

# absolute india



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WITH ADDITION OF 34 NEW DRUGS, NUMBER OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES GOES TO 384

## HEALTH AND WEALTH

Several anti-cancer drugs, antibiotics and vaccines will now become more affordable as they are among 34 new additions to the National List of Essential Medicines, with the government saying this will reduce "patients' out-of-pocket expenditure".

- ▶ ANTI-INFECTIVES LIKE IVERMECTIN, MUPIROCIN AND MEROPENEM HAVE ALSO BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST, TAKING THE TOTAL DRUGS UNDER IT TO 384. IN THE REVISED LIST, ENDOCRINE MEDICINES AND CONTRACEPTIVES FLUDROCORTISONE, ORMELOXIFENE, INSULIN GLARGINE AND TENELIGLITIN HAVE BEEN ADDED. MONTELUKAST, WHICH ACTS ON THE RESPIRATORY TRACK, AND OPHTHALMOLOGICAL DRUG LATANOPROST ALSO FIGURE IN THE LIST.
- ▶ FOUR MAJOR ANTI-CANCER DRUGS - BENDAMUSTINE HYDROCHLORIDE, IRINOTECAN HCl TRIHYDRATE, LENALIDOMIDE AND LEUPROLIDE ACETATE WHICH ARE EFFECTIVE IN VARIOUS TYPES OF CANCERS - AND PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC MEDICINES - NICOTINE REPLACEMENT THERAPY AND BUPRENORPHINE - HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST.
- ▶ 26 DRUGS SUCH AS RANITIDINE, SUCRALFATE, WHITE PETROLATUM, ATENOLOL AND METHYLDOPA HAVE BEEN DROPPED FROM THE PREVIOUS LIST. BESIDES, CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINES DABIGATRAN AND TENECTEPLASE TOO FIND PLACE IN THE LIST BESIDES MEDICINES USED IN PALLIATIVE CARE. THE DELETION HAS BEEN DONE BASED ON THE PARAMETERS OF COST EFFECTIVENESS AND AVAILABILITY OF BETTER DRUGS.



categories. Several antibiotics, vaccines, anti-cancer drugs and many other important drugs will become more affordable & reduce patients' out-of-pocket expenditure." Speaking on the occasion, he said his ministry is taking various steps under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards "Sabko Dawai, Sasti Dawai". "In this direction, National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) plays an important role in ensuring accessibility of affordable quality medicines at all levels of healthcare. This will give boost to cost-effective, quality medicines and contribute towards reduction in Out of Pocket Expenditure on healthcare for the citizens," he said. The primary purpose of NLEM is to promote

rational use of medicines considering the three important aspects -- cost, safety and efficacy, Mandaviya said. He said the NLEM is a dynamic document and is revised on a regular basis considering the changing public health priorities as well as advancement in pharmaceutical knowledge. The NLEM was formulated in 1996 and it was revised thrice earlier in 2003, 2011, and 2015. Revision of NLEM 2022 has been done after constant consultation with stakeholders spanning from academia, industrialists and public policy experts etc., and crucial documents like WHO EML 2021. A revised list of 399 formulations was submitted by an expert committee under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) last year.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After launching the list on Tuesday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted, "Released the National List of Essential Medicines 2022. It comprises 384 drugs across 27

## Pitched battles between BJP workers and police in Kolkata

Kolkata | Agencies

The streets of Kolkata turned into a virtual battlefield on Tuesday afternoon as BJP activists, marching to the West Bengal Secretariat to protest corruption issues, clashed with police.

A police vehicle was torched, while a BJP councillor of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, an Assistant Commissioner of Police and several others, including both BJP supporters and police personnel, were injured. At around 3 p.m., an group of BJP supporters led by party's national Vice President, Dilip Ghosh and the party's state General Secretary, Jagannath Chattopadhyay, started moving towards the state secretariat, Nabanna from BJP's state headquarters at Muralidhar Sen Lane. As they reached central Kolkata, they came to know that Leader of Opposition in Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari had been arrested and taken to the Kolkata Police headquarters at Lalbazar. At this, a section of BJP supporters from the arms, led by Chattopadhyay started marching towards the police headquarters and were able to reach its gates after breaking through the barricades.



### CALCUTTA HC SEEKS REPORT FROM CHIEF SECY

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday sought a report from the West Bengal government on the alleged police atrocities on the leaders and workers of BJP during the latter's march to state Secretariat against corruption issues.

The state government counsel argued that the police was forced to take action since the situation on Tuesday afternoon was going out of control, with a police vehicle being torched, a police kiosk vandalised and over 50 police personnel injured.

After hearing both sides, the bench ordered the state Chief Secretary to submit a report. Observing that no one can be arrested with any reason, it also said that it is necessary for the state administration to ensure that the public property is protected.

Although the police were initially pushed back, soon a huge contingent of security personnel, led by senior officials of Kolkata Police, stopped the BJP supporters, following which clashes broke out there. Violence also spread to the adjacent Mahatma Gandhi Road, where a police PCR van was allegedly set on fire by BJP supporters. An ACP and BJP councillor Meena Devi Purohit, along with several others, were injured. Mahatma Gandhi Road, being a trading hub, has a number of shops with many storing inflammable items. The burning PCR van created panic in the locality and the traders quickly pulled down the shutters of their shops. However, the fire tenders quick-

ly rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire before it could spread further. A police kiosk there was also vandalised by the BJP supporters. However, BJP state President Sukanta Majumdar alleged that the PCR van was set on fire by the police only and blame put on his party supporters. Senior city officials rubbished his claims.

## DMK LEADER A. RAJA SPEAKS AGAINST HINDU RELIGION

Chennai: DMK leader and former Union Minister, A. Raja spoke against the Hindu religion while addressing a public gathering, triggering a strong response from the BJP.

While addressing the gathering organised by the Dravidar Kazhagam, Raja asked: "Who is a Hindu? We should have the right to assert... We don't wish to be a Hindu, why are you keeping me as a Hindu?"

"I haven't seen any religion like this. Lingayats in Karnataka are petitioning the Supreme Court saying that their way of worship and religious principles are different. They are asking themselves not to be declared Hindu. But what is the Supreme Court saying? The Supreme Court is saying that if you aren't a Christian, Muslim, or Persian, you have to be a Hindu. Is there any other country having such cruelty?"

"You are a shudra till you remain a Hindu. You're the son of a prostitute till you remain a shudra. You are a Panchaman (Dalit) till you remain a Hindu. You're an untouchable till you remain a Hindu. How many of you wish to stay as children of prostitutes? How many of you wish to remain untouchables? Only if we are vocal about these questions, it will become elemental in breaking Sanathana (Sanatana Dharma)."

## Pvt Companies required to deduct tax at source while issuing bonus or rights shares

As per the circular, now bank and financial institutions need not deduct tax at source in respect of benefits provided to its borrowers by waiver of loan or advance by way of one-time settlement.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Tuesday issued another circular to further clarify issues arising on deduction of tax at source under the newly-inserted Section 194-R in respect of benefits or perquisites provided to residents in cash or in kind in the course of business or profession.

Similarly, a company in which the public is substantially interested need not deduct tax at source while issuing bonus or rights



shares. The implication of this clarification will be that a company in which public is not substantially interested will be required to deduct tax at source while issuing bonus or rights shares despite such receipt of bonus or right shares being not taxable in

the hands of the shareholders.

The reasoning given in this circular for exempting a company in which the public is substantially interested from deduction of tax at source while issuing bonus or rights shares equally applies to a private company in which the public is not substantially interested, experts said.

Experts say this circular may be fishing in troubled waters as it is differentiating between taxpayers. Experts also wonder if by doing that the legislative intent is being bypassed by such circulars.

## 8 KILLED IN HYDERABAD E-BIKE SHOWROOM FIRE

Hyderabad: The owners of a hotel and e-bike showroom, where a fire claimed eight lives on Monday night, have been booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.



A major fire broke out at the Ruby Pride Luxury Hotel, following an explosion in an e-bike showroom located in the basement of the five-storied building near the Passport Office. Eight persons were killed and nine injured in the fire that broke out around 9.30 p.m.

According to police, the fire spread to the hotel on the upper floors. The hotel comprised 28 rooms. There were 25 occupants in the hotel when the blaze engulfed the building. Police suspect that either an e-bike or a generator in the showroom exploded leading to fire.

The police booked Rajender Singh Bugga, Sumeet Singh and others who were illegally running an e-bike showroom for one year in the cellar of the same building.

## 9 OUT OF 10 INMATES IN DELHI JAILS AWAIT TRIAL: INDIA JUSTICE REPORT

Undertrial prisoners comprise 77 per cent of the prison population - up from 76 per cent nationally. Their numbers have nearly doubled since 2010 from 2.4 lakh to 4.3 lakh in 2021. With the exception of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Tripura, the undertrial population of all other states exceed 60 per cent.

- ▶ AS PER THE ANALYSIS OF THE FIGURES, 1.47 CRORE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED IN 2021, AN INCREASE OF 7.7 LAKHS FROM 1.39 CRORE IN 2020.
- ▶ INMATE POPULATION ACROSS 1319 PRISONS GREW 13 PER CENT FROM 488,511 (DEC 2020) TO 554,034 (DEC 2021). THE ANNUAL INCREASE IS PARTICULARLY WORRYING; GIVEN THAT 2021 WAS THE SECOND COVID YEAR WHEN A SLEW OF DECONGESTION EFFORTS WERE BEING IMPLEMENTED ACROSS THE NATION.
- ▶ THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENTERING AND LEAVING PRISONS IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR ALSO INCREASED BY 10.8 PER CENT FROM 16.3 LAKHS IN 2020 TO A TOTAL OF 18.1 LAKH IN 2021.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

As many as nine out of ten inmates in prisons of Delhi are awaiting the completion of their trial which is a whopping 91 per cent of undertrials in the national

prisons and their inmates, published by the National Crime Records Bureau.

The analysis shows prisoners' visits to courts came up from 15.5 lakhs in 2020 to 20.9 lakh in 2021. Inmates' access to health services, with the

number of visits made by prisoners for medical attendance, rose from 3.6 lakh visits in 2020 to 4.4 lakh.

Nationally, overall occupancy of prisons increased from 118 per cent to 130 per cent. With the onset of the second wave of the pandemic, and fresh directions to limit arrests and decongest prisons, only 93,526 inmates were released in 17 states/UTs between March and July 2021.

Yet, as of December 2021, nineteen out of thirty-six states and Union Territories had overcrowding ranging from 185 per cent in Uttarakhand - the highest, to 100.2 per cent in Rajasthan. Among the Union Territories, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir had over 100 per cent occupancy rates.

## EC DECLARES 253 REGISTERED UNRECOGNISED POLITICAL PARTIES AS 'INACTIVE'



Team Absolute | New Delhi

As part of its action for ensuring due compliance by Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs), the Election Commission of India (ECI) led by Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar, has delisted 86 non-existent RUPPs and declared another 253 as 'Inactive RUPPs'. The action against 339 non-compliant RUPPs takes the tally to 537 defaulting RUPPs since May 25, 2022.

The ECI said that as per statutory requirements under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, every political party has to communicate any change in its name, head office, office-bearers, address,

PAN etc. to the Commission without delay. A total of 86 RUPPs have been found to be non-existent either after a physical verification carried out by the respective chief electoral officers of concerned states/UTs or based on report of undelivered letters/notices from the postal authority sent to the registered address of the concerned RUPP. It may be recalled that the ECI had delisted 87 and 111 RUPPs through orders dated May 25 and June 20, respectively.

The latest decision against 253 non-compliant RUPPs has been taken based on reports received from chief electoral officers of seven states -- Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. These 253 RUPPs have been declared inactive, as they have not responded to the letter/notice delivered to them and have not contested a single election, be it Assembly polls or Parliamentary elections of 2014 and 2019. These RUPPs have failed to comply with the statutory requirements for more than 16 compliance steps since 2015 and are continuing to default, said a senior EC official.





# CREATE CLEAR FRAMEWORK OF VACCINE LIABILITY FOR MANUFACTURER: PARL PANEL TELLS HEALTH MINISTRY

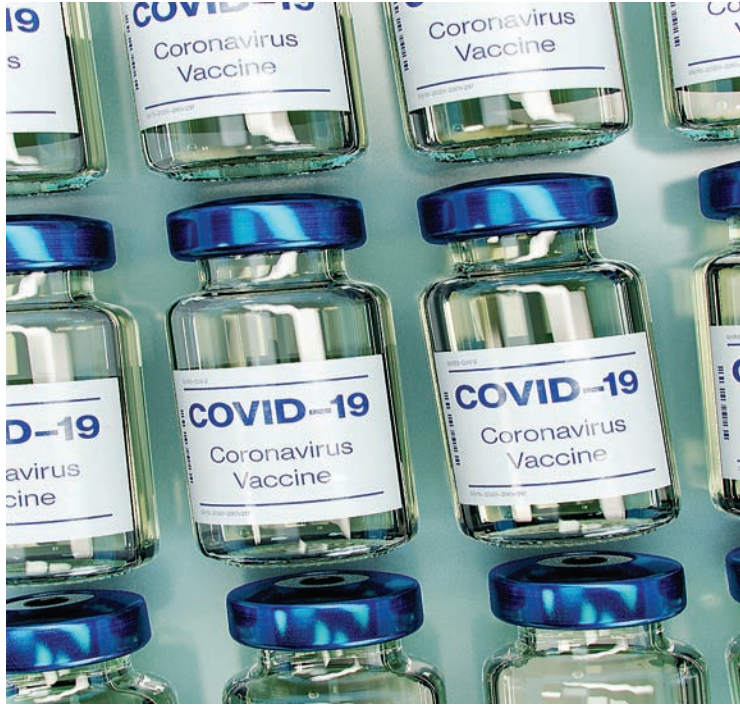
Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health has recommended the Health Ministry create a clear framework of vaccine liability for the manufacturer in case of Adverse Effect Following Immunisation (AEFI).

"The Committee also notes that Covid-19 vaccination is voluntary and presently, there is no mechanism of compensation to beneficiaries or liability of vaccine manufacturer in case of any Adverse Event Following Immunisation. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends the Ministry to create a clear framework of vaccine liability for manufacturer in case of AEFI so that adequate compensation can be provided to the aggrieved individuals," said the panel in its report.

Observing the under-reporting and poor quality data collection a reason behind reporting of such less number of AEFI, the Committee has taken note of the unusual peak on July 10 where 743 such cases were reported.

"The Committee would like to be apprised of the reason behind this sudden rise in the cases and the



vaccines that caused the adverse reaction," it said. The report noted that mild side effects after administering of the vaccines are usually reported as the

body requires time to adjust to the vaccination dose. "However, the Committee feels that the Ministry must ensure that possible adverse effects are communicated to the

people followed by timely treatment. Attention of the Committee is also brought to the death of a patient post Covid-19 vaccination," the panel said in the report.

It also said "that in the concerned case, the AEFI Committee released its assessment Report after almost seven months.

The Committee strongly recommends the Ministry to ensure that appropriate investigation must be done and AEFI Committee must expedite its examination of each adverse cases".

Stressing that there is a need to monitor and conduct surveillance of post-Covid complications, the Committee has also recommended the Ministry frame a treatment protocol and make specific guidelines for managing post-Covid complications and related health problems arising due to the initial infection.

The Ministry must also work towards sensitising the Indian public health system to deal with such cases of long Covid, it said, adding that it further recommends the Ministry to ensure medical support for long Covid sufferers and train the healthcare workers for managing patients with long Covid.

# Demolition drive continues in B'uru to clear encroachment

Bengaluru | Agencies

Continuing its drive against encroachment, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the civic agency, carried out a ruthless demolition drive at 18 locations in Bengaluru on Tuesday, the second day.

The official note from BBMP stated that the demolition drive has been carried out in the Mahadevapura zone and Yelahanka zones. In Mahadevapura zone, demolition drives were carried out at Shantiniketan Layout, Papaiah Reddy Layout and Challaghatta localities. These areas were inundated and saw major water-logging problems during heavy rains. The team of engineers, revenue officers, marshals and police personnel were present during the drive in which two Hitachi and eight JCB machines were used.

Nalpad Academy in Challaghatta has encroached upon 2.5 meters of width, and 150.5 meters of storm water drain has been encroached. Fifty meters of encroachment has been cleared and the drive will continue.

In Shantiniketan Layout, seven buildings and four compound walls have been cleared. Meanwhile, owners of flats and buildings complained that they have purchased from builders and banks have also given loans for them. Now, BBMP is demolishing without any notice and they don't know where to go.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has informed the session that Rs 600 crore has already been released to build infrastructure



across the state. He also announced that he would give Rs 1,800 crore for development of storm water drains in Bengaluru. The work would be finished within a set time-frame.

Krishna Bhairagowda, Congress MLA, stated in the session that brand Bengaluru is affected globally and the government must ensure that all storm water drains in Bengaluru must be developed.

# Hoax bomb call triggers panic at Leela Ambience hotel in Gurugram

Gurugram | Agencies

The Leela Ambience, a five-star hotel, in Gurugram on Tuesday received a bomb threat call, triggering panic in the premises, police said. However, it later turned out to be a hoax.

Police in a statement said, "A hoax call was made to a private hotel in Gurugram on Tuesday. Police reached the hotel, evacuated it and started an investigation. The caller was found to be a 24-year-old mentally ill person. He was found to be suffering from autism and he is undergoing treatment in a private hospital in Gurugram."

According to the report, more than a hundred guests were staying in the hotel.



However, after 90 minutes of search operation, it was found a hoax call. An unidentified person had called the hotel's reception desk at around 11.55 a.m. "It was a male voice that said a bomb will explode in the (Ambience) mall," the sources said. The police were immediately alerted after which a dog squad and

Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) rushed to the spot and evacuated people from the hotel.

The BDDS checked the entire hotel and its surroundings and a search operation is currently underway, the police said. The hotel also increased the number of security staff after receiving the call.

# Nursery girl raped allegedly by Bus driver, woman attendant watched in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A three-and-a-half-year-old nursery student was raped allegedly by her school bus driver inside the vehicle in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, a police official said.

The police have arrested the bus driver and a woman attendant who, according to the child's parents, was present inside the vehicle when the incident took place last Thursday, the official said.

Asked if the school management allegedly tried to cover-up the matter, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said the role of the school administration will be investigated and action will be taken accordingly.

The child, studying in a leading private school in the city, was returning home in the bus when the offence took place.

After the girl returned home, her mother noticed that someone had changed the child's clothes with the spare set kept in her bag, the official said.

The mother then enquired with her daughter's class teacher and also the school principal, but both of them denied having changed the child's clothes.

The child later complained of pain in her genitals. Her parents took her into confidence and counselled her, following which she informed them that the bus driver sexually abused her and also changed her clothes, the police official said.

The parents went to the school the next day to complain to the authorities and the child identified the driver, the official said.

The girl's parents filed a police complaint on Monday following which a probe was launched into the incident, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Nidhi Saxena said.

At the time of the incident, a woman attendant was present inside the bus, as per the complaint filed by the child's parents, the police said.

The bus driver and the woman attendant have been arrested, the senior police officer said.

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra told reporters that,

"The role of the school administration will also be investigated. People from the school management will be questioned. I also believe the school management tried to cover-up the matter."

Meanwhile, Authorities on Tuesday demolished the house of a school bus driver who has been arrested for allegedly raping a three-and-a-half-year-old nursery student in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal.

The demolition in Bhopal's Shahpura area took place under the supervision of police. Illegal construction was the official reason given by the authorities for carrying out the demolition.

Armed with a hammer, the men destroyed the house located in a tiny lane as officials kept watch.

# Mukul Rohatgi to return as Attorney General

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi is set to become the Attorney General for India again. He is scheduled to begin his second stint as the top law officer of the country from October 1.

According to sources familiar with the development, the term of incumbent Attorney General K.K. Venugopal is ending on September 30, and he has refused to continue beyond his term, citing his advanced age.

Venugopal, 91, was appointed as the country's top law officer on June 30, 2017, and he was given several extensions.



Sources said Rohatgi, who is one of the top court lawyers in the country, gave his consent for assuming the top post.

He was first appointed as the Attorney General in 2014 for a three-year term.

# BIHAR MINISTER REMAINS FIRM ON HIS 'CHIEF OF THIEVES' STATEMENT

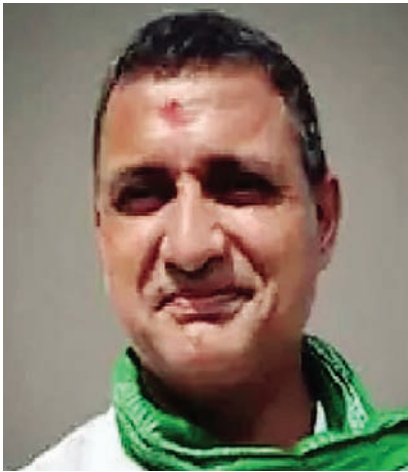
Patna | Agencies

Bihar agriculture minister Sudhakar Singh said on Tuesday that he stands by his statement of "Chief of thieves". With his statement, Singh opened a front against his own government and made the situation uncomfortable for Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav.

Sudhakar Singh is the son of Rashtriya Janata Dal state president Jagadanand Singh. He said at a public meeting that there are many thieves in his department and as he is the minister of the department, he becomes the chief of thieves.

While interacting with media persons in Patna, Singh said that he stands by his statement and will not amend it or complain that the statement was twisted by the media.

"I spoke the truth and I will not withdraw or clarify it. A large amount of cor-



ruption is taking place inside the agriculture department. Everyone is looting the ministry. I asked the government to stop the allocation of budget funds to

my department," Singh said.

"The farmers want to do paddy farming but the Bihar Rajya Beej Nigam does not provide them adequate seeds. The funds allocated for the purpose, Rs 150 crore, are not reaching the farmers. The officials are involved in this scam. When farmers reached the district magistrates, they refused to interact with them and refused to address their grievances. This is the actual status of Bihar," Singh said. Singh, while addressing a gathering of farmers in his home constituency Ramgarh in Kaimur district on Sunday claimed: "There are many thieves in my department and they are stealing money. As I am the in-charge minister of the department, I become their chief. There are many other chiefs above me. This government is old and its style of work is also old. It's up to the common people to alert the government," Singh said.

# Delhi court orders probe into Rs 800 cr alleged bank scam

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Tuesday ordered a court-monitored investigation into the over Rs 800 crore scam of public sector banks, including the State Bank of India (SBI), allegedly involving an infrastructure company director.

The FIR in this regard was registered by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shivani Chauhan, of Saket District Court, was hearing an application filed by complainant Vaibhav Jalan against Gaurav Jalan, Director of JK Infra Projects Ltd.

The petitioner's counsel argued that the accused allegedly created fictitious invoices and transferred the money from the company accounts to shell companies' accounts, but no effective investigation

has been carried out by the Investigating Officer and the complainant was not called for purpose of the probe in the last ten months.

Taking note of the submissions, the court directed the EOW to file a status report seeking the investigation carried out by it in the last 10 months and what investigation has been conducted on the discrepancies highlighted by a forensic audit of the company.

It also noted the apprehension that the accused may flee the country to evade the process of law.

Vaibhav Jalan was represented by advocate Sandeep Kapur, Senior Partner, Karanjawala & Co with advocates G.G. Kashyap and Gurmukh Choudhri.

The matter will be further heard on November 11.

# CONGRESS TO STEP UP BHARAT JODO YATRA IN OTHER STATES FROM SEP 16



New Delhi: Senior Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh and Jairam Ramesh will visit the states through which the party's ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' will not pass to mobilise the state units to participate in the yatra. Party General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Me and Digvijaya Singh will visit Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha from September 16 onwards. Our effort would be to mobilise the state units to join the Bharat Jodo Yatra." The Congress wants all the state units to participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra, starting the exercise from the block level.

Ramesh had earlier said that the yatra will strengthen the party and spread its ideology, adding that "the elephant has woken up which has surprised BJP".

# FICCI to adopt one lakh TB patients under 'TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Tuesday announced the commitment of adopting one lakh TB patients under the 'Tuberculosis (TB) Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan'. A

The FICCI has committed to adopt one lakh TB patients through the collective capability of FICCI members and support the government by becoming Ni-kshay Mitras. This was announced after a meeting between Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and the FICCI Health Services Leadership.

"FICCI commits to adopt one lakh TB patients through the collective capability of its members and support the Govt in The Tuberculosis Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan. This has been announced after a meeting with Dr @mansukhmandaviya, Minister @MoHFW\_INDIA with FICCI Health Services Leadership," the federation said in a tweet.



The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan was launched by President Droupadi Murmu on September 9 to reinvigorate the mission of TB elimination from the country by 2025.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave the clarion call to end TB in the country five years ahead of the SDG target of 2030 at the End TB Summit in March 2018. The TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan has been envisioned to bring together all community stakeholders to support those on TB treatment and accelerate the country's progress towards TB

elimination.

The President also launched the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative which forms a vital component of the Abhiyaan. The Ni-kshay Mitra portal provides a platform for donors to provide various forms of support to those undergoing TB treatment. The three-pronged support includes nutritional, additional diagnostic, and vocational support. The donors, called Ni-kshay Mitras, could be a wide range of stakeholders, including corporate houses and industry representatives.

# DELHI COURT ORDERS PROBE INTO RS 800 CR ALLEGED BANK SCAM

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday ordered a court-monitored investigation into the over Rs 800 crore scam of public sector banks, including the State Bank of India (SBI), allegedly involving an infrastructure company director.

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CHANGE OF NAME	CHANGE OF NAME
I MOUMITA MANNA MAITY is legally wedded spouse of No. 4573706Y HAV NANTY MAITY presently residing at Mathurapur PO- Donachak Moyna Dist- East Midnapore West Bengal Pin-721644 have changed my name from MOUMITA MAITY to MOUMITA MANNA MAITY vide affidavit No. BC 416842.	I No. 4581243K NK SURYAWANSHI ARJUN VAJNATH S/O SURYAWANSHI VAJNATH LAXMAN presently residing at Village warvanti Post sangvi The Ahemdpur Dist Latnr MH Pin 413515 have changed my daughter's name from ANUSHKA SURYAWANSHI to SURYAWANSHI ANUSHKA ARJUN vide affidavit no. BC 416829 dated 02 Apr 2022.
I No. 4581243K NK SURYAWANSHI ARJUN VAJNATH S/O SURYAWANSHI VAJNATH LAXMAN presently residing at Village warvanti Post sangvi The Ahemdpur Dist Latnr MH Pin 413515 have changed my daughter's name from ANANYA ARJUN SURYAWANSHI to SURYAWANSHI ANANYA ARJUN vide affidavit no. BC 416830 dated 02 Apr 2022.	I RASHIDA TAJPURWALA W/o BURHANUDDIN R/o Kasba Sehore, near Bohra Masjid, Sehore (M.P.) - 466001. have changed my name and shall hear after be known as RASHIDA BADSHAH





### GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTION OF CULTURE, RELIGION, TRADITION AND VALUES OF LIFE-CM CHOUHAN

▶ 6TH INTERNATIONAL DHARMA-DHAMMA CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD. OTHER COUNTRIES WILL GET A PLACE IN THE UNIVERSITY FOR ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES. WILL MAKE THE DREAM OF AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL UNIVERSITY COME TRUE. GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING OF SANCHI UNIVERSITY OF BUDDHIST-INDIC STUDIES HELD.



Buddhist-Indic Studies at Mantralaya. Chouhan said that the creation of the 6th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference by the university is commendable. All necessary preparations should be made by fixing the dates of the conference. The state government will extend full cooperation for this. At the same time, the vision of an international university should also be realized by providing space for academic and other work to other countries in the university campus. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the idea of an international conference organized by Sanchi University on 6th and 7th January before the investors' summit and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at Indore is commendable. Necessary preparations should be made for this also.

from Sri Lanka and other countries come to Sanchi with great faith. This place is the basis of connecting nations. Chouhan said that when he went to Sri Lanka, the idea of building a temple of Sita Mata there and starting a university at Sanchi came up simultaneously and it was given shape also. From the land of India, the Buddhist and Sanatan ideology spread out to the world. Only India will guide this world humanity to the eternal truth. India is also moving forward in this direction. Perhaps this is the divine providence, of which we all are the medium. The state government considers all the proposals of Sanchi University to be important. All possible assistance will be extended for this. Necessary grants and sanctions will be obtained by communicating with the University Grants Commission

and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Chouhan said that the vision of an international level university should be realized by providing space for academic work to other countries in the Sanchi University campus.

#### International Dharma-Dhamma convention

It was told that Sanchi University is contemplating to organise the 6th International Dharma-Dhamma Convention in the state. For this, proceedings have been started for the venue, inviting guests and making necessary financial arrangements. Chief Minister Chouhan said that necessary preparations should be started for the systematic organisation of this convention. The state government will also provide the necessary budget.

#### International conference proposed in Indore on 6th and 7th January

It was informed that taking advantage of the programmes of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 7-8 and 9 and Global Investors Summit on January 10 and 11, an international conference on January 6 and 7 is planned in Indore. Efforts are being made by Sanchi University to take the cooperation of ICHR to give it a shape. The names of scholars from the country and abroad are being considered for participating in this. Chief Minister asked to make necessary preparations for this conference.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that along with the operation of infrastructure development works and welfare of the people, it is also the responsibility of the government to think and work on culture, religious tradition, values of life and how the world will be in the coming times. The state government will extend full cooperation in realizing the projects of Sanchi Buddhist University.

Chief Minister was addressing the fifth meeting of the General Council of the Sanchi University of

### Ahead of Assembly elections, 46 urban body elections are important for BJP-Congress



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Electoral heat remains in Madhya Pradesh and 46 urban body elections are due before the assembly elections to be held in 2023 next year. This election is very important for the ruling party BJP and the opposition party Congress. Panchayat and urban body elections were recently held in the state, both the political parties have been claiming great success in these elections. Now elections are going to be held in 46 urban bodies this month and the important thing is that most of these areas come in tribal dominated area, so both the political parties have made preparations to put full emphasis in

these elections and they will field better candidates. In preparation to take off.

BJP has accelerated the process of selection of candidates in 46 areas of the urban body to be held this month. The party is looking for leaders with mass base and election winning leaders. At the same time, Congress is also making up its mind to field competent candidates, giving special importance to these elections, for this the party organization has called for the ground report.

According to political analysts, the state has 21 per cent tribal population and this greatly influences the elections. Not only this, 47 assembly seats are reserved for this category in the state

and the victory of these elections is sure to cause further deterioration of the government. Therefore, this election is important for both the parties, because its defeat and victory will lead the political party to the next. Will get strength for the elections to be held this year.

Elections are going to be held in 46 bodies in the state this month, polling will be held on September 27 and results will be declared on September 30, the places where elections are to be held, these include 17 municipalities and 29 municipal councils. These Nagar Palikas and Nagar Parishads fall in 18 districts of the state and most of these areas are tribal dominated.

### Kamal Nath's chopper makes emergency landing

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress's Madhya Pradesh unit president and former chief minister Kamal Nath's helicopter had to make an emergency landing in Sehore due to bad weather. Later they left for Bhopal by road.

According to the information received, Kamal Nath was on his stay in Agar-Malwa district.

He visited and offered prayers to Maa Baglamukhi temple in Nalkhedra as well as held a meeting with party workers. After that he was returning from Agar Malwa to Bhopal by helicopter, when the emergency landing of his helicopter was made in Sehore due to bad weather.



Congress state president's media coordinator Narendra Saluja has told that due to the sudden bad weather of Kamal Nath's helicopter, landing was made at the col-

lege ground in Sehore. He returned to Bhopal by road. He was accompanied by state in-charge JP Agarwal and former minister Jaivardhan Singh.

### Congress MLAs protest with garlic on the first day of assembly session

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress legislators dumped loads of garlic at a gate of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly on Tuesday, accusing the state BJP government of being apathetic towards farmers who were not getting adequate prices for their crops.

Some videos surfaced in the last few days on social media showing farmers throwing sacks full of garlic into different water bodies in Madhya Pradesh, apparently after getting low prices for their produce. One of the farmers had claimed they were being offered just Re 1 per kg for their garlic produce.

Expressing solidarity with the farmers, Congress MLAs Sachin Yadav, Jitu Patwari, and others threw garlic in front of gate number 3 of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, where



the five-day monsoon session began on Tuesday.

The opposition legislators raised slogans, alleging the ruling BJP "bought" legislators but was apathetic towards farmers and did not have money to buy the garlic cultivated by them. Two years ago, 22 MP Congress MLAs had resigned, which led to the

fall of the Kamal Nath-led Congress government in Madhya Pradesh.

The BJP later came to power in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Recently, a number of videos emerged in which farmers were seen dumping garlic into various water bodies in the state.

One such farmer, Vikas Sisodia, had claimed he was getting just Re 1 per kg for his garlic crop in the Indore market, and hence, he considered it appropriate to dump the produce in a drain near his village.

Sisodia had claimed he suffered a loss of ₹ 3 lakh in cultivating garlic this year.

### Injured man carried to hospital in JCB shovel as Ambulance unavailable

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A man injured in a road accident had to be carried to the hospital in a bulldozer in Madhya Pradesh -- a BJP-ruled state which has a sizeable health budget. The incident took place in Katni. The locals said they had informed the authorities and waited more than half-an-hour for an ambulance. Finally seeing the man was losing too much blood, they had to improvise.

Mahesh Burman, a resident of nearby Gairtalai, was injured after his bike collided with another two-wheeler.

When an ambulance failed to arrive even after 30 minutes,

Pushendra Vishwakarma, who drove the construction machine, volunteered to take him to the hospital. The accident had taken place outside his shop, he said.

Burman has fractured a leg. After first aid, he was referred to the district hospital.

This is not an isolated incident in Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, videos from various parts of the state showed people being taken to hospital in push carts, cycles and even physically carried by other people.

Last month, the authorities started an investigation after a video emerged from Damoh district showing a man carrying his pregnant wife to hospital in a push cart.

Kailash Ahirwal said he had called the "Dial 108" government ambulance service after his wife started having labour pains. But no ambulance came for over two hours.

He also alleged that when they reached the government-run Arogya Kendra after the two-km journey, they found no doctor or nurse.

Later, his wife was shifted to Hatta by a government ambulance. But in absence of proper facilities there, she had to be taken to the Damoh district hospital. The problem in ambulance access persists despite the government's announcements about an increase in the number of vehicles.

In April, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, at a function, announced the number has gone up from 1,445 to 2,052. The number of Advanced Life Support Vehicles was also increased from 75 to 167. Basic Life Support Ambulances, whose number was 531, was increased to 835.

In March, researchers at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis of the state government, said the Dial 108 ambulance service -- on which government spends ₹ 220 crore a year -- is unable to serve as many as 53 cases daily in each district.

The number of patients who have to resort to private ambulances is 10 lakh a year.

### CM Chouhan plants saplings of Peepal, Saptaparni and Moulshree

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Saptaparni and Moulshree along with the members of Team Maan Sanstha in the Smart City Garden in Shyamla Hills. The Peepal planted is considered a tree that purifies the environment. It is also known as a shady tree. It also has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Saptaparni plant is an evergreen medicinal tree, which has great importance in Ayurveda.

It is used in the manufacture of various medicines. Moulshree is a medicinal tree, it has been used in Ayurveda for centuries.



### Dhaba grounded in Katni for protecting the accused of raping an innocent

Team Absolute | Katni

In Katni district, an evil man made a three-and-a-half-year-old sleeping child a victim of his lust. The accused was given protection and shelter by a dhaba operator during the absconding, acting on which the administration demolished the patron's dhaba. The accused has been arrested there. Shivkumar Patel alias Sonu Patel, a resident of Kuthla Basti of Kaimore police station area of Katni district, is accused of raping a three-and-a-half-year-old minor girl on the intervening night of September 10 and 11. On searching for the girl, she was found crying near the tractor standing near the house in

the night itself. On being asked by the family members, Shivkumar Patel alias Sonu Patel, who lives near the house on rent, he accepted to do the savagery. The villagers called the police by calling dial 100 and the police arrested the accused Shivkumar Patel, but he escaped from the clutches of the police. On this the villagers expressed their displeasure and also demonstrated. Superintendent of Police Sunil Kumar Jain announced a reward of ten thousand rupees to nab the accused. Police launched an operation to arrest the accused and on Monday caught the accused Shivkumar Patel from village Joba under Vijayraghvarh police station area.

### Development of universities in the interest of students is the responsibility of Vice Chancellors

University curricula, educational arrangements and financial management should be in the best interest of the students. Conduct service works in rural areas with the help of students. Governor Mangubhai Patel gave instructions in the meeting of Vice Chancellors

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the development of the university in the interest of the students is the responsibility of the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor should utilise his talents and abilities to make the best use of the quality and resources of the University. Obtain everyone's cooperation and suggestions to improve the academic and managerial systems of the University. Do not hesitate to innovate and take tough decisions for the betterment of the University. Governor Patel was addressing the Vice Chancellors of 14



universities under the Higher Education Department at Raj Bhavan. Governor Patel said that universities are the centre of building the future of the coming generations of the country.

They are the foundation of nation building. If the foundation is strong, then only the building can become strong and spacious. It is therefore necessary that the university curriculum, educational systems and financial management are in the best interest of the students. In view of the possibilities of employment, new courses should be started soon. Also, do not delay in abolishing such courses which have lost relevance. This will make possible better use of financial resources. He said that along with the grants of the State Government, efforts should be made to get grants from the Central Government and other institutions.

### CONGRESS EXPELS MLA'S SON FACING RAPE CHARGES

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) has expelled a legislator son from the party's primary membership for six years over rape charges registered against him.

MPCC organisation secretary Chandra Prabhush Shekhar in a letter issued on Monday to Karan Morwal (30), who was a member of the Congress, said the party inquired into the allegations against him and prima facie found that they seem to be true, though the case is still pending in the court of law.

Karan Morwal is the son of Badnagar Congress legislator Murlu Morwal. Reacting to the development, MP Home Minister Narottam Mishra questioned the delay in action taken by the Congress against Karan Morwal. "The victim had levelled charges against the accused about a year back and later registered a police complaint, but the Congress is taking action against the accused now," Mishra told reporters on Tuesday. The police had in October 2021 arrested Karan Morwal, who was running, after a woman lodged a rape complaint against him on April 2 last year at women's police station in Indore, according to police officials.





EDITOR'S SPECS

## The Tree Love

In an effort to increase green cover, Coimbatore forest division has planted 14 lakh saplings in the past nine years. According to Coimbatore Forest Division officials, 14.33 lakh saplings were planted under the division between 2012 to 2021. The saplings were planted under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity and Conservation Greening Projects and Tree Cultivation on Private Lands. A senior officer with the Coimbatore forest division said, "We have replanted tree saplings in 95 villages in three districts and have planted 14.33 lakh saplings since 2012 to 2021." He said that long rotation saplings and short rotation saplings were planted, and added that long rotation plantations were done up to 2021 while short rotation plantations were done up to 2013-14. The short rotation plantations can be harvested in seven to eight years. The officials said that short rotation plantings were harvested by farmers since the past one year and have fetched good returns.

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The short rotation plantations can be harvested in seven to eight years. The officials said that short rotation plantings were harvested by farmers since the past one year and have fetched good returns. Malaivembu, one of the most popular short rotation trees, fetches Rs 4000 to 5000 per tonne. Forest department officials said that farmers are sending the Malaivembu trees directly to paper making companies and earning good revenue. The Coimbatore forest division is planning to raise more saplings from the three nurseries in Coimbatore and distribute among the farmers for the second phase of the project. According to forest department official that on an average a farmer is selling 10 to 15 tonnes of Malaivembu trees to paper factories and getting good returns. Several farmers have requested the forest department to plant Swakumar tree saplings also as they fetch good money for them.

# CHINESE BRI: A SUCCESS OR A FAILURE?

Asad Mirza

The recent economic upheaval followed by the political disruption in Sri Lanka, has once again made China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) the focus of debate whether it is beneficial or insensitive to the participating countries besides being a success or a failure.

Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the BRI with much fanfare and high promises and grandiose plans for the participating countries in 2013. It was considered to be a centrepiece of the Chinese foreign and trade policy.

Basically, the BRI earlier also referred to, as One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy to invest in nearly 150 countries and international organisations, around the globe.

The BRI formed a central component of Xi's "Major Country Diplomacy" strategy, which calls for China to assume a greater leadership role for global affairs in accordance with its rising power and status.

As of August, 149 countries were listed as having signed up to the BRI.

Xi originally announced the strategy as the "Silk Road Economic Belt" during an official visit to Kazakhstan in September 2013, referring to the proposed overland routes for road and rail transportation through landlocked Central Asia along the famed historical trade routes of the Western Regions; in addition to the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road", referring to the Indo-Pacific sea routes through Southeast Asia to South Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

In fact the BRI was also considered a grandiose plan to challenge the American hegemony over the global trade and diplomacy.

However, the recent events in Sri Lanka, with similar echoes being heard from Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan has led some China watchers to conclude that this is an indicator of the hit that the Chinese economy has taken during the Covid pandemic and the BRI appears to be under reevaluation with recipient countries wary of the debt trap and its economic feasibility.

Let's take a closer look at the original intent of the BRI, its expansion and its long and short-term impacts on the aid recipient countries and whether it has been a success or a failure and how the US could have countered it in a much better manner.

In his report in 2020, Rafiq Dossani, Director, RAND Centre for Asia Pacific



Policy, opined that China's strongest motive behind the BRI was its long-term economic security. The maritime routes of the BRI would have helped the relatively underdeveloped, landlocked areas of China such as Yunnan and Xinjiang provinces by linking them with ports in the more rapidly growing areas of Asia.

At the same time, the emerging land routes of the BRI were marked as an alternative to the South China Sea, through which most of China's trade currently passes and which is becoming a zone of contestation between the US and China.

Dossani further explaining the reasons for the initial welcome of BRI opined that traditionally, many countries prefer to work with the World Bank and other multilateral lenders, which provide borrowers with good practices, while making significant funding available on a meritocratic rather than political basis.

But, he says further that from a developing country's viewpoint, accessing the world's spare capital has been difficult because of the risk entailed in many such investments. The Asian Development Bank estimates that Asian countries face an infrastructure investment gap of \$459 billion a year.

This logic also explains the sentiments, which in the initial stages of the launch of the BRI seemed to be the main attractive reason for the BRI projects and Chinese funding. But nine years after its launch BRI seems to have lost its sheen, due to the economic meltdown in several countries, which borrowed heavily from China under the garb of infrastructure development, progress and prosperity. Bangladesh Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal has publicly blamed economically unviable Chinese BRI projects for exacerbating economic crisis in Sri Lanka. He says that developing countries must think twice about taking more loans through BRI as global inflation and slowing growth add to the strains on indebted emerging markets.

In fact Bangladesh has made it clear that it will not accept any further loans but only grants from Beijing. Nepal has also taken the same stand. Pakistan with some \$53 billion being spent by Beijing under the aegis of BRI also faces the same fate.

China has also invested some \$44 billion in Indonesia, \$41 billion in Singapore, \$39 billion in Russia, \$33 billion in Saudi Arabia and \$30 billion in Malaysia. The cry against

Chinese BRI is not limited only to Indian sub-continent as its reverberations can be heard in the stalled \$4.7 billion railway project in Kenya, also. Five years since its launch, the project ends abruptly in an empty field, 200 miles from its destination in Uganda.

As conflicts between the United States and China appear to mount, some experts have questioned the intentions of China's BRI. It has been viewed as a debt trap for impoverished states and a means for China to expand its territorial control, but is it a reality? Is the US missing an opportunity to participate-in or initiate parallel activities?

BRI has been repeatedly labelled a debt trap and a power grab, and perhaps this seemed like a possible scenario. However, this concept has been debunked by recent research. Deborah Brautigam, director of the China Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University, found no evidence that Chinese banks over-lend or invest in loss-making projects to obtain a foothold in those countries, in one of her studies on Chinese lending to Africa.

There is further evidence that China is not engaging in debt trap diplomacy. Brautigam has noted that in some countries the IMF has been labelled as being vulnerable. Also Chinese loans were not responsible for pushing indebted countries above IMF debt sustainability limits.

Furthermore, it should be noted that not just impoverished nations, but East Asian and Europe countries have also been smitten by the BRI. Over 18 European Union countries have joined the BRI.

In fact, rather than decrying China, the US should engage in infrastructure lending to poor countries, and/or make it easier for multilateral banks to lend for such projects, reducing bureaucratic requirements. It should also initiate similar activities in under-developed or developing countries.

To better its image, China should improve transparency around BRI deals.

The World Bank and other bodies have also called for increased transparency. This would go a long way in improving US and other countries' understanding of Chinese intentions about the BRI.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs)

## international

# NEPAL, CHINA SIGN 6-POINT AGREEMENT UNDER BRI

Kathmandu | Agencies

Nepal and China have signed a six-point agreement under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to increase the countries' engagements and exchanges on governance, legislative and supervisory practices. Parliament Speaker Agni Prasad Sapkota and Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's NPC, signed the agreement at an event held on Monday evening at the Federal Parliament Building in Kathmandu. According to the agreement, the two sides will exchange information on each other's legislative, supervisory and governance practices. Li is in Kathmandu on a four-day official visit at the invitation of Sapkota. As soon as he landed in Kathmandu leading a 67-member delegation, Sapkota and Li held delegation-level talks followed by the signing of the agreement. The MoU between the two Parliaments also mentions the BRI, an ambitious project promoted by China. Nepal and China had signed the BRI



in 2017 but no substantive progress has been made in the last five years. According to the agreement, the two governments would accord priority and facilitate promotion of relationship, mutual benefits and commitments between the two countries, including through the BRI, the fifth point of the MoU read. During the talks, the two dignitaries while expressing happiness over the excel-

lent state of bilateral relations and cooperation subsisting between Nepal and China, held discussions on different matters of mutual interests, said the Foreign Ministry in Kathmandu. In the meeting, Sapkota reiterated Nepal's commitment to 'One China' Policy and not to allow any activity against Beijing in Nepali territory. Li expressed China's continued support for Nepal's sovereignty, independ-

ence, and territorial integrity, the Foreign Ministry added. Sapkota appreciated the people and the Chinese government for their generous support and cooperation to the Himalayan nation's development endeavour and expressed hope for an enhanced level of support from Beijing for post-pandemic recovery and other development priorities. He added that the people and government of Nepal are grateful to the Chinese government for with a substantial amount of medical supplies, equipment and vaccines during the pandemic. "During the meeting, both sides agreed to further strengthen inter-parliamentary exchanges and cooperation. They also underscored the role of Parliamentary Friendship Group in each other's parliament in further promoting goodwill and understanding between the two legislatures," said the Ministry statement. Li also promised to provide assistance to the Nepali Parliament as per its need and requirement at the institutional level.

# SL declares holiday, day of mourning on Queen Elizabeth's funeral



Colombo | Agencies

Sri Lanka, a former British colony, has declared a special holiday and a day of mourning on September 19 in lieu of the funeral of late Queen Elizabeth II. Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs announced the government holiday and directed that the national flag be hoisted at half-mast until the said date. The UK's longest-

serving monarch, Queen Elizabeth II who died at the age of 96 on September 8, after reigning for 70 years was Sri Lanka's head of state until 1972, the year the island nation became a republic, fully freed from the British sovereignty. The late queen visited Sri Lanka in 1954 and 1981 and later she was represented by the then Prince of Wales, now King Charles III, when he visited the island nation in 1998, 2004 and 2013. President Ranil

Wickremesinghe visited the British High Commission in Colombo to sign the book of condolence. "She was a symbol of stability and endurance, and she will be greatly missed. My heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and the people of the UK and the Commonwealth," President Wickremesinghe said in a tweet. Britain, which conquered the island nation from the Dutch and took over the entire country in 1815 ruled until February 4, 1948.

# Ex-Czech PM Andrej Babis on trial over EU subsidy fraud

Prague | Agencies

Former Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis stood trial here over his alleged involvement in the European Union (EU) subsidy fraud.

At issue in the case is whether Babis and his former advisor Jana Nagyova unlawfully received about 50 million Czech crowns (\$2 million) in EU subsidies over a decade ago to build a conference centre, known as the Stork's Nest, near Prague, reports news agency. During the hearing in Prague's Municipal Court, Babis denied any wrongdoing and said that the money in question was returned to the EU. He further explained that the criminal proceed-

ings arose after he entered politics, arguing that the allegations against him were "politically motivated". The trial that began on Monday follows a long-standing criminal investigation in which the defendants are accused of receiving EU funds earmarked for small and medium-sized businesses. Local media reported that prosecutors had asked for suspended sentences and fines for Babis and Nagyova. Babis is still a sitting parliamentarian. His party, the populist ANO (Action of Dissatisfied Citizens), holds a majority in the Chamber of Deputies (lower house of Parliament). Babis is widely expected to formally announce his candidacy for president in 2023.

# 50 million people worldwide in modern slavery: ILO

Geneva | Agencies

In its latest report, the Geneva-based International Labour Organization (ILO) said that 50 million people were living in modern slavery in 2021. According to the latest report by the UN agency titled, 'Global Estimates of Modern Slavery', 28 million of these people were in forced labour and 22 million were trapped in forced marriage. The number of people in modern slavery has risen significantly in the last five years 10 million more people were in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016 global estimates. Women and children remain disproportionately vulnerable, says the report. Modern slavery occurs in almost every country in the world, and cuts across ethnic, cultural and religious lines. More than half (52

per cent) of all forced labour and a quarter of all forced marriages can be found in upper-middle income or high-income countries. Regarding forced labour, most cases (86 per cent) are found in the private sector. According to the report, forced labour in sectors other than commercial sexual exploitation accounts for 63 per cent of all forced labour, while forced commercial sexual exploitation represents 23 per cent of all forced labour. Almost four out of five of those in forced commercial sexual exploitation are women or girls. State-imposed forced labour accounts for 14 per cent of people in forced labour. Almost one in eight of all those in forced labour are children (3.3 million). More than half of these are in commercial sexual exploitation. The report says that an estimated 22 million people were living

in forced marriage on any given day in 2021 an increase of 6.6 million since the 2016 global estimates. "It is shocking that the situation of modern slavery is not improving. Nothing can justify the persistence of this fundamental abuse of human rights," said ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder. Antonio Vitorino, IOM Director-General, said: "This report underscores the urgency of ensuring that all migration is safe, orderly, and regular. Reducing the vulnerability of migrants to forced labour and trafficking in persons depends first and foremost on national policy and legal frameworks that respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, and potential migrants, at all stages of the migration process, regardless of their migration status."

# Imran proposes to extend tenure of Pak Army chief till next polls

Islamabad | Agencies

Former Pakistan Prime Minister and PTI chief, Imran Khan has proposed to extend the tenure of Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa till the next elections. In an interview, Khan said that the appointment of an army chief should be deferred until the government is elected, which should then choose the new military head, News reported. Khan has been making headlines since his ouster in April because of his constant remarks regarding the army chief. Earlier this month, while speaking during a public rally in Faisalabad, the PTI

chairman had called out the government, saying that it was delaying the elections to appoint an army chief of its own and that if a "patriotic chief of army staff comes in, he will not spare the incumbent rulers", News reported. However, in a change of stance, the former premier said that he was ready to hold talks with the coalition government regarding snap polls. Regarding the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) decision to indict him in a contempt of court case on September 22, Khan said that if the five-member bench hearing the case would have allowed him to say something, he would have apologized.





# VEDANTA-FOXCONN GOES TO GUJARAT, FADNAVIS GOES TO RUSSIA, MVA GOES LIVID

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Barely six weeks after Maharashtra claimed to have beaten at least 5 states to win the Vedanta Group-Foxconn's stupendous Rs 2.06 lakh crore investment proposal, the project has gone to Gujarat.

The development on Tuesday left Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's team rendered speechless, even as Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis left for Russia, and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) went livid at the state's loss.

The Vedanta Group-Foxconn partnership in the sunrise semiconductors chips and display fabrications sector in Pune would have created over 200,000 direct and indirect jobs for the state.

The MoU for the deal, the single biggest investment of its kind in Maharashtra -- coveted by Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh -- was signed in the presence of Shinde and Fadnavis in mid-July.

MVA leaders like Nationalist Congress Party state President Jayant



Patil, Shiv Sena's ex-Minister Aditya Thackeray and Congress' chief spokesperson Atul Londhe slammed the Shinde-Fadnavis duo for the loss of the prestigious project.

Patil said that once again, Gujarat has taken away a major project from Maharashtra right from the mouths of Shinde-Fadnavis government who are busy holding political rallies.

Thackeray and Londhe said that this is part of the series of steps taken by the BJP to take away all industries

or employment generation project from Maharashtra to Gujarat.

Londhe said that first the BJP took away the International Finance Centre, then the diamond hub, while several other Central government organisations also shifted, at the cost of Maharashtra, where they were nurtured for long.

"Now, only Mumbai is left... This will also happen soon, and that's why the Shinde-Fadnavis government has come to power here. He Ram,"

lamented Londhe. With Shinde keeping mum and Fadnavis departing to Moscow, it was left to the Industry Minister Uday Samant to respond and he merely said that "we shall find out how this has happened".

Slamming the Shinde-Fadnavis duo for its failure, Thackeray asked that "considering the overall scenario, whether there is a government in Maharashtra or not?"

Picking up a dialogue from the Bollywood superhit "Baazigar" (1993) - "Haar ke Jeetne walon ko Baazigar kehete hain" - Thackeray took a jibe at the Shinde-Fadnavis regime saying: "Now, it is 'Jeet ke haarne walon ko Khokhe Sarkar kehete hain'."

Mumbai-based mining giant Vedanta Group had partnered with the Hon Hai Precision Industry (Foxconn) to invest \$15 billion in phases over the next 5-10 years for manufacturing semiconductor chips and displays in India.

Accordingly, Vedanta-Foxconn planned to invest Rs 166,800 crore and Rs 40,000 crore from other sources for its 1,000-acre proposed manufacturing facility at Talegaon near Pune.

# 90% of Shinde Group MLAs will lose in next Maha elections: NCP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Making a dark prediction, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Tuesday said that 45 out of the 50 MLAs of the Shiv Sena rebel group led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde "will be vanquished in the next elections".

The NCP said that the Chief Minister is making futile attempts to explain how his revolt in early-June was justified and based on certain issues, but the people of the state are not convinced and do not support his views.

Claiming that the regime of Shinde and Bharatiya Janata Party Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is "unconstitutional", the NCP also said that "its benchmark is far below the earlier Maha Vikas Aghadi government of Sena-NCP-Congress" which fell on June 29.

In a stinging statement, NCP Chief Spokesperson



Mahesh Tapase slammed Shinde for continuing to justify his rebellion against the ex-CM and Sena President Uddhav Thackeray that toppled the MVA government.

However, Shinde has not said a single word for his vision of Maharashtra, 10 weeks after he took the oath, Tapase pointed out.

"The Shinde-Fadnavis government is yet to get Constitutional validation from the Supreme Court and we shall continue to call it an unconstitutional alliance regime till then," Tapase said sharply.

He said that the Shinde Group is also worried about the criticism levelled by NCP state President Jayant Patil, Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar and MP Supriya Sule as his rule

has fallen far short of expectations compared with the erstwhile MVA government.

"Moreover, the Shinde Group does not have a disciplined cadre and hence they are spending money to hire people for their meetings. The same crowds were seen looting boxes of 'laddoo' and 'pedhas' (sweetmeats)," Tapase said, hitting at Shinde's rally in Aurangabad's Paithan on Monday where the chaos was witnessed.

Accordingly, the electorate will reject at least 45 of the 50 MLAs - who have thrown their lot with Shinde - in the next Assembly elections, predicted Tapase.

In recent weeks, the Opposition MVA has stepped up attacks on the Shinde-Fadnavis government on a variety of issues including the delays in naming district Guardian Ministers, timely aid to the flood-ravaged farmers in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions and other aspects.

# Heavy rain in Mumbai, "Orange Alert" issued for adjoining districts

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Heavy rain lashed Mumbai and neighbouring areas this morning and the India Meteorological Department or IMD has predicted more showers in the city.

The weather department (IMD) has also issued an 'orange alert' for Raigad, Ratnagiri and Satara, predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places in the three districts.

The weather department's Santacruz observatory in Mumbai, representative of suburbs, recorded 93.4 mm rainfall in the 24-hour period till 8.30 am on Tuesday, marking another spell of heavy downpour here in the current monsoon season.

The Colaba observatory, representative of the island city, recorded 59.2 mm rain-



fall during the same period, an IMD official said. The IMD has predicted moderate showers in Mumbai today and high intensity rains in neighbouring Raigad. The weather department issues four colour-coded predic-

tions based on the prevailing weather systems.

The green colour indicates no warning, yellow is to keep a watch, orange is to stay alert, while red means a warning and that action needs to be taken.

# Cow urine sprinkled by Thackeray supporters after CM Shinde's event

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the factional feud within Shiv Sena spills onto the streets in the form of clashes, supporters of Uddhav Thackeray today went around sprinkling cow urine at the venue of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's event in Maharashtra's Aurangabad.

A video from Bidkin is doing the rounds on social media. It shows a group of men using lemon leaves to sprinkle cow urine. They are heard raising the slogan, "50 khokhe, ekdom ok" -- a swipe at the MLAs in Shinde camp, who have been accused by Thackeray supporters of joining the rebellion against the party leadership after each of them was offered Rs 50 crore. The Shinde camp is yet to respond to this protest.

This protest comes against the backdrop of frequent clashes between the two Sena factions. The



two sides have been targeting each other since the rebellion led by Mr Shinde brought down the Uddhav

Thackeray-led government of Sena, Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress.

Supporters of the two camps clashed during a Ganesh idol immersion Saturday night in Mumbai's Dadar. Both sides accused each other of starting the fight.

The two sides first clashed in Prabhadevi and later outside the Dadar police station. Sena MLA Sada Sarvankar, from the Shinde camp, has been charged with opening fire during the clash in Dadar. The Mahim legislator has denied the charge and said he will cooperate if police called him in for questioning.

Five Sena workers from the Thackeray camp were arrested in connection with the clashes, but later released on bail.

Cases have been registered against at least 10 people from both side, police said.

The factions led by Thackeray and Shinde are fighting a legal battle in Supreme Court for the control of Shiv Sena.

# CM Naveen Patnaik coming to 'sell' Odisha to Maha investors

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ahead of the upcoming 3rd 'Make in Odisha' conclave at Bhubaneswar in November-December, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will meet captains of Indian industry here to solicit investments for his state, officials said here on Tuesday.

Patnaik, along with a high-level delegation of senior officials, is expected to be in Mumbai over the next couple of days and meet top leaders of India Inc. as part of the Odisha Investors Meet, in the country's commercial capital.

In Mumbai, the Odisha government will lay emphasis on attracting investments in areas like chemicals, petrochemicals, metals, textiles, electronics system design, manufacturing



and tourism.

Since Mumbai is the country's financial hub, the Odisha government

will attempt to lure more investments for fintech, investment and commercial banks, financial agencies, stock

markets, etc, besides the traditional sectors, said Odisha Industries Department Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma earlier this week.

Top names from various leading corporate houses like Ambanis, Adani, Tata, Godrej, Mahindras and others are expected to join the Mumbai meet with Patnaik.

Patnaik, who met ambassadors from over two dozen countries and top businessmen in New Delhi in August, will host the 3rd 'Make in Odisha' conclave at Bhubaneswar from November 3-December 4 this year.

Earlier, the Odisha CM has held similar meets for industrialists in Ahmedabad, New Delhi, and Dubai. After Mumbai, there is a possibility of similar investor meetings in Bengaluru and Hyderabad later.

# MNS worker arrested on rape allegations

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) office bearer was arrested by police over allegations of raping a party worker on pretext of giving ticket to contest BMC elections.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

According to complaint, the accused had assured the victim to give a key post in the party and then a ticket.

On Monday, a 47-year-old woman, lodged complaint in VP Road police station and said that her own party offi-

cer bearer Vrushant Wadke was raping her since September 2021 till August 2022. The accused would call the woman on pretext of meeting at different places and would take advantage of her. As per the woman, the accused raped her several times. The woman had met sen-

ior party leaders of MNS and narrated the incident. She was asked to register a complaint with the police. On September 7, Vrushant had resigned from party sighting personal reasons. Vrushant Wadke was appointed as the President of Malabar Hill Assembly Division of MNS few months ago.

# CM SHINDE HALTS AT HIGHWAY TO HELP MAN IN PROBLEM

Mumbai: A car caught fire on the Western Express Highway in Mumbai last night which caught the attention of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde who was passing through at the same time.

Seeing the burning car, the Chief Minister stopped his convoy and stepped out to meet the victims. He assured them the authorities will provide them with all help they need.

Visuals from the site showed Shinde speaking to the car's driver and others, accompanied by police and security officials. The burning car could be seen at a distance in the other lane.

# MAHARASHTRA VILLAGE TAKES AFFORESTATION UP A NOTCH

Pune | Agencies

The villagers of Hirpodi in Velhe taluka of Pune district are making steady progress in turning a barren hill into a forest with the help of contour trenches and drought-tolerant trees.

The hill covering about five acres along the slope now belongs to Ravindra and Sadhana Swar, who approached FORREST (Forest Regeneration and Environment Sustainability Trust) - an NGO dealing in biodiversity - to restore it in a way that would benefit the village that sits along its lower reaches.

Responding to 101Reporters by email, the villager said that they bought the land, sight unseen, to help the owner who was deep in debt. "The original purpose was to build an old age home. But when we finally visited the site ourselves, we found there was no proper access road or any facilities nearby. It was just a barren hill." And Sadhana Swar, having something of a green finger herself, decided to spend some money to develop this into a green zone, even a sanctuary for birds.

Located 60 km from Pune, Hirpodi is home to about 900 people. Singh and her team decided to work on two fronts - water



and forestry. "We planned to dig contour trenches and plant drought-tolerant native species on their bunds. The first step of marking trenches all over the hill began in July 2019," she tells 101Reporters.

Trenching is one of the major environmental engineering measures for conserving water and controlling soil erosion in non-arable lands. Areas with steep slopes are more prone to soil erosion, particularly if they lack vegetative cover.

"Velha gets good rainfall, but the water drains out very quickly due to the slope. Almost no water percolates in the soil.

Contour trenching solves this problem," explains Singh. "We found a part on the slope where soil erosion was much more pronounced. Hillsides are more prone to gullying (the process by which deep channels or gullies are created by flowing water) when they are cleared of vegetation through deforestation, overgrazing or forest fires. To arrest soil erosion, we covered a small patch with dense plantations."

The restoration plans began when the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak. Holding meetings with villagers was not even a possibility then. So, her team tried different

methods to increase local participation.

The locals were paid in cash for all the materials and the strenuous work of walking uphill with tools, plants, compost, soil nutrients and bamboo. The joint team of volunteers and villagers built around 250 contour trenches and planted 530 trees over their bunds. Once the trenching and planting were done, 40 villagers collected thorny bushes from nearby hills and carried them to the site to build a fence that would protect the plants from free-grazing cattle. Only 300 of the total 530 trees remain, with the rest lost in forest fires. Rajiwade, a wrestler and rice cultivator, understands the importance of maintaining sources of irrigation. The Rajiwades have assumed the role of overseeing the maintenance of the young trees, which includes watering them at least four times a month during non-monsoon months with the help of the community. He and his family - comprising his wife and three college-going children - had motivated many to join the project in its early days. Sonawane, on her part, exhorted women to lend a helping hand.

(The author is a freelance journalist and a member of 101Reporters, a pan-India network of grassroots reporters.)

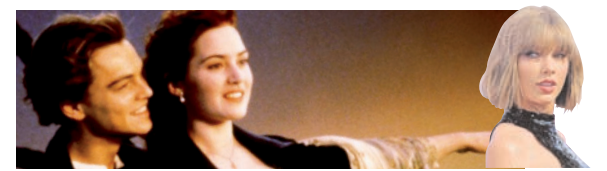
# MAHA RECORDS 730 NEW COVID-19 CASES, FOUR DEATHS

Mumbai: Maharashtra on Tuesday recorded 730 new Covid-19 cases and four fatalities, which took the tally to 81,11,976 and the toll to 1,48,293, according to the state health department.

According to the state health department's data, Mumbai accounted for 193 cases. The recovery count in Maharashtra rose by 1,075 in the last 24 hours and reached 79,58,170, leaving the state with an active caseload of 5,513.

State health department data showed the fatality rate was 1.82 per cent and the recovery rate was 98.10 per cent. It said 8,44,09,585 coronavirus tests have been conducted in the state so far.





## Kate Moss' daughter Lila dazzled in a metallic dress

New York | Agencies

Lila Moss certainly showed off her style credentials as she took to Monday evening's Vogue World fashion show during New York Fashion Week. The 19-year-old daughter of supermodel Kate cut an ultra-glamorous figure in a glitzy mini dress for the star-studded event - which she walked the catwalk for. Her plunging dress was emblazoned with metallic sequins as it featured a tight bodice before falling into a rara-style skirt. With a chainmail style strap and tiered skirt design, the number also featured a single piece of material train. Adding a spot of grunge to the look, Lila sported a pair of chunky patent boots with a lace-up design. The beauty kept accessories to a minimum as the rest of the look was pared back - ensuring all focus on the eye-popping dress. Lila's golden tresses were sleekly pulled back into a chic bun, as her glowing complexion was solely enhanced with a subtle base - nailing a natural look. After owning the cobble runway with a sultry look, she appeared in high spirits as she giggled with model pals. She joined top models such as Bella Hadid, Irina Shayk and Kendall Jenner for the show - standing next to Kendall as they waited to take the runway. The show featured pieces selected by Vogue from designers including Balenciaga, Burberry, Coach, Dior, Gucci, Michael Kors, Ralph Lauren, Valentino and many other fashion houses. Held in the New York's Meat Packing District, the star-studded show took place outdoors and had the air of a street fair. The teenager has been spending time in the Big Apple this week as she embraces New York Fashion Week - walking for brands such as Tommy Hilfger and Fendi.

## NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

## Helena Christensen stands out in a dazzling gold off shoulder gown

New York | Agencies

Helena Christensen looked nothing short of sensational as she walked the runway for at the Vogue World event at New York Fashion Week on Monday. The Danish model wowed in a dazzling gold off the shoulder gown which featured an eye-catching thigh-high slit. The former Victoria's Secret Angel boosted her frame in a pair of chic chunky black lace up boots. The mother-of-one opted for a glamorous bronzed palette of makeup and slicked her dark tresses back in a stylish up 'do. Helena strutted her stuff down the outdoor runway in front of the large crowd alongside several other famous models. She was seen pausing next to Russian model Irina Shayk, who shimmered in a plunging cut-out silver gown and black boots. The Vogue cover girl, who divides her time between Upstate New York, Manhattan, and Denmark, spent part of the summer on the island of Bornholm and shared snaps in front of the stunning landscape with her million Instagram followers. Helena rose to prominence in the late 1980s and 1990s, becoming one of the most popular models of her time. Her starring role in the music video for Chris Isaak's hit song Wicked Game, which went on to make the top 10 of MTV's Sexiest Video of All-Time list, elevated her name and gained her recognition with fans all across the world.



## EMMYS 2022

## Zendaya crowned Lead Actress in a Drama Series

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Zendaya is the first Black woman to win Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series at the Primetime Emmy Awards. Zendaya has become the youngest two-time Emmy winner in history with 'Euphoria', says her greatest wish for the show was it could heal people. The 26-year-old star won the Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series at the 74th annual Television Academy Awards for her performance in 'Euphoria'. While giving her speech, Zendaya thanked the cast and crew of 'Euphoria', as well as those who talked about their addiction stories with her. "My greatest wish for 'Euphoria' was that it could help heal people, and I just want to say thank you to everyone who shared their story with me," she said. "I want you to know that anyone who has loved a Rue or feels like you are a Rue, I'm so grateful for your stories and I carry them with me and carry them with her. Thank you so much." Zendaya was nominated against names like Jodie Comer ('Killing Eve'), Laura Linney ('Ozark'), Melanie Lynskey ('Yellowjackets'), Sandra Oh ('Killing Eve'), and Reese Witherspoon ('The Morning Show').



## MAUDE APATOW JOINS DIRECTOR DAD JUDD AT EMMYS

## After Speaking on claims that she's a 'nepotism baby'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Maude Apatow and her director dad Judd were the ultimate father-daughter duo on Monday evening as they headed to HBO's post-Emmy bash. The actress looked ultra elegant in a corset-detailed gown from Vivienne Westwood for the star-studded party, held at the exclusive San Vicente Bungalows. And the appearance comes just days after the actress spoke out on claims she was a 'nepotism baby' due to her father's Hollywood stardom - admitting she is 'in such a lucky position'. Maude stunned in a champagne toned gown, which cinched in at the waist after a corset bodice - before falling into a sweeping hem.

The busy number featured a curved bust neckline with one sleeve draping over her shoulder. And she amped the ante by adding a gorgeous Cartier necklace, complete with a silver chain and jewel pendant. While her jaw-length chestnut locks were styled in a slight wave, with Maude opting for a statement smoky-eye makeup look. The director and screenwriter Judd put on a dapper display as he sported a black tuxedo for the evening. He appeared to be in high spirits while posing for a slew of snaps on the red carpet with his daughter - who he shares with actress Leslie Mann. And giving her dad a helping hand, Maude adjusted his bow tie and collar to ensure they were picture-perfect for the red carpet.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

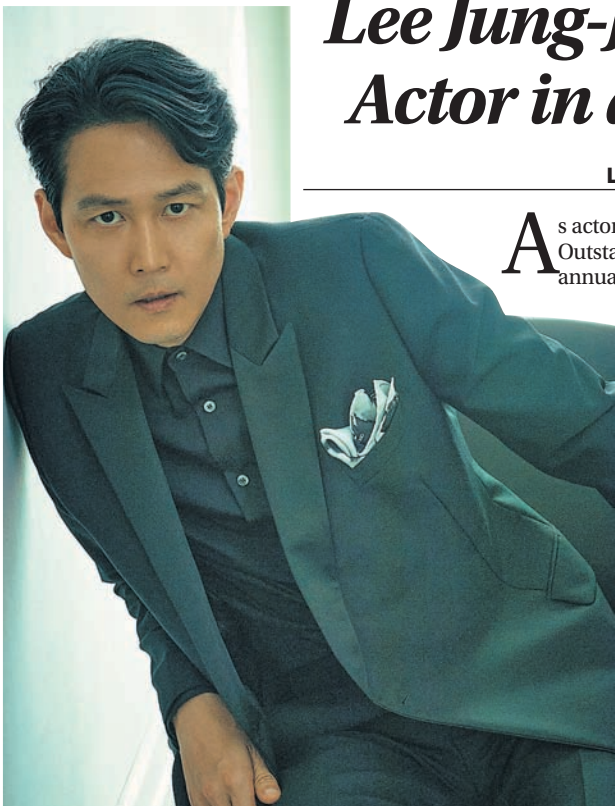


Lily James

## Lee Jung-Jae named Lead Actor in a Drama Series

Los Angeles | Agencies

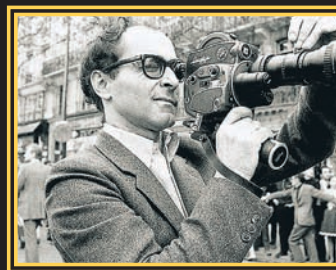
Actor Lee Jung-jae became the first Asian actor ever to win Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series honour at the 74th annual Television Academy Awards for his performance in 'Squid Game', he thanked director Hwang Dong-hyuk for making realistic problems come to life so creatively. During his acceptance speech, he thanked streaming portal Netflix and the team of the show, which revolves around a contest where 456 players, all of whom are in deep financial hardship, risk their lives to play a series of deadly children's games for the chance to win over five billion Wans. He said before translating it in Korean: "Thank you to the Television Academy, thank you to Netflix and thank you to the director for making realistic problems we all face come to life so creatively on the screen with a great script. Thank you, 'Squid Game' team. Thank you to everyone watching in Korea." 'Squid Game' has received 14 total Emmy nominations this year, and took home four awards at this year's Creative Arts Emmy's earlier this month. Most notably, actress Lee You-mi took home a gold statue for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series for her role as Ji-yeong.



## Filmmaker Jean Luc Godard, dies at 91

Los Angeles | Agencies

Franco-Swiss director and new wave standard-bearer Jean-Luc Godard, who revolutionised world cinema with his ground-breaking debut, 'Breathless', and never stopped pushing the envelope of his creativity, has died at 91. The news was first reported in the French newspaper Liberation. Although there hadn't been an official confirmation till midday in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron paid tribute to Godard on social media with a message describing the auteur as "the most iconoclastic of New Wave filmmakers, who had invented a resolutely modern, intensely free art." He added: "We are losing a national treasure, a look of genius." The prolific icon was not known to rest. Godard presented his last film 'The Image Book', a kaleidoscopic bulletin spanning 200 years of history, in competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018 and was celebrated with the Special Palme d'Or. Godard was also planning to adapt 'The Image Book' into an exhibit in Paris, Madrid, New York and Singapore before the pandemic hit, notes a website.







## Men's T20 World Cup

# INDIA HEAD FOR MISSION AUSTRALIA WITH NO SURPRISES FULL-STRENGTH SQUAD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

On Monday, India announced their squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia, starting from next month. Compared to last year's edition in the UAE and Oman, Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid will be captain and coach respectively.

Despite not making it to the final of Asia Cup 2022 in the UAE, India's squad was largely expected to have no surprises, big or small.

From the squad which went to Asia Cup 2022, the pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel come back after recovering from injuries and passing fitness tests. The duo's return is a big boost for India, especially when the bowling attack lacked teeth in Asia Cup. India's trust over young left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh was seen when he was retained in the 15-man squad, with Deepak Chahar and Mohammed Shami slotted in as reserve players.

Arshdeep had been superb with his yorkers in the death overs, as seen in IPL and in international matches since his debut in July. With Bumrah, Harshal, Arshdeep, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and all-rounder Hardik Pandya, Rohit



is yet to click in unison in T20Is this year. Suryakumar Yadav, with his 360-degree shots, has the ability to up the batting tempo. Then there is Deepak Hooda, who has grabbed his chances in the Indian jersey in whatever ways he's got them. Apart from his hard-hitting batting, he also provides part-time off-spin option, which is a necessity especially with Ravindra Jadeja unavailable after undergoing knee surgery.

But Hooda will be in competition with 'keeping duo of Dinesh Karthik and Rishabh Pant over the middle-order slots, considering the top four of Rohit, Rahul, Virat and Suryakumar with Pandya as all-rounder.

Since winning the inaugural Men's T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2007, India haven't won the trophy.

Moreover, since winning the 2013 Champions' Trophy in England, India haven't won an ICC trophy. Come October 2022, when India take the field against Pakistan in their first Super 12 match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the dream of doing an encore of 2007 will be expected from this full-strength, no surprises squad.

India have the resources in hand; now it's time for optimum utilisation of it.

is the same make-up from India's Super 12 exit at the 2021 Men's T20 World Cup.

Since then, a lot has been said about India embracing a new, aggressive, ultra-attacking batting approach. But the issue is that the trio

is yet to click in unison in T20Is this year.

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## 75th senior national aquatic championships MAANA PATEL WINS SIX MEDALS

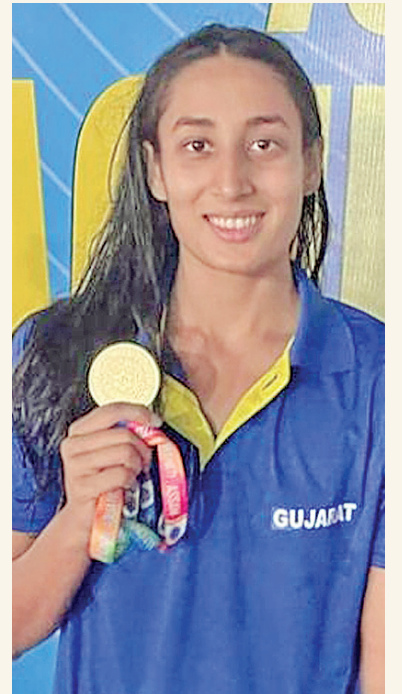
New Delhi: Olympian swimmer Maana Patel won 4 gold and 2 bronze medals at the 75th Senior National Aquatic Championships that was held in Guwahati. She also won the best female swimmer of the tournament.

The four-gold medal includes a new national record in 50 metre backstroke, 100 metre backstroke which was equal to the existing National record, 200 metre backstroke and 4x50 metre mixed medley relay.

Additionally, she won two bronze medals in 50 metre freestyle and 4x50 metre mix freestyle relay.

Maana is an international swimmer specialising in backstroke. Backed by an athlete representation company ENGN, she is the first Indian female swimmer to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

She is also the current 100-metre backstroke national record holder. Her goal is a podium finish at the 2024 Olympics.



## SAFF Women's Championship INDIA GO DOWN TO BANGLADESH 0-3

Kathmandu | Agencies

The Indian Women's Team suffered a 0-3 loss at the hands of Bangladesh in their final league match of the SAFF Women's Championship at the Dasharath Stadium here on Tuesday.

However, this defeat had no impact on India's semifinal qualification, as the Blue Tigresses had already booked their spot in the last four, where they are set to take on Nepal on Saturday (Sep 16) at the same venue.

M.S. Jahan Shopna netted a brace for Bangladesh, while Srimoti Sarkar got one to her name, to hand a comprehensive defeat to India. Bangladesh had the early impetus, and took the lead in the 12th minute, when Sarkar threaded a ball through to Shopna, who slotted in between two defenders, and sent it past the keeper, to put her side in the lead.

India had their first chance of the game on the 19th when Anju Tamang earned a free-kick 22 yards from goal. Youngster Priyanka Devi



stepped up to the dead ball but curled it just wide of the woodwork.

Minutes later, Sarkar doubled Bangladesh's lead, as she darted into the Indian box from the left flank and finished past the keeper.

India tried to attempt several long diagonals to catch the Bangladeshi highline off guard, but to no avail, as the first half soon came to an end with the latter taking a two-goal lead into the tunnel. Bangladesh top Group A with nine points, having won their three games and will face Bhutan in the semifinal on September 16.

## International powerlifting championship

# 13-year-old Ishti Kaur wins gold medal



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ishti kaur of Noida won the gold medal at the age of 13 years in the recently concluded AWP

World powerlifting championship in Manchester (UK).

Ishti kaur participated in the teenage group and won gold medal by lifting 75 kg deadlift in

the 38 kg category. She lifted twice her bodyweight and also being awarded best lifter in women teenage category.

A student of class 9th in GD

Goenka public school, Ishti kaur is being coached by her father Daljeet Singh, a multiple time world champion in powerlifting.

## Performing dual role of captain and hockey goalkeeper requires a different midset: Savita

Bengaluru | Agencies

India women's hockey goalkeeper and captain Savita feels the dual responsibility of being the last line of defence and leading the side requires her to train the mind differently, so that she can help the team more efficiently in pressure situations.

Speaking about the dual responsibilities, Savita said, "The position of goalkeeper is a different responsibility. As an experienced goalkeeper, I always train with the mind-set that I have to help the team. As a captain, your responsibility increases because you have to take care of your game and also manage the performance of your team."

Savita led Indian in the debut season of the FIH Pro League 2021/22 where the team finished third.

She also led the team at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games where India beat New Zealand 1-1 (2-1 SO) to win bronze.

"It is possible that someday your team might not be performing well, so you have to motivate them as a cap-



tain. But working under chief coach Janneke Schopman, we are able to divide the responsibilities among ourselves, so I feel it has helped me play freely, without feeling the pressure," added Savita.

Savita also expressed her gratitude on being nominated for the FIH Women's Goalkeeper of the Year

Award 2021-22, and said she feels she is moving in the right direction. Savita, who had won the award in the same category in the previous edition, said that the support from her teammates and coaching staff has proven to be helpful. Savita said winning a medal at the Birmingham Games has created a positive environment in the camp.

## TABLE TENNIS: WTT SINGAPORE SMASH TO RETURN NEXT MARCH

Beijing: World Table Tennis (WTT) on Tuesday announced plans for the 2023 edition of the WTT Singapore Smash, with a wider range of participants to compete in the event next March.

China's Fan Zhendong and Chen Meng were crowned the first Grand Smash champions in Singapore in March. According to the WTT, the inaugural event was broadcast in 196 countries and regions, reaching a cumulative audience of more than 160 million.

The WTT confirmed that the mixed doubles draw will increase from 16 pairs to 24 pairs for the 2023 event, and the number of seeds in the singles competitions will increase from 8 to 16 players, reports Xinhua. The Singapore Smash 2023 will feature 64-player men's and women's singles draws, and 24-pair doubles and mixed competitions.

The main draw of the Singapore Smash 2023 will take place between March 11 and 19, and the singles qualifying competitions will be held from March 7 to 9.

## Ecclestone signs up for Sydney Sixers in replacement of Mandhana

Sydney | Agencies

Even as India women's cricket team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana is considering pulling out of the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) in Australia to manage her workload and avoid any injuries and niggles, to keep herself fit for international commitments, the world's No.1 ranked T20I bowler, left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone, has no such issues as she joined Sydney Sixers for the upcoming season of the lucrative tournament.

Mandhana had played for city rivals Sydney Thunder in the previous edition of the WBBL, enjoying great success with the bat.

Mandhana is currently playing in the international white-ball games against England, which started with a T20I series on September 10. She feels that managing the physical part becomes important considering the volume of cricket. "I have been on the road for a while now post the World Cup. But I have just tried to tell myself that because of Covid we couldn't play much cricket. We really hoped we could

come back and play a lot of cricket. I can't be complaining that we don't have a lot of cricket on the platter," Mandhana had said in a virtual press conference on Monday.

However, England's Sophie Ecclestone has committed herself to the WBBL for the upcoming season, saying playing alongside the likes of Alyssa Healy, Ellyse Perry and Ash Gardner is something she is looking forward to improve her skills further.

Sydney Sixers coach Charlotte Edwards said she was "delighted" to secure a bowler like Ecclestone, 23, for her accuracy and tight economy rate.



## England's Sarah Glenn reaches the second position in ICC Women's T20I bowler rankings

Dubai | Agencies

England leg-spin all-rounder Sarah Glenn has closed in on compatriot, the left-arm spinner, Sophie Ecclestone in the ICC Women's T20I bowler rankings after a fine show in the first match of their three-T20I series against India at Chester-le-Street on Saturday.

Sarah, whose career-best haul of 4/23 helped her team to a nine-wicket victory and won her the Player of the Match award, is at a career-best-equaling second position and just 13 rating points adrift of Sophie.

She has been ranked second on a few occasions in the past too, most recently last month, before she was overtaken by her team-mate, veteran pacer Katherine Brunt, who has been rested from the T20I series against India.



Young England batters, Sophia Dunkley and Alice Capsey, too have made notable gains after the first match of their series. Sophia's unbeaten 61 off 44 balls sees her move up 13 places to 44th position while Alice's brisk 32 not out off 20 deliveries has lifted her 12 places to 52nd.

Pacer Freya Davis has gained nine places and is 59th among bowlers. For India, seamer Renuka Singh has jumped five places to be at 13th place while all-rounder Deepti Sharma (up three places to 33rd) and wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh (up four places to 75th) have made moves in the women's T20I batters' ranking.

## SAFF Championship: India U-17 boys all geared up to take Nepal in the final

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India U-17 boys football team is all focused on putting the mistakes behind them when they face Nepal in the SAFF U-17 Championship final at the Racecourse International Stadium in Colombo on Wednesday.

The Indian camp sounded confident on the eve of the match. "We started the tournament well. But it was a nervy start nonetheless. This is the first tournament that the boys are playing for the country, and that can always give you a few jitters," said head coach Bibiano Fernandes.

"The result against Nepal was a wake-up call for us. The boys reacted extremely well after the setback. We



have identified and worked on our weaknesses. I need to credit the boys for taking up this challenge," he added.

The Indian team had started its campaign with a victory against Bhutan but suffered a 1-3 loss at the hands of Nepal in their second group stage game before turning their fortunes

around against Bangladesh with a 2-1 victory in the semifinal. While the coach's perspective was about eliminating the mistakes and the jitters, the players are all looking forward to redeeming themselves for the last defeat against Nepal.

"We were terribly upset after the loss to Nepal. We wanted a rematch, and it is

our chance to prove ourselves in the final," said captain Vanlalpeka Guite. "We are completely focused."

One major change for the boys, the coach noted, has been the change in the mindset. "There is always a lot to learn from any defeat, and I need to appreciate the mindset of the boys. We all know how good Nepal are, and you can see how much the boys are focusing on the job ahead," said Bibiano.

Playing in Sri Lanka, the Indian team has mostly to deal with loud cheers for the rival team. "The opposition supporters do not affect us. We need to focus on ourselves. We have faith in our abilities. Having the fans cheering for the opposition is an extra motivation," Bibiano said.

## Legends League Cricket

# Buchanan, Rajput named coaches for benefit match at Eden Gardens

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former World Cup-winning Australian coach John Buchanan and Lalchand Rajput have been appointed coaches of India Maharajas and World Giants respectively for the benefit match of Legends League Cricket at the Eden Gardens Stadium in Kolkata on September 16.

A benefit match will kick-start the season of the league in India for the first time and proceeds of the game will be given to Kapil Dev's Khushii Foundation, which supports girl child education.

Considered as one of the top coaches in the world, Buchanan had guided Australia to numerous successes that include winning the ODI World Cup twice, first-ever Champions Trophy



triumph in 2006 and Ashes domination in the early 2000s.

Rajput, on the other hand, is also a popular name in the cricketing circuit. The former India batsman has successfully coached international teams like Afghanistan and Zimbabwe. He was also the manager of the Indian team that won the historic T20 World Cup in 2007.

Rajput and Buchanan will also coach LNJ Bhillwara Kings and Manipal Tigers respectively in the league.





## Yogita Bihani returns to comedy show as guest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**V actress Yogita Bihani, who was among the audience on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' back in 2017, has all the reasons to cheer up as the actress is now coming as a guest along with Bollywood stars Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan to promote the film 'Vikram Vedha'.

Dating back to June 2017, Yogita was a part of the audience in an episode where Diljit Dosanjh and Sonam Bajwa were guests. In fact, she shook a leg with Diljit. And after five years, she is coming on the show as a guest. In the throwback video, where both are seen dancing together, Yogita is seen giving cues to Diljit. Later on, she made her name and was selected to shoot for the promo with Salman Khan in 2018 for his game show 'Dus Ka Dum'. Afterwards, she also worked in 'Kavach ... Kaali Shaktiyon Se' and made her debut in Bollywood with 2020 black comedy thriller film 'AK vs AK'. While interacting with the media, Saif had also applauded her work in the movie and said she is like a 'breath of fresh air'.

Written and directed by Pushkar-Gayathri, 'Vikram Vedha' is a neo-noir action thriller film featuring Hrithik Roshan, Saif Ali Khan, Radhika Apte and Rohit Saraf. The film will be released in theatres on September 30.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**he makers of the all-woman whodunit series 'Hush Hush' released the trailer on Tuesday and amped up the excitement about it. The seven-episode web series, which will start streaming on Amazon Prime Video on September 22, is helmed by Tanuja Chandra and features Juhi Chawla, Soha Ali Khan, Shahana Goswami, Kritika Kamra, Karishma Tanna and Ayesha Jhulka.

It is a story of a set of women whose lives take a dramatic turn when a secret from their past comes out. It seems like a searing blend of suspense, mystery and roller-coaster emotions.

Chandra, who first got noticed because of her script for the Yash Chopra blockbuster 'Dil Toh Pagal Hai', said: "The female genre has been my abiding passion but a female-first cast and crew is something of a dream come true for me."

She added: "I have loved working with a formidable cast and a team deeply committed to creating something unusual but also a show that speaks to the times we live in. Having women as producers and heads of department just made it that much more special."

Juhi, who's making her debut in a web series said: "The plot of 'Hush Hush' grabbed my attention. I knew in an instant that this is a special project I'd love to work on."

Also making her OTT debut is the popular Bollywood actress of the 1990s, Ayesha Jhulka, who'll be remembered from 'Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar'. She noted that this series was truly "the perfect project to embark upon for my digital debut".

Sharing her experience of working in an all-woman project, Soha said: "It brought in a sense of excitement and fun that will translate on screen for viewers to see. I am certain that the audiences will be engrossed throughout the series and will relate to it."

I knew in an instant that this is a project I'd love to work on: Juhi Chawla

## Mona Singh speaks up about the 'shadow pandemic' in her upcoming

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**H**ow often do women speak up against domestic violence? The answer is not many times. It is precisely for this reason that Mona Singh, who's still remembered as the 'Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahin' lead actress, is going to raise her voice against domestic violence in her upcoming short film 'Ek Chup', directed by Sonya V. Kapoor. Mona talks about her experience of working in the short film, which centres on domestic violence during the lockdown. Mona said: "Ek Chup is based on the idiom 'ek chup sau sukhal' (stay quiet, earn a hundredfold happiness). You know, as Indians, most mothers tell their daughters to keep quiet and everything will work out. However, it's important for women to stand up for their rights and I think this movie and the script was just absolutely perfect to talk about this topic." The director talks about her short film and the entire idea behind making it which is to highlight a very relevant topic of violence against women.

"The film is based on a very important issue, namely, the shadow pandemic of violence against women and domestic abuse during the Covid-19 lockdown days. It was UN Women that first termed it as the 'shadow pandemic' - a pandemic within a pandemic," she said.

"In this film, the female protagonist also believes in the philosophy of life that says 'Silence is Golden' and that is the base of the quirky story," said the director, explaining the essence of the story. 'Ek Chup' is produced by Amrita Mendonza and Sonya V. Kapoor.

## Pia Bajpiee excited as her movie to premiere at Chicago South Asian film fest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Pia Bajpiee is on cloud nine as her movie 'Lost' is selected as 'Opening Night Premiere Film' at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival 2022.

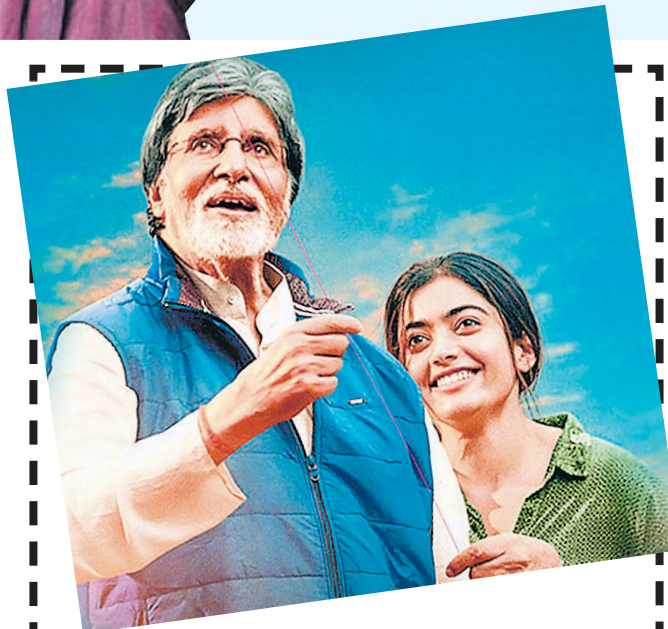
Directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, it features Yami Gautam, Pankaj Kapur, Rahul Khanna, Neil Bhoopalam and Tushar Pandey in pivotal roles.

The actress, who has appeared in Venkat Prabhu's comedy drama 'Goa', Tamil film 'Ko', Telugu movie 'Dalam', 'Masters' (Malayalam) and 'Mumbai Delhi Mumbai' (Hindi), expressed hope that the international audience would appreciate her role of a small-town girl with big dreams and ambitions.

Pia said: "The wait and all the delay in context to the movie was worth it. I have high hopes for this movie and am sure that my role would please the audience. Being from a small town, I have a very selective audience and through this movie I wanna prove myself and reach internationally."

'Lost' is about a young female crime reporter and her mission to find the truth and the reason behind the sudden disappearance of a theatre activist.

Chicago South Asian Film Festival was founded in 1964 by filmmaker and graphic artist Michael Kutza. It is the longest-running film festival in North America.



## BIG B MOVIE TRAILER TO GET 25 MN VIEWS IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**he much-awaited film 'Goodbye' featuring megastar Amitabh Bachchan and Rashmika Mandanna is grabbing eyeballs with its trailer launch that has already crossed 25 million-plus views in less than 24 hours.

The trailer has the melody of 'Jaikal Mahakal' playing in the background. In view of the public appreciation for it, as the makers decided to release it.

The song has been composed and sung by Amit Trivedi, who has given beautiful compositions in movies such as 'Aamir', 'Dev D' and 'Shabaash Mithu'. The lyrics are by Swanand Kirkire.

The 43-year-old singer-composer talks about the maha aarti, saying: "It is always fun and easy to work with Vikas sir in all the projects, and with this particular song the brief given to me was it should be an aarti, so that was a bit challenging to create a soothing aarti melody but we have enjoyed working on it and we hope the music admirers and audience like it."

Written and directed by Vikas Bahl, 'Goodbye' is a family comedy-drama film. It is a story of an Indian family depicted by the Bhalla family and it highlights the importance of family values and relationships. In the movie, Rashmika plays Big B's daughter, and Neena Gupta is her mother.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Kratika Sharma