

# absolute india



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## RELEASE CONVICTS WHO HAVE UNDERGONE 10 YEARS IN JAIL, BUT APPEAL NOT HEARD YET: SC

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that convicts who have spent 10 years in jail, and their appeal has not yet been heard, should be granted bail unless there are any compelling reasons to deny this, while remission should be considered for those who have completed 14 years in prison.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and A.S. Oka said the court is of view that those persons who have completed 10 years of their sentence, and their appeal would not be heard soon, and if there are no extenuating circumstances, such prisoners should be enlarged on bail.

Advocate Gaurav Agarwal, appointed as amicus curiae, informed the top court that affidavits were filed, as per its earlier orders to the six high courts to conduct the exercise of identifying life sentence convicts.

The top court said firstly, the convicts who have undergone more than 10 years imprisonment, unless there are reasons to refuse bail, be granted bail. It further emphasised on identification of cases where convicts have completed 14 years of custody, then their case can be referred to the government for considering premature release.

The bench said the premature release issue should be decided within a fixed time, irrespective of whether appeals are pending or not.

The top court was informed that in Bihar, there are 268 convicts, whose cases are being considered for a premature release. And, the Allahabad High Court has the highest pendency



### 'Karnataka High Court's judgment on hijab' majoritarian judgment, hurtful statements'

New Delhi: Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves on Thursday told the Supreme Court that the Karnataka High Court's judgment upholding ban on hijab in pre-university colleges, is basically from the perception of the majority community, and some observations made in the judgment are hurtful and deeply offensive to those who follow Islam.

"It is a majoritarian judgment. It does not have constitutional independence... There are startling paragraphs, hurting paragraphs in the judgment," he said. The bench said it has seen his written submissions.

Citing the HC judgment, Gonsalves submitted that it said one cannot have scientific temper if she wears hijab, and this is a hurtful statement. Referring to another observation in the HC judgment, he said that insistence on wearing hijab is against emancipation of women, and this is also a hurtful statement.

of appeals, with 385 convicts having undergone more than 14 years of custody.

### COURT ACQUITS TWO DELHI RIOTS ACCUSED

New Delhi: Observing that the prosecution has not been able to prove its case against two men, accused in a Delhi riots case, beyond a reasonable doubt, a Delhi court said the testimony of the witnesses does not inspire it to conclude the case against them and acquitted the duo.

Judge Amitabh Rawat of Karkardooma court was dealing with the case against the accused persons -- Yogender Singh and Suraj, who were on trial for offences under various sections of IPC for rioting, vandalising property, and unlawful assembly.

In the recent order, the court also noted that on the cumulative reading of the entire testimonies of all the witnesses, the presence of accused persons in the unlawful assembly on the time and place of incident and their participation in the act of rioting, mischief and burning of house of complainant Shamshad is not established at all.

## COACHING INSTITUTES IN AD WAR TO GRAB CREDIT FOR PRODUCING NEET TOPPER

INDIA'S BIGGEST ONLINE EDUCATION STARTUP BYJU'S HAD ACQUIRED BRICK & MORTAR TEST PREP LEADER AAKASH EDUCATIONAL SERVICES LTD THROUGH A STRATEGIC MERGER ON APRIL 21. AS PER REPORTS, AAKASH HAS OVER 200 CENTRES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

SIMILARLY, BODHI TREE SYSTEMS, THE EQUALLY-OWNED JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN JAMES MURDOCH'S LUPA SYSTEMS AND FORMER WALT DISNEY ASIA PACIFIC CHIEF UDAY SHANKAR, COMPLETED THE ACQUISITION OF 36 PER CENT STAKE IN TEST PREPARATION CENTRE ALLEN CAREER INSTITUTE IN JULY THIS YEAR.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

What seems like a war among the coaching institutes, three different coaching centres have been found competing with each other to grab credit for giving tuition to this year's NEET topper, in some form or the other.

While placing full-page advertisements in leading dailies, the three coaching institutes -- Allen, Aakash and Narayana Medical Academy -- have all put the picture of NEET topper Tanishka. While Allen coaching institute's advertisement

was published on September 14, Narayana Medical Academy's advertisement had appeared on September 11. Aakash apparently was the first institute to claim the credit for coaching Tanishka, as its advertisement had appeared on September 9 in a national daily.

Cut-throat competition among the coaching institutes is not new given the large number of students vying for competitive medical and engineering examinations held every year. Moreover, these institutes have also attracted a lot of attention from the investors.

## CBI raids in Mumbai, Gujarat in Rs 428 crore Canara Bank fraud

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raided several locations in Mumbai and Gujarat's Kutch in connection with an alleged fraud of Rs 428.50 crore in the Canara Bank, an official said on Thursday.

Following a complaint lodged by Canara Bank, the CBI registered a case against company, PSL Ltd and its director Ashok Yoginder

Punj, Alok Yoginder Punj, Rajender Kumar Bahri, Chitraranjan Kumar Jagdishchandra Goel, and other known and unknown persons including public servants. As per the Canara Bank's complaint, between 2009-2016, the accused entered into a conspiracy to cheat the bank through sanction of various credit facilities and misrepresented books of accounts. They are charged with

alleged misutilisation of the funds of the bank and diverting the receivable from its debtors, diverting the loans for projects to other purposes, thus, causing an alleged loss of Rs 428.50 crore to Canara Bank.

The CBI sleuths raided seven locations in Mumbai and Gujarat at the premises of the accused resulting in the recovery of incriminating documents and other articles.

## DALIT SISTERS FOUND HANGING FROM TREE AFTER RAPE AND MURDER IN UP

Lakhimpur Kheri: The bodies of two Dalit minor sisters, aged nearly 14 and 17 years respectively, were found allegedly hanging from a tree outside a village in Nighasan area of Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district. Both were murdered after being raped, strangled to death by the accused because they insisted that since they had been violated, the men marry them, police said on Thursday.

The sisters were found dead on Wednesday evening. After locals saw the bodies, they gathered at the spot to protest against the district administration in large numbers, forcing police to deploy personnel in the area to control the situation. Six persons have been arrested in connection with the rape and murder. The main accused, Chhotu Gautam, has confessed that he wanted to marry one of the girls but when she refused, he, and his friends, kidnapped the girls, raped and murdered them before hanging their bodies on the tree. "The men took advantage of the fact that they were friendly with the girls and raped them. As the girls then started saying they would have to marry them, the men got angry and strangled them with their dupattas. They later called two of their friends, who helped them hang the girls so that it looked like a suicide," said Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjeev Suman.

The main accused Chotu had allegedly introduced the girls to three others but was not at the scene of crime. The three, who carried out the crime, and the two, who helped them in a cover-up attempt, are from another village close to the girls, he said. The SP said that one of the men was caught this morning in an encounter with the police, who shot him in the leg. He had been identified on Wednesday, police said.



## Bharat Jodo Yatra not for Oppn unity but to strengthen Cong: Jairam Ramesh

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

ICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh on Thursday categorically said the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra is being done not for opposition unity, but to strengthen the Congress party.

"This yatra is being undertaken for strengthening the Congress party at all levels and this is not done for opposition unity. All parties at one point or the other has been trying to weaken the Congress. Only if the Congress is strengthened, can the opposition gather strength," said Ramesh.

Rahul Gandhi is leading the yatra that began from Kanyakumari on September 7 and will travel on a straight route and will cover over 3,750 kms through 12 states and reach its destination at Kashmir in 150 days.

For the yatra, Thursday is a rest day and it will resume from Kollam on Friday morning. Ramesh took on the CPI-M in Kerala and said it's the A team of the BJP and barring the Congress party, including the Left all have joined hands with the BJP at one point or the other. "Nationally, the



CPI-M wants to support the Congress but in Kerala it's in a tie up with the BJP and is being done to weaken the Congress. If they want to support us, they can do, but in Kerala they won't. Just see their top leaders (Modi and Vijayan) they are the same in style and operations as they do not listen to anyone. The legendary Communist EMS Namboodiripad once said that to defeat the Congress, they will join hands with even the 'devil' and they did it in 1989," said Ramesh.

## GUJRAT EX-MINISTER SIPHONED OFF RS 800 CR, ARRESTED

Gandhinagar: Former Minister of State and ex-chairman of Mehsana District Cooperative Producers Union Ltd (Dudhsagar Dairy) Vipul Chaudhary had siphoned off Rs 800 crore from the cooperative, the Gujarat Anti Corruption Bureau said on Thursday. ACB's Joint Director Makrand Chauhan told media persons that during his tenure, Vipul Chaudhary indulged into malpractices by various means. Later, the contractors paid bribes to 31 different companies, which were either controlled, owned or run by Vipul, his family members or relatives, friends, and from their accounts the amount was either withdrawn or diverted.

The ACB late Wednesday night picked up Vipul Chaudhary from his Gandhinagar residence and arrested him on Thursday.

## 4 MORE ACTRESSES GIVEN EXPENSIVE GIFTS BY CONMAN SUKESH CHANDRASHEKHAR



New Delhi: The probe into the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving multimillionaire conman Sukesh Chandrashekhkar has found that four models/actresses met him in Tihar Jail and were given money and expensive gifts, sources said.

According to the sources, "Big Boss" fame Nikita Tamboli, "Bade Acheche Lagte Hai" fame Chahat Khanna, Sophia Singh, and Arusha Patil met Chandrashekhkar in the jail premises and he introduced himself as a producer of southern film industry.

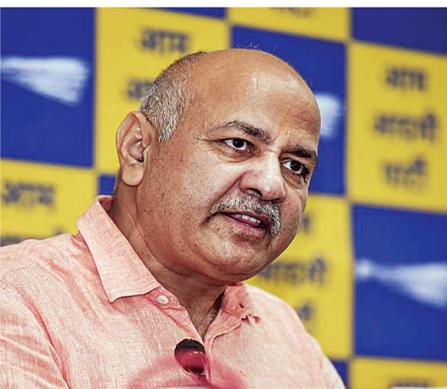
A source said that Chandrashekhkar's aide Pinky Irani, who was arrested later, had facilitated their meetings with Chandrashekhkar. All these four actresses were given expensive gifts of renowned brands such as Gucci, Versace, and Louis Vuitton. Chandrashekhkar also transferred some Rs 5.20 lakh into the account of Patil, who has admitted to have met him but not in the jail. When Irani introduced Khanna to Chandrashekhkar, the actress was allegedly given Rs 2 lakh and a blue-coloured Versace watch. Chandrashekhkar allegedly deposited Rs 2 lakh into the account of Singh and later gifted her a LV bag. She was, later on, given Rs 1.5 lakh more. Irani got an amount of Rs 10 lakh from Chandrashekhkar for introducing him to Tamboli, and she later gave Rs 1.5 lakh to Tamboli. Later on, Chandrashekhkar gave her a Gucci bag and Rs 2 lakh on their first meet.

## Arrest me if video on liquor scam is genuine or accept conspiracy by PMO: Sisodia to BJP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday dared the BJP to arrest him if the sting operation video on the liquor scam is genuine or accept it to be a conspiracy by the Prime Minister's Office.

Sisodia was addressing a press briefing after the BJP released the video this morning. "If this sting video is genuine, CBI must arrest me within four days i.e by Monday otherwise accept that it is a fake video made on the directions of the PMO". "I request the BJP to immediately go to the probe agency and produce this as evidence. The probe agency must investigate the video and arrest me immediately if there is any truth in the so-called sting, said Deputy CM to the media. "Firstly, they got my house raided, and found nothing. Next, my locker was checked and there was nothing. Now they



have come up with a so-called sting operation video", Sisodia said. Targeting BJP on the issue of landfills, he said that BJP has come up with a plan, which if implemented will be dangerous for the people of the national capital. "There are three huge landfills in Delhi which reflect BJP's performance in the past 17 years? Now there is a conspiracy to make 16 more such mountains. They have decided that 16 landfill sites will be built in Delhi. Those who couldn't manage three landfill sites, are planning to build 16 more which will convert the capital city into a hell-like situation", the senior AAP leader claimed.

## 5G SERVICE TO BE ROLLED OUT IN ODISHA IN FIRST PHASE: IT MINISTER

Bhubaneswar: High-speed 5G services will be rolled out in many parts of the country, including Odisha, very soon, Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Thursday.

Interacting with reporters in Puri, Vaishnav said that Odisha will get 5G service in the very first phase. Asked about any impact of the 5G radiation on human beings, he said: "The amount of radiation it will give forth is 10 times less than the radiation norms set by the World Health Organisation (WHO). So, no one should worry about it."

Earlier, Vaishnav had asked the telecom service providers to be ready with the 5G launch post the issuance of spectrum allocation letters. During his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the 5G services will be launched in India soon.

## Gadkari calls for professionally managed Public transport system

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that a professionally managed Public transport system based on electricity in public-private partnership mode will get a good response.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While saying that green Hydrogen is the future of mobility, the minister proposed setting an E-road from Delhi to Jaipur. He said alternate fuels, new technologies and innovations in the transport sector must be found for economic viability and sustainable development.

The Minister said that efforts should be made to discourage use of personal vehicles. Appreciating the London transport model, the



Minister said that people want more comfort at a lower rate. He proposed use of card or QR code based entry-exit systems in place of physical ticket systems in the buses to prevent losses to the bus corporations and promote ease of travelling. The Minister emphasised that with the coming of electric buses there will be reduction in pollution and also we will be able to reduce our import of diesel and crude oil.



# ACB GETS L-G's NOD TO PROBE 'GHOST TEACHERS' CASE IN DELHI GOVT SCHOOLS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, V.K. Saxena, on Thursday granted permission to the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) to conduct an investigation against four serving and retired vice-principals of Delhi government schools under the Directorate of Education who allegedly paid salaries in the name of 'ghost guest teachers'.

"Vice-principals Chhote Lal Shastri (retd), Satyendar Kumar Sharma (retd), Rajiv Kumar and Ravinder Kumar Jatav committed misappropriation/embezzlement of government funds and fraudulently drew guest teacher's salary in the name of 'non-existent guest teachers' at Government Boys Senior Secondary School (GBSSS-I) in Mansarovar Park, Delhi," read a statement from the L-G office.

In the instant case, an audit carried out in November 2018 observed that at GBSSS-I, for the period between April 1, 2016 and March 31,



2018, there were discrepancies and irregularities in preparing the bills in respect of salary of guest teachers and it reported misappropriation of government funds, said an official from the L-G office.

"It was found that payment of Rs 4,21,656 was made to three persons

-- Samiksha Arya (Rs 1,35,900), Uma Shastri (Rs 1,42,078) and Chottey Lal (Rs 1,43,678) -- despite the fact that 'neither of the three names were appointed in the school'. In fact, one of them, Uma Shastri, was the wife of then vice-principal, Chhotey Lal Shastri," he said.

These irregularities and discrepancies were detected for the first time in November 2018 by the audit team, and since the matter pertained to embezzlement of government funds, it was taken up with the ACB for the registration of an FIR.

The ACB then moved for grant of permission for the registration of an FIR. Thereafter, the matter was examined by the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV), which proposed for approval of the L-G for proceeding with the probe.

The said proposal sent by the DoV on August 28, 2022 was passed by the L-G with the following noting: "I have carefully considered the submission on the pre-pages and the facts and records of the case and I am of the view that this matter requires to be investigated by the Anti-Corruption Branch, GNCTD. In view of the foregoing, I hereby accept the request of Anti-Corruption Branch, GNCTD, and grant permission under Section 17A of the POC (Amendment) Act, 2018 for conducting investigation."

# Peace accord inked with five militant groups from Assam, Rs 1K cr package announced

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Guwahati

In a significant development, a tripartite peace accord was signed between the Centre, Assam government and five tribal militant outfits and three splinter groups of the state in New Delhi on Thursday, and a special development package of Rs 1,000 crore was announced to implement the accord. The peace deal was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at the Ministry of Home Affairs in North Block. Shah later said a special development package of Rs 1,000 crore (Rs 500 crore each by the Centre and Assam government) will be provided over a period of five years for the development of infrastructure in the tribal inhabited villages and areas of Assam.

The agreement provides for setting up of an Adivasi Welfare and Development Council by the Assam government with the objective of fulfilling the political, economic and educational aspirations; protecting, preserving and promoting social, cultural, linguistic and ethnic identities etc." The signing of the historic tripartite agreement between the Govt of India, the Assam govt and representatives of



eight Tribal groups of Assam at North Block, New Delhi. Another milestone towards PM Narendra Modi Ji's vision of a peaceful North East," Shah tweeted. In another tweet, he said: "A historic agreement between GoI, Govt of Assam and representatives of eight Adivasi groups was signed today in New Delhi to end the decades-old crisis of Adivasis and tea garden workers in Assam." The tripartite peace accord was inked with five tribal militant groups -- Birs Commando Force (BCF), Adivasi People's Army (APA), All Adivasi National Liberation Army (AANLA), Adivasi Cobra Military of Assam (ACMA) and Santhal Tiger Force (STF). The remaining three outfits are splinter groups of BCF, AANLA and ACMA.

# Five killed, 12 injured in road accident in J&K's Rajouri

Jammu | Agencies

Five people were killed and 12 injured in a road accident in J&K's Rajouri district on Thursday, officials said.



A bus carrying passengers from Jammu to Surankote went out of the driver's control and fell into a gorge at Deri Ralyot area of Manjakote in Rajouri.

"Five people have been killed in this accident and 12 have been injured. Security forces and the locals launched a rescue operation immediately.

"The injured have been shifted to hospital," an official said.

The Rajouri road accident came a day after 11 people were

killed and 25 injured in another road accident in neighbouring Poonch district.

J&K Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha, in a tweet, said: "Anguished by the loss of lives due to a tragic accident in Rajouri. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest. The district administration is providing all possible assistance".

# BHUTAN SET TO REOPEN ASSAM GATE FOR TOURISTS

Guwahati | Agencies

Nearly two and half years after the Covid pandemic's outbreak, the India-Bhutan border gate along the Assam frontier are set to reopen for tourists next week. Samdrup Jongkhar and Gelephu border gate will be opened on September 23, officials said. Director, Law and Order, in Bhutan's Home and Cultural Ministry Tashi Penjore led a delegation that held a meeting with Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) officials on Wednesday and announced that the gates would be reopened after a two and half year break. Penjore said that the Bhutan government announced the reopening of its borders for trade, commerce, and official transit on September 23, provided the Covid-19 situation does not change for the worse. "In the last two and a half years, many officials on both sides have changed and we were not able to meet and establish friendship and person-to-person contacts which are essential for people residing along the border areas of the two countries. We look forward to more such visits."

# Anti-conversion Bill clears K'taka Legislative Council test amid Congress walkout

Bengaluru | Agencies

The ruling BJP in Karnataka had the last laugh on Thursday as the controversial anti-conversion Bill got smooth passage in the Legislative Council amid a walkout by principal opposition Congress party.

The Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill 2021 was tabled by home minister Araga Jnanendra and passed by voice vote after prolonged debate. The opposition Congress party which has been vociferously opposing the Bill, walked out of the Council ahead of the vote.

Although the controversial Bill had earlier been cleared by the Legislative Assembly in



December 2021, the ruling BJP opted for the Ordinance route in May this year, as it did not have the numbers to steer it through the 75-member Legislative Council. However,

with the BJP enjoying a majority in the Upper House after the Council elections in July this year, it decided to table the contentious Bill on Thursday. Karnataka's version of the Bill

is seen as more stringent than in other BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Home minister Araga Jnanendra said conversions are becoming rampant through unfair means.

The Bill aims to protect one's right to freedom of religion and prohibition of unlawful conversion from one religion to another by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means.

The Bill includes provisions for compensation of up to Rs 5 lakh to be paid by the accused to those who were forced to convert. In cases of mass conversion, punishment ranges from 3-10 year imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs one lakh.

# I would have said 'No' to entry of 8 Congress MLAs: Goa BJP Prez

Team Absolute | Panaji

A day after eight Congress MLAs joined the BJP, party's state President Sadanand Tanavade on Thursday said that if this group had approached him, then perhaps he would have said 'No' to their entry.

"I remember in July, we were told that these eight Congress MLAs would join. Our central leader Bhupender Yadav had also come to Goa then. But it could not happen that day. Later they formed a group of eight MLAs and it happened yesterday," Tanavade told reporters here.

On Wednesday, two third of the Congress Legislature Party (eight MLAs) joined the BJP. Former chief minister Digambar Kamat, Michael Lobo, Delilah Lobo, Kedar Naik, Sankalp Amonkar, Rajesh Faldesai, Aleixo Sequeira and Rudolf



Fernandes, are the eight legislators who switched from the grand-old party to the saffron party.

"We follow decisions taken by the Centre. If you ask me personally, perhaps I would have said 'No' to their entry, had they come to me. But these eight MLAs had met our central leaders and a decision was taken by them," he said.

"BJP is the national party. This

decision has been taken by central leadership. Local unit can't take such decisions. We have to follow and execute decisions taken by central leadership," Tanavade further said.

When asked how the party gave entry to Digambar Kamat, who had played a role to topple Manohar Parrikar's government in 2004, Tanavade said it has become history now.

"See, party takes decision as per situations. Even I was a victim of that period. I was MLA then. If that government had completed 5 years term, then till today I would have remained as MLA. It is history now," he said.

Tanavade said that the present decision has been taken by central leadership and they are bound to accept it.

Tanavade said that he has no idea about cabinet reshuffle. "It is not in my hand," he said.

# HIGH COURT STAYS IMPRISONMENT OF DALER MEHNDI IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

In a relief to singer Daler Mehndi, the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday granted stay to the decision of a Patiala Court that had sentenced him to two years of imprisonment in a 2003 human trafficking case.

He was lodged in the Central Jail in Patiala.

The artist was imprisoned after being given a two-year prison term on July 14 for illegally transporting people abroad while they were acting as members of his band.

Police had registered a case against the singer, his brother Shamsheer Singh -- who died in October 2017 -- and two others, after



it was alleged that the accused took money from people to the tune of Rs 1 crore on the pretext of taking them abroad.

Complainant, Bakhshish Singh, alleged that the deal never matured and the accused failed to return the money.

The case was registered in 2003 in Patiala. Daler Mehndi was subsequently arrested but released on bail after a few days.

# Bharatiya Tribal Party to contest all 27 tribal seats in Gujarat

Bharuch | Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) chief Chhotu Vasava announced on Thursday that BTP will field candidates in all the 27 tribal reserve seats in the Gujarat Assembly elections scheduled to be held later this year.

"Not a single political party is interested in the welfare and development of either the tribes or the tribal areas. So we have decided to give effective representation to the tribal community, which is possible only if like-minded tribals get elected and fight for tribals' rights. BJP will field candidates in all the 27 reserved tribal seats, from Danta (North) to Umargam (South)," Vasava told reporter.

Refuting rumours that he took the decision after meeting BJP leaders to cut opposition votes, Vasava said, "I have not travelled to Gandhinagar for more than a month now, nor has any BJP leader approached me with any such suggestion. I fail to understand how such rumours surface."

Explaining why the party's alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) didn't work, Vasava said, "AAP was offering our cadres posts in their party... Such an alliances cannot work for long."

He also clarified that his party was never in talks with the Congress for seat-sharing.

# Goa Speaker accepts merger of Congress MLAs into BJP

Panaji | Agencies

Goa Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar on Thursday said that the merger of eight Congress MLAs with the BJP has been accepted.

"Merger has been accepted. Yesterday I was in Delhi. Hence, after coming back to Goa on Wednesday evening, the process was completed," Tawadkar told reporters here.

On Wednesday, two third of the Congress Legislature Party (eight MLAs) joined the BJP. Former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat, Michael Lobo, Delilah Lobo, Kedar Naik, Sankalp Amonkar, Rajesh Faldesai, Aleixo Sequeira and Rudolf Fernandes, are the eight legislators who switched from the grand-old party to the saffron party.

"Whereas, the Indian National Congress Party (INC) in the Goa Legislative Assembly, has merged into Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a communication to that effect has been addressed, by members of the Goa Legislative Assembly, namely Michael V. Lobo, Digambar Kamat, Aleixo Sequeira, Sankalp Amonkar, Delilah M. Lobo, Kedar J. Naik, Rajesh Faldesai and Rodolfo L. Fernandes,



MLAs," Assembly bulletin said.

"Therefore, Hon'ble Speaker has taken note of the same and accordingly, seats are allotted to the members as members of Bharatiya Janata Party in the House," it further said.

Congress had 11 MLAs in the 40 members of Goa assembly. While BJP had 20 MLAs, which now increased to

28. The BJP also has support of two MGP MLAs and three independent MLAs. Hence the strength of the saffron party has gone up to 33 and Congress reduced to 3. While 33 seats in the assembly will be occupied by the ruling party, seven seats will be left for opposition including 3 of Congress, 2 AAP, 1 GFP and 1 RGP.

# MINOR GIRL DRUGGED, GANG RAPED IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: A minor girl was allegedly kidnapped and raped by two youth in the old city of Hyderabad. The accused sexually assaulted the 13-year-old victim for two days in a hotel after kidnapping and drugging her. The girl was kidnapped by the youth on Tuesday when she had gone out to buy medicines in Chanchalguda. As she did not return home, her mother lodged a complaint with Dabeerpura Police Station the next day. Police registered a missing case and took up investigation. The youth, who are said to be known to the girl, took her to a hotel in their car. They then drugged and sexually assaulted her. The accused had called the victim's mother on Wednesday to inform her that she was with them. They later dropped her near Chaderghat. The victim's mother shared the telephone number with the police. The police subsequently arrested the accused from the Rein Bazar area. Police said both the accused have been arrested and a case under Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered at Dabeerpura police station. The victim has been sent to Bharosa Centre. A police officer said after counselling and medical examination, her statement will be recorded.

# Spa operator among four booked for pushing minor girl into prostitution

Gurugram | Agencies

A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped repeatedly and pushed into prostitution by a spa operator and her three aides in Gurugram, police said on Thursday.

In connection with the case, the police have booked four persons, including King Spa operator Jhuma and her three aides identified as Pooja, Rubel Iqbal and Saddam Hussein. The matter came to the fore after the victim narrated the ordeal to her parents who rescued her and later approached the Women Police station at Gurugram's Sector-51 and registered a case against the accused on Wednesday.

The victim told the police that she had met Pooja at a Gurugram mall a month ago. Pooja had offered her a job at a doctor's clinic.

"As I was looking for a job I accepted her offer and I joined a doctor's clinic but within two days I was expelled from the job. Thereafter, she offered me a receptionist job at her relative's King Spa located in Omex mall, Gurugram, which was run by Jhuma," she told the police.



"The same day Jhuma called a man and informed me to go with him in a room and when I resisted, all the four accused surrounded me. Then Jhuma told me just to stay one day with the man and then left the job. I accepted her proposal but I was raped by that man," the victim said.

The girl alleged that the accused recorded objectionable videos of her and blackmailed and threatened her that the video will be uploaded on social media if she left the job. She was reportedly sexually assaulted by 10-15 men every day. The victim was also sent to a hotel located in Sector-38 and another spa located in Raheja mall for prostitution but somehow she was rescued by her parents. She revealed the matter to her parents, who took her to the police.



### CAMPAIGN TO GIVE BENEFIT LETTERS TO THE BENEFICIARIES WILL START FROM THE BIRTHDAY OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Team Absolute | Bhopal

From September 17, the birthday of the Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi, a special campaign will be launched to provide the benefits of the identified beneficiary-oriented schemes of the central and state of Madhya Pradesh to the eligible beneficiaries. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state government is committed for development, public welfare and good governance. The full benefits of schemes and programs run by various departments of the Central and State Government should reach their actual eligible beneficiaries within a time-limit, this is the basic goal of good governance.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that for the fulfilment of this objective by the State Government, from September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, by running a special campaign, the beneficiaries of the identified beneficiary oriented schemes of the Centre and the state should be provided to the eligible beneficiaries. In the campaign, cent percent fulfilment of the target of benefitting the eligible beneficiaries



will be ensured. No eligible person will be deprived of the benefits of these schemes. This effective initiative of public welfare will be run as Chief Minister Jan-Seva Abhiyan till 31 October 2022.

It has been told that the Chief

Minister's public service campaign will be run continuously for 45 days in rural and urban areas of the entire state. Entire proceedings related to the campaign. The helpline will be done from the portal. A separate module has been created in the por-

tal and facility has been given to create login for the officers and citizens. The District Collector will continuously monitor the campaign under the guidance of the Minister in-charge of the district.

33 flagship beneficiary-oriented schemes of the central and state governments have been identified in the Chief Minister's public service campaign. The campaign will bring 100% saturation in all these schemes. Saturation means to give the benefit of the respective identified scheme to all the eligible beneficiaries. Provided that in such beneficiary-oriented schemes, which are target-based, that is, in which targets have been set from the government level, action will be taken to provide benefits according to the target.

From September 17 to October 31, 2022, the birthday of PM Narendra Modi, two camps will be organized at each gram panchayat and urban ward level. Dates will be mentioned on the portal regarding the date and place of the camps, so that the eligible holders who are deprived of applying on the portal can be benefited in the camp.

### BJP wants its new HQ ready ahead of 2023 polls in MP, party veterans oppose

Team Absolute | Bhopal

While the BJP has decided to build a new party headquarters in Madhya Pradesh by demolishing the existing party office in Bhopal, voices opposing the plan are now emerging from within the saffron camp in the state.

Sources in the BJP said the party has decided to construct a high-tech multi-storey party office ahead of the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh scheduled in end-2023.

The process has already begun with an idol of Lord Ganesha being placed at the site last week in the presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and MP BJP President V.D. Sharma, among others.

However, a group of veteran BJP leaders in the state have now opposed the decision to demolish the existing party headquarters.

Though there were concerns over the decision to demolish the existing structure located near the Rani Kamalapati railway station in Bhopal, now former Rajya Sabha member Raghunandan Sharma has written to the party's national President J.P. Nadda on the issue, which has gone viral on social media.

In the three-page letter to Nadda, Sharma detailed the memories associated with the building and how BJP leaders and workers worked hard for building the party headquarters for a few decades. Sharma compared the decision to demolish the present party office to "a mad elephant crushing its own soldiers" and appealed to the top party



leadership to reconsider the move.

He also alleged that the decision was taken without taking into consideration the opinion of the veteran party leaders in the state.

The existing BJP headquarters -- Deen Dayal Parishar -- was established in 1991 during the rule of then Chief Minister Sunderlal Patwa. In his letter, Sharma mentioned that the party headquarters carry the memories of several leaders and workers, many of who are no more.

"I will urge that let the building remain at its place, and construct a new building elsewhere with a new dream for the new generations. Let the memories of Kushabhau Thakre and thousands of BJP workers remain there in the old building," Sharma wrote.

### Government buildings in MP will be built on the lines of Canada, France and Mauritius

In Madhya Pradesh, the Public Works Department will build a new government building on the lines of Canada, France and Mauritius in the coming time.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Public Works Minister Gopal Bhargava on the occasion of the launch of new SOR 2022 of Public Works Department Project Implementation Unit has said that new government buildings in Madhya Pradesh will be built on the lines of Canada, France and Mauritius. For this, the Project Implementation Unit of the Public Works Department will use the structured stay in place from work system instead of traditional shuttering. Minister Bhargava said

that the Public Works Department is also innovating in electrical fitting work in buildings. It will use EPS expanded polystyrene core panels or a thermocol seat is used in the middle of the lightweight sandwich panel. Due to which the temperature inside the buildings will be controlled and the buildings can be made noiseproof. This method will also save time and electricity in completing the work.

Minister Bhargava said that at present the SOR of 2020 is effective in the state. In the last two years, due to

the global crisis arising out of an unavoidable circumstances like Covid and Ukraine war, there has been an unprecedented increase in the rate of various types of construction materials like steel, cement, copper, aluminum wire, PVC, pipe fittings. This has an impact on the quality of construction works.

Keeping these topics in view, new SOR of Public Works Department Project Implementation Unit is being implemented. In which an average increase of 15 percent has been done on various items.

### Strict action must be taken against school management along with those guilty: Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the incident that happened with a girl child in a private school bus in Bhopal is a breach of trust. Parents send their children to school with trust; it is the responsibility of the school management to maintain this trust. Strict action should be taken against the school management along with the guilty driver and school maid.

CM Chouhan gave these instructions in an emergency meeting called at 7 am today. Principal Secretary School Education Rashmi Arun Shami, Bhopal Divisional Commissioner Gulshan Bamra, Police Commissioner Makarand Deuskar, Collector Bhopal Avinash Lavania and other officers were present in the meeting held at the residence office. Additional Chief Secretary Home Dr. Rajesh Rajoura virtually attended the meeting.

CM Chouhan said that it is the responsibility of the school management to ensure the verification of the staff in the school buses. We cannot leave the children in the hands of such criminals. The school management should have looked into why the CCTV cameras were not working in the bus. This is



also the responsibility of the school management. CM Chouhan said that the message should go that

action will be taken against the guilty however influential they are, this belief should be strong that the government will not spare the criminals. Strict action should be taken in time, so that the management understands its answerability and responsibility.

CM Chouhan said that the drivers and staff in the buses of all the schools in Bhopal should be scrutinized. Those with a criminal record and shady character should not be employed. Workshop should be conducted regarding training of staff and legal provisions. Along with this, training focused on awareness and information regarding the provisions of POCSO Act among children and parents should also be imparted in all government and private schools. The police administration should also communicate effectively with the parents and the society on this subject.

Giving information about the incident and the action taken so far, Commissioner of Police Makrand Deuskar said that efforts are also being made while taking other children and their parents into confidence whether such an incident has happened with any other child.

### MP BJP MLA INTENSIFIES DEMAND FOR 'VINDHYA PRADESH'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With less than one-and-a-half years left for the next Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the demand for the formation of a separate Vindhya Pradesh, which comprises 30 Assembly seats, is likely to gain momentum once again.

Sitting BJP MLA from Maihar (Satna district) Narayan Tripathi, who has been raising voice for the formation of Vindhya Pradesh for more than a decade now, said that he would form a political party in the name of Vindhya, and will contest the elections on 30 seats under its jurisdiction.

Tripathi, who is set to begin a foot-march followed by a 'Dharma Sabha' from religious 'Siddha Pahad' in Chitrakoot on September 27, spoke on his demand of Vindhya Pradesh's formation and some other issues.

Q: There is wide speculation across political circles that you are going to form a political party. What is the reality in it?

A: Yes, things are in process, hopefully we will be able to make an announcement by November or December this year. We will contest the Assembly elections in all 30 seats falling under the Vindhya region. I have been raising the



demand for a separate Vindhya Pradesh since 2004, but so far, I didn't make it a political issue because this subject is beyond politics for us. But, now it's the need of the hour to have a political party to strengthen our voice more. Q: Why are you demanding for separate Vindhya Pradesh when it was merged with Madhya Pradesh decades ago?

A: First, making Vindhya Pradesh a separate state is not my own demand but of the people of this region. Of course I am leading this movement, but before me, other political leaders too from Vindhya had time and again pushed for it even before Chhattisgarh was separated. Second, because the Vindhya region was not given importance and has been deprived of development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi says he wants to make India self-reliant, which is possible only when states become self-reliant and it is possible only when we have small states. Q: Your action gives an opportunity to the opposition to corner the BJP government.

Also, it gives rise to speculation that you are getting close to the Congress?

A: I raise my voice whenever I see anything going wrong and I have nothing to do with the Congress. Whatever the Congress leaders speculate, let them do, I can't stop them from doing so. I wrote a letter to the Chief Minister over the mining issue on Siddha Pahad in Chitrakoot and see how quickly the Chief Minister took action on it. I am still fighting on that particular issue. Yes, I say that sand and rock mining in the Vindhya region is running on a large-scale with the nexus between politicians and government officials.

### Murderer of four guards is in isolation, inmates still fear him

Team Absolute | Sagor

Madhya Pradesh "serial killer" Shivprasad Dhurve, accused of killing four security guards, has been kept in isolation at the Sagor central jail as other inmates fear him, an official said.

Jail superintendent Rakesh Bhangre said that, when he takes bath, jail wardens remain nearby, and the plate on which he is served meals is taken back immediately after he finishes eating.

"Looking at his instincts to commit crime, the serial killer is not kept with the other prisoners. He is confined to an isolation cell. Six cases including four of serial killings have been registered against him," Bhangre said.

As Shivprasad Dhurve is



considered capable of using any available material as a weapon, he is not allowed to keep any utensils with him, the superintendent told media.

"He was not kept with other inmates as they fear him after coming to know what he has been accused of," the official said.

"However, ever since he was jailed on September 6, his behaviour has been normal," Bhangre added.

"We have given him religious and educational books to reform him," the prison superintendent said.

"So far nobody from his family has visited him in prison," Bhangre said.

### CM CHOUHAN PLANTS SAPLINGS OF KACHNAR, GULAR AND SAPTAPARNI



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings along with the students of National Service Scheme of Babulal Gaur Government Post Graduate College, Bhopal in Smart City Park located in Shyamala Hills. CM Chouhan planted saplings of Kachnar, Gular and Saptaparni.

The National Service Scheme aims to develop the personality of the students and motivate them to contribute in the social sector. Under the scheme, students launched a campaign for awareness in the society and tree plantation. Various programs are conducted by the organization including drug de-addiction, blood donation, poll related awareness and cleanliness campaign.

### 9 Decades long wait will end, 8 African cheetahs to arrive Today

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After waiting for seven decades for the fastest moving wild animal cheetah, India will finally receive the first batch from South Africa by Friday afternoon. A special Jumbo Jet Boeing 747 plane, having all arrangements for specially housing eight cheetahs for 16 hours journey to Rajasthan capital Jaipur, landed in Namibia capital Windhoek on Thursday.

Officials in Madhya Pradesh forest department said that the aircraft with the eight cheetahs, including five females and three males (among them two male siblings) will land in Jaipur on Friday. Thereafter, the fastest moving animals will be flown from Jaipur to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday morning, three to four hours before the Prime



Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to arrive in Sheopur district for the memorable birthday. PM Modi will celebrate his 72nd birthday in style - by

releasing the cheetahs into Kuno National Park. "A 10-foot high platform has been put up for the PM at Kuno National Park. Cheetahs will be housed in a six-foot cage

below that platform. The PM will turn a lever to open the sliding gates of the cage and release the cheetahs in the enclosure created for them," officials with the project said.

After releasing the cheetahs, PM Modi will address 'Cheetah Mitras' (friends of cheetahs surrounding villages).

These Cheetah Mitras have been tasked with educating people living in some 45 villages near the national park, about how to handle the big cats, should any stray into their neighbourhood. The cheetahs will be quarantined in a special enclosure for a month after being released in the Kuno National Park. Once the mandatory isolation is over, they will be moved to a larger enclosure for around three months, before being freed in the jungles of the 748 square km Park.

### All districts should keep constant watch on lumpy virus situation: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the situation of lumpy virus in the state should be continuously monitored. Necessary efforts should be made at every level to prevent its spread. Entry of animals from neighboring states should be stopped. There should be no shortage of vaccines needed to prevent infection. To prevent the spread of infection, also the livestock owners should be made aware about isolating the animals and other measures. There should be a continuous review of the virus situation in all the districts and the implementation of preventive measures.

It was told that so far 3 thousand 314 animals are affected by lumpy virus in the state. In this, 2 thousand 742 animals have recovered and 38 have succumbed. To prevent infection, 1 lakh 49 thousand 530 animals have been vac-



inated so far. Vaccines are available in sufficient quantity in the state. Cases of lumpy virus have been reported in Bhind, Morena and Sheopur. Necessary arrangements are being made there.

Advertisement for 'आम सूचना' (Am Sancha) containing contact information and details about a service.



EDITOR'S SPECS

MNS to go alone in civic bodies elections

The Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) is planning to go alone in the upcoming civic elections in Mumbai and other major cities or towns in the state. MNS spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande told media persons that his party would put up candidates in the 227 wards for the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). He said the party chief has also directed that the MNS should prepare to contest all other civic bodies independently. Though he did not cite any reasons for the proposed move, the decision could prove to be a huge dampener for Chief Minister Eknath Shinde group and Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. The two parties have been separately and jointly wooing Raj Thackeray hoping for a civic polls tie-up to beat the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) but with the MNS's suo moto announcement, the possibility appears remote for the present. Late August and early September, Shinde and several BJP state and central leaders had called on Raj Thackeray amid speculation that he would meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his Ganeshotsav trip to Mumbai. Though the meeting with Shah did not materialise, Raj Thackeray received Shinde and many BJP leaders during Ganeshotsav festival at his home and later reciprocated their gesture. In June, the MNS - which has a solitary MLA supporting the Shinde-Fadnavis regime - had announced that it will contest Nashik Municipal Corporation polls solo, with the city considered its stronghold. The party is expected to announce its tentative list of candidates for various civic bodies including BMC, NMC and others shortly, Deshpande indicated without giving details. With this, the civic elections may witness multi-party contests in various cities with the Shinde group-BJP competing against Shiv Sena, Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, now the MNS, besides other smaller and local parties crowding the scene.

INDIA TO LAUNCH MAIDEN HUMAN SPACE-FLIGHT MISSION 'GAGANYAAN' IN 2024

India's maiden human space-flight mission 'Gaganyaan' is expected to be launched in 2024, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh said. Earlier, the mission was scheduled to be launched in 2022 but that could not be achieved due to Covid-19. "The Covid-19 pandemic took a toll on the training of astronauts in Russia as well as India," Singh added as was quoted by an Indian news agency. The first test-flight will be followed by sending a female-looking spacefaring humanoid robot -- VyomMitra -- in outer space likely next year. The Indian Air Force had identified four fighter pilots as the potential crew for the human space flight mission. The potential crew had undergone basic training in Russia. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will send at least two astronauts into a low earth orbit (LEO) in 2024 after assessing the outcome of the two orbital test flights. According to ISRO, the Gaganyaan programme envisages undertaking the demonstration of human spaceflight to LEO in the short-term and will lay the foundation for a sustained Indian human space exploration programme in the long run. The objective of this space programme is to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flight mission to LEO. As part of this programme, two unmanned missions and one manned mission are approved by the Indian government. The total cost of Gaganyaan programme would be to the tune of Rs 9,023 crore. The Human spaceflight programme has both tangible and intangible benefits for India, which includes progress towards a sus-



tained and affordable human and robotic programme to explore the solar system and beyond; advanced technology capability for undertaking human space exploration, sample return missions and scientific exploration and future capability to actively collaborate in global space station development and to carry out scientific experiments of interest to the nation. It will also create a broad framework for wider academia -- industry partnership in taking up development activities for national development. It will generate ample scope

for employment generation and human resource development in advanced science and R&D activities. The mission will provide unique opportunity to inspire and excite Indian youth and steer many students towards careers in science and technology towards challenging jobs that encourage knowledge, innovation and creativity. The programme will strengthen international partnerships and global security through the sharing of challenging and peaceful goals. Having a vibrant human spaceflight programme can be leveraged as a

potent foreign policy tool. According to ISRO, the uncrewed missions are for technology demonstration, safety and reliability verification and will be heavily instrumented to study the performance of systems before crewed flight. The major new technologies required for Gaganyaan programme are -- human rated launch vehicle, crew escape systems, habitable orbital module, life support system and crew selection, and training and

associated crew management activities. Officials said during the test mission, the spacecraft will be launched to an altitude of 15 km during which space scientists will simulate an abort scenario to ensure the return crew capsule to the Earth using parachutes. The second orbital test flight will take the Gaganyaan crew capsule to a higher altitude and undergo a similar abort scenario to perfect the system. The Gaganyaan programme is going to be a major national effort for India. The overall programme co-ordination, systems engineering and implementation will be carried out by ISRO. Further, the human rated launch vehicle, crew escape system, orbital module and essential infrastructure will be realised by ISRO utilising the in-house expertise and with participation of industry, academia and national agencies. The private players in the country have developed significant expertise in niche areas, and this will be effectively utilised in the programme. For the first crewed mission of Gaganyaan programme, astronaut trainees are selected from pool of test pilots, based on selection criterion jointly defined by ISRO and Indian Air Force which comprises of flying experience, fitness, psychological and aeromedical evaluation (including anthropometric parameters). After the successful completion of Gaganyaan programme, the next step will focus towards achieving capability for a sustained human presence in space. The ISRO also plans to launch the Chandrayaan-3 mission to the moon sometime in 2023. Officials said there were two launch windows for the moon mission in February and July 2023.

international

WHO WARNS FUTURE WAVES OF COVID-19 INFECTION AS DEATHS DROP

Geneva | Agencies  
The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that future coronavirus waves are expected and that governments across the world need to remain vigilant and ready to respond to any threat that may emerge. "We have never been in a better position to end the pandemic," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a press briefing in Geneva on Wednesday. According to the WHO, during the week of September 5-11, the number of new weekly cases worldwide decreased by 28 per cent over the previous week to more than 3.1 million. The



number of new weekly deaths was down 22 per cent to just under 11,000. Tedros likened the pandemic response to a marathon race. "Now is the time to run harder and make sure we cross the line and reap the

rewards of all our hard work." Nevertheless, the WHO's experts continue to urge caution, Xinhua news agency reported. The virus is "circulating at a very intense level around the world at the present time. And, in fact, the number of

cases that are being reported to the WHO we know are an underestimate," Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead of the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said. "We feel there are far more cases that are actually circulating than are being reported to us," she added. "We expect there to be future waves of infection, potentially at different time points throughout the world, caused by different subvariants of Omicron or even different variants of concern," she noted. Those future waves of infection "do not need to translate into future waves of death, because we have tools that can prevent infections," she said.

12 KILLED, MANY INJURED IN PASSENGER BUS CRASH IN MYANMAR

Yangon: At least 12 people were killed and many others injured in an accident involving three vehicles in Kyaukpadaung township of central Myanmar's Mandalay region, local police told Xinhua. The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital. The incident took place on Wednesday evening, Xinhua news agency reported. An investigation into the cause of the road accident is underway, according to the police.

SAFEGUARDING INDIA'S SECURITY IMPORTANT WHEN SAFEGUARDING OUR SECURITY: SRI LANKA PREZ

Colombo | Agencies

Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Thursday stressed the importance of safeguarding the security of India when safeguarding the security of his country. "When it comes to the security of Sri Lanka, we are of the view that in looking after the security of Sri Lanka, we must also ensure that nothing adverse happens to the security of India. That we have been committed to, and we will go ahead with it. There will be no movement out of it. That's why we work with India on the Colombo conclave, on the trilateral security arrangements and many other fields, especially outside the military field of piracy, of human trafficking, of drugs. All those are useful ways in which we cooperate with India and the other island states," he said, addressing the first-ever graduation ceremony of the National Defence College here.



Wickremesinghe who said that the China-run southern port in Hambantota would not be allowed to be used as a military port but only a commercial port. He said that the Indian Ocean region should be opened to all to ensure freedom of navigation for commercial viability. He noted that Sri Lanka will not participate in military alliances and do not want the problems of the Pacific coming into the Indian Ocean, while urging the countries in the Indian Ocean region to come together to look at how best to maintain stability of the region. The President also noted that the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean has made Sri Lanka the "punching bag" for Hambantota. He said there are around 17 ports that are operated by the Chinese in the Indian Ocean and all are commercial ports, as he stressed that Hambantota is also a commercial port and not a military port.

Toronto's Swaminarayan temple vandalised with pro-Khalistan graffiti

Toronto | Agencies

As the so-called Khalistan referendum by the banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) on September 18 nears, Toronto's most prominent BAPS Swaminarayan Temple was vandalised with pro-Khalistan graffiti on Wednesday. The graffiti by the miscreants read 'Khalistan Zindabad, Hindustan Murdabad'. Posters have come up in the city of Brampton in Toronto suburbs, which is home to the biggest concentration of Indian community in Canada, calling for people to vote in the referendum. But there is hardly any support for the referendum among the local Sikh community. The Indian High Commission in Ottawa has demanded strict action against the culprits for desecration at the BAPS temple. "We strongly condemn the defacing of BAPS Swaminarayan



Mandir in Toronto with anti-India graffiti. We have requested Canadian authorities to investigate the incident and take prompt action against the perpetrators," a tweet read. Expressing her outrage, Brampton South MP Sonia Sidhu tweeted, "I am distraught by the act of vandalism that has taken place at the #BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Toronto. "We live in a multicultural and multi-faith community where everyone deserves to feel safe. Those responsible should be located to face the consequences of their actions."

Putin's limo attacked in 'assassination attempt': Report



Moscow | Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin's limousine was attacked in an alleged "assassination attempt" amid Moscow's raging war against Ukraine, a report said. According to the report by General SVR, a Russian Telegram channel, Putin's limousine was allegedly hit by a "a

loud bang from the left front wheel followed by heavy smoke", but he was unharmed as the vehicle drove to safety, Mirror.co.uk reported. The channel said that the President was returning to his official residence in a decoy or "backup" motorcade amid deep security fears. The motorcade comprised five armoured cars, with Putin in the

third, it said, without mentioning the date of the incident. The Russian leader's car "despite the problems with control" made its way out of the attack scene to reach the safety of the residence, the channel added. Without providing details, General SVR said more information on the supposed attack were "classified", reports Mirror.co.uk. "The head of the President's bodyguard (service) and several other people have been suspended and are in custody," the channel further claimed. "A narrow circle of people knew about the movement of the president in this cortege, and all of them were from the presidential security service. "After the incident, three of them disappeared. These were exactly the people who were in the first car of the motorcade. "Their fate is currently unknown. The car on which they were traveling was found empty a few kilometres from the incident," General SVR added.



Missiles hit reservoir dam in Ukraine, prompts evacuation

Kiev | Agencies

Residents of Ukraine's Kryvyi Rih have been asked to evacuate after missiles hit a major reservoir dam in the city, which is President Volodymyr Zelensky's hometown, the media reported on Thursday. According to Oleksandr Vilkul, head of the city's military administration, as many as 22 streets in two districts of Kryvyi Rih have been affected as a result of the strikes on Wednesday, the BBC reported. Describing Russia as a "terrorist state", Zelensky said in a social media post late Wednesday night that it "continues to wage a war against civilians. This time missile strikes on hydraulic

structures and an attempt to flood Kryvyi Rih". "All the occupiers can do is to sow panic, create an emergency situation, try to leave people without light, heat, water and food. Can it break us? Not at all. Will they face a fair response and retribution? Definitely yes." City officials have said that a water flow of 100 cubic metres per second was gushing from breaches, and water levels in the Inhulets river were rising dangerously. According to Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the president's office, water supplies have been affected by the attack and about 600,000 people were at risk of flooding in the centre and another district of the city. Russia is yet to comment on Wednesday's strikes.



# 'STOP KIDDING, GET SERIOUS NOW'

## Supriya Sule to CM Shinde on Vedanta-Foxconn row

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Pune

As the row over the Vedanta Group-Foxconn project shifts to Gujarat, Nationalist Congress Party MP Supriya Sule sharply chided Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for his utterances amid demands for a judicial probe by a retired judge, enquiry into the sequence of events that led to the loss and agitations by various parties, here on Thursday.

Participating in a 'lollipop protest' in Pune, Sule castigated the CM for taking the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has reportedly assured that 'even bigger projects' will be given to Maharashtra in future.

"Stop this childish behaviour... Get serious now. Stop politicising on this and convene an all-party meeting in the interest of the people of the state to discuss this issue. If needed, take an all-party delegation to the PM to ensure that this project which was won by Maharashtra 'on merits' is restored to us," Sule demanded.



Scores of NCP workers were detained at a noisy demonstration in Mumbai, and in Pune, raising slogans against Shinde-Fadnavis for the state losing the prestigious Vedanta-Foxconn project to Gujarat. Slamming the Maha Vikas Aghadi

allies Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress for their aggressive attacks on Shinde-Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, Mumbai Bharatiya Janata Party demanded that a probe panel headed by retired judge should be appointed to 'unravel the truth'.

The Shiv Sena's Yuva Sena and other groups organised a signature campaign and demonstrations against the government blaming it for the Vedanta-Foxconn mega-project of Rs 2.06 lakh crore opting for Gujarat after 90 per cent of the deal was finalised with Maharashtra.

Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant warned that if Vedanta-Foxconn moves to the adjoining state, "it will be a loss of not only Maharashtra but also India" as projects don't thrive in Dholera (Gujarat), with many withdrawing from there.

Remaining on the backfoot after Maharashtra lost out on the Vedanta-Foxconn project and even a Bulk Drugs Park, worried leaders of Shinde Group and BJP sought to pass the blame onto the erstwhile MVA's former CM Uddhav Thackeray for the debates. On Wednesday, Shinde and Industry Minister Uday Samant claimed that the PM had reportedly assured that bigger projects would be given to the state, prompting the MVA allies to hit the government with the 'lollipop' tirade.

# After row, Vedanta assures projects for Maharashtra

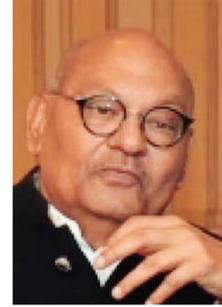
As the political fire over the Vedanta Group-Foxconn project going to Gujarat raged for the third day, Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal attempted to douse the flames by promising projects even for Maharashtra.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a statement, Agarwal said that the Vedanta-Foxconn had shifted from Maharashtra to Gujarat after "professional and independent advice".

"The Vedanta-Foxconn has been professionally assessing site for a multi-billion investment. This is a scientific and financial process which takes several years. We started this about 2 years ago.

"We decided Gujarat few months ago as they met our expectations. But in July meeting with Maharashtra leadership, they made a huge effort to outbid other states



with competitive offers. We have to start in one place and based on professional and independent advice, we chose Gujarat," Agarwal said.

He added that this multi-billion dollar long-term investment by the Mumbai-based group "will change the course of Indian electronics".

"We will create a pan-India ecosystem and are fully committed to investing in Maharashtra as well. Maharashtra will be our key to forward integration in our Gujarat joint venture," Agarwal promised.

He said the investments in semiconductor and display glass production will create an ecosystem of industries across the country and the Group will soon "create a hub where Maharashtra will be part of our forward integration".

# Goldy Brar-Lawrence Bishnoi planned to attack Salman Khan

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

Delhi Police's Special Cell has learnt that Goldy Brar-Lawrence Bishnoi gang had planned to eliminate Bollywood actor Salman Khan before committing the murder of Punjabi Singer Sidhu Moosewala.

Sources said that Kapil Pandit, the sharp shooter of Goldy Brar-Lawrence Bishnoi gang, was handling this entire operation. Pandit was held from Nepal border.

"In Panvel area of Mumbai, they took a rented accommodation to execute the plan. Pandit, Santosh

Jadhav and others stayed there for many days. In Panvel, Salman owns a farm house. The accused did reconnaissance of the area. They kept arms at the house which were to be used in the commission of crime," the source said.

The police source said that after Salman's hit-and-run case, he doesn't drive fast. Also, when Salman comes to his Panvel farm house, he only keeps one bodyguard. This was the reason they chose Panvel to execute their plan.

"They also conducted reconnaissance of the lanes which were to be used by Salman. There were potholes on road which

would slow down the speed of the car. The accused did reconnaissance of around 25 km of that area," the source said.

The sharp shooter had also become friendly with the guards deployed at the farm house of the actor, telling them that they were fans of Salman, so that they could track the movement of the actor.

The source claimed that Salman visited the farm house twice but the sharp shooters failed to carry out the attack.

The source also claimed that gangster Sachin Bishnoi also visited Mumbai with aides to attack the actor but they never got a chance.

# upGrad acquires Centum Learning to upskill enterprise workforce

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Online higher education platform upGrad on Thursday said it has acquired corporate training solutions provider Centum Learning in a share swap deal. The company did not disclose the deal size.

With this transaction, Bharti Enterprises Limited and its affiliates will join upGrad's cap table. New Delhi-based Centum with 2,000 employees is likely to clock a revenue of Rs 170 crore in FY23.

Centum's will continue to operate independently under Sanjay Bahl, Managing Director and CEO, the company said in a statement.

"upGrad has always seen enterprise upskilling as a strategic growth driver and we are making some nonlinear movements to reinvent B2B learning in India and create an integrated LifeLong Learning ecosystem for our stakeholders," said Mayank



Kumar, Co-founder and MD, upGrad. Centum has been enabling 360-degree learning solutions right from entry-level professionals to mid-level leaders with direct and measurable business impacts. With over 3,000 L&D specialists, Centum Learning has trained more than two million people, empowering 400+ corporates across India and Africa. "Both

upGrad and Centum are committed to driving outcomes for their learners and therefore, I am excited about combining the two synergies for creating a scalable portfolio for continued results," said Bahl. Last month, upGrad raised \$210 million (about Rs 1,670 crore) in a round that saw participation from ETS Global, Bodhi Tree, Kaizen Management Advisors and others. The edtech company said it is on track to record annual gross revenue of \$400-500 million during FY23, out of which about 45 per cent of total revenue will be realised from its own-branded online courses and programmes. Started in 2015, the edtech platform has a learner base of over three million across more than 100 countries, over 300 university partners and a client base of 1,000 companies.

In July, upGrad acquired online learning institution Harappa Education for Rs 300 crore (about \$38 million).

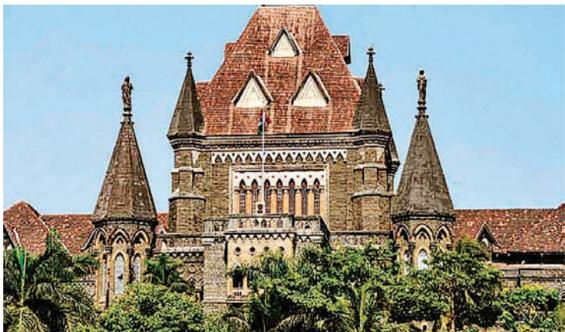
# No stigma in the word "Anaath" (Orphan), no need to change: Bombay High Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

There is no social stigma attached to the word 'anaath', or orphan, and there is no need to change it at all, the Bombay High Court said on Thursday while dismissing a public interest litigation (PIL).

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Madhav Jamdar was hearing the plea filed by a non-profit, Swanath Foundation, seeking for the word 'anaath' to be changed to 'swanath'.

The plea said children who have lost their parents already face a vulnerable situation and the word 'anaath' reflects as a needy, helpless and deprived child. The word 'swanath' would mean a self-reliant and confident child.



The court, however, said this was not a case where the court ought to intervene. "Sometimes we, too, have to draw a

Lakshman Rekha and not intervene in every matter," Chief Justice Datta said. "The word anaath is in use since ages. We do not agree with the peti-

tioner that the word anaath that is used to refer to those children who have lost their parents attaches any social stigma. There is no need for a change at all," the court said and dismissed the petition.

The court said the petitioner wants the word to be changed to 'swanath', which is the name of the non-profit.

"What is the social stigma in the word anaath? The English word is orphan and across many languages like Hindi, Marathi and Bengali the synonym is anaath. Who is the petitioner to now say change the word? What does he know about linguistics?" the court asked.

The petitioner's lawyer Uday Warunjikar said a better word should be used while referring to such children, which the court refused.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena on Thursday said the mega semiconductor project of Vedanta-Foxconn going to Gujarat was an attack on Maharashtra's "prestige".

This was just the beginning and one day the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government might even "trade Mumbai," said the editorial in the Sena mouthpiece "Saamana".

Before this, an international finance centre (which eventually took shape as Gujarat International Finance Tech- GIFT City) was shifted to Gujarat from Mumbai, the editorial

alleged.

A blame-game has begun in Maharashtra following the announcement two days ago that the joint venture semiconductor project of the Indian conglomerate Vedanta and Taiwanese electronics giant Foxconn, proposed to be set up near Pune earlier, will come up in Gujarat. Without naming the BJP, the Sena mouthpiece alleged that like this project, some people also harbour the desire to "conquer" Mumbai-Thane and undermine Maharashtra's prosperity. This was the reason a "puppet chief minister" was installed in Maharashtra, Saamana alleged.

When BJP's Devendra Fadnavis was chief minister from 2014-19, the GIFT City project was handed over to Gujarat, and current CM Eknath Shinde similarly allowed the semiconductor plant to slip away, it claimed.

"Tomorrow they will not hesitate to even trade Mumbai. Foxconn is a start," the editorial said.

"This is a serious attack on Maharashtra's prestige," it further said.

On Wednesday, Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray had said that Maharashtra had also lost a proposed bulk drug park project in Raigad district as the Centre approved similar parks in Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh instead.

# 'One of the photos was morphed'

## Ranveer Singh told Police in nude photo shoot case



Police during his questioning in the case on August 29, it said.

The case was registered under sections pertaining to obscenity and insulting the modesty of women, and under the Information Technology Act, at the Chembur police station in July on the basis of a complaint by an office-bearer of a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

The complainant had claimed the actor "hurt the sentiments of women in general and insulted their modesty through his photographs."

Subsequently, a notice was served to the actor to join the probe. He appeared before the police on August 29 and was questioned for around two hours.

The actor's viral photo series for Paper magazine was a tribute to '70s pop icon Burt Reynolds who went nude for a shoot for Cosmopolitan magazine in 1972.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ranveer Singh has claimed that one of his photos was tampered with and morphed, after a nude photoshoot of the actor triggered a controversy leading to a case being registered in Mumbai against him.

Ranveer made the claim in his statement to the Mumbai

# Devendra Fadnavis rakes up stalled Nanar mega-refinery issue, embarrasses MVA

Under a vicious onslaught from opposition parties over the Vedanta Group-Foxconn loss, the Maharashtra government on Thursday attempted to corner the Maha Vikas Aghadi by raking up the stalled Nanar oil refinery mega-project.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

As Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his team attempted to hit out at the MVA, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis fired a missile from Russia questioning the proposed mega-oil refinery project in Maharashtra which has been stuck for over three years.

"It is disappointing that negative, false, and baseless claims are being spread to gain political mileage (on the Vedanta-Foxconn project shift to Gujarat). This is only to hide their own incompetence," said Fadnavis, hitting out at the MVA.

"I want to ask the Opposition leaders, who sent back the Rs 3.5 lakh crore refinery project from Maharashtra?... My advice to these leaders is to focus on becoming competent and efficient, not negative and desperate," he added.

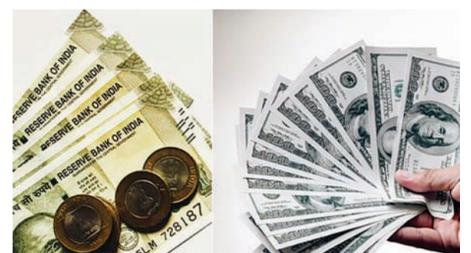
The oblique reference was to the Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemical Ltd (RRPCL) which was planned to be set up at Nanar (Ratnagiri) in 2015, as a joint venture between the Saudi Arabian oil company, Saudi Aramco and India's consortium of oil majors like Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) and Indian Oil (IOCL).

Former MVA CM and Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray was opposed to the proposed super-refinery project on 15,000 acres land at Nanar in Ratnagiri owing to stiff resistance from the local farmers and fishers.

In March 2021, Thackeray had announced that in view of strong local sentiments, the mega-oil refinery would be shifted out of Nanar to an alternative site somewhere in Maharashtra.

With a capacity of 60 million tonnes, and 20,000 direct jobs in the complex, the RRPCL plant would have been the world's single largest oil refinery complex, but it was plagued by massive opposition from the local communities with several agitations carried out against it in the past.

# Rupee ends 26 paise down at 79.70 against US dollar



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian rupee ended 26 paise down, at 79.70, against the US dollar on Thursday due to the weaker Chinese yuan and foreign fund selling amid risk-averse sentiments.

At the Interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee ended at 79.70 against 79.44 in the previous trading session against the US dollar.

"Indian rupee drifted further lower following weaker Chinese Yuan and foreign fund selling amid risk-averse sentiments. The dollar has been stabilising versus the major currencies but strengthening against the Asian currencies. The Fed has remained quite hawkish

in recent commentaries which are offering a good floor to the dollar," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Dollar index, which gauges the strength of greenback against the basket of six major currencies, was at 109.523.

"In the near term, spot USDINR is likely to trade in the range of 79.90 to 79.30," Parmar added.

Brent crude oil prices were at \$93.25 a barrel with the closing of Indian market hours. Meanwhile, Benchmark indices ended sharply down on Wednesday with Sensex closing over 400 points down and Nifty over 100 points lower due to sell-off in IT and Pharma stocks.



# LINDA EVANGELISTA, 'WORST' CELEBRITY TO WORK WITH : MAX MARKSON

Los Angeles | Agencies

Linda Evangelista has been called the worst celebrity to work with by a celebrity publicist named Max Markson. In a new interview, Max recalled a not-so-pleasant experience with the supermodel back in the 90s, calling her the worst star he's worked with throughout his four decades in the industry, reports a website.

"I shouldn't say this but Linda Evangelista was definitely the worst," Max said during his appearance in an episode of the 'Life, Money & Love' podcast which was hosted by Dylan Mullan.

He then detailed how the supermodel "went berserk" at him over a snippy newspaper headline.

The whole drama started after the star asked Max for advice about what to wear to a treadmill launch party, Markson revealed that he suggested Linda to wear "something to go on the treadmill and then change into something beautiful" for the event.

Linda, however, opted to sport a hoodie and shorts to the event. That earned her a newspaper headline which compared her "fit to something a cleaner would wear".

Max recounted: "The next day, my phone starts ringing at six o'clock, which always means there's something wrong."

He continued, "And Linda Evangelista wants to give me a right mouthful, which she does, because in The Sydney Morning Herald that day, it said: 'Linda Evangelista was dressed like she was going out to clean the loo (toilet) on a Sunday morning'."

The model allegedly went on to "badmouth" him at a charity dinner that night and wouldn't allow him to speak to her.

In response to Max's story, the star said on Wednesday, September 14, "I have fond memories of that trip to Australia, a country I love to visit. I was there promoting a treadmill collab. I don't remember him."

Linda most recently returned to the modelling world when she walked in the Fendi show as part of New York Fashion Week this month.



R. Kelly found guilty in federal child pornography case

Guilty of sexual exploitation of children, kidnapping, and forced labour

Los Angeles | Agencies

A Chicago federal jury found singer R. Kelly guilty of three counts of child pornography for filming himself sexually abusing his then-14-year-old god-daughter. According to the Chicago Tribune, of the indictment's 13 charges, Kelly was also found guilty of three counts of child sex trafficking through coercion and enticement, reports a website.

He was acquitted on

charges that he conspired to obstruct justice in his 2002 Cook County case. Additionally, he was acquitted on two counts of receiving child pornography and one count of conspiring to receive child pornography.

The verdict delivered on Wednesday follows the testimony of Kelly's goddaughter, who went by the pseudonym Jane. Three other women testified that Kelly had also recorded and kept tapes of himself sexually abusing them when they were underage.

There were two co-defendants in

the proceedings, former employees Milton "June" Brown and Derrel McDavid.

Charges against them alleged a conspiracy to hide the videotapes and convince Jane to keep her sexual contact with Kelly private. Both Brown and McDavid were acquitted of all charges, including that they had conspired to receive child pornography, and that McDavid conspired to obstruct justice.

In closing arguments, Kelly's attorney Jennifer Bonjean claimed that Jane's parents were to blame for lying about her relationship with the

singer and asserted this was not due to coercion, but because "They condoned it."

Kelly was convicted on enticement counts regarding witnesses Jane, Nia and Pauline (all pseudonyms), but was found not guilty on two others.

Kelly was sentenced to 30 years in prison in June after a jury declared him guilty of racketeering related to the sexual exploitation of children, kidnapping, and forced labour. He was also charged with eight counts of violating the Mann Act in a separate federal case in New York.

# Jason Momoa to honour his Hawaiian heritage with a head tattoo

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jason Momoa had a surprise for his fans as he showed off his latest ink in honour of his Hawaiian heritage. The 'Aquaman' star took to Instagram and announced that he was en route to New Zealand. Wearing a bowler hat, white tank top and grey jogging bottoms while carrying a pink luggage bag, the actor told the camera he was "on the roam baby".

With a huge smile on his face, the actor couldn't hide his excitement at riding Hawaiian Airlines to New Zealand post-Covid and said he had "something special for you".

Taking off his hat, he showcased his brand new tribal tattoo on a newly shaved head, while his trademark locks stayed long on top. The Honolulu-native shouted: "Chief of war coming, baby!" after unveiling the stunning design which wrapped round the side of his head from near his forehead to his neck.

His team confirmed the reason behind the design to Just Jared, saying: "He got his head and neck tattooed. It's a huge piece, it's related to his Hawaiian roots and culture." It's not his only nod toward his Hawaiian heritage either.

The Hollywood star also proudly shows off other pieces of artwork on his chiselled 6ft4 physique, including a bold piece wrapped around his left forearm.



# I WAS WORRIED ABOUT INTIMATE SCENES WITH OLDER STAR: EMILY CAREY

London | Agencies

Actress Emily Carey admitted to feeling apprehensive about filming intimate scenes for 'House of the Dragon'. Starring as Alicent Hightower in the fantasy series, the 19-year-old actress confessed to feeling anxious ahead of shooting sex scenes with her 49-year-old co-star Paddy Considine.

"It scared me because, at that point, I still hadn't met Paddy. I didn't know how much of a joy he was and how easy he was going to make the scene," Carey said. "The first scene that I read from the show was my sex scene and my intimacy scenes. All I saw was, you know, a 49-year-old man and me, I was a bit concerned."

'House of the Dragon' is a prequel to 'Game of Thrones', and Carey watched the hit series avidly before she walked on set. And although she worried about shooting the sex scenes, Emily was comforted by the presence of an intimacy coordinator.

She shared, "Having that outlet, to be able to talk everything through and not be shunned, or not feel awkward. In the rehearsal room, she was a massive help and on set she was a massive help. It was a lot easier than I thought it was going to be."

# Catwomen star defends Halle Bailey amid criticism of 'Little Mermaid' teaser

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Halle Berry has defended singer-actress Halle Bailey amid a storm of criticism of 'The Little Mermaid' (2023) teaser. Mixing up Berry and Bailey, one person who attempted to attack the actual Ariel depicter tweeted, "Can't wait to see you under da sea!" while addressing it to the 'Catwoman' star.

Not missing a beat, Berry wrote back, "Wrong Halle lol. I can't wait to see her too though!" Berry also took time to respond to yet another user who confused her for Bailey.

The user named Suicide Sportif shared two screenshots, one of which included the metrics of the new Disney movie's teaser trailer, showing over 2 million views and more than triple the number of dislikes to likes.

The other was an excerpt from the Disney fandom website describing Ariel as "the youngest of King Triton's seven daughters."

"Halle Berry is nearly 60 playing the role of a 16-year-old girl. This is what happens when you upset a fandom," the said user claimed in the now-deleted tweet.

Noticing this, Berry posted a photo of Mo'Nique sitting between two other women all looking annoyed and confused.

Disney unveiled the first look at Bailey as Ariel in the official teaser of 'The Little Mermaid', which debuted on Friday, September 9. While many have shared positive reactions to the awe-inspiring depiction of the Disney princess, some racist people took issue with the casting of Bailey as the titular character.

One person showed disapproval to the casting by reposting an altered version of the teaser.

# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Millie Gibson





## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# MESSI, NEYMAR SCORE AS PSG BEAT MACCABI HAIFA

Jerusalem (Israel) | Agencies

Paris Saint-Germain came back from one goal down to win 3-1 away against Israeli champions Maccabi Haifa in the UEFA Champions League. In front of 30,000 fans at the Sammy Ofer Stadium on Wednesday night, the home team quickly recovered from a strong start by PSG, and after two saves by goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, managed to stun the French champions.

In the 24th minute, Surinamese midfielder Tjaronn Chery netted for Haifa after an accurate lofted pass by Dolev Haziza.

However, PSG silenced the stadium in the 37th minute, as Lionel Messi evened the score after a pass from Kylian Mbappe.

Mbappe scored the second goal in the 69th minute after a brilliant pass by Messi, and Neymar sealed the win in the 88th minute, after a long-range pass by Marco Verratti.

PSG now have maximum points after two games in Group H along with Benfica, who beat Juventus 2-1 in Turin.

Next up, Paris Saint-Germain will play Benfica in Lisbon, while Maccabi Haifa face Juventus in Turin, with both matches to be played on October 5.



## CITY WIN BY 2-1 BEATING DORTMUND

Manchester: Two stunning late goals helped Manchester City come from behind to beat Dortmund in their Group G match in the Champions League here.

After a laboured first half, the visitors took the lead when Jude Bellingham stole in to head in Marco Reus' driven cross. City struggled to break the resilient visitors down, and it took a fine strike from John Stones from outside the box to level, while City won their second successive match in the group stage, the focus was on Haaland as he returned to the club where he became a star.

On Wednesday evening, when crossing swords with his former teammates, the Scandinavian forward needed patience for 84 minutes before the inevitable happened, an acrobatic strike marking his 13th goal of the season and sealing a narrow 2-1 victory.

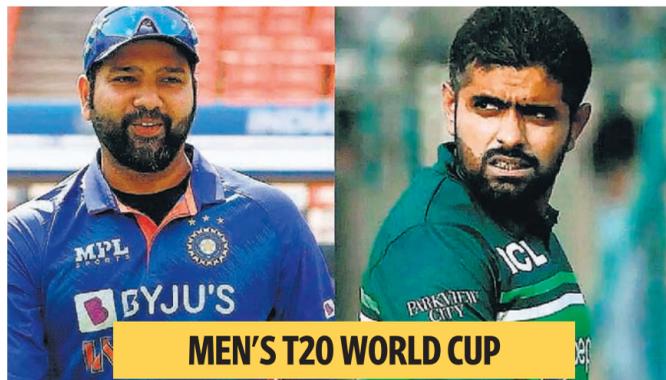
## LATE GOALS SEAL WIN FOR REAL MADRID; SEVILLA HELD IN COPENHAGEN

Madrid (Spain): Real Madrid scored two late goals to beat RB Leipzig 2-0 to maintain their 100 percent start to their UEFA Champions League defense.

Fede Valverde continued his excellent recent run of form to put Madrid ahead ten minutes from the end of what had been an even game on Wednesday night. The Uruguayan opened the scoring with a left-foot strike after receiving a diagonal pass from Vinicius Jr. Marco Asensio took advantage of a rare opportunity this season when he netted Madrid's second goal in injury time.

Real Madrid's only threat to the Leipzig goal in the first half was an effort from Luka Modric that drifted wide. Meanwhile, fellow Spanish club Sevilla's Champions League future continues to look complicated after Julen Lopetegui's side were held to a goalless draw away to Copenhagen, reports Xinhua. Sevilla managed just one shot on target in the entire game, while the home side only had one effort between the posts in the second half.

The result keeps the pressure on Lopetegui, whose side faces a tough visit to Villarreal on Sunday. In other matches on Wednesday night, Napoli continued their brilliant run after beating Liverpool as they got the better of Scotland's Rangers 3-0 at home, Italian giants AC Milan outplayed Dynamo Zagreb 3-1 at home while fellow Italians Juventus went down to Portuguese club Benfica 2-1.



MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

# Tickets for India vs Pakistan match sold out

Dubai | Agencies

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup clash between India and Pakistan has been sold out with just over a month left for the mega event in Australia, the International Cricket Council (ICC) informed on Thursday.

Tickets for the Super 12 clash between India and Pakistan will meet at Melbourne on October 23 were sold within minutes,

"with additional standing room tickets snapped up within minutes of going on sale," the ICC said in a statement.

Fans from 82 different countries have purchased tickets to watch the world's best players from 16 international teams, marking the return of full stadiums at ICC events for the first time since the Women's T20 World Cup in 2020, which culminated with 86,174 fans for the final at the MCG, the ICC

informed. A key reason for this enthusiasm for purchasing tickets, according to the ICC, is the accessible pricing for families that has seen over 85,000 children's tickets sold. Tickets for kids are priced at just \$5 for all First Round and Super 12 matches while those for adults start from \$20.

The ICC said many other matches too have been sold out for the marquee event that will kick off with qualifiers from October 16.

# Rajasthan Royals, RCA join hands to organise RR Women's Cup 2022

Jaipur | Agencies

With the aim of providing a platform to young female cricketers in its home state of Rajasthan, Royals Sports Group-owned IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals today announced the launch of a women's T20 competition in partnership with the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA).

The competition - Rajasthan Royals Women's Cup 2022 - will be held from September 16th to 19th in the city of Jodhpur, with the trials scheduled for 16th September 16 followed by six league matches along with the final from September 17-19.

A total of six teams will be taking part in the inaugural edition of the RR Women's Cup, representing the six major cities of Rajasthan - Jaipur Warriors, Jodhpur Gladiators, Udaipur Thunderbolts, Ajmer Blazers, Kota Mavericks and Bikaner Strikers. Each team will have a pool of 25 players at its disposal, with 15 players each shortlisted from the trials to be held at the Spartans Cricket Academy Ground, Uchiyarda on September 16 and overseen by Royals' Head of High Performance Operations Romi Bhinder.



The six league matches will be conducted at the Spartans Cricket Academy Ground, Uchiyarda in Jodhpur on 17th and 18th September, followed by the Final on September 19. The league matches on both days will have start timings of 7 AM, 10:30 AM and 2 PM respectively, with Rajasthan Royals' explosive all-rounder Riyan Parag and local hero Shubham Garhwal set to be present for the Final. All matches will be livestreamed on Indian cricket streaming platform CricHeroes.

## WTT CHAMPIONS, CUP FINALS TO TAKE PLACE IN CHINA IN OCTOBER

Beijing: World Table Tennis (WTT) has announced the WTT Champions and WTT Cup Finals will be held in China in October after the Chengdu 2022 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships. From October 19 to 23, the WTT Champions in Macao will gather the top 30 men and women paddlers from the ITTF world rankings published on August 23, and two wildcards. It will be the last opportunity for players to earn ranking points and qualify for the WTT Cup Finals to be held in Xinxiang, central China's Henan Province. The WTT Cup Finals will provide a stage for the best 16 men and women players to compete between October 27 and 30. Both events will feature men's and women's competitions held simultaneously, with only a main draw knock-out phase, reports Xinhua.

# Roger Federer announces retirement

"Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt and now I must recognise when it's time to end my competitive career. The Laver Cup next week in London will be my final ATP event. I will play more tennis in the future, of course, but just not in Grand Slams or on the Tour."

Basel (Switzerland) | Agencies

Roger Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam singles champion, on Thursday announced his retirement from top-level tennis, saying that next week's Laver cup will be his final

ATP final tour-level event.

The 41-year-old has not played since Wimbledon 2021, after which he had a third knee operation. The Swiss legend held World No 1 in the ATP Rankings for 310 weeks, good for second since 1973 behind only Novak Djokovic. However, Federer held the top spot for a record 237 consecutive weeks from February 2, 2004 until August 18, 2008.

At Roland Garros in 2009, Federer completed the Career Grand Slam and at Wimbledon one month later, he broke Pete Sampras' Open Era record by lifting his 15th major trophy. He went on to claim 20 Grand Slam trophies, which now trails only Rafael Nadal (22) and Djokovic (21). The Swiss earned six Australian



Open triumphs, the 2009 Roland Garros title, eight Wimbledon trophies and five consecutive US Open victories (2004-08).

The Basel native claimed a record six titles, 59 wins and 18 qualifications at the Nitto ATP Finals. He also excelled at the ATP Masters 1000 events, where he won 28 titles.

# Halep to miss rest of 2022 season after undergoing nose surgery

New York | Agencies

Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep announced on Thursday she will miss the rest of the season after undergoing nose surgery.

Halep said that she was unclear how long recovery would take, but won't participate in any more events in 2022.

"My 2022 season is over. 2022, you have been an interesting year full of everything! See you on court, 2023. I feel I still have a lot to do on a tennis court and still have the same goals," she wrote on social media.

In the same post, Halep, 30, also conceded she was "very close" to

calling it a career back in February. Two months later, she announced Patrick Mouratoglou as her full time head coach after spending some time in his academy.

"Thanks to Patrick, I slowly started to believe that I still can play a good level of tennis. I gave myself one year to get back into the Top 10."

In August, Halep won the National Bank Open, a WTA 1000-level event in Toronto, and returned to the Top 10 for the first time in more than a year, thus achieving that goal in only two months.

However, a first-round loss at the US Open to qualifier Daria Snigur followed, and Halep realized she needed a break.

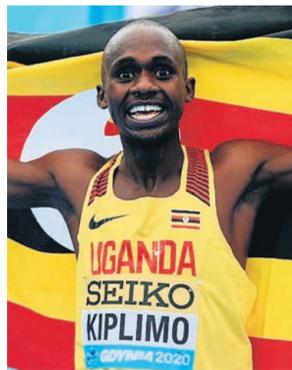


# World record holder Jacob Kiplimo to take part in Delhi Half Marathon 2022

New Delhi | Agencies

Uganda's world half marathon record holder Jacob Kiplimo will be the star attraction at the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2022, a World Athletics Elite Label Event, to be held on October 16.

The 21-year-old Kiplimo is the reigning world half marathon champion after claiming the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships title in 2020, and last year ran the phenomenal world record time of 57:31 in Lisbon. The young Ugandan star has already had an outstanding 2022, winning both the RAK Half Marathon in Ras Al Khaimah (UAE) in February in a world-leading 57:56 and then the



Great North Run half marathon last Sunday, two of the few rivals to the VDHM for the unofficial title of "The Best Half Marathon in the World".

During the summer, Kiplimo focused on the track and won a bronze medal in 10,000m at World Championships in July and a memorable 5000m/10,000m double at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last month.

Ethiopia's Amdework Walegn improved the Delhi course record to 58:53 in 2020, but Kiplimo believes he can run the fastest half marathon ever seen on Indian soil during his first visit to the country next month, the organisers informed in a release on Thursday.

## ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

# Ritu Phogat to face Singapore's Tiffany Teo in women's atomweight

Singapore | Agencies

Indian martial arts star Ritu Phogat returns to the Circle against Singapore's Tiffany Teo at the Singapore Indoor Stadium here on September 29. The 28-year-old Ritu will face Tiffany, a former ONE Women's Strawweight World Title challenger, who will make her debut in the women's atomweight division. Ritu Phogat has been out of action since suffering a submission defeat to Stamp Fairtex in the ONE Women's Atomweight World Grand Prix Championship Final. Now recovered to full strength, Phogat is ready to resume her quest to become India's first female



Tiffany Teo. My extended time off has allowed me to fully heal, making me stronger than ever. I am all set to achieve my goal to win at ONE 161: Petchmorakot vs. Tawanchai," Ritu, a former Commonwealth Wrestling gold medalist, stated.

MMA World Champion. Nicknamed The Indian Tigress, Ritu has been one of the most active competitors in ONE Championship, having competed in a total of nine bouts since her professional mixed martial arts debut in November 2019. "I am pleased to be back in the Circle and eagerly anticipate my match with

# Legends League Cricket is all set to take off in Kolkata

Kolkata | Agencies

The Legends League Cricket (LLC) carnival is all set to take off in Kolkata from September 16 as cricketing legends descended in the City of Joy on Thursday.

A special benefit match between India Maharajas and Team World Giants will kick-start the much-awaited season of the league in India for the first time in Kolkata on September 16.

Former Sri Lankan spin wizard Muralitharan, who will be representing Manipal Tigers, said in a press interaction in Kolkata on Thursday that he will be aiming to roll back the years when he takes the field



for his team. "After a long time, we are going to play and the feeling of coming back to a tournament is pulsating for us. As former cricketers, we miss cricket and miss the feeling of playing amidst the hooting and cheer-

ing. I hope it becomes an annual event for everyone so that the younger lot not only enjoys watching contemporary cricketers but also gets to watch the former cricketers and legends entertain them," the once-dreaded off-spinner

said. With 90 cricketing greats in action the league will take part in 16 matches including the benefit match.

Some of the top names who would be gracing the tournament with their presence are Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Harbhajan Singh, Muttiah Muralitharan, Jacques Kallis, Chris Gayle, and Brett Lee among others.

For former India speedster S Sreesanth, who turned 39 earlier this year, he said age is just a number. Sreesanth will play for LNJ Bhilwara Kings.

"Age is just a number for me. It feels good to be a part of the Legends League. Giving such opportunities to players

like us is a commendable effort made by Legends League Cricket. It is great to be back in the circle. It feels like Kolkata's Eden Garden was waiting for us to come back. I am really excited to be part of the league and be back in the game; not just that, I am grateful that we have such a wonderful team here, explained the two-time World Cup winning cricketer.

The proceeds of the benefit match will be given to Kapil Dev's Khushii Foundation, which supports girl child education.

Manipal Tigers and Bhilwara Kings are the other two franchises in the four-team league.



# The industry accepts anyone with talent: Karishma Tanna

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

'Men used to dominate the film and TV industry, that's what I have seen for years'

Actress Karishma Tanna is one of the most talented and good-looking celebrities in the tinsel town. After carving a niche for herself in television, the diva forayed into films and is all set to rule the OTT space now. The actress is currently gearing up for her upcoming web series Hush Hush in which she will be seen as a dutiful cop who is set to unravel the truth and solve the murder mystery.

Ahead of the release, the actress divulged in a chat and shared her thoughts on OTT space giving opportunities to female actors, Varun's reaction, and much more. Excerpts:

**What was Varun's reaction when he saw you as a cop?**

We've just started dating and he was like wow, you are playing a cop. He was already intimidated.

**How do you look at the gender lines blurring out due to the advent of OTT?**

Men used to dominate the film and TV industry, that's what I have seen for years. But now OTT has given a lot of opportunities to women to showcase their talent and that is being appreciated. Since I'm not a feminist, I wouldn't generalise and say that women are superior to men. But I must point out that both men and women are talented. And the industry will accept anyone with talent.

**In your opinion, is TV regressive?**

No, it's not that. TV is making whatever the audiences like to watch. And I would not look down upon TV because it helped me to make my name. Now I am hungry for good scripts as I look forward to growing as an actor.

**Are you still in touch with you Kyuki Saas bhi Kabhi Bahu thi co-star Smriti Irani?**

Yes, of course! She is one woman who is so grounded as a person. She still messages me on each significant occasion in my life to express her pride in me. She was the one who would pull me away and reassure me that everything would be okay when no one would speak to me.

**How do you look at scrutiny around your personal life because you are an actor?**

We are like idols for our fans. Because of what we depict on-screen, people all around the world start to like us. They further want to know what goes on in our lives behind the scenes. So if you look at it, as actors we are living two lives-real and reel and that is tough.



I FOUND MY 'SOUL SISTER' IN NEHA: DHANASHREE VERMA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hit singer Neha Kakkar and YouTuber-choreographer Dhanashree Verma have come together for the track 'O Sajna' composed by Tanishk Bagchi. Both Neha and Dhanashree said they shared a friendly bond on the sets. "In 'O Sajna' you see two women taking control and being empowered," Neha said. "Dhanashree and I got along like a house on fire and connected on a personal level. Fans will see that closeness and comfort in the music video as well."

The music video features Neha,

Dhanashree and Priyank Sharma of 'Big Boss 11' fame. The song will be out soon on YouTube channel of T-Series. Dhanashree also added that she found "soul sister" in Neha. "I don't have a sister and while filming 'O Sajna' I felt like I found a soul sister in Neha Kakkar, who's an amazingly warm and fun person," Dhanashree said. "Her energy is so infectious that we bonded immediately and had a blast while filming the track," she added.



## Shooting season 2 was much more fun & meaningful: Rohit Saraf

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Prajakta Koli, Rohit Saraf and Ranvijay Singha are all set to reprise their roles in the second season of the coming-of-age romantic drama web Netflix series 'Mismatched'.

Speaking of the same, lead actor Rohit Saraf said: "I'm so happy that we are finally announcing the dates. Shooting season 1 was fun but shooting season 2 was much more meaningful for me because I knew how much the audience wanted it. These last 2 years, mismatched has received a lot of love so I am very excited for the fans to see season 2." "Mismatched" traces all the hallmarks of a coming-of-age show tackling relationship feuds and the many moods that come with being young, driven and in love as Dimple, Rishi and their peers struggle to navigate through these new-found complexities.

The new season sees the return of Prajakta, Rohit, Ranvijay, Vihaan Samat, Muskaan Jaferi, Taaruk Raina, Vidya Malavade, Kritika

Bharadwaj, Abhinav Sharma and Devyani Shorey. They will be joined by new admissions Priya Banerjee, Ahsaas Channa and Sanjana Sarathy for season 2.

## The new track will be Madhuri's first-ever garba dance number:

# Shreya Ghoshal

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer Shreya Ghoshal, who sang first song of her career for the Madhuri Dixit-starrer 'Devdas', says the new track 'Boom Padi' from the Gujarati film 'Maja Ma' is even more special for her as it is the actress's first-ever garba dance number.

The makers of 'Maja Ma', which will release digitally on Prime Video, launched a foot-tapping, upbeat dance number titled 'Boom Padi'. The music video from the film, sees Madhuri weave her magic, with catchy hook steps.

"I am so happy and excited to have sung this brilliant song", said Shreya Ghoshal.

I was fortunate enough to have sung the first-ever song of my career for a Madhuri Dixit starrer - Devdas - and of course have sung many other songs for her after that. 'Boom Padi' is even more special for me as it is Madhuri ji's first-ever garba dance number. I am sure the audiences will love the song and it will be a festive season favourite all over.

Calling it a "wonderful coincidence", Mir added that he started his Bollywood career with a garba number.

"It is such a wonderful coincidence that I started my Bollywood singing career with a garba song and today it is yet another garba song that I have sung. Singing with Shreya Ghosal was a pleasure as she is such a talented artiste and sharing space with her was amazing."



"Soumil Shringarpure and Siddharth Mahadevan, have composed such upbeat music for it and Shreya Ghosal and Osman Mir have given it a life of its own with their soulful voices. And the celebration does not end there to have the song picturised on the legendary and amazingly beautiful Madhuri Dixit, is a dream come true! I just cannot wait to watch the audience reactions to this song."

## Geeta Basra announces comeback to films after 6 years

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress and wife of cricketer Harbhajan Singh Geeta Basra, who was last seen in films such as 'Bhaiyyaji Superhit' and 'Second Hand Husband', is all set to make a comeback after six years with the upcoming movie 'Notary'. She will be seen starring opposite noted Bengali actor Parāmbra Chatterjee. The film is directed by Pawan Wadeyar and is expected to go on floors from October.

Geeta, who was on a maternity break and was holidaying with her family in Dubai, says: "It was an incredible trip, we ended up spending some quality time with each other. With Bhajji's busy schedule and Hinaya's school, we rarely get to do this and now with my upcoming film we don't know when we would get a chance like this. "Even during Hinaya's Diwali vacations, I am shooting, so with these five days off, I made it a point that we go on a family holiday and we made the most of it."

## I HURT BY KNEES BECAUSE OF AMITABH BACHCHAN: AMIT SIAL



Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Maharani 2' actor Amit Sial revealed how megastar Amitabh Bachchan became his inspiration and recalled injuring himself while following his stunts.

Amit said: "They are still larger than life; only the presenting process is changed now. Once, I ended up breaking my leg because of Amitabh Bachchan." "I was inspired by him as he used to jump from the 25th floor and land perfectly.

When I was around 7 or 8 years old, I tried it one day and jumped with my cousin and we broke our knees. I was like, 'If Big B can do it I can do it too.'" Sial is appearing on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' along with the co-actors of the web series 'Maharani 2' including Huma Qureshi, Sohun Shah, Pramod Pathak, Dibyendu Bhattacharya and Anuja Sathre.

He added that Big B is the one who inspired him to be an actor and he used to watch the first day show of his movies.

"Amitabh Bachchan saab was an inspiration for me. That era in cinema was ruled by him. I still remember in my hometown in Kanpur there used to be a talkie where we had a shoe business and so we used to get two tickets." "My brother and I used to go to the movie's first-day first show. After watching Amitabh Bachchan on the big screen, I would come out and act like Amitabh's character for around 2 hours." Apart from 'Maharani'; Amit is also known for 'Jamtara - Sabka Number Aayega' and 'Inside Edge'.



Prajakta Koli