours of 6 Feb, the alert troops of BSF Jammu neutralized three Pak smugglers who were trying to smuggle Narcotics through Samba International border," BSF said. The Border Security Force (BSF) said a big smuggling attempt was thwarted and 36 packets (Approx 36 kgs) of narcotics, likely to be heroin, were recovered from them.

"The search of the area is in progress," BSF said.

# Chirag Paswan to organise unemployment march on Feb 15

PATNA | Agencies

Lok Janshakti Party (R) chief Chirag Paswan has said he will organise an unemployment protest march in Patna on February 15.

Chirag Paswan held a meeting of party officials and spokespersons and asked them to start preparations for the march to be successful.

The protest march will start from JP roundabout to Raj Bhavan in Patna.

The party did not participate actively in the RRB-NTPC massive protest in Bihar which was held by students recently, com-



pared to other opposition parties like the RJD, Congress, the left parties

and the Pappu Yadav's JAP. Even Jitan Ram Manjhi led HAM and Mukesh Sahani

led VIP participated in the students protest.

Though it was a close door meeting, the party insider said that Chirag Paswan expressed his anger at the party spokespersons and directed them to collect data on policies and initiatives of the Nitish Kumar government on the job front.

"Find irregularities, loopholes and point out before media persons," he asked his party leaders.

Chirag Paswan asked the officials to communicate with members of the party so that they were available during the protest march on February 15.

# Delhi man duped of Rs 9 cr over fake antique items, 2 held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police has arrested two people for allegedly cheating a man of nearly Rs 9 crore on the pretext of providing antique items having radioactive properties that can be later sold to the US space agency NASA at higher price.

The accused were identified as 44-year-old Amit Gupta, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad and 44-year-old Ganesh Ingole, a resident of Maharashtra.

Furnishing details about the case, Delhi Joint Commissioner of Police (CP), Chhaya Sharma said a case was registered on the complaint of the victim Gautam Puri, who alleged that the accused persons - Amit Gupta and Rakesh Goel - approached him regarding sale of antique items that is, rice puffer, radioactive mirror and antique articles and lured him to deal in the same.

The accused duo arranged the complainant's meetings with other accused - Ganesh Ingole, Satyanarain Anoria, among others, who even showed him affiliation



from various Indian and foreign scientific institutes and assured that they are legally

entitled and certified to testify genuineness and authenticity of the antique items.

"The accused persons told the complainant that genuineness of antique items can be checked only by scientists from BARC, DRDO and the archaeological laboratory, and there are rules and regulations which are to be followed in the process of verification of genuineness," the Delhi Joint CP added.

On the assurance of the alleged persons that the market price of antique articles in the international market is Rs 11 crore per inch, the complainant got lured that he will get exponential profit in the deal, but initially he has to incur expenses on testing of antique articles.

The victim was lured to deliver money to the tune of Rs nine crore through cheque, RTGS and in cash to the alleged persons - Amit Gupta, Ganesh Ingole, Rakesh Goel, Satyanarain Anoria, among others, but the latter did not conduct any testing.

The complainant alleged that the accused persons in a very calculated manner by hatching criminal conspiracy caused him wrongful loss of Rs 8.93 crore.

# FIRE BREAKS OUT AT KARKARDOOMA COURT

New Delhi: A fire broke out in the room of an Additional Sessions Judge at the Karkardooma Court in East Delhi, officials said on Sunday.

According to information, the fire erupted was in the court room number 52 of Additional Sessions Judge Manjusha badhwa and at the corridor on the second floor of the five-storey building.

The fire department received a call in this connection at around 3.30 a.m. A fire official said that initially six fire tenders were rushed to the spot, but six more were sent later to control the massive blaze.

The fire was brought under control by 4.20 a.m. and there were no reports of any injuries.

In a second incident in Outer Delhi's Bawana area, a fire broke out in eight shops.

The fire department got a call of the incident at around 3.15 a.m. Six fire engines were rushed to the spot. The fire was extinguished by 4.10 a.m. There were no injuries in this incident either.



# CBI SEEKS SANCTION TO PROBE UNION POWER SECRETARY, AGRICULTURE SECRETARY IN UP PF SCAM



New Delhi: The Union power secretary Alok Kumar and agriculture secretary Sanjay Agarwal may soon be repatriated to their cadre state Uttar Pradesh where the CBI has sought sanction to investigate them in a Rs 2,268 crore PF scam, as per media reports.

Reports said that the order for their repatriation may come "any time" as the Union government does not want to face the embarrassment of having its top officers investigated for corruption. The government, therefore, wants to shift the action to the state.

The CBI has sought the sanction to probe the two officers in a case relating to illegally investing the provident fund of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL) employees in a private company Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL), which was later accused of siphoning off Rs 31,000 crore of bank loans through a web of shell companies, as per the reports.

The UPPCL invested a total of Rs 4,122 crore in short-term fixed deposit schemes of DHFL, out of which Rs 1,854 crore was received on maturation of FDs, but Rs 2,268 crore is still not recovered.

# UP COUNCIL BIENNIAL ELECTIONS PUT OFF TILL AFTER ASSEMBLY POLLS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Election Commission on Sunday rescheduled the biennial election for Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council till after the upcoming Assembly elections, and now the poll process to begin from March 15, as requested by the political parties. According to the new EC notification, in respect of the 29 Constituencies notified on February 4, the process of filing of nomination has been suspended and it shall restart on March 15, while the rest seven constituencies will follow as the same notified earlier.

Now, for all 36 constituencies, March 15 will be the new date for start of nomination while March 19 will be the last date, scrutiny will be held on March 21, and last date for withdrawal of the candidature will be March 23.

Voting to these seats will be held on April 9, counting will take place on April 12, and April 16 will be the date by which the election process will be completed. It was also clar-



ified that the nomination papers that may have been filed in respect of any of the above-mentioned constituencies on February 4-5, shall also be taken up along with other nomination papers that may be filed from the new schedule of March 15.

The Commission move came after considering the representations from various parties and inputs from the UP Chief Election Officer. It said parties have, inter-alia, mentioned about difficulties in simultaneously carrying out their election management matters in

the two elections, that is the Assembly elections and biennial election to the Legislative Council and said that "two elections of different nature may create confusion among the party workers and electors at large".

# PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ASKS GOVT TO CHANGE CODE 'GAY' FOR GAYA AIRPORT

New Delhi: The Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertaking has asked the government to change the code 'GAY' for the Gaya International Airport. In its action taken report tabled in Parliament on Friday, the panel mentioned the issue and asked the government to make all efforts to take up the matter with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and concerned organisations as this issue pertains to inappropriate code naming of an airport of a holy city of India.

The Committee also said that the use of 'GAY' code for Gaya airport is inappropriate for the holy city, therefore the government should try to replace this code with an appropriate one and also suggested an alternative code such as 'YAC'.



### Chouhan Pays Tribute to Swar Kokila Sushri Lata Mangeshkar

# END OF A GREAT ERA OF INDIAN MUSIC: CM SHIVRAJ SINGH

- Passing Away of an Unrivaled and Inimitable Swar Sadhika Is Painful
- Lata Didi Was Not Only a Singer, She Is Like a Special Chapter Recorded in History
- Art Seekers Will Be Inspired for Eternity
- The Whole World Is Sad on the Death of Lata ji.



queen most revered Lata Mangeshkar ji this morning. My heart is troubled. Not only the country, but the whole world has lost such a Swar Sadhika, who gave innumerable songs to bring joy in life with her melodious voice. Lata didi's austere life is a unique chapter of Swar Sadhna.

In a video that he shared on his official Koo handle, Chouhan said on the Indore-born singer's death, "Swar Kokila Lata Mangeshkar is no more. With her passing, an era in Indian music has come to an end. Lata didi, without you this country is deserted, songs and music are deserted, every house is deserted, and the heart is empty."

"No one can ever fill the void you have left behind. Considering you as the goddess of music, we will continue to worship you forever. Salutations at the feet of Lata didi," he added. Chouhan said that Lata ji's personality, refined by her devotion to songs and music, has been a confluence of graciousness, affability and intimacy, which will continue to inspire art seekers till eternity. Praying to God to give place to the departed soul at his lotus feet. Lata didi will always be with all of us with her sweet immortal voice.

Chief Minister said that Lata ji's life has been such a wonderful journey in Hindi and Marathi cinema world as well as in other Indian languages and music, which worked

to connect many generations with songs and music, bringing to life human sensibilities. From the emergence of Indian cinema to the ultramodern age, Lata didi has been in the role of mentor to colleague. Lata ji's contribution will be unforgettable.

### TWO-DAY STATE MOURNING IN MADHYA PRADESH FOR LATA MANGESHKAR

**Bhopal:** The Madhya Pradesh government has declared a two-day state mourning as a mark of respect for legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who died in a Mumbai Hospital on Sunday morning. The Bharat Ratna awardee was born in Indore on September 28, 1929.

As a mark of respect to the departed dignitary, two-day state mourning will be observed on February 6 and February 7, a communication issued by the state government said.

During the state mourning, the national flag will be flown at half mast throughout Madhya Pradesh and there will be no official entertainment events during this period, it said.

### INDORE'S PRIVATE MUSEUM BOASTS OF 7,600 GRAMOPHONE RECORDS OF LATA MANGESHKAR SONGS

Besides songs, the museum also has photographs and books associated with the icon, who was born in Indore on September 28, 1929.



Team Absolute | Indore

A museum in Indore in Madhya Pradesh has a collection of 7,600 rare gramophone records of songs of melody queen Lata Mangeshkar, who died in Mumbai on Sunday.

Suman Chourasia, who set up this 1600 square feet museum in Pigdambar area in 2008, said that his grief was beyond words.

"Lata Didi's demise, a day after Vasant Panchami, has left millions of music lovers like me deeply shocked. I met Lata Didi in 2019 for the last time and could not meet her after that due to the (Covid-

19) pandemic," he said.

Chourasia said he started saving gramophone records of Mangeshkar's songs from 1965, which has now turned into a collection of 7,600 gramophone records, occupying pride of place in the 'Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Gramophone Record Museum.'

"Lata Didi has sung in 32 Indian and foreign languages as well as dialects. Many of her rare songs are among them, he said. Besides songs, the museum also has photographs and books associated with the icon, who was born in Indore on September 28, 1929.

### Environmental Love of Small Groups and Institutions Gives a Big Message - CM



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Welfare Society planted Arjun and Saptaparni saplings in Smart Udyan on Sunday. Chouhan said that the work of planting saplings on behalf of small groups and institutions gives a big message. Society also has to be concerned about the environment.

Today, the members of Muskaan Society have come to plant saplings, their efforts are commendable.

Chouhan also got information about the activities of Muskaan Social Welfare Society. The members of the organisation told that along with voluntary blood donation, the organisation also conducts health check-up camps from time to time. So far more than 20 thousand people have been motivated to donate blood.

Along with planting saplings, the organization is doing work related to health, education and sanitation in the slum colonies.

Arjun tree is a medicinal tree, the use of its bark and juice is beneficial in diseases like heart and tuberculosis. Arjun tree is also found in abundance in Madhya Pradesh. Saptaparni plant is an evergreen medicinal tree, which has importance in Ayurveda from the point of view of treatment.

### DELEGATION VISITING AJMER MET CM



**Bhopal:** A delegation going from Madhya Pradesh to Ajmer Sharif met Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his residence today. Among those who met Chouhan included former Vice Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Backward Classes and Minorities Finance Development Corporation SK Muddin, Tabrez Sheikh and Zahoor Ahmed. The members of the delegation informed that on February 10, Chadar is being presented on behalf of Chief Minister Chouhan in Ajmer Sharif. Chouhan and the members of the delegation prayed for everyone's welfare and establishment of world peace.

## Congress demands NSA on Berasia cow death suspects

**► IF THE BJP GOVERNMENT IS HONEST ABOUT COW-PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION, THEN WHY HAS THE WOMAN SUPERVISOR OF THE COW-SHELTER NOT BEEN BOOKED UNDER NSA?\***

Team Absolute | Bhopal

State Congress on Saturday demanded that culprits of the Berasia cattle deaths be booked under the National Security Act (NSA).

Speaking to reporters at the PCC office, party media general KK Mishra secretary said, "If the BJP government is honest about cow-protection and conservation, then why has the woman supervisor of the cow-shelter not been booked under NSA?" Congress alleged that cow-shelter supervisor Nirmala Sandilya, 'a member of the BJP-RSS

combine', was killing cows and selling their hide for Rs 2,000. Dozens of carcasses of cows were found in and around the cow shelter adjoining the state capital. "It is our valid allegation that Nirmala Sandilya was killing cows and selling their skin for Rs 2,000 and also their bones. She has been booked under IPC sections 269 (negligence spreading infection) and 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection), which we see as leniency on behalf of the government," KK Mishra said. "She is being protected because of her connection to the ruling party."

The Congress also demanded to know how many cowshelters have been given to members linked to the BJP-RSS combine. The party claimed that during the 15-month Kamal Nath government in the state, Rs 59.78 crore was allocated for construction of 627 cow-shelters in the state. The erstwhile Congress government increased grants of cow fodder to Rs 20 per day per animal. "But the BJP government decreased it to Rs 1.60 per

cow, per day," the Congress alleged. Congress MLA from Bhopal (Central) Arif Masood held a protest against the government's alleged leniency in the Berasia case. Staging a sit-in, he said, "After five days and 80 carcasses of cows found in Berasia, why is the government silent? The chief minister who tweets on every issue, the home minister who gives his comments on every issue won't speak on this issue? Not a word about killing cows when they claim to be protectors of cows?"

Masood also demanded that those responsible for the cow deaths be booked under NSA. "The BJP government must clarify if it's trying to save the culprits" he said.

Minister Vishwas Sarang said, "Very good that Arif Masood has started speaking on cow-protection. But he should not restrict himself to just protests and giving comments. He should also speak of those who torture cows. We want him to come forward and protect cows."

## Sarang flags off 5 vaccination vans

### Screening and orientation programme started in Katju Hospital

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang flagged off 5 vaccination vans from Katju Hospital on Saturday. He also started a screening and orientation programme in the hospital.

Sarang informed that the state government is constantly innovating with the aim of improving health facilities. In collaboration with CARE and IndusInd Bank, 5 vaccination vans were started in Bhopal. This van will spread the vaccine to more than 50 beneficiaries at one place and move on to another place. Along with Bhopal, such vans have also been started in Barwani, Vidisha and Gwalior.

Sarang informed that Screening and Orientation Programme has also been started at the Vaccination Center at Katju Hospital. After getting the vaccine, orientation of people will be done while using the half an hour of rest time. Apart from blood pressure, sugar



and BMI test, the vaccinated beneficiary will also be able to avail the facility of breast cancer and oral cancer screening of women. This orientation programme will provide information about the prevention of diseases. Here information is being made available to the patients about how to stay away from diseases

by adopting a regular routine. For this, health facilitation cards and useful messages of healthy living are being made available. Care India organization is supporting the Madhya Pradesh government in 9 districts of the state in Covid vaccination since August 2021. In this activity, so far more than four lakh vac-

cines have been administered by 7 centers and 43 vaccination vans run by the organization. After vaccination, all the beneficiaries are made to sit at the center for 30 minutes, so that any complication can be treated immediately. Sarang said that due to our hectic lifestyle at present, many non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and cancer are being caused. Young people are also falling prey to these diseases. To prevent them, it is necessary to get them examined early and on time.

The innovation has been started in collaboration with the bank and in coordination with the district administration, in which when men and women above 30 rest for 30 minutes in the center after vaccination, make good use of this time and get their health check up done. Free preliminary check-up is done. In Bhopal district, this activity is being conducted in rural areas through 5 mobile vaccine vans.

## Mentally Unwell Man Kills Pet Dog, Hangs Carcass from Window, Converses with Passersby

**■ In the video, the man can be seen talking to residents with folded hands, with the mutilated body of the dog hanging from the window.**

Team Absolute | Bhind

A mentally unwell man allegedly killed his pet dog and hung the mutilated carcass from his window in Bhind district in Madhya Pradesh, a video of which surfaced on social media soon after. The incident took place

in Daboh town on February 4 and the man, identified as Ravi Shilpkar (25), was seen licking the body now and then, the whole episode creating unease among passersby, Additional Superintendent of Police Kamlesh Kharpuse said on Sunday. "His family has got him admitted in Gwalior Mental Hospital. No case has been registered in connection with this incident as yet," the Additional SP said.

In the video, the man can be seen talking to residents with folded hands, with the mutilated body of the dog hanging from the window.

### CM CONGRATULATES U-19 CRICKET TEAM



**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has congratulated and extended best wishes to the Under-19 team of Indian Cricket for winning the ICC Under-19 World Cup for the 5th time. Chouhan has said that young players have demonstrated the power of young India by winning the World Cup while playing with a positive attitude and discipline.

## Cases Received at Bank Level Should Be Sanctioned Soon: CM

- Rozgar Diwas Will Be Celebrated on February 25
- Chief Minister Reviewed the Loan Distribution in the State Level Bankers Committee

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana in the state 117 percent achievement has been made. More than 94 percent cases have been sanctioned by nationalized banks. Madhya Pradesh ranks first in the country by sanctioning the second instalment amount to 27 thousand 360 beneficiaries of the state. This information was given in the meeting of State Level Bankers Committee held at Mantralaya on Saturday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. In Madhya Pradesh, against the Government of India target of benefitting 4 lakh 5

thousand beneficiaries of the scheme, 4 lakh 75 thousand cases have been approved in the state, out of which 4 lakh 38 thousand beneficiaries have benefited by receiving the amount. Chouhan said that there is a need to increase the pace of work at the level of banks so that the approval of the cases of employment giving schemes does not take time. Efforts to improve the economic condition of the families can be realised through various loan schemes. Therefore regular review of such cases is necessary. Chief Minister was reviewing the approval of cases and loan disbursement works under various schemes. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan gave instructions for early disposal of pending cases after getting information about the status of sanction of loan applications mainly under Mudra Yojana, Urban Livelihood Mission, Prime Minister Micro Food Enterprises Upgradation Scheme, National Rural Livelihood



Mission, National Livestock Mission. Chouhan said that the banks should make efforts to fulfill the targets in all the schemes. While receiving information about the bank-wise progress, he said that the target of the financial year has to be completed by March 2022. In the remaining two months, all the banks should complete the set target of sanctioning the cases, so that the beneficiaries can be benefited. Chief Minister said that if the progress on the part of banks is not satisfactory, then he will apprise the Finance Ministry and the Government of India about this fact. Chouhan said that it is necessary that work should be done at the bank level by fixing monthly targets. From the coming financial year, the plan should be such that the work of connecting people with employment

should be further accelerated. Chouhan said that the way Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank has made 110 percent achievement in Mudra Yojana, other banks should also make similar efforts. Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank has disbursed more than Rs 700 crore in the current financial year. The Chief Minister congratulated for the good progress of Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank. In other banks, the resolution of cases is between 45 to 65 percent. Chief Minister has directed the banks to expeditiously dispose of cases and fulfill the target in the next two months. Chouhan said that employment opportunities are continuously being increased in the state. Rozgar Diwas (Employment Day) will be celebrated on February 25. A similar day will be celebrated in March also. Madhya Pradesh ranks 9th in the country in the implementation of Mudra Yojana. The state can move forward in this area. Udyam Kranti Yojana is also being implemented in a new form soon. Private banks can also make meaningful contribution to government schemes.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP banking on 'Brand Modi'

In the run-up to the Assembly elections in Uttarakhand scheduled on February 14, the BJP is banking heavily on 'Brand Modi'. The saffron party is prominently using Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image in several publicity videos, theme song and hoardings across the state, projecting him and his government's achievements. Modi and the images of his visit to Uttarakhand are prominently displayed in all the campaign videos, including the theme song for the Assembly polls. The party is highlighting the Central government's development and welfare initiatives taken under the leadership of Modi, such as 'Kisan Samman Nidhi' and several other schemes. The BJP is also reminding the people that it was the government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee that ensured the formation of the state. At the start of one video, the Prime Minister could be heard mentioning how Vajpayee ensured the formation of Uttarakhand. The BJP is also highlighting the redevelopment of Kedarnath, showing images of the Prime Minister's several visits to the holy shrines of the state. On November 5 last year, the Prime Minister had inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple key infrastructure projects in Kedarnath. Uttarakhand BJP spokesperson said that Modi is a 'brand' of trust in today's politics. Another party leader said that people easily connect with Modi and 'Kamal' (Lotus, BJP symbol). "The Prime Minister is more popular than any of the candidates fielded by the party. And the party is using this popularity of the Prime Minister to come out trumps in the polls," a party insider said. The 70-member Uttarakhand Assembly will go to the polls on February 14, while the counting of votes will be taken up on March 10

RBI POLICY MEET AND LIC IPO FILING TO BE KEY EVENTS

Arun Kejriwal

Markets in the week gone by behaved as if there were two distinct halves. The first three days of the week saw markets gain and then correct themselves in the remaining two days. BSESENSEX gained 1,444.59 points or 2.53 per cent to close at 58,644.82 points while NIFTY gained 414.35 points or 2.42 per cent to close at 17,516.30 points. The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 2.44 per cent, 2.43 per cent and 2.45 per cent respectively. BSE MIDCAP was up 2.33 per cent while BSE SMALLCAP gained 2.63 per cent. It's important to note that markets hit key resistance levels on the way up, and reacted quite sharply from such levels. The range for the week was 56,400 - 59,650 on BSESENSEX while it was 16,825 - 17,800 on NIFTY. This would continue to be the range for the coming week as well with a couple of factors deciding the direction. However, volatility would be the norm and even though the net change may not be as much on a daily basis the swings would remain. Key factors would be the net sales by FII's and global markets. The Indian Rupee gained 34 paise or 1.05 per cent to close at Rs 74.70 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones gained on the first three days of the week and lost on the remaining two, similar to what happened in India. It gained 364.27 points or 1.05 per cent to close at 35,089.74 points. Facebook or Meta had a disastrous outing post its results for the quarter and saw a massive fall of around 26 per cent. While it fell marginally on Friday, the damage was done with the share down a massive 21.15 per cent during the week. The closing price was USD 237.09, down 63.59 dollars for the week. In primary markets news, we saw one issue list, one issue complete subscription and yet another issue opening for subscription. The issue to list was AGS Transact Technologies Limited which had issued shares at Rs 175. The share closed on debut day at Rs 161.20, a loss of Rs 13.80 or 7.83 per cent. During the remaining part of the week, the share recovered some ground and closed at Rs 165.60, down Rs 9.40 or 5.37 per cent. The issue from Adani Wilmar Limited closed for subscription on Monday the 31st of

January. The issue for Rs 3,600 crore was subscribed 18.33 times overall backed by strong response from HNI's. The QIB portion was subscribed 6.04 times, HNI 59.40 times, Retail 4.14 times, Employee 0.54 times and Shareholder reservation 35.17 times. The price band was Rs 218-230. The issue would list on Tuesday the 8th of February with the allotment of shares done at the top end of the price band at Rs 230. The issue from Vedant Fashions Limited is tapping the capital markets with its offer for sale of 3,63,64,838 shares in a price band of Rs 824-866. The issue opened on Friday the 4th of February and would close on Tuesday the 8th of February. The issue would garner Rs 3,149.19 crs at the top end of the price band. The market capitalisation at the top end of the price band would be Rs 21,017 crore for Vedant Fashions Limited. For the record, the company reported revenues of Rs 564.81 crore for the year ended March 2021 and a net profit of Rs 132.90 crore. The details given in the price band advertisement issued by the company state that the PE band for the company is 153.73-161.57 times based on the EPS of Rs 5.36 for the year ended March 2021. A new matrix mentioned as per the SEBI advertisement gives the market cap to revenue at 37.21 times based on revenues for the year ended March 2021. Further the advertisement mentions the average PE ratio for the NIFTY 50 to be at 23.47 times against the price band mentioned of the company at 161.57 times. The multiplier is a steep 6.88 times. Let us come to the business of the company. It is a top end fashion retailer having its stores as EBO's in malls, fashion streets across cities and towns. The company retails wedding and celebration wear, a new category created by the company to identify itself. The



category includes men, women and children wear. The size of this industry is estimated at a massive 1.02 lakh crore with the bulk of the same being women wear which is not the strongest segment for Vedant Fashions. For Vedant, the strongest segment is the men's segment where their premium brand is 'Manyavar'. Sales reported by Vedant Fashions in the year ended March 2021 were about Rs 565 crore which means a little under 0.6 per cent of the category that the company has mentioned as wedding and celebration wear. They have not mentioned any competitors for them in the RHP either. When there is such a large category and no meaningful names to talk about, it makes the categorisation itself difficult to accept. Some names which come to mind in this segment include TCNS Brands Limited a women's fashion brand, Raymond's Limited, a premium men's brand and Reliance Trends. While all these brands put together would hardly total Rs 3000-3500 crore in top line, what is really intriguing is the size of the category and the players. The issue from Vedant Fashions is a high profile and hyped issue coming with unheard of valuations. The company has created a new category for itself in which it operates. It is for the investor to decide whether he would like to invest in such an issue or take a measured call and then decide what should be his response to such an issue. I urge investors to do some homework as there are still two days left before the issue closes. At the end of day one, the issue overall is subscribed 0.14 times with the retail portion subscribed 22 per cent. The Union budget was announced on the 1st of February and it was better than expected. The markets were worried about populism with 5 states headed for polls

from the 10th of February. On the contrary the sum and substance of the budget was to spend on infrastructure, give a boost to capex and keep things by and large the same. There was no tinkering, no changes in tax laws and incentives announced in extending the period by one year for new manufacturing units. Apart from the 14 sectors where PLI schemes have been already announced, the budget announced one more for the solar module and production sector with an outlay of Rs 22,500 crore. Surprisingly with talk of taxing the super-rich, nothing was done either on the tax front or the wealth tax front. Incentives have been given for GIFT city and I believe that with the UAE levying tax at 9%, the new scheme announced for GIFT City may see a shift of P-Notes to this place. More clarity on the same would be needed. The week ahead sees RBI meet between the 7th and 9th of February for its monetary policy meeting. It is widely believed that key policy rates would be kept unchanged and signal the same message that the budget has given. While there could be a commentary which signals that inflation is a concern and that tightening of rates does happen going forward, things would remain at status quo currently. Coming to the markets in the week ahead, the event of the week would be the filing of DRHP of LIC prospectus in the coming week. This would be a fast-track issue and would see the light of day in roughly four to five weeks. The issue would set a new record for receiving the largest number of applications ever, and it may be a good idea if the people connected with the issue look at keeping an extra day for just retail investors in the issue. Against the normal three days that an issue is open, this could remain open for an additional fourth day for just retail investors. Markets would be volatile and trade in the broad band as mentioned earlier. They would be volatile and have no trend. Key factors would be FII trade who continue to be net sellers. Trade cautiously. (Arun Kejriwal is the founder of Kejriwal Research and Investment Services. The views expressed are personal)

international

Imran Khan offers 'role in resolving' US, China dispute

Pakistan Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said that Prime Minister Imran Khan as saying that Pakistan was ready to play its role in resolving the dispute between the US and China, The News reported.



Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday. During meetings with the Chinese leadership, the bilateral relations between the two countries would be discussed, Fawad added. He said water projects in Karachi and Faisalabad were discussed during

Khan's meetings with Chinese investors. "The water supply project for Karachi (K-4), Hub Canal and water treatment plant in Faisalabad came under discussion in the meetings," Fawad said in a media talk. He would also meet UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang in the evening, he added. The Information Minister said the Pakistani sportsmen were participating in the Chinese Winter Olympics for the first time. The Pakistani contingent was warmly welcomed by the people of China on its entry in the stadium, which was manifestation of the deep-rooted bilateral relations between the two countries. Fawad said Pakistan-China friendship was based on the expression of love between the people of the two countries, adding that Chinese investors were showing interest in investing in Pakistan.

PALESTINE HOLDS ISRAEL RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTLERS' PRACTICES IN WEST BANK



Ramallah: Palestine held the Israeli government "fully and directly" responsible for the Jewish settlers' practices in the West Bank and warned of its consequences on the possibilities of launching a real peace process. In a statement, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said that the Israeli settlers uprooted dozens of olive trees in several West Bank cities during the past few days and tried to set fire to Palestinian vehicles in East Jerusalem, reports Xinhua news agency. "The settlers' violations against defenseless civilians, their land, property, and trees throughout the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, are taking place without any punishment or deterrent," said the Ministry.

Measles outbreak kills 74 children in Afghanistan

At least 74 children died following an outbreak of measles in Afghanistan's northern province of Badakhshan, an official said Sunday. To pay dues.



Kabul | Agencies At least 74 children died following an outbreak of measles in Afghanistan's northern province of Badakhshan, an official said Sunday. "There had been pockets of measles cases across several Badakhshan districts, including Kuf Ab, Darwaz, Kohistan as well as provincial capital Faizabad city and its outskirts in the past two months. At least 74 children

died after being infected with the disease in Kuf Ab and Kohistan districts," Maazudin Ahmadi, head of the provincial Information and Culture Directorate, told Xinhua news agency. Most of the children who lost their lives were living in areas without the access of public health workers and local mobile vaccinators. The provincial health officials have repeatedly called on the population to stay vigilant and to consult the nearest health centers in case of children's symptoms, including fever, generalized rash, conjunctivitis, cough and cold. According to local officials, there had been a steady rise in measles cases in the Asian country, particularly in the mountainous northeastern region.

Raisi praises Iraq's efforts on Iran-Saudi negotiation

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi praised Iraq's effort to enhance the region's security and stability, referring to Baghdad's sponsorship of the rounds of negotiations between Tehran and Riyadh.



been emphasized by the Islamic republic, he added. The Iranian President noted that his country is ready for further talks with Saudi Arabia if Riyadh is "willing to continue the talks in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect". Referring to regional security and stability, Raisi noted that problems of the region can be solved in case the extra-regional powers stop intervention in the regional affairs. He also expressed hope that the Iraqi government would be able to take the lead in a regional initiative to lift the siege on the Yemeni people. For his part, al-Kadhimi said it's important to initiate efforts to bring views in regional affairs closer, and to broaden bilateral cooperation and coordination in various fields and at all levels.

20 terrorists, 9 Pak security personnel killed in massive Balochistan attack

The Pakistan security forces have completed the clearance operations which were launched after terrorists attacked their camps in Panjgur and Naushki districts of Balochistan last week, the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement, adding that 20 terrorists and 9 security personnel were killed.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Pakistan security forces have completed the clearance operations which were launched after terrorists attacked their camps in Panjgur and Naushki districts of Balochistan last week, the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement, adding that 20 terrorists and 9 security personnel were killed. "Both (of) the attacks were repulsed successfully by the prompt response from troops at both locations," The Express Tribune quoted the ISPR, the military's media wing, as saying. In Naushki, the ISPR said, nine terrorists were killed while four security forces personnel died during the "shootout with terrorists while repulsing the attack". In Panjgur, the security forces had repulsed the terrorist attack after an intense exchange of fire during which some terrorists fled the area.



"The security forces carried out a clearance operation to hunt down the hiding terrorists in the vicinity." The military added that four fleeing terrorists were killed while as many terrorists were encircled the next day by the security forces. "All encircled terrorists were killed in today's (Saturday) operation as they failed to surrender." Five soldiers including a junior com-

Costa Ricans head to prez polls with no clear favourite

A record 25 candidates are on Costa Rica's presidential ballot in Sunday's elections, which will choose both the President and the legislators that will lead the country in 2022-2026, with no favourite among the general public yet.



San Jose | Agencies

A record 25 candidates are on Costa Rica's presidential ballot in Sunday's elections, which will choose both the President and the legislators that will lead the country in 2022-2026, with no favourite among the general public yet. Among the presidential candidates, the country's former president and candidate of the National Liberation Party, Jose Maria Figueres, came first with only 17 per cent of the vote, according to the latest survey by the Research Centre in Political Studies of the University of Costa Rica. After Figueres were Social Christian Unity Party candidate Lineth Saborio with 12.86 per cent, and conservative Fabricio Alvarado of the New Republic Party, with 10.27 per cent, reports Xinhua news agency. Welmer Ramos, the candidate of the ruling Citizens' Action Party, barely garnered 1 per cent of the vote, despite the party having governed for two consecutive terms.



# TO MOURN LATA MANGESHKAR, HOLIDAY IN MAHARASHTRA TOMORROW

### Called the Nightingale of India, legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar died at Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai on Sunday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

To mourn the death of iconic singer Lata Mangeshkar, the Maharashtra government has announced a public holiday on Monday. "The state government has declared a public holiday in the state on Monday, February 7, 2022, to mourn the demise of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar," tweeted Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's Office on Sunday. The Centre has already announced a two-day national mourning after the death of the music doyen. During this period, the tricolour will fly at half-mast as a mark of respect for the Bharat Ratna-awardee who has mesmerised Indian audience for decades with her soulful voice. Besides, the Karnataka government has also announced a two-day mourning, according to news agency PTL. It



quoted a government order as saying that during the statewide mourning on February 6 and 7, there'll be no official and public entertainment programme in the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the country in mourning the death of Lata Mangeshkar. He also announced he will pay tribute to the legendary singer in Mumbai today.

"I am anguished beyond words. The kind and caring Lata Didi has left us. She leaves a void in our nation that cannot be filled. The coming generations will remember her as a stalwart of Indian culture, whose melodious voice had an unparalleled ability to mesmerise people," PM Modi tweeted. Called the Nightingale of India, the 92-year-old legendary singer died at Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai on Sunday morning. She was hospitalised last month after testing positive for COVID-19 and was also under treatment for pneumonia. Her funeral will be held this evening with full state honours. Lata Mangeshkar, born on September 28, 1929 in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, has received some of the country's top civilian awards - Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards.

# Renowned poet recalls how a custard apple variety got named after Lata Mangeshkar

Aurangabad | Agencies

Renowned poet and farmer Namdev Dhondo Mahanor on Sunday reminisced how custard apples cultivated in his farm came to be named after legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, with a large number of patrons calling it 'latafal' instead of 'sitafal', the Hindi term for the tropical fruit. Padma Shri awardee Mahanor said the custard apples, grown in his farm in Palskheda village, which lies at the base of the Ajanta mountains, manage to stay alive despite the land being barren and the produce getting vandalised occasionally by animals. "This custard apple is among the sweetest and manages to withstand all

odds, just like Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar. Despite her father dying early, she took along her siblings, worked hard and reached the peak," he said. "She has sung songs that I have written in films like Jait re Jait and others, but that is not why I have named this variety of custard apples after her. It is because even after facing all the odds, the sweetness in Lata didi's voice is peerless, just like this fruit," he added. Earlier, it was called 'latafal' only at the farm and in its vicinity, but since 1990, almost everyone calls it 'latafal', Mahanor claimed. The legendary singer died in a private hospital in Mumbai early Sunday morning after being admitted there early last month.

► PADMA SHRI AWARDEE MAHANOR SAID THE CUSTARD APPLES, GROWN IN HIS FARM IN PALSKHEDA VILLAGE, WHICH LIES AT THE BASE OF THE AJANTA MOUNTAINS, MANAGE TO STAY ALIVE DESPITE THE LAND.

# Pune Police files FIR against Eight Shiv Sena leaders

### Eight Shiv Sena leaders were on Sunday booked by the Pune Police for allegedly assaulting BJP leader Kirit Somaiya.

Team Absolute | Pune

Eight Shiv Sena leaders were on Sunday booked by the Pune Police for allegedly assaulting BJP leader Kirit Somaiya. The FIR was lodged at Shivaji Nagar Police Station under sections 143, 147, 149, 341, 336, 337, 323, 504, 37(1), and 135 of the IPC. The FIR copy has been accessed by IANS. Those who have been named as alleged accused in the FIR are Shiv

Sena Pune President Sanjay More, Chandan Shalunke, Kiran Sali, Suraj Lokhande, Akash Shinde, Rupesh Panwar, Rajender Shinde and Shani Gavte. On Saturday, Kirit Somaiya had visited Pune Municipal Corporation when he was allegedly manhandled by Shiv Sena leaders. Kirit Somaiya went to Pune Municipal Corporation to furnish a complaint in connection with alleged financial irregularities in the setting up of

Covid-19 Jumbo Hospital. On the other hand, Shiv Sena leaders have claimed innocence saying they only wanted to speak to Kirit Somaiya. Somaiya said that he went to Pune Municipal Corporation, and submitted a complaint against Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's family partner Sajeet Patker Lifeline Hospital Management Services for COVID Centre Scam. Now he has lodged an FIR against eight Shiv Sena leaders.

# Now dine-in Nagpur at a railway coach! Railways turn an old rail coach into an eatery

► "IF PEOPLE LIKE THE IDEA THEN WE MAY OPEN SUCH RESTAURANTS IN OTHER DISTRICTS AS WELL," SAID RICHA KHARE, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER, NAGPUR DIVISION.

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Nagpur railway station came up with a first of its kind 'Restaurant on wheels' as the Nagpur division of the Central Railway zone turns an old coach into a restaurant. The new concept has taken across social media platforms and netizens seem to like the idea. Darshana



Jardosh, Minister of State for Railways tweeted about the new concept. "Presenting to you, the first of its kind - 'Restaurant on Wheels' at Nagpur Railway Station. Enjoy a unique dining experience, inside a railway coach in Nagpur brought to you by @RailMinIndia. Don't forget to share your photos when you visit it the next time," read the tweet.

Richa Khare, Divisional Railway Manager, Nagpur Division said, "We had floated tenders to develop an old coach into a restaurant. It is being operated by Haldiram's. I hope people like it. We will open such restaurants in other districts also if it gets a good response." "The concept is NFR (non-fare revenue) in which you can monetize the

assets or commercially utilize the assets. Hence we developed a coach into a restaurant," she added. Speaking on the difficulties faced in setting up this unique restaurant, Khare said that it was a difficult task to get the coach on the road from the tracks. "The process took time as there was a second wave and the third wave of Covid-19. However, we hope that the people like our idea," she stated. Meanwhile, the customers visiting the restaurant praised this unique concept of an eatery inside a coach. "We are liking it. It's a new concept. It gives a feeling like we are having a meal in Maharaja Express," said Sunil Agarwal, a customer. "This is a beautiful concept. Everything from food to beverages is available here. It feels like a three-star or five-star restaurant. I am feeling elated after coming here," said another customer Rizwan Khan.

# ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY TEAM VISITS VILLAGES AFFECTED BY THERMAL PLANTS

Nagpur | Agencies

Prompted by repeated complaints from the area, a team of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on Saturday visited the villages affected by dumping of fly ash and ash slurry from the Khaparkheda Thermal Power Station (KTPS) near Nagpur. Incidentally, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has sent a notice to KTPS to immediately stop disposing and dumping ash slurry into the Nandgaon ash pond about 20-odd km to its north-east. For the last few months, residents along with Zilla Parishad members from Nandgaon have been protesting the illegal dumping of ash slurry in their farmlands in complete violation of all environmental rules. Fly ash was also being dumped without a no-objection certificate (NOC) from local residents. A team comprising officials from the MOEF&CC, Maharashtra power department, MPCB, village sarpanch and representatives of Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), a Nagpur-based advocacy think-tank, visited multiple locations around the KTPS, including Nandgaon, river Kolar, pumping stations, leaked pipeline that led slurry discharge etc. The pollution control board officials picked up samples at various places. Towards the end of the visit, the team also went to the Bhanegaon bridge from where the direct discharge from the Khaparkheda plant into the Kanhan river was seen. Plant officials tried to pass it off as a natural stream, but the stream was



full of ash and was being directly discharged into the river, prompting the MPCB officials to lift samples from there too. At a meeting after the site visit, the thermal plant officials assured mitigation steps, said CSD's Leena Buddha, who said, her organisation will be more than willing to collaborate with the team for pollution mitigation on site to help the villagers. Earlier last month, the affected villagers had requested the MPCB, Maharashtra State Power Generation Company

(MAHAGENCO) as well as state's Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray to look into the serious issue. Sonali Manoj Varkhade, Sarpanch from Nandgaon, explained how the pollution impacted the whole village: "The ash slurry is destroying our farms, polluting our water bodies, drinking water and having severe health impacts and the fly ash was spreading all across causing air pollution. Our Gram Panchayat has not issued any NOC for this Ash Pond." Meanwhile, the Direction Notice issued on February 3 by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board regional officer (Nagpur) to the Chief Engineer, KTPS, pointed out how it had received various complaints regarding disposal of ash slurry into Nandgaon ash pond without permission or without providing any precautionary measures resulting in water and air pollution in the vicinity, which amounts to a violation of various environment norms. "Accordingly, Boards officials had inspected the Nandgaon ash pond and verified the disposal of ash slurry in the Nandgaon ash pond without providing any pollution control arrangements. A Now, therefore, in view of the above, you (KTPS) are hereby directed to comply with the following directions: You shall stop disposal / dumping of ash slurry into the Nandgaon ash pond, immediately. You shall comply with fly ash notification for utilization of fly ash," the notice read. The MPCB also warned of strict action in case of failure to comply with guidelines. Welcoming the development, Varkhade, however, said the demand is for a complete ban on disposal and not a temporary one.

# Villagers boycott Dalit community over dispute related to temple entry, police intervene

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Tension prevailed in a village in Maharashtra's Latur district when villagers allegedly decided to boycott the local Dalit community over a dispute related to temple entry. Police on Saturday said the dispute was resolved following the meeting of a peace committee and the situation was now normal. Some social media posts claimed that the dispute arose when two Dalit youngsters entered a Hanuman temple and broke a coconut at Tadmugali village in Nilanga tehsil three days ago. Some youths took objection to their entry into the temple, and later people from other castes decided to boycott the village's Dalit community, reports said.

A video of a flour mill owner who refused to grind grains for a Dalit family also went viral. The mill owner was heard saying in the video that if he went against the village and accepted Rs 10 from the family for the grinding, he would have to pay a fine of Rs 40,000 later. When contacted, Deputy Superintendent of Police Dineshkumar Kolhe said police held meetings with both sides and the dispute was resolved. He did not state categorically if temple entry by Dalits was the bone of the contention. "The dispute arose due to a misunderstanding between two groups of youths. We organised a meeting of the village peace committee on Saturday with all the villagers and they apologized," he said.

# Youth stabs minor girl multiple times for rejecting relationship proposal

The man, identified as Dnyaneshwar Nimbalkar, was reportedly angry that she was not responding to his calls and not meeting him.

nate incident came to fore on Friday when the man stabbed her with a knife multiple times on her back, chest, and legs in the Khulewadi area of Chandannagar. The report further suggests that the minor suffered multiple injuries and was admitted to a local hospital. The victim is recovering and expected to be discharged on Sunday. A case has been registered against Dnyaneshwar under Sections 341 (wrongful restraint) and 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC. While commenting on the arrest made, the airport police spokesperson said, "Nimbalkar confronted the girl about not responding to his calls and not meeting him. We have recovered a knife and a cellphone from the accused," as saying was quoted by the Times of India. Based on the initial investigation, the victim had known Nimbalkar for some time.

Pune | Agencies In yet another shocking incident, a 22-year-old youth has allegedly stabbed a minor girl multiple times in Pune on Friday. In a fresh development in the case, the airport police arrested the accused for stabbing and trying to strangle a 17-year-old girl. As per reports, the accused attacked her because she recently refused to have a relationship with him. The man has been identified as Dnyaneshwar Nimbalkar, a resident of Chandannagar. The unfortu-

# COVID TESTS MAKE INDIANS POORER BY RS 74K CR IN 2 YEARS, SAYS NGO

In the past two years of the Coronavirus pandemic, Indians have coughed out a stupendous Rs 74,000 crore for 74 crore Covid-19 tests from dubious private pathological labs. Finally, around 4.20 crore positive cases were detected with more than 500,000 deaths, till date.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the past two years of the Coronavirus pandemic, Indians have coughed out a stupendous Rs 74,000 crore for 74 crore Covid-19 tests from dubious private pathological labs. Finally, around 4.20 crore positive cases were detected with more than 500,000 deaths, till date. A Nagpur-based consumer rights NGO, Grahak Bharati has said that Indians have taken various Covid-19 tests like RTPCR, RAT, TrueNAT, CBNAAT and other tests through (currently) 3,255 testing labs including 1,844 private and 1,411 government. Of these 3,255, only 2,141 (764 government and 1,377 private) labs are for conducting the much-in-demand, compulsory for most purposes and universally accepted RTPCR tests, and the remaining 1,114 (647 government+467) labs offer the other tests. In the initial stages of the pandemic, a test was costing around Rs 3,500 or more, but gradually, the figures have stabilised to around Rs 600, besides cheap home-test kits available for around Rs 250 now.



"Considering an average of Rs 1000/test, Indians have been compelled to spend over Rs 74,000-crore only for Covid-19 tests, with private labs netting the major portion of the loot," Grahak Bharati Founder-President Barrister Vinod Tiwari told IANS. He claimed that a majority of these tests were virtually forced on the people even though they had no initial symptoms, or unnecessary considering the low positivity rate, and ended up spooking the country in the name of coronavirus. Grahak Bharati has shot off a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Minister of Health & Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the ICMR, top central and state officials and the Central Vigilance Commission, demanding a probe into the "massive unbridled dacoity" being perpetrated on gullible Indians. He warned that if the government fails to take priority cognisance of this nationwide racket, Grahak Bharati would file a PIL in the Supreme Court. Alleging that it is "a

systematic mega-scam" with the connivance of government officials, unscrupulous private labs and their franchisees operating with the generous blessings of politicians, Tiwari contended that it violates provisions of the central Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 and make such shady labs liable for severe penal action. Elaborating, Tiwari explained that many of the private labs are remotely located franchisees under the officially approved/recognised Advanced Laboratories (1,844) in India. Shockingly, many of these labs apparently conduct thousands of Covid-19 tests daily, ostensibly without proper approval, authority, quality control, infrastructure or qualified manpower. "The ICMR has said that on a single day on Feb. 4, there were an unbelievable 16,03,856 tests conducted. Were these necessary and practical? This only points to the possibility that a majority of the Covid tests are 'concocted' to scare the masses," alleged Tiwari. "The so-called franchisee labs lack infrastructure, qualified post-graduate doctors, particularly Pathologist and Microbiologist and others compulsorily required for the RTPCR tests and to determine the Covid-19 positive patients, tests are conducted in remote locations and the test results are issued indiscriminately, with the digital signatures of the medicos at Advanced Laboratories thousands of kms away," fumed Tiwari. rahak Bharati says there is no control on the procedures for sample collection, handling, proper testing or accurate determination which often lead to contradictory results. It recently happened with two Mumbaikars who got two different results - Covid negative and Covid positive - from two labs in 24 hours but the Aarogya Setu portal remained unfazed.



## Roland Emmerich slams superhero and 'Star Wars' films

Los Angeles | Agencies

**'M**oonfall' director Roland Emmerich thinks superhero and 'Star Wars' films are ruining the industry.

He is among the many actors and directors that have lambasted the state of the movie business because these types of movies exist, reports deadline.com.

While talking about his newest disaster film, he mentions: "Because naturally, Marvel and DC Comics and Star Wars have pretty much taken over. "It's ruining our industry a little bit,

because nobody does anything original anymore."

Emmerich claims to be all about originality and believes that Christopher Nolan is making bold choices when it comes to filmmaking, reports deadline.com. "You should make bold new movies, you know? And I think, actually, Christopher Nolan is the master of that. He is someone who can make movies about whatever he wants," he said.

"I have it a little bit harder, but I still have a big enough name, especially when it's a disaster or has some sort of disaster theme."

He's made a name for himself directing several big budget films like 'Independence Day' and its sequel 'Resurgence', 'The Day After Tomorrow', '2012', and '10,000 BC'.

'Moonfall' is his latest venture which stars Halle Berry and Patrick Wilson, Michael Pena, John Bradley, Donald Sutherland.

## Cate Blanchett to receive first International Goya Award in Valencia



Los Angeles | Agencies

The Spanish Film Academy has announced that its first-ever International Goya Award will be received by Hollywood star Cate Blanchett. Currently presided by Mariano Barroso, the Spanish Film Academy created the award to "honor artists that have contributed to cinema as a medium that brings together different cultures and people".

Blanchett was recognised for her impactful work both on and off the screen worldwide, as an award-winning actor, producer, artistic director and humanitarian. She will receive the award at a gala ceremony on February 12 in Valencia, Spain, reports variety.com.

Blanchett has earned two Oscars, three BAFTAs and three Screen Actors Guild Awards. Her recent film credits include Guillermo del Toro's 'Nightmare Alley'.

Other credits over the years include 'Carol', 'Blue Jasmine', 'The Aviator' and 'Elizabeth'.

Over the course of her career, she has collaborated with many prominent filmmakers, including Adam McKay, Steven Soderbergh, Anthony Minghella, Sally Potter, Wes Anderson and Ridley Scott.

Blanchett most recently wrapped production for Todd Field's 'Tar', in which she will star and executive produce. She is also set to star in Pedro Almodovar's upcoming 'A Manual for Cleaning Women'.

She is producing through her banner Dirty Films, along with El Deseo. In addition, Blanchett is currently in pre-production for the series 'Disclaimer' (directed by Alfonso Cuaron), for which she will both star and executive produce. Outside of Blanchett's onscreen achievements, the actor is also a Global Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), a lifetime member of the Australian Conservation Foundation and supporter of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.



## 'Goosebumps' live-action TV series lands at Disney Plus

Los Angeles | Agencies

The new 'Goosebumps' TV series has been picked up by Disney Plus. The new series version of the beloved R.L. Stine books was first reported as being in the works in April 2020. Disney Plus has given the show a 10-episode order, reports variety.com.

The series follows a group of five high schoolers who unleash supernatural forces upon their town and must all work together - thanks to and in spite of their friendships, rivalries, and pasts with each other -- in order to save it, learning much about their own parents' teenage secrets in the process.

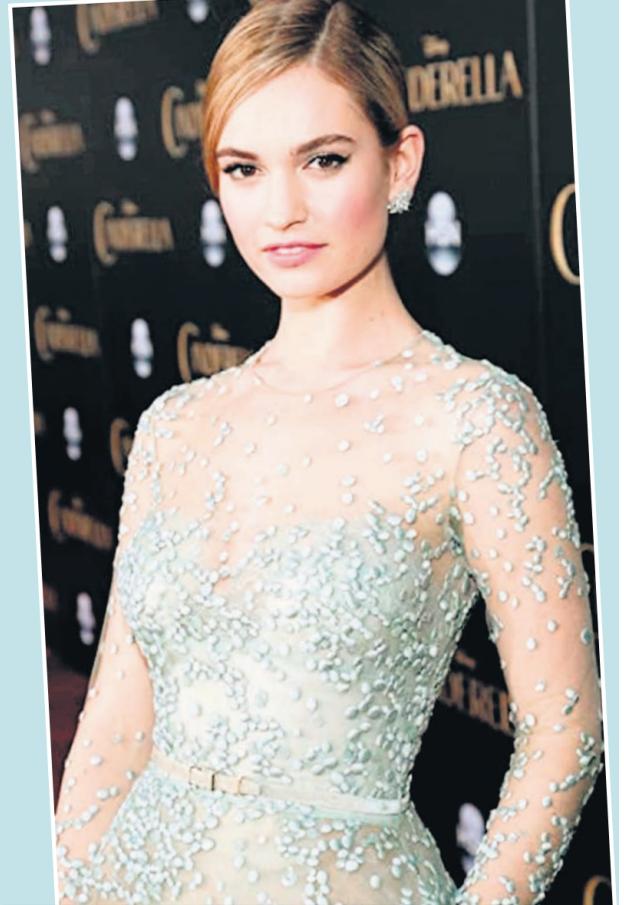
Nick Stoller and Rob Letterman serve as writers and executive producers on the show, with Stoller executive producing via Stoller Global Solutions.

Letterman will also direct the first episode. Neal H. Moritz and Pavun Shetty of Original Film, Conor Welch of Stoller Global Solutions, and Iole Lucchese and Caitlin Friedman of Scholastic Entertainment are also executive producing. Sony Pictures Television Studios will produce. Original Film and Stoller Global Solutions are currently under TV overall deals with Sony. Moritz was a producer on the two recent 'Goosebumps' feature films, which were released in 2015 and 2018. Letterman directed the first film. Collectively, both of the movies grossed over \$250 million.

Published by Scholastic, 'Goosebumps' is one of the best-selling book series of all time.

More than 400 million English-language copies of the books are now in print, plus international editions in 32 languages. There are now more than 200 "Goosebumps" books in total, including the main book series as well as various spinoffs and related book series.

The Disney Plus show is now the second live-action 'Goosebumps' series to make it to air.



## Lily James went through 50 pairs of prosthetic breasts for 'Pam And Tommy'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Lily James went through almost 50 sets of prosthetic breasts while filming the Disney+ miniseries 'Pam & Tommy', it has been revealed.

The actress, 32, had a new pair of the gel-filled breasts fitted for each day of production in order to replicate those of Pamela Anderson's 34DD assets, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Friction caused by her constant on-screen touching with co-star Sebastian Stan, who plays her then-husband Tommy Lee, forced the make-up department to ensure back-up bosoms were to-hand.

She also spent a jaw-dropping four hours in the hair-and-makeup chair before arriving on set looking like the Baywatch star's double.

Jason Collins, the show's head of

makeup, said: "They're made out of gel-filled silicone appliances, which move like real skin and absorb light similarly. We used a new pair every day for filming which meant having 50 made."

The team also worked through between 65 and 70 false foreheads during production, which began in April of last year.

He continued: 'We went through 65 to 70 foreheads throughout shooting.'

Last Wednesday the first three episodes of Lily's much-anticipated series 'Pam & Tommy' were released on Hulu in the US and Disney+ in Europe. The highly-anticipated show follows the theft of the couple's sex tape from the safe in their basement of their Malibu home in 1995.

In the lead up to the series, first glimpses and snippets of filming showed the 'Downton Abbey'.

## Andrea Bordeaux exits 'Run the World' over Covid vaccine mandate

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Andrea Bordeaux has opened up about her exit from the Starz comedy series 'Run The World'.

Bordeaux, who plays journalist Ella on the series about four successful young Black women living in Harlem, has exited the show due to a disagreement over the production's Covid-19 vaccine mandate, ew.com has confirmed.

Deadline first reported that Lionsgate Television, which produces the show, required the cast and any crew who directly interact with them to be fully vaccinated against the virus. Despite conversations to find a workable solution and address any concerns Bordeaux had, the two sides reportedly could not come to an agreement.

The actress made a post on her Instagram.

"I did not opt to leave the series and Lionsgate made no efforts to find a workable solution," she wrote.

"I was fired." Bordeaux also wrote, "Getting the opportunity to play Ella on #RunTheWorld was an absolute dream come true.



## Rihanna, beau A\$ap Rocky 'planning to marry in Barbados after birth of their baby'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Rihanna is reportedly set to marry her rapper boyfriend A\$AP Rocky in Barbados after the birth of their baby. The singer and her rapper partner, both 33, announced they were expecting this week as she showed off her blossoming baby bump in a heartwarming New York photoshoot, reports dailymail.co.uk.

The couple are said to be planning to marry in Rihanna's home country with the pop star lining up Prime Minister Mia Mottley, 56, as the newborn's godmother.

A source told the Sunday Mirror: "Rihanna is totally smitten with A\$AP. They have a very close bond and Rihanna has always been quite traditional. They will be married, for sure. She has told pals she wants to be with him for ever, and he has said the same.

"There are no plans yet as to when the nuptials will be but it won't be before the baby is born. "She has always wanted to get married and A\$AP is her forever person".

The insider added the wedding will be in Barbados because of the family being there and it holds a "special place in their hearts".

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Dua Lipa



## IND v WI, 1st ODI

# INDIA COMPLETES SIX-WICKET WIN TO GO 1-0 UP IN THREE-MATCH SERIES

Ahmedabad | Agencies

On the back of a quick 60 from captain Rohit Sharma and an unbeaten stand of 62 for the fifth wicket between Suryakumar Yadav and Deepak Hooda, India scripted a six-wicket win over West Indies in the series opener at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

India's 1000th ODI appearance ended on a winning note barring a scare when they went from 84/0 to 116/4 in 17.3 overs. But Yadav and Hooda ensured there were no more hiccups for India, who achieved the target with 22 overs to spare.

Chasing a lowly 177, India made a solid start, scoring 67 in the power-play. Captain Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan smashed boundaries at will. While Sharma looked gorgeous in leg-side glances and drives through off-side, Kishan was eye-catching in his pulls through mid-wicket.

Sharma took a special liking to Kemar Roach, smashing the pacer for boundaries through mid-on and mid-off in the eighth over. The right-hander followed it up with fours through pull over square leg and a deliberate late cut through third man and a cracking six pulled over square leg.

Post first power-play, Sharma



reached his 44th half-century in this format and continued to hit boundaries off Alzarri Joseph and Akeal Hosein. It was Joseph, though, who broke the 84-run opening stand. Getting one to nip in from outside off, Joseph rapped Sharma high on his pads while trying to flick. Sharma took the review but umpire's call on DRS while hitting the stumps meant he had to depart for 60.

Virat Kohli fetched boundaries on his first two balls but mistimed a pull off Joseph and the top-edge flew to

fine-leg to become the second big scalp of the right-arm pacer in the 14th over.

Rishabh Pant got going with two boundaries while Kishan continued to hold the fort. But Kishan, in an effort to unsettle Hosein, went for a big slog-sweep and instead picked out the fielder at backward square-leg to perfection.

In the very next over, Pant was run-out at the non-striker's end a straight drive from Suryakumar Yadav was met by Joseph sticking his

right foot out on follow-through and deflected to hit the stumps.

Yadav swept and played a delicate late cut to pick successive boundaries off Hosein while debutant Deepak Hooda fetched his first boundary in ODIs with a back-foot punch through mid-off off Joseph. The duo crunched boundaries while stitching a handy stand of 62 off 63 balls before Yadav finished off the chase with a slice through backward point.

### Brief scores :

West Indies 176 all out in 43.5 overs (Jason Holder 57, Fabian Allen 29; Yuzvendra Chahal 4/49, Washington Sundar 3/30) lost to India 178/4 in 28 overs (Rohit Sharma 60, Suryakumar Yadav 34 not out; Alzarri Joseph 2/45, Akeal Hosein 1/46) by six wickets

## Tata Open Maharashtra

# Bopanna-Ramkumar crowned doubles champions, win second title of the season

Pune | Agencies

The star Indian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan came up with a superb performance to win the doubles title in the home ATP 250 event title, beating Australia's Luke Saville and John-Patrick Smith at the 2022 Tata Open Maharashtra here on Sunday.

The Indian pair produced a scintillating display to overcome the Australian top seeds Saville and John-Patrick Smith 6-7(10), 6-3, 10-6 to claim their second ATP title together.

It was Bopanna's 21st doubles title, and second in Pune after having won partnering Divij Sharan in 2019.

The Indian duo, which kickstarted the year on a high with their maiden ATP title together in Adelaide in January, started off well and despite some stiff challenge from the top seeds, put themselves ahead in the contest at 5-4.

However, the Aussie pair, looking to win their first title, took the set into the tie-breaker and wrapped it up the set that lasted for close to an hour.

Bopanna, 41, and his young partner Ramkumar, 27, fought back well to take a 4-2 lead in the second set. They built on the momentum to win the set 6-3 and made it one set apiece.



The Super Tiebreaker was also a close affair but Bopanna and Ramkumar, having taken an upper hand, prevailed over 10-6 to win their second title together.

## U-19 World Cup

# Sourav Ganguly, Jay Shah hail Team India, announce reward of Rs 40 Lakh per player

Team Absolute | New Delhi

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly congratulated Team India for winning the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2022 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, in Antigua on Saturday.

"Congratulations to the under 19 team and the support staff and the selectors for winning the world cup in such a magnificent way... The cash prize announced by us of 40 lakhs is a small token of appreciation but their efforts are beyond value... magnificent stuff...@bcci," Ganguly



wrote on Twitter. India produced a clinical all-round performance to

beat England by four wickets in the final. This is India's record fifth Under-19 World Cup title in tournament's history after previously winning it in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018.

"I'm pleased to announce the reward of 40 lacs per player and 25 lacs per support staff for the U19 #TeamIndia contingent for their exemplary performance in #U19CWCFinal. You have made the Flag of India proud. @SGanguly99 @ThakurArunS @ShuklaRajiv," BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted.

Antigua | Agencies

India Under-19 cricket team captain Yash Dhull was on Sunday named skipper of ICC's Most Valuable Team of the Tournament after his side defeated England in the final to clinch the U-19 ICC Cricket World Cup here on Saturday.

Besides Dhull, two more Indians -- all-rounder Raj Bawa and spinner Vicky Ostwal -- figure in the 12-strong team. Overall, eight nations are represented in the line-up. The line-up has a pace battery that includes Josh Boyden of England, Awas Ali of Pakistan and Ripon Mondol of Bangladesh. England all-rounder Tom Prest and Sri Lanka's Dunith



Wellalage are the spin options in the 12 alongside India's Ostwal. South Africa's Dewald Brevis was announced as the 'Player of the

century, and his tactical use of bowlers was crucial in leading the side to victory.

Rival captain in the final, England's Tom Prest, sits one place below Dhull in the batting order of the ICC's Most Valuable Team of the Tournament having hit 292 runs in six games, the third most of the competition.

The team (in batting order): Haseebullah Khan (wk, Pakistan), Teague Wyllie (Australia), Dewald Brevis (South Africa), Yash Dhull (captain, India), Tom Prest (England), Dunith Wellalage (Sri Lanka), Raj Bawa (India), Vicky Ostwal (India), Ripon Mondol (Bangladesh), Awas Ali (Pakistan), Josh Boyden (England), Noor Ahmad (Afghanistan).

## Women's Asian Cup

# China hand South Korea dramatic 2-1 defeat to win record ninth title

Navi Mumbai | Agencies

Goalkeeper Zhu Yu pulled off a sensational one-handed save in second-half injury time and substitute Xiao Yuyi scored a dramatic winner a minute later as China scripted a dramatic come-from-behind win over South Korea to clinch a record-extending ninth title in the AFC Women's Asian Cup here on Sunday.

Korea were at the top for most of the match and looked cruising towards victory an hour into the match before they suffered a heart-break defeat.

Till 75th minutes in the final of the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022, played at the DY Patil Stadium here, it looked that it was not



China's day.

Against expectations, South Korea had surged to a 2-0 lead in the first half and even after the change of ends, things were not going in favour of the eight-time winners who had reached the summit clash by stunning two-time champions Japan in a penalty shoot-out.

With 22 minutes to go in the match, China earned a penalty and Tang Jiali converted it and China's fortunes took an upsurge as they fought back brilliantly to score a dramatic victory.

China entered the final chasing their first title since 2006 against a Korea Republic side who had never laid their hands on the coveted trophy.

## Australia women blow away Heather Knight's England in second ODI

Melbourne | Agencies

A strong bowling performance from Australia blew away Heather Knight's England as the tourists lost the low-scoring second Women's One-day International by five wickets with more than 14 overs to spare at the Junction Oval here on Sunday.

Having already retained the Ashes series after the first ODI victory, Meg Lanning's side was in no mood to let up, racing to the 130-run winning target in 35.2 overs.

Ellyse Perry's 3/12 off seven overs and a late strike from Tahlia McGrath sunk the tourists, who limped to



129 in 45.2 overs. In reply, Australia eased to the target, with Perry again strong in an innings of 40 off 64 deliveries.

### Brief scores :

England 129 in 45.2 overs (Sophie Ecclestone 32 not out; Ellyse Perry 3/12, Tahlia McGrath 3/4) lost to Australia 131/5 in 35.2 overs (Ellyse Perry 40, Ashleigh Gardner 31 not out) by five wickets.

## Indian footballers take a stand of zero tolerance for FGM

New Delhi: Indian footballers took a stand on the 'International Day for Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)', stating that malpractice needs to be stopped immediately to give an equal chance to children.

"Women in our society have grown a lot, and have gone on to do great things. But the dark underbelly of such backward practices as genital mutilation for girls still exists. Such practices tend to take away the individuality and self-confidence out of such children," said the former Indian women's team captain Oinam Bembem Devi. "As a society, we should condemn such practices and make sure that every child in our country has a proper childhood with a decent education, and that they have the opportunity to grow up and



become what they want. Only then can we progress as a nation," she further stated. Female genital mutilation is an ancient practice that is still followed across many places in the world, including certain regions in India as well. Indian women's football team forward Ngangom Bala Devi was vocal about the basic human rights of all children, especially little girls, and said that such practices were

no place in modern society. "The good thing in India is that we have begun the conversation of giving equal rights to women across different fields. But as long as such backward practices exist in our country, we cannot fulfill such dreams," said Bala Devi. "These are violations of basic human rights, and we need to dive deep into the misogynistic mindset and root out such perceptions.

## West Ham, Chelsea struggle; Man Utd only giant-killing victims in FA Cup

London | Agencies

Frank Lampard enjoyed a winning return to management as Everton progressed to the fifth round of the FA Cup thanks to a 4-1 win at home to Brentford.

Yerry Mina and Richarlison put Everton 2-0 up on Saturday and although Ivan Toney's penalty gave Brentford a lifeline, Mason Holgate and Andros Townsend sealed a morale-boosting win for Everton.

First-half goals from Marc Guehi and Michael Olise put Crystal Palace on the fast track to a comfortable 2-0 win at home to fourth-tier Hartlepool, Xinhua reports.

Manchester City conceded an early goal in their Cup tie at home to EFL Championship leaders, Fulham, when Liverpool target Fabio Carvalho put the visitors ahead in the fourth minute.

Pep Guardiola's side reacted quickly with Ilkay Gundogan and John Stones turning the score around in

just nine minutes before goals from Riyadh Mahrez after 53 and 57 minutes resolved the game comfortably for City. Kenny McLean's goal in first-half injury time gave struggling Norwich a surprise 1-0 win away to Wolves in an all-Premier League affair.

Harry Kane was on target twice for Tottenham as his side beat Brighton 3-1. Kane opened the scoring in the 15th minute and Spurs doubled their lead thanks to a Solly Marsh own goal eight minutes later.

Yves Bissouma pulled a goal back for Brighton in the 63rd minute, but Kane's second of the match three minutes later saw Spurs home win comfortably. Middlesbrough pro-



duced the first surprise of the round as they knocked Manchester United out of the Cup 8-7 on penalties after their tie at Old Trafford ended 1-1 after extra time, with Matt Crooks's 64th-minute goal cancelling out Jadon Sancho's opener for the home side. There was controversy over the equaliser as the ball clearly hit a Boro hand in the build-up, but United had themselves to blame after missing a handful of chances, including a first-half penalty by Cristiano Ronaldo.

Kidderminster Harriers from the sixth tier of the English game were seconds away from a stunning 1-0 win at home to West Ham, before Declan Rice scored an injury-time goal to cancel out Alex Penny's 19th-minute goal for the home side.

The game then looked to be going to penalties only for Jarrod Bowen to score a winner with 120 minutes

already completed.

Chelsea also needed extra time to defeat League One's Plymouth Argyle who took an eighth-minute lead at Stamford Bridge through Macaulay Gillespie after eight minutes.

Cesar Azpilicueta equalized a couple of minutes before halftime, but it wasn't until the 105th minute that Marcos Alonso finally swung the game Chelsea's way.

Southampton were another top-flight team needing extra time to get past lower league opposition, with Stuart Armstrong and Kyle Walker-Peters scoring to get the 'Saints' past Coventry City, who had taken a first-half lead through Viktor Gyokeres

In ties not involving Premier League clubs, Huddersfield Town won a Yorkshire derby 1-0 at home to Barnsley, Peterborough United beat Queens Park Rangers 2-0 to qualify for the fifth round for the first time since 1986, while Stoke City defeated Wigan 2-0 and Luton won 3-0 away to Cambridge United.



## Bollywood celebs grieve the passing of India's Nightingale



Team Absolute | Mumbai

**K**angana Ranaut conveyed the heartfelt sentiment of the Hindi film world when she wrote on her Instagram story: "What a loss!! India's most beautiful voice is gone!! There will never be another Lataji." Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar passed away after a 28-day-long battle with Covid-19, pneumonia and related issues here at 8:12 a.m. on Sunday morning, leaving behind a legacy that will be hard to match. Anil Kapoor said he was heartbroken but "blessed to have known and loved this incredible soul." Lata Mangeshkar had lent her voice under A.R. Rahman's music direction to 'Pukar', the Raj Kumar Santoshi film starring Anil Kapoor. He added: "Lataji holds a place in our hearts that will never be taken by anyone else. That's how

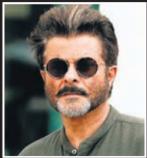
profoundly she has impacted our lives with her music. May she rest in peace and light up the heavens with her brightness."



Actor Jackie Shroff shared a post on Instagram, where he is seen holding a picture

of the nonagenarian, and captioned it with a heartbreak emoji.

"An icon, a legend ... words will always fall short. Thank you for your glorious voice, Lataji. It will resonate worldwide for generations to come. RIP," tweeted Shahid Kapoor.



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Tamannaah Bhatia called it an end of an era. "We lost a legend today. Truly, an end of an era. May her soul rest in peace and glory."

Actress-filmmaker Pooja Bhatt wrote: "#LataMangeshkar To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."



Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar said on a personal note: "She has been a mother figure to me over the years, used

to call her every fortnight and have conversations. It's a personal loss for me. Her presence will be immensely missed in my life. Love you Didi. #OmShanti #VoiceofIndia"

Rapper Badshah quoted a song sung by her. He wrote: "Tera saaya sath hoga. Rest in Peace, Lataji."

Actress Nimrat Kaur said "India lost her voice today", and added: "There will never be another ... #RIP LataMangeshkar ji"

Filmmaker Kunal Kohli said he had the honour of working with Lata Mangeshkar in his first film, 'Mujhse Dosti Karoge'.

"Recording with you was a learning and fun experience. Can't forget how you pulled my leg by making me give 'sur'! Your life will always be celebrated. #LataMangeshkar a medley of your songs by you."

Actress Dia Mirza, who shared a vintage photograph of the late singer, said: "Lata Mangeshkarji's voice will always be India's voice. Our glorious nightingale of India. Our Bharat Ratna."

Esha Deol, whose father has acted in films featuring the songs of Lata Mangeshkar, said she was shocked and heartbroken by the news. "Her melodious voice will live in our hearts forever. Condolences to the family. OM Shanti #LataMangeshkar ji," Esha added.



## LATA FIRST INDIAN AT ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LOVED TO PLAY SLOT MACHINE IN VEGAS



Team Absolute | New Delhi

**K**nown as 'the Nightingale of India' 'Swarkokila' Lata Mangeshkar was the first Indian artist to perform at the famous Royal Albert Hall in London with the Wren Orchestra way back in 1974. An avid photography enthusiast, Lata Mangeshkar initially tried her hands with a Rollei reflex camera, and loves to click when on holiday in the US, mostly.

On holidays in the US, she loved playing the slot machines in Las Vegas through the night.

"This may sound strange but when I used to visit America on holiday, I loved spending time in Las Vegas. It's an exciting city. I really enjoyed playing the slot machines. I never played roulette or cards - but I used to spend the whole night at a slot machine. I was very lucky and won many times," she admitted during one interview with the British broadcaster.

London based British Broadcasting Company (BBC) published many of such facts about the Bollywood legend on Sunday in 'Obituary: Lata Mangeshkar, 'Nightingale of Bollywood' dies at 92', in which the broadcaster compiled many

interviews and interactions with Bollywood superstar singer over the years. A foodie, Lata Mangeshkar burnt her stress through cooking and watching cricket matches, mostly the test series through video cassettes, proudly boasted of owning a signed photograph of Don Bradman, and one from Sachin Tendulkar, she revealed in one of her interviews.

Lata Mangeshkar enjoyed listening to Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Nat King Cole, the Beatles, Barbra Streisand and Harry Belafonte. She went to see Marlene Dietrich singing on stage, and loved Ingrid Bergman's theatre. She also loved going to the movies - her favourite Hollywood film was The King and I, which she said she saw at least 15 times, and Singing in the Rain. The James Bond films - or at least the ones featuring Sean Connery or Roger Moore - were also a favourite. But Bond wasn't the only British hero to catch her attention, she also owned every single one of the Sherlock Holmes detective novels, writes BBC in its obituary. Cars were another passion. At various points in her life she owned a grey Hillman and blue Chevrolet, Chrysler and a Mercedes. At home, she owned nine dogs.



### A.R. RAHMAN'S PICTURE WITH TERSE TWEET SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**O**scar-winning 'Mozart of Madras' A.R. Rahman wrote just four words in his tribute to Lata Mangeshkar, "Love, respect and prayers", on Sunday, but posted a picture that said a thousand words -- of him sitting at the Nightingale's feet. Rahman has collaborated with the Nightingale for some of his most remembered tracks, including 'Jiya Jale' picturised on SRK and Preity Zinta in Mani Ratnam's 'Dil Se'.

Lata Mangeshkar and Rahman shared a mutual bond of love and respect. In an interview some years ago, Lataji, talking about the music maestro, had said: "A.R. Rahman is

very talented. I have sung very few songs for him. I love 'Jiya Jale'. Rahman and I came together for the first time for this evergreen number from Mani Ratnam's 'Dil Se'. It became such a rage. And I'm asked to sing that song at every concert that I go to.

"I think he was a little intimidated by me when we did 'Jiya Jale' in Chennai. But he allowed me to do it my own way. And when I started humming an impromptu 'alaap' at the end of the tune, he told me to just go on. He recorded that as well.

"Subsequently I recorded other songs with Rahman. My duet 'Luka Chuppi' with Rahman for 'Rang De Basanti' became so popular. It's rare nowadays to get a good song like it."



### LATAJI HOLDS A PLACE IN OUR HEARTS THAT IS IRREPLACEABLE: ILAIYARAJA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

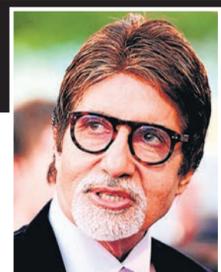
**S**tating that Lata Mangeshkar holds a place in our hearts that is irreplaceable, one of India's greatest music directors, Ilaiyaraaja, on Sunday said that the singing legend's demise is a big loss not only to the music fraternity but to the whole world. The ace music director took to Facebook to first pen a tribute. In it, he said, "Heartbroken, but blessed to have known her and for having worked with her. Loved this incredible voice & soul. Lataji holds a place in our hearts that is irreplaceable. That's how profoundly she has impacted our lives with her voice. May she rest in peace & light up the heavens with her soulful voice."

### Voice of a million centuries has left us: Amitabh Bachchan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**M**egastar Amitabh Bachchan has paid homage to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who passed away on Sunday aged 92 at a hospital in Mumbai. The thespian described Lata Mangeshkar as "the voice of million centuries" on his personal blog. He wrote: "She has left us...The voice of a million cen-

turies has left us .. her voice resounds now in the Heavens! Prayers for calm and peace." Apart from the cine icon, several Bollywood personalities Akshay Kumar, Salman Khan, Kangana Ranaut, Ajay Devgn, Kajol, Ranveer Singh, Anushka Sharma, Parineeti Chopra, Priyanka Chopra, Kareena Kapoor paid tribute to the melody queen of India. Lata Mangeshkar succumbed to



multiple organ failure after 28 days of hospitalisation at Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai, on Sunday.



### 'UNPARALLELED FOREVER', MOHANLAL & MAMMOOTTY CONDOLE DEATH OF LATA MANGESHKAR

Team Absolute | Chennai

**M**alayalam stars Mohanlal and Mammootty on Sunday joined crores of Indians all across the world in condoling the death of India's singing legend Lata Mangeshkar, who breathed her last at the Breach Candy hospital in Mumbai.

Taking to Twitter, actor Mohanlal said, "Deeply saddened to hear about the passing of the musical phenomenon, Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar. May she live on through her music. Sending condolences to her loved ones. (sic)" Actor Mammootty too expressed his condolences on Twitter. He tweeted, "India has lost our nightingale. Cinema and music will never be the same again. Lataji your immense body of work and your iconic voice will be unparalleled forever. #LataMangeshkar". Several stars and celebrities from film industries across the country have been expressing their condolences at the demise of the legend.

### INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Jannat Zubair