

# absolute india

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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** > 02

**Jalpaiguri flash flood: Political mud-slinging starts as several...**



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06

**Dancing On Ice 2023: Mollie Gallagher is unveiled as fifth star for ITV show...**



**SPORTS** > 07

**Champions League: Haaland stars for Man City; Chelsea...**



## SC directs states, UTs to submit information on welfare schemes for elderly

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has directed all state governments and Union Territories to bring on record information on existing welfare schemes for the elderly in connection with pension, old age homes in each district, and level of geriatric care.

A bench of Justices Anirudha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia said: "Heard Dr. Ashwani Kumar in person and also senior advocate(s)/advocate(s) for the other appearing parties. We direct that schemes operating for the welfare of the elderly with respect of (i) pension for the elderly, (ii) old age homes in each district and (iii) level of geriatric care, ought to be produced before us."

The apex court order came on a plea filed by former Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar seeking a direction to set up old age homes providing basic healthcare facilities across the country.

The bench added: "Let the respective states and Union Territories furnish the information on their existing schemes on the aforesaid three heads to the advocate-on-record of the Union of



India. After collecting information from all the respective states and the Union Territories within a period of two months. A revised status report shall be filed one month thereafter by the Union of India."

The apex court said the state governments' report should provide details on the present status in connection with the implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act. "The revised report of the States shall also disclose the present status as regards implementation of the

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act," it said. Scheduling the matter for further hearing in January next year, the top court said: "Let copies of this order be sent by the Registry to the Chief Secretary of each State and the Union Territories for onward compliance of the directions contained in this order."

Kumar had sought a direction for the effective implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

### MODEL BUILDER BUYER AGREEMENT TO PROTECT HOME BUYERS SOON

New Delhi: The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it would develop a model builder buyer for sale containing 'core' clauses in consonance with the mandatory provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016, for the protection of home buyers.

A bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Hima Kohli noted the suggestion brought on record by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, and advocate Devashish Bharuka, who is amicus curiae in the matter. In its order, the apex court noted the ASG and the amicus curiae, have suggested the following road map: "(i) Based upon the responses, the Central Government along with the amicus curiae would prepare a model agreement for sale containing - Part A: 'Core' clauses in consonance with the mandatory provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016, for the protection of the home buyers. These clauses cannot be altered by any State/UT and must necessarily be a part of every agreement for sale."

The apex court noted that 11 state governments have not filed their replies in the matter, while 13 states and two Union Territories have filed their responses so far. Responses from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal are awaited.

## Airtel rolls out 5G Plus in 8 cities, no SIM change required

Customers in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Siliguri, Nagpur and Varanasi will start enjoying the Airtel 5G Plus services in a phased manner, said the company, as it continues to construct its network and complete the roll out.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bharti Airtel on Thursday launched 5G Plus services in eight cities and users will not need to change the SIM card as the existing Airtel 4G SIM is now 5G-enabled.

The company promises between 20 to 30 times higher speeds than the current speed, coupled with brilliant voice experience and super-fast call connect.

Customers who have 5G smartphones will enjoy the high-speed Airtel 5G Plus on their existing data plans until the roll-out is more widespread.

"Our solution will work on any 5G handset and the existing SIM that customers have. Our obsession on customer experience is now embellished with a 5G solution that is kinder to the environment," said Gopal Vittal, Managing Director and CEO, Bharti Airtel.

"Airtel 5G Plus is all set to redefine the way people communicate, live, work,



connect and play for years to come," Vittal added.

Airtel 5G Plus runs on a technology that has the widest acceptance in the world with the most developed ecosystem.

This will ensure that all 5G smartphones in India seamlessly work on the Airtel network.

Airtel 5G Plus will allow superfast access to high-def-

inition video streaming, gaming, multiple chatting, instant uploading of photos and more.

Bharti Airtel last week showcased a 5G-connected ambulance to transform primary health care in emergency situations, along with smart farming solutions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 5G official launch in the country.

### WORLD BANK CUTS INDIA'S GDP GROWTH OUTLOOK

New Delhi: Citing the deteriorating global scenario, the World Bank on Thursday downgraded India's GDP forecast for the current fiscal to 6.5 per cent. In June 2022, it had projected that Indian economy will grow at a rate of 7.5 per cent. In April also, the World Bank had cut India's GDP forecast from 8.7 per cent to 8 per cent. At the same time though, it noted that India's economic recovery is faster than the rest of the world.

The forecast has come just days before its annual meeting. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had also cut the economic growth projection for 2022-23 from 7.2 per cent to 7 per cent, citing tightening of rates by US Federal Reserve and the prevailing geopolitical scenario.

### WINDIES OPENER RAHKEEM CORNWALL HAMMERS 205 OFF 77 BALLS IN T20

ATLANTA | Agencies

West Indies all-rounder Rahkeem Cornwall blasted a 77-ball 205 in a T20 tournament in the United States, hitting 22 sixes and 17 fours in a brilliant display of power-hitting in the Atlanta Open T20 Cricket Tournament here.

Playing for Atlanta Fire, Cornwall, who is known for his big-hitting as an opener in the Caribbean Premier League, blasted an unbeaten 205, scoring at a strike rate of 266.23, in his team's 172-run win against Square Drive.

Reputed statistician Mohandas Menon tweeted the news on Thursday morning, pointing out Cornwall's pyrotechnics.

"West Indian Rahkeem Cornwall, while playing for Atlanta Fire, blasted an unbeaten 205 in just 77 balls (SR 266.23) that included 22 sixes and 17 fours in an American T20 competition known as the Atlanta Open. A prize money of \$75,000 is available to the winning team,"



Menon said in his tweet.

The Minor League Cricket too highlighted Cornwall's effort, highlighting some of the big hits from the Caribbean batter.

"ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?! Rahkeem Cornwall put Atlanta Fire on top with a DOUBLE century going 205\*(77) with 22 MASSIVE sixes" tweeted Minor League cricket.

With Cornwall going berserk with the bat at one end, Steven Taylor struck 53 and Sami Aslam added an unbeaten 53 as Atlanta Fire hammered 326 runs in their 20 overs. In response, Square Drive were restricted to 154/8 in their 20 overs.

## Rahul ties Sonia's shoelace during Bharat Jodo Yatra, video goes viral

Team Absolute | Mandya (Karnataka)

The photo and video of Rahul Gandhi tying the shoelace of his mother, Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Mandya district of Karnataka on Thursday has gone viral on social media.

Sonia Gandhi had joined the Yatra which is led by Rahul Gandhi near Bellur Cross in Mandya district. When Sonia Gandhi came down from her vehicle to take part in the padayatra, Rahul Gandhi observed that Sonia Gandhi's shoelaces were not properly tied and he himself went forward to tie the lace instead of asking his mother to do it herself.

The Karnataka Congress Unit uploaded the picture and video to social media. "Those who respect and care for their mothers, will also honor the motherland," the Congress stated. The



Congress party's social media post claimed that "in every step of Sonia Gandhi there is firmness; there is faith; there is patience; commitment; clarity; sacrifice; affection; empathy; sweetness of motherhood; limitless love towards the country and capacity to take insults." Due to ill health Sonia Gandhi participated in the padayatra briefly and will be leaving for New Delhi later in the day. Earlier, Rahul Gandhi had helped a little girl to wear her footwear correctly in Kerala's Alappula district. The photo had gone viral on social media and his humbleness was appreciated. During Bharat Jodo Yatra, the little girl was struggling to walk properly, Rahul Gandhi had observed this and went ahead to help her out. The photo of Rahul Gandhi delivering a speech amid heavy rainfall in Karnataka had also gone viral on social media.

### K'TAKA CM'S "HALF-KM" JAB AS SONIA JOINS 'BHARAT JODO' YATRA

Bengaluru: "She has walked for half-a-km and gone", Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, apparently seeking to downplay Sonia Gandhi's participation in the Congress's mega 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Karnataka.

He also said the yatra, which is currently passing through the poll-bound Karnataka, will have no impact in the state.

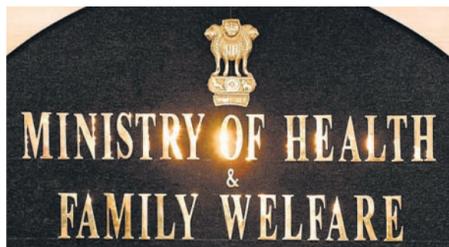
"Naturally all party leaders will work for their own party, she (Sonia Gandhi) has walked for half-a-kilometre and gone, it's okay", Bommai told reporters here when asked about the "impact" of the yatra

## Samples sent for testing, further action after results

Health Ministry on WHO alert on India-made cough syrup

New Delhi | Agencies

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has sent the samples of the same batch of the four Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd-manufactured medicines, on which the WHO issued alert, for testing and further course of action will be decided after the results are received, the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday. "The samples (controlled samples of the same batch manufactured by M/s. Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd for all the four drugs in question) have been taken and sent for testing to Regional Drug Testing Lab, Chandigarh, by the CDSCO, the results of which will guide further course of action as well as bringing clarity on the inputs received, to be received from WHO," a Health



Ministry statement said. The ministry said that the WHO informed the DCGI, the national drug regulator of India, that it is currently providing technical assistance and advice to The Gambia, where children have died and where a contributing factor, is suspected to be the use of medicines which may have been contaminated with Diethylene glycol or Ethylene glycol (in some of the samples it was claimed to have been

confirmed by further analysis conducted by WHO) on September 29. The CDSCO took up the matter immediately with Haryana State Regulatory Authority, under whose jurisdiction the drug manufacturing unit of Maiden Pharmaceutical Ltd, Sonapat is located. Further, a detailed investigation was launched to ascertain the facts/details in the matter in collaboration with State Drugs Controller, Haryana, said the ministry.

As per the tentative results received by WHO, out of the 23 samples of the products under reference which were tested, 4 samples have been found to contain Diethylene Glycol/Ethylene Glycol. It has also been informed by the WHO that the certificate of analysis will be made available to the WHO in near future and it will share it with the Indian regulator. The exact one to one causal relation of death has not yet been provided by the WHO to the CDSCO. However, the CDSCO has requested the WHO to share at the earliest the report on establishment of causal relation to death with the medical products in question etc.

### NCW ISSUES NOTICE TO UDIT RAJ FOR HIS REMARK ON PRESIDENT MURMU

New Delhi: The National Commission for Women (NCW) has issued a notice to Congress leader Udit Raj for his tweet against President Droupadi Murmu.

Raj had said that no country should get a President like her. The Commission has asked the former Lok Sabha MP to appear before it in person on October 10.

"No country should get a President like Draupadi Murmu ji. Chamchagiri also has its limits. She says 70% of the people eat Gujarat's salt. She will know once she starts living by consuming only salt," Raj had tweeted in Hindi. NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma also demanded an apology from the Congress leader. "Highly objectionable statement against the Supreme power of the country and a woman who with her sheer hard work reached at this position. @Dr\_Uditraj must apologise for his derogatory and insulting statement. @NCWIndia is sending him a notice," Sharma said in a tweet. However, Raj later said that his statement on the President was made on his personal capacity, and didn't represent the party's view. "My statement with regard to Droupadi Murmuji has nothing to do with the Congress. My heart cries when SC/STs reach a higher position and ditch their own communities and become mum," Raj tweeted.

### IRF urges withdrawal of notification making 6 airbags mandatory from Oct 1, 2023

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Road safety body International Road Federation (IRF) has urged the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Nitin Gadkari to withdraw the notification making six airbags mandatory in passenger vehicles from October 1, 2023.

It is likely to become counterproductive resulting in more severe injuries and deaths if seat belts not worn by the passengers in the vehicle, the IRF said.

In the letter to the Ministry, it said that the six airbags in passenger vehicles should be made mandatory once 85 per cent of the people start wearing rear seat belts. "Once this figure crosses 85 per cent pan India, the government should go ahead making this provision of six airbags. Otherwise, it will become counterproductive and we will lose more lives," said K.K. Kapila, President Emeritus, International Road Federation (IRF). "Seat belts and airbags are interrelated. An airbag without a seat belt can cause severe injury and even death. So, one has to use a seat belt to avoid serious injury. Airbags were specifically designed to be used with seatbelts--serious injuries may result

Unless people start wearing rear seat belts, the provision of six airbags will become counterproductive, leading to more fatal accidents. In a crash, seat belts are primary restraint devices whereas airbags are supplemental support. Rather Several global studies have shown that if an airbag is deployed without having the seat belt on, it can cause severe injuries and even death.

in victims who are not properly restrained by seatbelts, are "out of position" when airbags deploy," he said.



JALPAIGURI FLASH FLOOD

# Political mud-slinging starts as several persons continue to be missing

Team Absolute | Kolkata

As confusion continues galore over the exact number of missing persons in the flash flood in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, political mudslinging between the ruling and the opposition parties in the state started taking a nasty shape on Thursday.

Eight persons have died and several others are missing after the flash flood in the Mal river at Malbazar in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district while thousands of people assembled for immersion of Durga idols on the Vijaya Dashami late on Wednesday.

There are two major issues that are resulting in eruption of such political slanders, the first being the exact or even tentative number of persons still missing following the mishap and the second being allegations of utter administrative mismanagement in absence of which the disaster could have been avoided.

Leader of the opposition in West Bengal assembly, Suwendu Adhikari has alleged that even after so many hours have passed, there had been no



clarity on the details and number of missing persons.

Attacking Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Adhikari said that her task does not end with announcing compensation for the families of the dead and injured. "The chief minister should instruct the Jalpaiguri district

administration to provide clarity on the number of missing persons immediately," Adhikari said.

He also questioned why the chief minister should immediately come for a spot-visit and hand over the compensation cheques to the victims' families as she had done after the car-

nage at Bogtui Village in Birbhum district in March this year killing ten persons. "Those killed following the flash flood in Mal River were participating in the ritual of idol immersion. Is that a reason why they are of lesser importance?" the leader of the opposition questioned.

State's North Bengal Development Minister, Udayan Guha made a counter-attack and claimed doing politics over bodies had always been the culture of Adhikari and other BJP leaders. "They are resorting to the same dirty politics over the incident. The administration is trying its best on how it could help the victims and their families. The administration is also trying its best to locate the missing persons. This is not the time for fault finding. Those resorting to politics on this issue lack humanity," Guha said.

Meanwhile, compensations have been announced for the families of victims both by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, with each announcing Rs 2,00,000 for the families of the dead and Rs 50,000 for the families of the injured.

# Video of former JD-U MLA 'dancing' with woman performer goes viral



Team Absolute | Patna

Former JD-U MLA Shyam Bahadur Singh, who is said to be close to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, was purportedly seen dancing with a woman dancer in his home district Siwan, as per a viral video uploaded on social media platforms.

The video was shot during Saptami of Durga Puja in Sakra Bazar village under Tarwara police station. He was invited there as a chief guest by the Durga Puja committee.

An orchestra was also organised inside the

Puja Pandal where Singh was dancing with the woman and a local singer.

Singh, the former MLA from Barharia in Siwan, is known for his colourful image in the region. He also challenged Nitish Kumar government's liquor ban decision in Bihar and announced a liquor competition in the past. Meanwhile, a group of hooligans allegedly physical assaulted members of an orchestra in Saharsa district during Vijaya Dashami celebration as well.

The event was organised inside the Puja Pandal of Durga Puja in Kadeya locality under Saur Bazar police station on Wednesday night.

# R'than: Toppers may need to present docs to verify rank

Jaipur | Agencies

The much-awaited Rajasthan Private Institutional Educational Regulatory Authority Bill 2022 will be tabled soon in the Assembly bringing in a series of changes in the education system, sources submitted on Thursday.

The bill, as per sources, puts penalties of Rs 1 crore on bogus claims by private coaching centres about toppers. It also endorses recalling of registration and in fact, strictly bans the glorification of toppers by putting banners, posters and advertisements.

Also, there will be a cap on advertisements, and news. Besides, toppers being claimed by coaching centres will be called with documents to verify the truth.

The bill further recommends an aptitude test which will reportedly be conducted by a competent authority before a student gets registered in any coaching centre of competitive exam. Parents also

will get notification in this regard.

A committee with academicians have drafted the bill which has shared insights on challenges of teaching a child in private educational institutes.

It also suggests appointment of counsellor as mandatory in these institutes. As many young students are staying together in the vicinity of these coaching centres, teenage pregnancies among other issues have been cited, and hence suggestion of counselling has been forwarded.

Former education minister Vasudev Devnani (BJP) said: "The bill is in discussion since our government. However, if the Congress government tables it, there might not be time left to implement it. Government's will power is required to implement the suggestions. However, if our government comes, we will discuss to stop exploitation of parents."

Rajasthan Education Minister B.D. Kalla, however, did not answer calls when he was contacted.

# Uttarkashi Avalanche: 14 rescued, 29 still trapped

New Delhi/Dehradun | Agencies

At least 14 members of the Nehru Institute Of Mountaineering (NIM) team who got trapped following an avalanche near Draupadi's Danda-2 mountain peak in Uttarakhand have been rescued while 29 others are still stuck, an official said on Thursday.

The operations to rescue the people continued on Thursday, with a team from the High Altitude Warfare School joining the operations.

The NIM, located in Uttarkashi, has said that nine bodies have been recovered so far, while 29 people are still trapped, out



of which many are said to be missing.

The agencies engaged in the rescue operations have been facing difficulties due to the inclement weather.

The students of basic and advanced courses of NIM had went to the peak for training and got stuck following an avalanche on October 4.

# Rape accused lynched in Bihar's Katihar

Patna: The accused of the rape of a minor in Bihar's Katihar district was lynched by a mob early on Thursday, police said. The accused was identified as Mohammad Sagir, a native of Hasanganj Bazar under Hasanganj police station. The police said that the victim, a 9-year-old girl, was sleeping with her mother inside the house, when the accused reached there and took her away silently.

"He initially took the girl to his house and then to an isolated place to commit the crime. While raping her, the victim cried for help. Meanwhile, the mother of the victim also woke up and started searching for her child in the village. Soon, other villagers also started searching and they reached the crime scene after hearing the cries," said an investigating officer of the case.

The villager nabbed the accused red-handed, tied him to a palm tree, and brutally assaulted him.

"When we heard about the incident, we immediately went there and rescued the accused. He was taken to a nearby hospital where he died. Sagir was a serial rape offender. He was arrested on the same charges and served a jail term in the past," the IO said.

# GHAZIABAD MOST POLLUTED CITY IN INDIA LAST WEEK

Team Absolute | Ghaziabad

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been implemented in Delhi NCR from October 1 to save citizens from rising pollution, but its rules are followed least in Ghaziabad. Ghaziabad was categorised as the most polluted city in India last week, as per reports.

The largest city in western UP was the most polluted one in the country on Wednesday when its AQI was 248. On Tuesday, the city's AQI average stood at 162, with an escalation of 86 points. The condition in Loni was the worst in all the four stations of the city with its AQI at 293.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has asked the officials of Loni Municipal Council to strictly follow the rules of GRAP. The Board has concerns over the rising pollution in the capital after Ravan Dahan on

Dussehra. The AQI is expected to come down to normal level if it rains.

Further in NCR, Gurugram's AQI stood at 238, making it the second most polluted city in the country while Greater Noida was at the third position with its AQI measuring at 234. "The spread of pollution is compounded by emission of black smoke from vehicles," said the regional officer of the CPCB.

After Navratri, vehicular pollution spread rapidly in the atmosphere as many people used their own vehicles to travel, taking Delhi's AQI to 211 - which was 37 points less than Ghaziabad. "Slow wind speed, not sprinkling water on roads and vehicular smoke are considered to be the main reasons for pollution, in the last 24 hours," officials said.

The AQI of Ghaziabad in the last five days was recorded as 210, 207, 138, 162 and 248.

# Punjab to fill around 2,500 posts in police department

Chandigarh: In a bonanza for the youth, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday announced to start the process of filling around 2,500 posts in the state police department.

The Chief Minister said that the AAP government will recruit around 2,500 more cops in Punjab Police to augment its workforce for effectively maintaining the law and order, besides tackling challenges.

He said these posts include 1,156 constables in the intelligence and investigation cadre, 787 head constables in investigation and 560 sub-inspectors in investigation and intelligence, district and armed police cadre.

Mann added that the exams for recruitment of constables, head constables and sub-inspectors will be held on October 14, 15 and 16 respectively.

THE FESTIVAL



The festival of Dussehra was celebrated in the Surguja District with high spirit. A huge procession was taken out by Hindu Yuva Manch and was welcomed by everyone. Maharaja TS Singh Deo who is currently the cabinet minister of Chhattisgarh was spotted meeting and taking selfies with general public!

# 11-yr-old gang-raped by seniors in washroom of Delhi school; DCW issues notice

Team Absolute | New Delhi

An 11-year-old student was allegedly gang-raped by two seniors inside the washroom of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the national capital.

According to sources, the incident reportedly took place in July. The victim's family approached the police earlier this week after the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) highlighted the matter. The sources said DCW Chairperson Swati Maliwal has issued a notice to Delhi Police and the school principal in connection with the case.

"The girl has alleged that she was gang-raped by two seniors in July. According to the girl, she was going to her classroom when she accidentally collided with the two boys



studying in 11th-12th standard. The girl said she apologised to the

boys, but they abused her and took her inside a washroom. She alleged

that the boys locked the washroom from inside and raped her," the sources said.

The victim said when she informed a teacher about the incident, she was told that the boys have been expelled and the matter was allegedly hushed up.

In the meantime, the DCW came to know about the incident and taking suo moto cognisance of the case, Maliwal issued a notice to Delhi Police and the school principal, seeking an action taken report in the matter.

The Commission has asked Delhi Police to provide a copy of the FIR and details of the arrests made in this matter. It has also asked Delhi Police and the school authorities to provide information about the action taken against the

school teacher or any other staff for not reporting the matter to the police.

According to Maliwal, the girl has alleged that her school teacher tried to hush up the matter.

"The Commission has asked the school principal to inform as to when did the school authorities come to know about the matter and what action was taken by them. The Commission has also asked the school to furnish a copy of the inquiry report conducted in the matter," a DCW official said.

"It is very unfortunate that even schools are not safe for children in the national capital. Strict action must be taken in this matter. Also, an inquiry must be conducted into the role of the school authorities," Maliwal said.

# RAPE VICTIM ENDS LIFE AFTER POLICE FAILS TO ARREST 'RAPISTS'

Team Absolute | Ambedkar Nagar (Uttar Pradesh)

A rape survivor in Uttar Pradesh's Ambedkar Nagar district ended her life by allegedly committing suicide after the police did not act on her complaint and even reprimanded her for pursuing her case.

The father of the deceased victim alleged that his daughter had even gone to the Superintendent of Police's office where she was scolded and asked to return home.

"After this, she took the extreme step of ending her life," he told reporters.

"On September 16, my daughter had gone to school but did not return home. We lodged a missing complaint with the police but no action was taken. She came back after

two days and told us that she had been taken to Lucknow by two youths who raped her in a hotel room," the victim's father told reporters.

The father claimed that the police was pressuring his daughter to compromise in the case. She had even told the Malipur police that she would commit suicide if they did not take action, he said.

Superintendent of Police, Ajit Sinha, said, "The medical examination of the girl has been done in this case. On the basis of the statement, rape has been confirmed by two people. The action will be taken by registering a case against the unknown persons. Meanwhile, senior police officials have visited her home after we learnt of the suicide. We will take action in the matter with promptness."



# Maha Cong: Rs 100 for Diwali a pittance, give Rs 3K to all poor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Terming Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's 'Diwali gift hamper' of Rs 100 as "too meagre", the Maharashtra Congress on Thursday said that all ration card-holders should be given Rs 3,000.

Congress' Maharashtra unit president Nana Patole flayed the government's decision to give a gift package of 1 kg each of sugar, chana dal, palmolein oil and rava for Rs 100 to 1.70 crore ration card-holders through the public distribution system.

The move came on Tuesday -- the eve of Dussehra -- and is intended to benefit around seven crore individuals (1.70 crore families), for sweet dish preparations.

"Considering the current high inflation, the government must deposit Rs 3,000 as a Diwali gift into the bank accounts of these (1.70



crore) families," Patole demanded in a letter to the Chief Minister on Thursday. He said it's the duty of the state

government to "sweeten" the Diwali of the masses in the state but given the tremendous inflation in the state, buying even daily essentials like food and groceries has become difficult for the ordinary folks.

"This Rs 100 dole is too small for a family... if you want people to really enjoy the festival season then be sensitive to their needs and gift them Rs 3,000 into their bank accounts," Patole urged.

Currently, the price of chana dal is around Rs 120 per kg, rava Rs 60, palmolein oil Rs 140 and sugar Rs 60, with rates varying depending on quality or brands, or roughly around Rs 380 for the Diwali gift that the state will give for Rs 100.

The state cabinet announced the Diwali gift for a month through an e-pass system which would entail a burden of Rs 489 crore on the state exchequer.

# Shouldn't assume sex assault survivor can't get good marks in exam: Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

It should not be assumed that a survivor of sexual assault at home would not be performing well in exams or behave normally otherwise, a court has said while convicting a man for raping his minor daughter for several years.

The special judge of a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act court in Mumbai, Jaysri R Pulate, sentenced the accused to ten years in jail on September 29.

A detailed order became available on Wednesday. The accused worked on a ship in Saudi Arabia and visited his family in Mumbai every two months, as per the prosecution.

His wife noticed in 2014 that whenever he was at home, their daughter avoided him and stayed in her room. The girl eventually told her mother that he had sexually assaulted her many times over the previous seven years.

She was facing this nightmare since she was ten years old, the girl said.

A case was registered after her mother approached the police.

Convicting the man, the



court dismissed the defence's argument about the delay in the registration of complaint, stating that the girl was very young when the abuse began and initially she did not understand what was happening.

When she attended a sex education class in class 9, she understood that she was facing sexual abuse. Even then it was natural for her to be concerned about the loss of financial support for the family if her father went to jail, the judge noted.

During cross examination, the girl had stated that she got an average 70 per cent marks in class 9th and attended school regularly. Attendance at school was not affected by the accused's presence at home, she had said.

She had also said that the accused regularly brought

new clothes and toys for her and her siblings.

The Defence argued that these facts do not square with the allegations of sexual abuse.

But the court said the reaction of every survivor of sexual assault cannot be the same.

"It should not be assumed that the victim of sexual assault could not secure good marks in exams," the judge said.

The fact of regular school attendance and good performance in examinations would not discredit her allegations, the court said.

The "normal" behaviour by the accused such as bringing clothes and toys for his children did not mean he would never commit the kind of heinous offences he was accused of, the court said in the ruling.

# RBI directs credit information companies to appoint internal ombudsman

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday has directed all the credit information companies to appoint an internal ombudsman by April 1, 2023.

The RBI, in its Statement of Developmental and Regulatory Policies, on August 5, 2022 had called for bringing credit information companies under the internal ombudsman framework to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the internal grievance redressal mechanisms.

According to the central bank, the internal ombudsman shall be either a retired or a serving officer, not below the rank of deputy general manager or equivalent in any financial sector regulatory



body, credit information companies, a non-banking financial company (NBFC) or bank, with necessary skills and experience of at least seven years in banking, non-banking finance, financial sector regulation or supervision, credit information, or consumer protection.

The appointment will be for a fixed term of not less than three years, but not exceeding five years.

The internal ombudsman cannot be removed before the completion of the contracted term without the RBI's explicit approval.

In case the vacancy arises on account of reasons beyond control, the credit information company shall appoint a new internal ombudsman, within three months from the date of the vacancy arising.

The RBI also said that the scope of the internal audit of credit information companies shall exclude any assessment of the correctness of decisions taken by the internal ombudsman.

The internal ombudsman shall report to the Managing Director or Chief Executive Officer administratively, and to the Board functionally.

# Bihar man arrested for threat to blow up Ambani's house

Mumbai: Mumbai Police has arrested a man from Bihar in connection with anonymous calls threatening to target industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his family, an official said today. A police team picked up a suspect from Bihar's Darbhanga district around midnight and was bringing him to Mumbai, he said. Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai had received two calls on Wednesday where the unidentified caller threatened to "blow up" the hospital along with the Ambani family residence 'Antilia' in south Mumbai. The caller also issued threats to the industrialist and his family members, officials had said.



# Heroin worth more than Rs 100 Crore seized at Mumbai airport

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence or DRI has seized 16 kilograms of heroin worth more than ? 100 crore at the Mumbai Airport, and arrested a passenger and a woman from Ghana in this connection, an official said.

The Ghanaian woman was arrested from a hotel in Delhi as part of the DRI's follow-up action in the case, he said.

The Mumbai unit of the DRI had laid a trap on Tuesday at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on a specific tip-off that a passenger travelling

from Malawi, an African country, to Mumbai via Qatar was trying to smuggle narcotic drugs into the country, he said.

"As part of the trap, a surveillance and tracking team of DRI officers was positioned at the airport and intercepted a suspected passenger," he said.

During the search of his luggage, the DRI officers found 16 kg heroin that was concealed in cavities made in the trolley bags, the official added.

The value of the seized heroin is more than ? 100 crore in the international market," he said, adding that

the passenger was placed under arrest and was remanded in the DRI custody by the local court.

"In a follow-up action, the DRI officers apprehended a woman from Ghana, who was to take the delivery of the smuggled contraband in Delhi," he said.

"The female Ghanaian national was arrested from a hotel in Delhi when she came to take the delivery of the drug," the official said.

She has been arrested and being brought to Mumbai on transit remand granted by a court in Delhi, he said, adding that investigation into the case is underway.

# Maha extends cattle movement curbs for a month amid Lumpy disease

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Restrictions on cattle movement in Maharashtra will continue for one more month in view of the lumpy skin disease even as a massive vaccination drive is underway against the viral infection, state animal husbandry minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil said on Thursday.

Speaking to news agency, he said immediate action on the part of the state government and rapid vaccination have kept the deaths to just 2,100 in the state.

"We have decided to continue with the ban on the transport of domestic animals and cattle for at least one more month. Vaccination is going on and we are assessing the situation," Vikhe Patil said.

"The extra vials we had procured have already been exhausted. This vaccination drive has helped us keep the deaths to 2,100. Had we not acted immediately, the deaths of cattle could have



been in the range of 20,000," he asserted. The Maharashtra government had, in early September, declared the entire state as a "controlled area" restricting movement of cattle and ban on animal fairs etc.

The first case of the ailment in the state was reported from Chinawal village in Jalgaon district's Raver taluka

on August 4.

Lumpy skin disease is a viral ailment in cattle transmitted by blood-feeding insects such as certain species of flies, mosquitoes and ticks.

It causes fever, nodules on the skin and can cause death, more so if the cattle has not been previously exposed to the virus.



# Man gets life sentence in 2014 murder case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 33-year-old resident of Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a court for murdering a man over a political feud.

In the verdict delivered two days ago, Thane Additional Sessions Judge A S Bhagwat also imposed a fine of ? 1,000 on Ahmed Kamal Abdul Mobin Ansari alias Pappu Puriwala, the accused.

Two other accused, Asif Abdul Kalam Shaikh and his brother Arif Abdul Kalam Shaikh, a former corporator, were acquitted for lack of evi-

dence.

As per the prosecution, the three accused worked for a Congress candidate in the 2014 Assembly election while Maksud Abdul Kadir Shaikh (26), a plumber by profession, worked for the winning BJP candidate.

Holding a grudge against him for working for the rival candidate and also because of his rising popularity in the area, Ansari killed him on December 14, 2014, prosecutor Rekha Hiwrale told the court. The other two were accused of threatening the victim prior to the murder. The prosecution examined 19 witnesses.

# RUPEE SLIPS DOWN AGAINST DOLLAR ON OIL PRICE INCREASE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rising international oil prices saw the Indian rupee depreciating to Rs 81.94 against the US dollar. The rupee opened at Rs 81.52 on Thursday at the interbank forex market and then went down to Rs 81.94.

Experts said demand for dollars from oil importers resulted in a fall in rupee.

The oil prices are expected to climb up as the producing nations have announced their plans to cut production.

# Woman's Body Found Inside Sack In Drain, Murder Suspected

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The body of a woman with tied limbs was found inside a sack in a drain in Mumbai's Kurla area on Wednesday. The police reached the spot, took the body in their possession and sent it for post-mortem.

Taking help from the fire brigade, the body was taken out of the drain. Police said that it is suspected that the woman was murdered and thrown into the drain.

# KCR'S NATIONAL PARTY TO START EXPANDING FROM MAHARASHTRA

Team Absolute | Hyderabad/Mumbai

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), formerly the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), will make a beginning from Maharashtra to expand its activities nationwide, party President and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy said.

He said the party would pick up Maharashtra as the first field of activity by launching the farmers' wing of the party from there.

Rao stated this during his speech at the general body meeting of the TRS, which unanimously passed a resolution to change the party's name to the BRS.

KCR, as Rao is popularly known, also made it clear that while continuing as the Chief Minister, he would visit all parts of the country. "We will not leave the ground. No one should have any doubts about this," he told party leaders.

KCR's remarks came amid speculations in political circles that his son K.T. Rama Rao will take over as the Chief Minister while he will focus on national politics.

The TRS founder called for developing a bright India. "If resources of our country are used within the country, we can develop better than America. We still have time. We will expand across the country," said KCR, who has his eyes set on 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The Chief Minister also stated that if good happens to the country because of Telangana, this would go down well in the country's history.



KCR also revealed that Dalit, farmers', and tribal movements would be carried forward as the main agenda. He vowed to remove social and political disorders across the country. "Telangana has already shown this to the country. We will take stock of the evolving situation from time to time and move forward," he said. He called for taking the country forward just as the

Telangana movement was carried to victory. He claimed that Telangana ensured development of every community. He said both the rural and urban areas in the state have developed and the awards announced by the Centre were a proof of this.

He recalled that the TRS made a beginning 21 years ago. "Within a short time after achieving Telangana state, we moved forward rapidly by implementing development programmes in all sectors including agriculture, electricity, irrigation and drinking water. The neighbouring states are wonderstruck by seeing programmes in Telangana state. All this was possible because every action is being executed with utmost commitment."

KCR said that in the 75 years of Independent India, parties that ruled the country have done nothing for the country except coming to power or leaving power. He claimed that politics is a task for the TRS, while for other parties it is only a game.

"We worked with commitment as activists for the development of Telangana. Due to hard work, great achievements have been made. The per capita income of Telangana was only Rs one lakh when the state came into existence but today it has increased to Rs 2.78 lakh. Telangana's GSDP was Rs 5.6 lakh crore in 2014 and today it has reached to Rs 11.50 lakh crore," he said.

KCR called for working hard and collectively for the country's development on the lines the TRS strove for the development of Telangana state.



EDITOR'S SPECS

## BJP's mistakes need to be told

RSS top leader Dattatreya Hosabale's recent comments regarding the economic disparity and inequality in the country need not be mistaken. RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale had spoken with concern and pain about the country. There is no intention of showing anger or passing out a wrong message. He is not a politician, it can't be presumed that he had gone against the BJP. The mistakes within the BJP need to be told. Otherwise there is a danger that the BJP leaders might think that whatever they do is all right. Dattatreya Hosabale is in the second important position in the RSS. He had revealed about the present realistic situation after research and study. His statements should be accepted by the BJP and the party should travel on the path of reformation. The writing on the road saying that the PFI will come back is a warning and evidence that PFI is still active. Hindu community should cooperate with the police department to tame the miscreants. Following the statement by Dattatreya Hosabale raising his concern on the Indian economy and on economic disparity in India, regional party of Karnataka, JD(S) has questioned the claims of "acche din" during the BJP rule. Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy stated, "The statement of Hosabale, the Organizing General Secretary of RSS which is mother root of BJP, that economic inequality, poverty and unemployment are very dangerous holds mirror to the present condition in India. Now there are big questions over claims of achche din."

# TASK CUT OUT FOR CONGRESS PRESIDENT EVEN BEFORE ELECTIONS!

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Now, it is certain that either Leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge or Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor will be the next national president of the Congress. Whosoever gets the responsibility, the task is already cut out for the new party president who will have the responsibility of bringing the glory of the party back. But it is easier to say than do. Will the new president be able to deliver what he is expected to or tank the party further down with no real decision making authority? Will the new chief be able to function independently without any confrontation with the Gandhies - Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra -- as had been the case in the past? There are various apprehensions that the Congress is facing and its workers are worried about but there is no one to answer them. Kharge cajoling G-23 leaders appears to be good to start with. Both the leaders in the race of party president are from southern states, Tharoor belongs to Kerala while Kharge is from Karnataka. In both these states, the Congress is in opposition but is in a better shape than in the rest of the country including the two Congress-ruled states - Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. So the immediate task before the new president would be to win elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and if the party is unable to win then the defeat must not be humiliating as Ahmed Patel and Virbhadra Singh are not around to help the party in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, respectively. The way Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led by Arvind Kejriwal is aggressively campaigning in these states, the party may swallow anti-incumbency votes that could have gone to the Congress.



Once these Assembly elections are over, the new Congress President will have to prepare the party for Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh Assembly elections besides a few smaller states. In these four big states, the BJP and the Congress have governments in two states each. So they will have the same kind of struggle to defend two states and snatch two from the rival political party. If the BJP appears disjoined in Karnataka, the Congress appears to be in tatters in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh while in Madhya Pradesh things might go either way at least this is what one can make out at the moment. Losing Karnataka may question the leadership of Kharge who is most likely to be elected the Congress president as Sonia Gandhi has her blessings with him. After the second round of Assembly elections, the big fight awaits every political party to slug it out in 2024 General elections. Both the presidential candidates of the Congress are from southern states. They will have the daunting task of reviving the Congress in the entire Hindi belt. States like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi



besides some non-Hindi speaking states Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, the Congress will have a tough time during 2024 Lok Sabha elections as in the past two elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made Lok Sabha elections like a presidential poll. And in this format, no leader appears to be even a distant second. Some of the above-mentioned states have BJP governments and despite the party being in power for long, they are still people's first choice. The Congress lost the opportunity to repeat its government in Punjab due to infightings among the state leaders and political acumen of the BJP leaders in Uttarakhand. It was like snatching defeat from the jaw of victory in these two states. But the road ahead for the new Congress chief is going to be a bumpy ride with all these issues. Responsibilities for the new Congress president would be to constitute an organisational set up to win elections coming their ways one after another. Both sister and brother duo - Rahul and Priyanka -- will be there to help the party president with them being the final authority and decision makers. Both the presidential candidates are from the communities that

deserted the Congress long back which were once its backbone and blood in veins. Tharoor is a Brahmin and Kharge is a Dalit and their votes matter in Hindi belt. UP has around 22 per cent Dalit votes and 12 per cent Brahmin votes. But will these communities be able to identify with Kharge and Tharoor, respectively? Despite the Congress move to appoint Charanjeet Singh Channi as Punjab chief minister, it failed to win the election for the party in Punjab, what impact Kharge will have in the national politics is a big question mark. The party will have to deal with infightings in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh not just by postponing it. In states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Telangana, the Congress is facing existential crisis. There is no second, third or fourth rung leadership of the Congress in these states. In some of these states, the Congress will have to start from scratches. The Congress does not have enough time before 2024 Lok Sabha elections to revive the party even if the new president has a plan ready

for the revival. The biggest challenge for the party is that it has been dubbed as anti-Hindu by various narratives, a big section of the majority community feels the same. Hindu Pakistan jibe of Tharoor and Sanatan Dharma jibe of Kharge are doing rounds in social media before any one's name is formally announced by the Congress election committee. Muslims have deserted the Congress where the party is not winning and Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the biggest loss where the community has a sizable population. Akhilesh Yadav in UP and Lalu Prasad in Bihar will have no problem in dealing with Sonia Gandhi but will certainly have problems in dealing with Kharge, so forming an alliance will also be difficult for the new president. In the Northeast, the footprint of the Congress is fossilised with the NDA ruling almost the entire Northeastern states. One of the most-bitter enemies of the Congress is chief minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is not leaving any space for the Congress rather is trying to finish the party in the state whatever is left. There is no one in the Congress to counter. So the task for the new Congress president is well cut out before his elections with much pending routine work also to take care of due to the poor health of interim President Sonia Gandhi. Rahul Gandhi is travelling a distance of over 3500 kilometre Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Jammu, will this help in any manner to revive the Congress? The Congress in recent days failed to transform the crowd into votes. If this happens, the new president will get some credit, else no south Indian president has a good record of getting along with Gandhi-Nehru.

## international

## 17 DEAD AS MIGRANT BOAT SINKS OFF GREEK ISLAND

Athens | Agencies

The death toll has risen to 17 when a boat carrying refugees and migrants sank off the coasts of Lesbos island in the Aegean Sea in Greece on Thursday.

Most of the victims were young women of African origin, Hellenic Coast Guard spokesperson Nikos Kokkalas told Greek national broadcaster ERT.

A rescue operation was underway as a yet unidentified number of people were missing, Xinhua news agency reported.

Approximately 40 people were on board when the incident happened, according to the survivors, he added.

Meanwhile, 80 people have been rescued off the island of Kythira in southern Greece after another boat crashed onto rocks and sank on Wednesday night, according to a Coast Guard press release. Survivors said approximately 95 people were on the boat. No information was given on their nationalities.

Both rescue operations were hampered by strong winds reaching Category 8 on the Beaufort wind force scale, authorities said.



"We express sorrow over the tragic incidents in our seas which resulted in deaths and placed many lives at risk," government spokesperson Giannis Oikonomou told a televised regular press briefing on Thursday. More than 1 million people entered Greece since 2015, mainly via the Aegean, seeking refuge in Europe from

warzones and extreme poverty. Hundreds perished in the sea, according to the Greek authorities.

In March 2016, the European Union (EU) and Turkey reached an agreement aimed to stem the influx, which produced results, but still thousands of people each year land on Greek islands, said the authorities.

## FRENCH AUTHOR ANNIE ERNAUX WINS 2022 NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

Stockholm: French author Annie Ernaux has won the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2022 "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory".

"In her writing, Ernaux consistently and from different angles, examines a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class. Her path to authorship was long and arduous," the Swedish academy said in a statement on Thursday.

Ernaux, 82, will get the prize money of ten million Swedish crowns (\$914704).

The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. It was created by Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel in 1895. The prize money, is granted from the bequest left by Alfred Nobel.

## DEATH TOLL FROM THAI CHILDCARE CENTRE MASS SHOOTING RISES TO 36

Bangkok | Agencies

A mass shooting at a childcare centre on Thursday in Thailand's Nong Bua Lamphu province has killed at least 36 people, including 24 children, local authorities said.

The victims included 24 children and 12 adults, according to a report posted on the Facebook page of the provincial public relations department, Xinhua news agency reported.

Another 12 people were reportedly injured.

The shooting occurred at around 12:40 p.m. local time (0540 GMT), local police said.

The attacker, reportedly a 34-year-old former police officer, later killed his family members before taking his own life, Kornwit Nitkhamhan, deputy inspector at Na Klang Police Station where the childcare centre is located, told Xinhua via phone.

"About the horrifying incident, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the families of the dead and injured,"



Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha wrote on his Facebook account, adding that he has ordered the national police chief to "fast-track an investigation."

TV footage showed ambulances and families of the victims gathering outside the childcare centre.

A woman working at the childcare centre told a local TV programme that they were having lunch when she heard the sound and saw the injured falling to the ground. The shooter broke the window in as the door was locked, and succeeded in fleeing the scene, she said.

Many locals rushed to the Nong Bua Lamphu provincial hospital in response to its urgent call for blood donation for the injured.

## SUELLA BRAVERMAN OBJECTS TO INCREASING VISAS FOR INDIANS

London | Agencies

Suella Braverman has again risked upsetting No. 10 after saying she has "reservations" about Britain's trade deal with India because it could increase immigration to the UK, The Guardian reported.

Liz Truss said she wants to sign a trade agreement with India by Diwali at the end of this month. The Indian government is demanding an increase in work and study visas for Indian nationals and earlier this year Boris Johnson said the agreement would lead to increased immigration. In an interview with the Spectator, UK Home Secretary Braverman said Indian migrants make up the largest number of visa overstayers in the UK. The home secretary also criticised a deal with



India, signed by her predecessor Priti Patel, to increase the number of illegal migrants and overstayers returned to the country, saying the agreement "has not necessarily worked very well".

Braverman told the Spectator: "I have concerns about having an open borders migration policy with India because I don't think that's what people voted for with Brexit." Asked whether she would support a deal if it only involved greater flexibility for students and entrepreneurs, she said: "But I do have some reservations. Look at migration in this country -- the largest group of people who overstay are Indian migrants."

"We even reached an agreement with the Indian government last year to encourage and facilitate better cooperation in this regard. It has not necessarily worked very well."

## Four kidnapped Indian-origin family members have been killed: Sheriff

Arul Louis | New York

An Indian-origin eight-month baby, her parents and an uncle who were kidnapped in California have been killed in "a horribly, horribly senseless" crime, according to the local sheriff.

Their bodies were found in a remote farm on Wednesday, Merced County Sheriff Vernon Warnke said.

"There is a special place in hell" for the person who committed the crime, he said at a news conference near where the bodies were found.

He said that he hoped the district prosecutor would demand the death penalty. The suspect in the kidnapping, who was arrested on Tuesday after he had tried to kill himself, was talking to investigators, he said.

Baby Aroohi Dheri, her parents, Jasleen Kaur, 27, and Jasdeep Singh, 36, and uncle, Amandeep Singh, 49, were kidnapped on Monday from the family's trucking business in Merced,



about 225 kilometres southeast of San Francisco. Warnke said that the victims' family had been informed and arrangements were made through contacts to get them "spiritual guidance to get through this". The bodies were found near each other by a farm

worker, who informed the authorities, Warnke said. Earlier at a morning news conference, Warnke ruled out that the kidnapping was a hate crime and said money was the likely motive.

The suspect, Jesus Manuel Salgado, was convicted in 2005 of an armed robbery and paroled in 2015.

His prior record points to a financial motive, he said. Delgado had told his family that he was involved in the kidnapping and they reported it to the authorities, Warnke said. Before officers reached him, he attempted suicide and was taken to a hospital, he said. Officers waited there for medical clearance to speak to him, he said. After the bodies were found, Warnke said there was a lot of circumstantial evidence against Delgado and they were trying to build direct evidence. He said he was emotional at the news conference because a child has been killed. "I am just livid inside because this was totally, completely senseless; a whole

family has been wiped out", he said.

He said that a phone belonging to the family had been found by a farm worker on a street in the area where the body was found. The family's bank card had been used at an ATM and they were trying to get a clear picture of the person who withdrew the money. At the morning news conference, a chilling surveillance video of the kidnapping was shown.

Jasdeep Singh and Amandeep Singh were first led at gunpoint with their hands tied and driven away in Amandeep Singh's truck.

The suspect returned a few minutes later and took Jasleen Kaur and the baby in the same vehicle. Later the truck was found burning, which led to the discovery of the kidnapping. The family's cousin, Sukhdeep Singh, and another relative, Balwinder Saini, made a plea at the news conference for the return of the family or information about them.



## CM Chouhan changes DP of his social media as "Shri Mahakal Lok"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With the beginning of the seven-day festival of "Shri Mahakal Lok" in Ujjain, the cultural capital of Madhya Pradesh, preparations have intensified for the launch of "Shri Mahakal Lok" in the entire state including Ujjain. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan posted DP and banner photo of "Shri Mahakal Lok" on his social media account today. After this, people in the state have started putting the above photo on their profile and cover photo. With this initiative, the necessary environment will be created before the launch of "Shri Mahakal Lok" by Prime Minister Modi on October 11. It is a program of national importance.

For this, preparations are being finalized in Ujjain.

On Thursday, around 3 pm, Chief Minister Chouhan changed the DP on his social media account and put a new DP of "Shri Mahakal Lok". Soon after, MP V.D. Sharma also changed the DP of his social media account.

Citizens should also create environment CM Chouhan has appealed to the country and the people of the state to put DP of "Shri Mahakal Lok" on their social media accounts and witness the unprecedented launch of "Shri Mahakal Lok" on October 11 by PM Narendra Modi.

CM Chouhan wrote on his social media account that "the occasion of virtue has arrived, on October 11, PM Narendra Modi will offer to "Shri Mahakal



Lok"

Maharaj. There is a call to the public to

become a part of this festival, change the DP of your social media profile and worship Shri Mahakaleshwar with reverence.

## CM CHOUHAN TO HOLD TALKS WITH COUNTRY'S EMINENT SC-ST TRADERS AND ENTREPRENEURS IN DICCI CONCLAVE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) is organizing the first ever Mega SC-ST Business Conclave & Expo in Central India. More than 2 thousand SC-ST businessmen, entrepreneurs and start-ups of the country will participate in the conclave to be held on October 9 at Ravindra Bhavan. The Conclave will be attended by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Ministers, State Ministers, experts, big industrialists associated with CII and FICCI. Chief Minister Chouhan will hold discussions with eminent SC-ST businessmen and entrepreneurs of the country. This conclave is being organized in association with Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation.

The main objective of the conclave is to create an ecosystem for SC-ST entrepreneurs and youth in the state, so that they can easily enter the field of entrepreneurship. Discussions will be held on the State's MSME and startup policy, self-employment schemes, agriculture and food processing, animal husbandry, dairy and livestock management, export opportunities from Madhya Pradesh, prospects



of health care sector, social inclusion and affirmative action. Eminent SC-ST industrialists and entrepreneurs of the country will give business leadership tips to the entrepreneurs and youth of Madhya Pradesh. usinessmen who have reached from zero to top will share their experiences and success stories of successful entrepreneurs of the state will be presented. The unit of SC-ST entrepreneurs will be developed as an anchor unit with the big industries of the state.

Youth should be job-givers - Padmashree Shri Narra DICCI National President Padmashri Ravikumara Narra has said that the aim of DICCI is to develop business leadership among the youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We are inspiring youth to enter the business and industry sector under the banner of DICCI, so that they can make valuable contribution

to the economy of the country. Not only this, they are also working to support such young talents and provide assistance to their startups from various schemes of the government. Narra said that on the initiative of DICCI, many states have formulated specific industry policies for SC-ST category, moreover, since 16 years, DICCI is trying to create SC-ST Business Leadership in the country and abroad with 32 State Chapters and 7 International Chapters. DICCI aims to make youth job creators. He said that jobs cannot be given to all the people, so entrepreneurship is the best option.

Dr. Anil Sirviya, President of DICCI Madhya Pradesh Chapter said that in the conclave to be held on October 9, many experts including Padmashri Dr. Milind Kamble, Founder President of DICCI will share important information related to business and startups.



## Stories recorded in Puranas will come alive in Mahakal Lok of Ujjain

Team Absolute | Ujjain

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to inaugurate the first phase of Mahakal Lok, built in the Mahakal complex in Ujjain, the religious city of Madhya Pradesh, on October 11. This place will tell the stories recorded in the Puranas, as the idols of gods and goddesses associated with various visions have been installed here.

On the basis of the stories and tales mentioned in Mahabharata, Vedas and Skanda Purana related to Lord Shiva, idols have been prepared in Mahakal Lok. Overall, these stories will come alive here. There is a

wonderful amalgamation of history present here. On the other hand, while Sanskrit mantras have been engraved, barcodes are also being made on the idols, through which the whole story can be known.

In the sculptures that have been prepared, the killing of Tripurasura by Lord Mahadev has been outlined, similarly Gajanan has been given such a form of idols in which he is seen dancing. Apart from this, the harsh penance done by Ravana to please Mahadev has also been depicted, along with this statues of the Sapta Rishis holding silence have also been installed. Ravana has raised Mount Kailash on

his head and Shiva's family is seated on this mountain.

The specialty of the Mahakal courtyard, built in about 20 and a half hectares, is that there will be no need for any guide on coming here, because these idols will be telling the story themselves.

Every statue will be engraved with the bar code, which will be giving the complete information about the history, because of which small and big information will be available on the screen of the mobile as soon as it is scanned from the mobile. This will make the information of ancient stories easily accessible to the new generation.

## CM Chouhan expresses grief over the accident in Rewa district

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed sorrow over the untimely demise of three citizens in Rewa district when a tractor-trolley full of devotees returning home from the immersion of Durgaji overturned late last night. Chief Minister Chouhan has said that the entire state stands with the affected families in this hour of grief. Chief Minister Chouhan has prayed for the peace of the departed souls and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this immense loss. Three civilians seriously injured in the accident are being treated at Government Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, Rewa and remaining injured at Manganj Hospital.

Chief Minister Chouhan has directed the Rewa district administration to provide Rs. 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and financial assistance to the injured.

## Painting and poetry competition for children with cerebral palsy organized in AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As a part of cerebral palsy awareness week today a talent competition and fun activities were organized by dept of PMR for cerebral palsy affected children. 24 children and their families were present and participated in the event. There were fun games for children with drawing and poem competition in which the children participated enthusiastically. Later a multidisciplinary patient education program was organized for their caregivers for better understanding of their child's condition. Patient and caregivers actively interacted in the seminar and resolved their doubts with the experts. A prize distribution ceremony for all the winners was organized.



## MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER REMOVED AFTER COW ENTERED SHIVRAJ'S CONVOY- CONGRESS

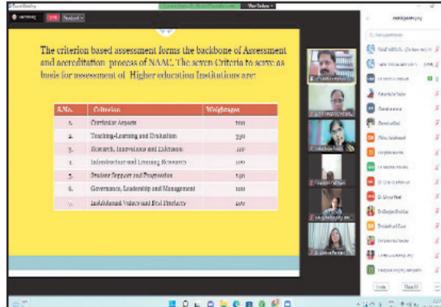
Bhopal : The Congress has taken a jibe at the removal of the municipal commissioner before the inauguration of Mahakal Lok on October 11 in Ujjain, the religious city of Madhya Pradesh, and said that the cow had entered the convoy of CM Chouhan, so the municipal commissioner has been removed. At the same time, this change is being considered as part of the administrative system. It is to be known that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to come to Ujjain on October 11 and is going to inaugurate the Mahakal Lok here. Preparations are in full swing before the event and in this sequence; Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached Ujjain on Wednesday. Here he also joined the ride of Baba Mahakal. After receiving some complaints in Ujjain, the Municipal Commissioner Anshul Gupta was removed and the responsibility has been entrusted to Sandeep Soni in his place. On this change, Congress's media department president KK Mishra has taken a jibe and wrote in a tweet, "On Wednesday, a cow entered in Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan convoy during his stay in Ujjain, the angry Chief Minister removed the municipal commissioner? At the same time, the administrative officer says that this change is part of the administrative system, and it is a common process.

## Capacity Building Program organised at Sant Hirdaram Girls college

Team Absolute | Bhopal

One-day capacity building program on the theme "Reconstructing Quality Parameters in Higher Education Institutes for Sustainable Tomorrow" was organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Sant Hirdaram Girls College, Bhopal. Its main objective is to develop new dimensions in education by making education according to the current requirement by rebuilding the quality standards in higher education institutions.

The principal of the college, Dr. Dalima Parwani said that in today's era, it is very necessary to rebuild the standards and to work at microlevel to enhance the



quality of education, only then we can find solutions for employment-oriented education that will give rise to new employment opportunities in the society and the full development of the nation will be possible.

In this program organized

through virtual platform, the keynote speaker Dr. Mridul Dhawal, Professor of Economics School of Business Studies, Sharda University, New Delhi said in his lecture that awareness and sense of responsibility can be created in the society

by increasing the quality in higher education institutions and only by rebuilding the educational standards, full development of any nation is possible. He discussed the parameters of NAAC and other accreditation/ ranking bodies He also emphasised about the benefits of such accreditation in higher education institutions for the betterment of all the students and other stake holders associated. At the end of the session, Dr. Dharwal also addressed the queries of the participants.

The vote of thanks was given by Aakanksha Yadav and the college management committee congratulated the entire IQAC team on the successful completion of the program.

## UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH WILL LAUNCH HINDI SYLLABUS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the launch of medical education syllabus in Hindi language is a program to establish the prestige of Matr Bhasha and to change the thinking. This is a symbol of the fact that the subjects of specialization can be taught not only in English but also in Matr Bhasha Hindi. Along with medical, engineering, nursing and paramedical studies will commence in Hindi in the state. Chief Minister Chouhan was reviewing the preparations for the launch program of medical education in Hindi language at Motilal Nehru Stadium in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on October 16. Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary Health Shri Mohammad Suleman and officers of various departments were present in the meeting held at the residence office.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that people should be involved in this program progressively to change the thinking regarding language. Various scholars related to Hindi teaching should be invited specially.

## MANIT to opts for online classes after tiger enters 650-acre campus

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Classes at the prestigious Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) went online on Thursday after a tiger entered its 650-acre campus, leading to its closure for safety reasons, an official said. Forest department officials informed about the tiger's pugmarks being spotted after which it was decided to have classes in online mode, MANIT Registrar Binod Doley said.

"We will resume offline classes mostly probably next week as forest officials are hopeful the tiger would move out of the campus on its own in a day or two. Cages have been put up by forest department staff and drones as well as cameras have been deployed to monitor the



tiger's movement," he said. "Some 100 acres of the campus is covered with thicket. Teachers, staff and their kin, numbering around 1,000, and 5,000 hostellers have been asked to stay indoors during the night. We have held drills on the campus to tackle emergencies," Doley added.

No one has seen the tiger physically but pugmarks were spotted, while forest

department officials have said the wild cat has attacked two or three cows, Doley said. Bhopal Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Alok Pathak said his department wants the tiger, possibly two years old, to move out naturally, adding that wild cats from the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over Raisen and Sehore districts, have now begun moving into Kerwa area here.

## CM Chouhan plants saplings in memory of Late Pyarelal Khandelwal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in the Smart City Garden in the memory of Late Pyarelal Khandelwal on his death anniversary. The members of Khandelwal family along with Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings of Neem, Tikoma and Kadamba. Former MLA Ramesh Sharma Guttu Bhayia, former Mayor Alok Sharma and members of Nanhi Si Udaan Social Welfare Society also participated in plantation.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Late Khandelwal's sons Prakash Khandelwal, Ajit Khandelwal, planted saplings. Rahul Nagar, Narendra Upala Wadia, Sohan Verma and Kuldeep Singh of the society also participated. Senior journalist Dharmendra Paigwar along with Ashish Aggarwal, Amit Aggarwal and Gopal Paigwar also planted saplings.



## CM CHOUHAN PAYS HOMAGE TO LATE PYARELAL KHANDDELWAL ON DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Late Shri Pyarelal Ji Khandelwal on his death anniversary. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan garlanded his portrait in the auditorium at his residence office. Late Khandelwal was born on 6th April, 1929 in village Charmandli, District Sehore. He distributed secret pamphlets published by Praja Mandal, a group of revolutionaries and patriots in Indore and extended his strong leadership to the student movement in Maheshwari Vidyalaya Indore.

Despite being punished with severe torture and cane for chanting Vande Mataram, Pyarelal Ji continuously remained devoted to the worship of 'Bharat Mata'. After the country became independent, Shri Khandelwal also had an important contribution in giving direction to the politics of independent India. He passed away on October 6, 2009.



# 'RUST' TEAM REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH HALYNA HUTCHINS ESTATE

Los Angeles | Agencies

The estate of the late cinematographer, Halyna Hutchins, has come to a settlement with the film production of Western movie 'Rust', nearly a year after Hutchins was killed by a live round fired from a prop gun by Hollywood star Alec Baldwin.

Surprisingly, the film will also resume production in January. "We have reached a settlement, subject to court approval, for our wrongful death case against the producers of 'Rust,' including Alec Baldwin and Rust Movie Productions, LLC. As part of that settlement, our case will be dismissed," said Matthew Hutchins, husband of the late Halyna Hutchins.

As part of the settlement, Hutchins will become an executive producer on the film, which will resume "with all the original principal players on board in January 2023." "I have no interest in engaging in recriminations or attribution of blame (to the pro-



ducers or Mr. Baldwin)," Hutchins said. "All of us believe Halyna's death was a terrible accident. I am grateful that the producers and the entertainment community have come together to pay tribute to Halyna's final work."

Halyna Hutchins, was killed when Baldwin fired a revolver that he had been told was "cold."

According to 'Variety', they were preparing to film a scene at the Bonanza Creek Ranch near Santa Fe, N.M., when the gun fired. She is survived by her husband and her 9-year-old son.

No terms of the settlement were disclosed. Baldwin had taken the lead on an earlier effort to settle with the Hutchins estate, before the suit was filed.

However, the settlement of the wrongful death lawsuit will have no effect on the District Attorney's (DA) consideration of criminal charges, the DA's office said on Wednesday (Pacific Standard Time).



## Jared Leto to essay late fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld in biopic

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Requiem for a Dream' actor Jared Leto, will star in a film about the acclaimed fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld. Leto will also co-produce the yet-to-be-titled film with Lagerfeld's House of Karl Lagerfeld. Leto will produce alongside his partner, Emma Ludbrook, through their production company Paradox. The late fashion icon's trusted confidants, Pier Paolo Righi, Caroline Lebar, and S'bastien Jondeau, will partner as executive producers of the film. For over 35 years, Caroline Lebar worked closely with Lagerfeld as an advisor for both his brand and personal communications, while Pier Paolo Righi has served as CEO for Lagerfeld for over 10 years.

Sebastien Jondeau spent 20 years as the designer's personal assistant and bodyguard, and continues his collaboration with the brand today as Style Consultant.

"Karl has always been an inspiration to me," Leto said, quoted by Deadline. "He was a true polymath, an artist, an innovator, a leader and, most importantly, a kind man. When we came together with the Karl Lagerfeld team, we immediately shared a creative vision of doing a respectful ode to Karl while pushing the artistic boundaries of what a biopic can be. I'm so grateful to Karo, Pier and Seb for allowing us to go on this journey together." Deadline further states that the exact storyline is currently under the wraps, though the film will cover the key relationships in Lagerfeld's life, told through an unpredictable lens, much like the man himself. Producers are currently in conversation with filmmakers.

## NIKITA KUZMIN'S BROKE UP WITH LONG TIME GIRL FRIEND NICOLE WIRT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Strictly Come Dancing pro Nikita Kuzmin has split from his girlfriend of five years Nicole Wirt. The dancers have been in a professional and romantic partnership since 2016 after meeting at a German dance school and training under the guidance of Strictly judge Motsi Mabuse.

But their romantic relationship at least appears to have come to a crashing and sudden end as they were together as recently as the summer, performing in a UK dance tour together. Nikita, who is partnered with paralympic swimmer Ellie Simmonds on this year's series, reportedly decided it was 'for the best' the couple went their separate ways. With Nicole based in Germany where she trains regularly at Motsi's dance school, it's thought Nikita called time on their long-distance romance. A source said: 'Nikita wanted to totally focus on this series of strictly and decided a while back he wanted to end his relationship with Nicole. 'They had been together for five years and it ended up being a mutual decision. Nicole is mainly based in Germany and she is getting busier with work. 'Nicole used to stay in London to visit Nikita but it was becoming more difficult with their schedules.' The insider added the exes only want the best for each other and Nikita now wants to focus all his energy on Strictly.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Coronation Street star Mollie Gallagher is the fifth celebrity to sign up for the new series of Dancing on Ice. The news was announced on Thursday's episode of Lorraine, with the 24-year-old actress sharing: 'I've been keeping it a secret but I can tell everyone now.

'I've not got the best coordination so when people find out they will laugh, but I don't want to spend my life saying 'I can't do this, I can't do that'."

The actress - who plays Nina Lucas on the ITV soap - revealed she'd been seeking advice from her Corrie co-stars, saying: 'I'll be getting all the tips I can because I'm going to need it!'

While Mollie may need some advice on the skating she'll have no problem with nailing the performance aspects required on the ice. Last year, the talented star scooped Best Serial Drama Performance at the National Television Awards after gripping viewers with the hate crime storyline alongside her on-screen boyfriend d Seb Franklin - played by Harry Visinoni. While the soap did forewarn viewers that the scenes would be distressing, some fans were upset enough to make an official complaint to Ofcom regarding the harrowing portrayal. It comes after Olympic gymnast Nile Wilson was announced as the fourth celebrity to sign up for the show, which is set to air on ITV in January 2023..

Revealing the news on his YouTube channel, Nile, 26, said: 'I'm going to be on ITV's Dancing on Ice! This is a really cool thing. I've certainly not done much ice-skating but I am so excited for the opportunity. I'm so excited to get into that routine and to feel like an athlete again.'



Dancing On Ice 2023: Mollie Gallagher is unveiled as fifth star for ITV show

### ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Christine Alexandra Chiu

## IDENTITIES OF MUMMIES, FORTUNE TELLER REVEALED ON 'THE MASKED SINGER'

Los Angeles

The next celebrities to be revealed on the eighth season of the reality competition television series, 'The Masked Singer', will be 'Brady Bunch' brothers Barry Williams, Christopher Knight and Mike Lookinland, as well as entrepreneur and 'Shark Tank' star Daymond John, on the show's Wednesday night episode as it celebrated 'TV Theme Night'.

The Mummies were revealed to be Williams, Knight and Lookinland, while Fortune Teller was John. Among this week's three performances, the 'Brady Bunch' brothers were first to go, with the fewest number of votes.

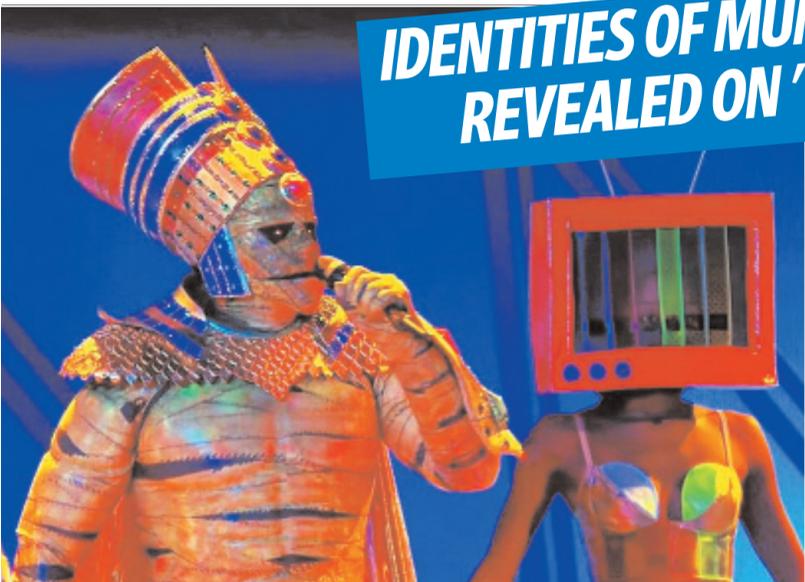
Later, John was unmasked as Fortune Teller after facing off with

returning winner Harp in a battle royale (in which both took turns singing the "Full House" theme song). According to Variety, Harp won for a third week in a row.

'The Masked Singer' enters Season 8 with costumes including 'Bride', 'Avocado', 'Venus Fly Trap', 'Sir Bugaboo', 'Scarecrow', 'Hedgehog' and 'Mummies'.

Themed episodes include 'Vegas Night', 'Comedy Roast', 'Hall of Fame', 'Muppets Night', 'Andrew Lloyd Webber Night', 'TV Themes', '90s Night', 'Thanksgiving' and 'Fright Night'.

The Season 8 contestants boast a combined 32 Grammy nominations, 16 Emmy wins, 8 gold albums, 4 Golden Globe nominations, 42 books, 10 Teen Choice awards, and 5 stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.





## IND V SA, 1ST ODI

# Samson, Iyer fifties go in vain as India lose to South Africa by nine runs

Lucknow | Agencies

Sanju Samson displayed valiant effort in his unbeaten knock of 86 not out while Shreyas Iyer hit a counter-attacking fifty. But the duo's splendid efforts went in vain as India lost to South Africa by nine runs in a rain-hit first ODI which has been reduced to 40-over per side at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Thursday.

After David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen hit unbeaten fifties to power South Africa to 249/4, India's pursuit of chasing 250 were dealt with huge blows in the first six overs when Kagiso Rabada and Wayne Parnell got rid of Shubman Gill and Shikhar Dhawan respectively through thick inner edges disturbing the stumps. Debutant Ruturaj Gaikwad put up a 42-ball resistance, but made just 19 runs and was stumped off Tabraiz Shamsi. In the next over, Ishan Kishan's 37-ball stay at the crease came to an end as leg-slip took his catch on the inner edge off Keshav Maharaj.

At 51/4 in 17.4 overs, the match looked to be as good as over for India. But Iyer injected much-needed momentum into the chase, taking the attack to the bowlers by using his



### Brief scores

South Africa 249/4 in 40 overs (David Miller 75 not out, Heinrich Klaasen 74 not out; Shardul Thakur 2/35, Kuldeep Yadav 1/39) beat India 240/8 in 40 overs (Sanju Samson 86 not out, Shreyas Iyer 50; Lungi Ngidi 3/52, Kagiso Rabada 2/36) by nine runs

feet and timing his shots well. His onslaught on Tabraiz Shamsi was a surreal one - sweeping, lofting and punching to get a hat-trick of fours.

Iyer's counterattacking knock continued with him smacking Lungi Ngidi for a brace of fours, before playing a late cut off Maharaj to reach his fifty in 33 balls. But in the very next over, Iyer was deceived by extra bounce on short ball and pulled straight to mid-on.

With the required run rate going past ten, Shardul Thakur had a pacy start with two quick fours and sur-

vived two lbw shouts off Shamsi, on which South Africa burnt their full quota of reviews. Samson then stepped upto to be the aggressor, lofting and pulling sweetly for boundaries before reaching his second ODI fifty. Post reaching his fifty, Samson took consecutive fours off Shamsi while Thakur used Rabada's pace to hit a hat-trick of fours in a 14-run 37th over. But in the next over, Thakur danced down the pitch to heave but was caught at mid-off, ending a crucial 93-run stand off 65 balls. With Kuldeep Yadav and Avesh

Khan falling quickly, Samson tried to get an improbable win for India by hitting three fours and a six in the final over off Shamsi yielding 20 runs. But it was not enough for India to avoid a narrow loss.

## NATIONAL GAMES

# Sai Praneeth, Aakarshi Kashyap clinch men's, women's singles titles

Surat | Agencies

World Championship bronze medallist and top seed B. Sai Praneeth of Telangana and second seed Aakarshi Kashyap of Chhattisgarh grabbed the men's and women's singles badminton gold medals respectively in the 36th National Games at PDDU Indoor stadium here on Thursday.

Praneeth had to work hard for his 21-11, 12-21, 21-16 victory over Karnataka's Mithun Manjunath in the men's singles while Aakarshi packed off top seed Malvika Bansod of Maharashtra 21-8, 22-20 in the women's singles final. Thirty-year-old Sai Praneeth's success meant that Telangana grabbed three gold medals in badminton. They had won the mixed team and women's doubles titles earlier. Earlier, Aakarshi Kashyap dominated the opening game of the women's singles final against an erratic Malvika, who needed time to find her rhythm.

The top-seeded Malvika began the second game well, opening up an 8-4 lead. Aakarshi fought back by keep-



ing the shuttle in play longer and closed the gap at 9-9.

However, Malvika wasn't willing to drop her guard and fold this time around. She kept the pressure on her opponent and again moved up to an 18-14 lead and at that stage, it felt like the match could go into a decider.

The Telangana duo of N. Sikki Reddy and Gayatri Gopichand clinched the women's doubles gold beating national champions Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam of Karnataka 21-14, 21-11. PS Ravikrishna and Sankarprasad Udayakumar of Kerala took the men's doubles gold beating Hariharan Amsakarunan and R Ruban Kumar 21-19, 21-19.

Ashwini Ponnappa and K Sai Prateek of Karnataka started their journey as a mixed doubles combination with a

comfortable 21-16, 21-13 win over Rohan Kapoor and Kanika Kanwal of Delhi.

**Results:** Women's singles: Aakarshi Kashyap (Chhattisgarh) bt Malvika Bansod (Maharashtra) 21-8, 22-20. Women's doubles: N Sikki Reddy/Gayatri Gopichand (Telangana) bt Shikha Gautam/Ashwini Bhat (Karnataka) 21-14, 21-11. Men's singles: B Sai Praneeth (TS) bt Mithun M. (KTK) 21-11, 12-21, 21-16.

**Men's doubles:** Ravikrishna P.S./Sankarprasad Udayakumar (KER) bt Hariharan Amsakarunan /Ruban Kumar (TN) 21-19, 21-19. Mixed doubles: Sai Pratheek/Ashwini Ponnappa (Karnataka) bt Rohan Kapoor/Kanika Kanwal (Delhi) 21-15, 21-13.

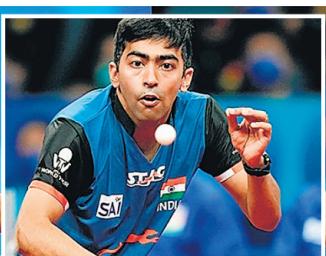
## WORLD TEAM TT FINALS

# India men crash out in pre-quarterfinals after 0-3 loss to China



Chengdu (China) | Agencies

The Indian men's table tennis team crashed out of the ITTF World Team Championships Finals 2022 in the round of 16 after a 0-3 loss to top seeds and hosts China, here on Thursday. National Games 2022 winner Harmeet Desai lost the first game to the world No 1 Fan Zhendong 0-3 (2-11, 9-11, 5-11) despite looking good in the second game.



India's top-ranked men's player Sathiyan Gnanasekaran tried pulling back the momentum against world No 2 Ma Long in the second match. However, after losing the opening game closely, he couldn't recover and lost 0-3 (12-14, 5-11, 0-11).

Later, playing his first match in the tournament, Manush Shah was up against world No. 11 Wang Chuqin in the third rubber. He too lost his match 0-3 (4-11, 5-11, 6-11) in straight games.

## AFC U-17 ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

# Clinical India start campaign with 3-0 win over Kuwait

Al Khobar (Saudi Arabia) | Agencies

India picked up a crucial win in their AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers campaign defeating Kuwait 3-0 in a thrilling encounter at the Prince Saud Bin Jalawi Stadium here on Thursday.

With this win, India continue their perfect start to the competition, having registered a commanding 5-0 win against the Maldives in the previous match. Two goals from Thangalsoun Gangte, on either side of Korou Singh's second-half strike, gave the Indian side three points. Goalkeeper Sahil also shone through with a notable display, making a number of crucial saves and ensuring a hard-earned clean sheet. The first half began with the Indian side in the ascendancy right from kick-off. The first big chance



came in the ninth minute as Gangte headed the ball into the net from a corner-kick opportunity. However, the referee had blown for a foul in the build-up. After the half-time interval, the game continued from where it left off as both sides continued to push for advantage. India ended the game

on a high note, creating a flurry of opportunities and testing the Kuwait custodian, as the referee blew the final whistle with the score at 3-0. In the next match, the Indian side will go up against neighbours Myanmar at the same venue on Friday (October 7, 2022) at 8.45 PM IST.

## JAPAN OPEN

# KYRGIOS OVERCOMES MAJCHRZAK TO REACH QUARTERFINALS



Tokyo | Agencies

Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios registered a 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory against Poland's Kamil Majchrzak to reach the quarterfinals of the Japan Open Tennis Championships, here on Thursday.

After a shaky start to his second-round match, the Aussie grew frustrated as he played a loose opening service game in falling behind 0-3. The 27-year old could not create a break chance in the set.

But after saving a break point in the opening game of set two, Kyrgios did not face another as he expertly turned the match around to advance to the quarterfinals.

The fifth seed finished with 22 aces and won 84 per cent (36/43) of his first-serve points.

The Australian was pleased with his "really high level" in the final two sets, and will seek to continue that form in the quarterfinals against either third seed Taylor Fritz or Japan's Hiroki Moriya. The pair are set to square off in Thursday's final evening match.

After his singles victory, Kyrgios' day is not done in Tokyo. In the evening, he will take the court with doubles partner Thanasi Kokkinakis as the top seeds meet the Spanish duo of Pedro Martinez and Bernabe Zapata Miralles.

## RB LEIPZIG OVERPOWER CELTIC TO RETURN TO WINNING WAYS

Berlin (Germany): Andre Silva's second-half brace helped RB Leipzig take their first points in UEFA Champions League Group F after seeing off Celtic 3-1. The Red Bulls staged a lively opening period on home soil as Christopher Nkunku pulled wide from a promising position with only two minutes gone on Wednesday. Leipzig had to make some early changes as goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi suffered a knee injury after a return pass and had to be taken off. The hosts thought they had broken the deadlock in the 18th minute, but Nkunku's goal was ruled offside by VAR. Celtic responded well as Leipzig's backup goalie Janis Blaswich had to be on guard to deny Kyogo Furuhashi in the 24th minute before the Japan international missed the target two minutes later. Just when Celtic were about to take over, Leipzig broke the deadlock in the 27th minute through Nkunku, who rounded custodian Joe Hart and tapped home from a tight angle. The visitors shocked Leipzig immediately after the restart as Furuhashi's square pass following a counterattack allowed Jota to restore parity into the top-right corner, reports Xinhua.

## WOMEN'S T20 ASIA CUP

# THAILAND STUN PAKISTAN FOR FIRST WIN IN EVENT

Sylhet (Bangladesh) | Agencies

Natthakan Chantham struck a 51-ball 61 as Thailand beat Pakistan by four wickets in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium (SICS) here on Thursday. This is Pakistan's first defeat in the tournament.

Natthakan Chantham struck five fours and two sixes during her knock as Thailand Women won their first match in the seven-team tournament being played in Bangladesh.

Chasing a modest target of 117-run target, Pakistan bowlers kept Thailand batters in check. But with Natthakan Chantham in fine form, Thailand chased down the target on the penultimate ball of the match. Requiring 16 runs from two overs, the 19th



over went for only six runs bowled by Nida Dar and she picked the prized scalp of

Chantham. With 10 runs required in the last over, Rosenan Kanoh struck Diana for a four on the second ball to help her side achieved the target with four wickets in hand.

Nida and Tuba Hasan bagged two wickets apiece, while Nashra Sandhu and Kainat Intiaz took a wicket each. The team will now take on arch-rivals India on Friday at the SICS.

### Brief scores:

Pakistan 116-5 in 20 overs (Sidra Amin 56; Sorannarin Tipchoh 2-20) lost to Thailand 117-6 in 19.5 overs (Natthakan Chantham 61; Nida Dar 2-26, Tuba Hasan 2-18) by 4 wickets.

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# Haaland stars for Man City; Chelsea, Juventus win; PSG held 1-1 in Lisbon

Paris | Agencies

Erling Haaland continued his remarkable start to life at Manchester City with a brace of goals, helping the English side to a third win from three Group G matches in the UEFA Champions League.

Haaland scored with his first touch as City cruised to another thumping home win, beating FC Copenhagen 5-0 at the City of Manchester Stadium in Manchester on Wednesday night.

Haaland buried a Joao Cancelo pass in the 7th minute before tapping in a second in the 32nd min to move to 28 goals in just 22 Champions League appearances. He is now level with Ryan Giggs on 28 UEFA Champions League goals. David Khocholava turned in an own goal, Riyad Mahrez scored a penalty after Haaland was withdrawn at the break and Julin Alvarez tapped in a fifth after a great run from Jack Grealish. Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola was elated with the way his team played and praised Alvarez for stepping in



when Haaland was withdrawn. Neestrup, Copenhagen coach said his team was simply overpowered. Speaking to the club's official website, he said, "It's never fun to lose 5-0, and we went in there to create a little or big miracle we would have needed to get a point. But we simply were overpowered as 100 other teams have experienced against City."

Chelsea win 3-0. It was a good night for the English sides as

Chelsea romped to a 3-0 win against Italian club AC Milan. Chelsea cruised to their first Champions League win of the season to move off the foot of Group E.

The visitors from Italy started brightly but lax marking at defensive set pieces proved their downfall as Wesley Fofana capitalised. Rade Krunic spurned a glorious chance on the stroke of half-time, but that was as good as it got for Milan as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang steered in Reece James' cross for the second, before James smashed in the third after Milan were caught playing out from the back. Chelsea thus moved to the second spot in the standings tied on four points with AC Milan but ahead on goal difference. FC Salzburg, who have five from three games, lead the Group after they defeated Dinamo Zagreb 1-0 at home.

Meanwhile, in Group H, ngel Di Mara was in sparkling form, providing all three assists, as Juventus earned their first Group H win, beating Maccabi Haifa 3-1 at home.

The Argentinian's brilliantly disguised pass teed up Adrien Rabiot for the opener in the 35th minute, and he released Dusan Vlahovic to beat Joshua Cohen early in the second half. Din David pulled one back for the visitors in the closing stages but Rabiot headed in a Di Mar a corner to quash any hopes of a comeback. In the other match in the group, Portuguese champions Benfica held French stalwarts Paris Saint Germain (PSG) 1-1 at Estadio da Luz in Lisbon.

Benfica held on to keep pace with Paris at the top of Group H after Danilo's own goal cancelled out some Lionel Messi magic.

The visitors were indebted to Gianluigi Donnarumma in the opening exchanges before Messi hit a sumptuous curling finish from the edge of the box. However, the Eagles kept to their game plan and levelled when Enzo Fernandez's centre was chested past his own keeper by former Porto man Danilo. Both sides went in search of a winner after the break but found Odysseas Vlachodimos and Donnarumma in sparkling form.

## FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022: DIGITAL BROADCAST IN INDIA TO BE AVAILABLE ON JIOCINEMAS FOR FREE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Viacom18 Sports on Thursday announced that JioCinema will live-stream all the matches of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, set to happen from November 20 to December 18, for free. Apart from this, the TV broadcast of the marquee tournament will happen on Sports18 - 1 SD & HD channels. The 2022 edition of the FIFA World Cup will see most matches played in India primetime slots like 18:30, 20:30 and 21:30 IST. Group stage primetime matches in the showcase tournament will include key clashes like defending champions France up against Denmark, apart from England vs Iran, Portugal vs Ghana, Brazil vs Switzerland, and Croatia vs



Belgium. "Viacom18 Sports' multi-platform presentation of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be immersive, personalised and offer viewers exclusive experiences on JioCinema. We want consumers to have easy access to world-class production across digital and linear platforms (on Sports 18) to match the event's stature." "Our efforts are towards reshaping fan experience and building one of the most-loved media platforms in India," said Viacom18 Sports CEO Anil Jayaraj.



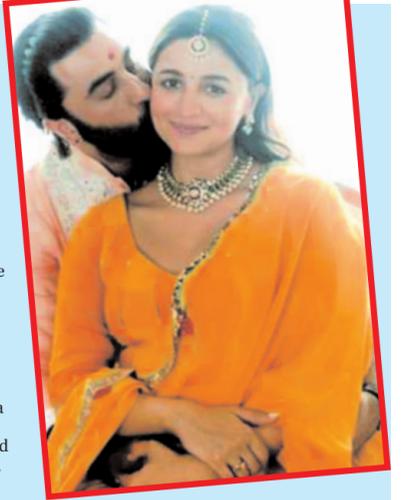
## Alia's baby shower celebrated

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood couple Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt, who are enjoying the response to their film 'Brahmastra', are expecting their first child. The two recently hosted a baby shower for which Alia's sister Shaheen Bhatt, Ranbir's mother Neetu Kapoor, his sister Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, cousin Karisma Kapoor and Shammi Kapoor's wife, Neila Devi arrived at their Vastu home in the Pali Hill area of Mumbai. Vastu is the same place where

the two tied the nuptial knot on April 14, this year. Ranbir's sibling, Riddhima took to her Instagram and shared pictures from the baby shower. She captioned the pictures with Alia and Ranbir as 'Mommy to be' and 'Daddy to be'. For the occasion, Alia chose a beautiful yellow ensemble while Ranbir donned a peach coloured Kurta and white pyjamas. The director of 'Brahmastra' - Ayan Mukerji too attended the event as he is very close to Ranbir, having worked with

him in all his three directorials, so far. Alia's close friends Anushka Ranjan and Akanksha Ranjan were present too. Ranbir's mom, Neetu Kapoor too shared a group picture featuring Alia, herself, Karisma Kapoor, Shweta Bachchan, Alia's mother Soni Razdan, Nitasha Nanda, Rima Jain, Anissa Malhotra Jain, Neila Devi and others.



## SUSHMITA SEN to play transgender activist Shreegauri Sawant



Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood actress and former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen is set to portray the role of transgender activist Shreegauri Sawant in her upcoming film 'Taali - Bajaungi Nahi, Bajwaungi'.

The actress unveiled the first look of the film through her Instagram. She wrote in the caption: "Taali! (I won't clap but will make others do so) first look as ShreegauriSawant. Nothing makes me more proud and grateful than to portray this beautiful person and bring her story to the world! Here's to life & to everyone's right to live it with dignity! I love you guys (sic)."

Talking about the movie, she said: "(It's) A story of struggle, resilience, and indomitable power, that's Shreegauri Sawant for you.

Nothing makes me more proud and grateful than to bring this journey that has been rife with challenges, only to witness a revolution!"

The actress called the project 'special' for her: "This one is special for many reasons. This is just the beginning, stay tuned for what's in store," she added.

Born as Ganesh and raised in Pune, Shreegauri Sawant is a transgender activist from Mumbai. She was one of the petitioners of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) which was filed in 2013, in which the Supreme Court recognised transgender as the third gender with a final verdict in 2014.

The biopic is created by Arjun Singgh Baran and Kartk D. Nishandar, directed by National award-winning director Ravi Jadhav, and produced by Arjun Singgh Baran, Kartk D Nishandar and Aafeefa Nadiadwala.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**fter becoming the first singer to be associated with Manchester City Football Club, Harry Sandhu was recently invited by Manchester City to watch the match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester. Earlier, Bollywood stars Ranveer Singh and Katrina Kaif were also invited by Manchester city.

The singer, who is known for his songs such as 'Tequila Shot' and 'Soch', and is gearing up for his upcoming espionage film 'Code Name: Tiranga', made every-

**Harry Sandhu invited by Manchester City team for match**

dance to his popular tracks.

In fact, Manchester city shared a video on their Instagram with the caption: "Hope you enjoyed the match and thanks for visiting Manchester, @harrysandhu!"

Sharing his experience, he said: "It was such a wonderful experience to watch the match, the cheering of the crowd, and the excitement live in person." Harry called it the most "memorable day" of his life and added: "I would like to express my gratitude to the entire Manchester City team for inviting and including me in what has to be one of the most memorable days of my life."

## Shreya Ghoshal to celebrate 20 years in music industry

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**P**layback singer Shreya Ghoshal, who is known for hits such as 'Ami Je Tomar', 'Bahara' and 'Chikni Chameli', will headline a series of concerts across the world as she completes two decades in the music industry. She will perform in a 5-city Australia-New Zealand tour from October 7 to October 16, 2022, in Ireland on October 29 and The Netherlands on October 30. Additionally, she will also perform in the USA from November 4 to November 19, 2022.

Talking about the US tour, Shreya Ghoshal said: "This US tour is very special for me as I am completing twenty years in Bollywood, and what a beautiful way to celebrate my journey with my fans.



Coincidentally, this is my first tour in the US after the unfortunate pandemic disruption."

She further said: "I am humbled to be a part of the concert and to be able to continue entertaining my fans. I always had an amazing experience performing for the warm crowd of the US and I am quite excited to perform there after three long years." The high-profile music concert will see a seven-city tour across the US. The US leg of the tour will start on November 4 in New Jersey, followed by Dallas, Texas on November 5, Washington, DC on November 11, Oakland, Bay Area on November 12, Los Angeles on November 13, Orlando, Florida on November 18, and will conclude in New York on November 19, 2022.

## GOODBYE : AN EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER WITH HUMOUROUS TURNS



BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

**Star Cast:** Amitabh Bachchan, Rashmika Mandanna as Tara, Neena Gupta as Gayatri and Sunil Grover

**Director:** Vikas Bahl

**Runtime:** 2h 21m

**Rating:** 3.5/5

**Synopsis:** The film's plot revolves around the death of a family member, which brings others together to rediscover a bond that they appear to have forgotten.

**Review:** The movie begins with Tara, (Rashmika) a lawyer, going to a club to celebrate after winning her first case, to enjoy the party, she does not pick up calls from her mother and does not respond to her texts because she believes she will talk to her later. The film takes a tragic turn when the girl realises that the 'later' will never come as her mother dies due to sudden cardiac arrest.

The story is an emotional journey with a touch of humour that just keeps getting better and better.

Throughout the two and a half hours, you never feel disconnected. This film sends a strong message to the country's youth by depicting how one can lose sight of the importance of family in the race of our cooperative culture.

Not only that, but the film sets an example for society by questioning the rituals of everything. It tells people that the rituals are so much that people sometimes forget to share their final moments with their loved ones.

Although this film touched on the



issue of having several rituals, it also tries to establish that sometimes belief is superior to science because it provides a sense of relief.

The movie is a delight when it comes to the casting, from Mr Bachchan to Nina Gupta to Rashmika and the supporting cast, everyone contributes equally to make this an amazing experience.

While everyone is fantastic, Rashmika, Sunil Grover and Mr Bachchan deserve special mention. Rashmika, in her Hindi debut, nails the role with ease whereas Mr Bachchan's brilliance cannot be described in words. Talking about Sunil Grover, Sunil and Comedy are an ideal couple who can never go wrong together.

The background score brings each scene to life. It's both overwhelming and amazing how revitalising and energising it is. The songs in the film are so captivating and perfectly placed that you will cry even harder every time you hear them. Every song beat and background music has an emotional impact on you. When discussing the technical aspects of a film, one must consider not only the script but also its portrayal. This film has an amazing script that has brilliantly portrayed. The camera work, is coherent with the film's theme. The pans, top shots, and close-ups are on point.

**Conclusion:** In short, the film is a work of art that should be seen, but don't forget to bring a box of tissues.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Riddhima Kapoor Sahni