VOL. 9, ISSUE 364, MUMBAI | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022 1₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** 

**President Murmu inaugurates** several projects in Assam...



**HOLLYWOOD** 

absoluten

**Lucy Liu to star opposite Dwayne** Johnson, Chris Evans in 'Red One'...

06

**SPORTS** 

**Golf: Camille Chevalier set to** return to women's Indian Open...



## SC DELIVERS SPLIT VERDICT ON K'TAKA HIJAB BAN

PERMITTING ONE COMMUNITY TO WEAR RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS **WOULD BE ANTITHESIS TO** SECULARISM: JUSTICE GUPTA

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice Hemant Gupta, in a divided verdict, on Thursday dismissed appeals challenging the Karnataka High Court judgment which upheld the state government's February 5 order, prohibiting wearing of hijab inside classrooms in pre-university col-

Justice Gupta said: "Secularism is applicable to all citizens, therefore, permitting one religious community to wear their religious symbols would be antithesis to secularism. Thus, the Government Order cannot be said to be against the ethic of secularism or to the objective of the Karnataka Education Act,

"If a particular student feels that she cannot compromise with the wearing of headscarf or of any other student to wear any outwardly religious symbol, the school would be justified not to allow such student, in the larger interest of treating all the students alike as a part of mandate of Article 14, which is central to the theme of Part III of the Constitution," he added.



### **NO QUESTION OF REVOKING HIJAB BAN: K'TAKA MIN**

Bengaluru: Soon after the Supreme Court delivered a split verdict on the Karnataka hijab matter, state Minister for Power, Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar on Thursday said the question of reversal of ban order does not arise.

"There is no question of reversing the state government's order issued on February 5, banning hijab and other religious symbols in educational institutions of the state. The uniform rule will continue in schools and pre-university colleges," he said.

While interacting with reporters, the minister stated that the government has issued a circular in this regard. There is no question of backtracking on the ban. "The Supreme Court has given a split verdict on the matter and we will not take back our decision," he reiterated.

"No student can attend classes wearing a hijab. Congress and the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) must understand that they cannot go against society," he stated.

Team Absolute New Delhi

he Supreme Court on Thursday delivered a split verdict on a clutch of petitions challenging the Karnataka government's February 5 order, prohibiting wearing of hijab inside classrooms in preuniversity colleges. The judgment was delivered by a bench comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia. Justice Gupta upheld the Karnataka government circular and dismissed the appeals against the Karnataka High Court judgment. However, Justice Dhulia allowed all the appeals and set aside the judgment of the Karnataka High Court.Justice Dhulia said the main thrust of his judgment was that the entire concept of essential religious practice was not essential to the dispute and the high court took a wrong path.

#### Asking girls to take off hijab invasion of privacy, attack on dignity: Justice Dhulia

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, in the split verdict on Karnataka hijab ban, on Thursday said by asking girls to take off their hijab before they enter school gates is an invasion of privacy, attack on dignity, and denial of secular education. He said this is the time when children should learn not to be alarmed by our diversity but to rejoice and celebrate this, and also this is the time when they must realise that diversity is our strength. Justice Dhulia

said: "By asking the girls to take off their hijab before they enter the school gates, is first an invasion of their privacy, then it is an attack on their dignity, and then ultimately it is a denial to them of secular education. These are clearly violative of Article 19(1)(a), Article 21 and Article 25(1) of the Constitution". Justice Dhulia said there shall be no restriction on the wearing of hijab anywhere in schools and colleges in Karnataka. He added that the unfortunate fallout of

the hijab restriction would be that they would have denied education to a girl child. "A girl child for whom it is still not easy to reach her school gate. This case here, therefore, has also to be seen in the perspective of the challenges already faced by a girl child in reaching her school. The question this court would put before itself is also whether we are making the life of a girl child any better by denying her education merely because she wears a hijab!" he said.



## conduct one of biggest exercises

Team Absolute Chandigarh

ne of the biggest exercises in recent times, offensive formations of the Indian Army are preparing to participate in a military exercise in Western India this month, an official statement said on Thursday.

The exercise is planned to validate newly converted mechanised formations also known as Reorganised Plains Infantry Division, test efficacy of latest induction and A upgrades in weapons and equipment, and also test the enhanced force ratios accrued post rebalancing of forces on the entire Western Front.

Validation of tactical concepts of these formations,

especially on canal-based operations and fighting manoeuvre through built-up areas apart from many other latest operational concepts designed to launch a swift punitive blow to the adversary as part of the proactive strategy will be the key features of the exercise, said the Defence Wing in a statement.

The exercise will put into practice the synergy between all arms and services including attack helicopters in a semidesert terrain.

It is expected to be one of the biggest exercises in recent times. The exercise will be witnessed by the GOC-in-C Western Command and other key officials from the army headquarters.

### Madras HC initiates suo motu proceedings against online games

Team Absolute Chennai

he Madras High Court on Thursday commenced suo motu proceedings against online games to which students are getting increasingly addicted. A division bench of Justices R. Mahadevan and J. Sathya Narayana Prasad sought a response from the Central government and state government in this regard as well as sought a response from social media players on this.

The court observed that students are getting addicted to online games, most of which are violent and this leads to fights at home between these online game addicts and their parents and siblings.

It also said that several students and youngsters addicted to online games commit suicide. "There is an emergent



need to curb the menace of these types of online games. We should sensitise the youth and more particularly the students. The police and social activists have a definite role to play in

The court also observed that the future of the nation was in the hands of the youngsters and that they should be fit physical-

ly, psychologically, economically, and socially.

It also said that the parents have a primary responsibility to watch what their children were doing with their smartphones and computers. The court also said that those who are playing online games must be given counseling and they should be made to uninstall the game.

## Woman killed in crossfire, Uttarakhand police files murder case against UP cops

Kashipur | Agencies

he wife of the head of Jaspur block was shot dead in firing during the raid conducted by the UP police in Bharatpur village in Kunda police station area, Udham Singh Nagar, late on Wednesday evening.

Angered by the death, about 400 villagers blocked the highway in front of the police station. Heavy reinforcements reached the spot. The Kashipur police has registered a murder case against the UP police on the complaint of the block head.

There was a furore in the Udham Singh Nagar police department as soon as the incident came to light.

The police team from Moradabad in UP conducted the raid without informing the Uttarakhand police and were not in uniform. We are probing why the Moradabad police took this action,



said DIG Nilesh Anand Bharne of Kumaon division, adding that a case of murder and conspiracy has been registered. The injured UP policemen escaped from our custody when they were admitted to LD Bhatt hospital and we are investigating the matter.

There is also a complaint that when an attempt was made to stop the UP police at Surya Chowki, they



broke the barricade and fled. The DIG said that the UP police has been questioned over their lack of communication.

Local MLA Arvind Pandey also reached the spot after getting information about the incident. He said that the Uttarakhand police started investigation immediately. We have full faith in our police. The block chief has shown a lot of tolerance. A bigger tragedy could have occurred since the villagers were angry.

We have spoken to the Chief Minister and are confident that the police will get to the bottom of this incident and justice will be done, added Pandey. A contradiction has also come to light in the statements of Udham Singh Nagar SSP and the Kumaon DIG. SSP Manjunath TC said that they had received information from the Moradabad police about the raid to arrest the wanted criminal. But there was a clash with the villagers and both sides opened fire. When we arrived, we saw that a woman had been shot dead. Three Moradabad police officers were injured. He added that this was a sensitive matter and the victim's family has registered a complaint.

Further investigation will not be based on statements alone but on facts. Forensic and CCTV evidence will be used for this, he said.

#### **ASSAM TRANSPORT OFFICIAL ARRESTED, RS 36 LAKH SEIZED FROM HOUSE**



as cash amounting to Rs 36 lakh was recovered from his house in an operation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), officials said on Thursday.

The accused was identified as Sameswar Brahma Muchahary, 54. The police were carrying out another search operation at his Guwahati residence in the Kahilipara locality.

A slew of raids are being conducted in the state to check the corruption cases. ACB officials have launched several search operations recently to crack down on illegal transactions of funds and public money as well as arrest corrupt officials

On Wednesday a circle inspector and his personal security officer in the Kharupetia area were arrested on corruption charges. The previous day, an assistant sub-inspector in the Lakhimpur district was taken into custody by the ACB.

### Dabolim Airport will not be shut down: Goa CM clarifies

Team Absolute Panaji

fter opposition parties targeted the Goa government alleging it is secretly trying to close the Dabolim Airport, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday clarified that even after Mopa airport is operational it will not shut down.

"Many have expressed concern about Dabolim airport. I want to assure them even after Mopa airport is operational this airport will not be shut down," Sawant said during a programme in Mormugao, South Goa. He said that there are many plans to keep Dabolim Airport operational.

Next week, we will plan how to make division of flights (landing), if international flights land at Mopa then national flights can be landed here," Sawant said.

Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho on Wednesday had expressed fear that Goa Dabolim Airport may shut down if local taxi operators fail to support 'app-based



taxi service'. According to Godinho, once the Mopa Airport is operational and when they start giving top class transport facilities then Dabolim airport will suffer. "If transportation mess continues

at Dabolim then everyone will prefer to fly from Mopa," he had said. After the statements made by Godinho, Congress and Goa Forward Party had targeted BJP government stating it is trying to shut down the Dabolim Airport secretly."The government wants to shut Dabolim airport and promote Mopa airport, operated by private company," Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao had said

### Half of world's coral reefs face climate change threat by 2035: Study

**WASHINGTON** | Agencies

nder a worst-case scenario, half of the coral reef ecosystems worldwide will permanently face unsuitable conditions by 2035, if climate change continues unabated, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Hawaii. Unsuitable conditions will likely lead to the corals dying off and other marine life will struggle to survive due to disruptions in the food chain, according to the study published in scientific journal PLOS Biology. Using an ensemble of global climate change models, the study compared scenarios of five environmental stressors projected from the 1950s through the year 2100, reports

Xinhua news agency. These stressors included sea surface temperature, ocean acidification, tropical storms, land use and human population, the researchers said in a news release.

By 2055, it is projected that 99 per  $\,$ 



cent of the world's coral reefs would be facing unsuitable conditions based on at least one of the five stressors studied, the study said.

"While the negative impacts of climate change on coral reefs are well known, this research shows that they are actually worse than anticipated due to a broad combination of climate change-induced stressors," said lead author Renee O. Setter in the

news release.It was surprising to find that so many global coral reefs would be overwhelmed by unsuitable environmental conditions so soon due to multiple stressors, she said.

Researchers are preparing to enter the next phase of their work, which will take a closer look at how climate change is projected to affect individual coral species, according to the news release.

## IAS OFFICER AMONG THREE ARRESTED BY ED IN CHHATTISGARH MINING CASE



Team Absolute New Delhi

he Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday arrested Chhattisgarh-based IAS Sameer Vishnoi, Sunil Agarwal of Indramani Group and Laxmikant Tiwari, uncle of absconding accused Suryakant Tiwari in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to disproportionate

IAS Ranu Sahu, was reportedly missing and she the ED, said sources. Vishnoi was on Wednesday questioned by the ED officials regarding the alleged commission of Rs 25 per tonne coal unearthed from the

The ED conducted raids at locations in Chhattisgarh for two consecutive days and recovered around Rs 4 crore.

The Income Tax had earlier written a letter to the Chhattisgarh government in which it was alleged that a few officials very close to Chief Minister Bhupesh

ting commission/bribe from coal and other businessmen. However, no action was taken by the state government in this respect.

According to the information, IAS J.P. Maurya and Ranu Sahu's premises were among those raided by the central anti-money laundering agency. The ED team also searched the premises of three IPS officials.

Earlier, when the raids were being conducted, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had termed it as "political raids".

## **President Murmu inaugurates** several projects in Assam

**Guwahati** Agencies

n her first day of visit to Assam, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a number of projects in the state on

Murmu inaugurated the supercomputer facility Param-Kamrupa and laboratory for the design and development of high-power microwave components at IIT-Guwahati.

She also virtually inaugurated the Medical College and Hospital at Dhubri and laid the foundation stones for two Zonal Institutes of the National Institute of Virology (NIV) at Dibrugarh in Assam and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh on the occasion.

The President said that within a short span of its existence, IIT Guwahati has made the region and nation proud with its achievements in the national and international



She was happy to note that a few days ago, IIT Guwahati had constructed a 3D-printed sentry post for developing cost-effective and sustainable defence infrastructure for the Indian Army.President Murmu also said IIT Guwahati is a knowledge centre that can provide technol-

ogy solutions to connectivity issues and other challenges in the northeastern region. Since this is the only IIT in the North Eastern Region, IIT Guwahati must shoulder the responsibility to nurture other institutions in the region, work with the state government and the defence forces

to strengthen our borders and provide technological solutions to prevent the recurrence of natural calamities in the region.

She urged the institute to encourage innovations, work towards indigenisation in cutting-edge technologies, provide skill development avenues and be a forerunner in making the country Atmanirbhar.

She noted that the government of Assam is further providing support to IIT Guwahati to set up an advanced multispecialty hospital.

She said that it will serve as an example for other esteemed institutes in the country to undertake similar initiatives.

"We all know that the Sun rises first in northeast India and then spreads its light across the country. I hope that this region should be the torchbearer in spreading knowledge and inculcating scientific temper among people of the country," President Murmu added

## PM Modi launches mega pharma, hydro projects in poll-bound Himachal

Una/Chamba | Agencies

Time Minister Narendra Modi during day-long visit of Himachal Pradesh on Thursday flagged off high-speed luxury fourth Vande Bharat Express and laid the foundation stones of Bulk Drug Park that will attract investment of around Rs 10,000 crore and provide employment to more than 20,000 people, and two mega hydropower projects.

This is the Prime Minister's ninth visit to the state in the five years and second in almost a week.

Besides flagging off the train and laying the foundation stone of Bulk Drug Park, he also inaugurated the Rs 128 crore Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) set

up in Una well ahead of the Assembly polls in the BJP-ruled

Later, the Prime Minister laid foundation stones for two hydropower projects of nearly Rs 700 crore and launched the Rs 3,000 crore Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III at another function in Chamba town.

Chief Minister Jairam Thakur, who is leading the party's election campaign that has gained momentum, said this was the ninth visit of the Prime Minister which reflected his bonding with the state and its people.With the launch of the Vande Bharat Express service, the travel time between Delhi and Chandigarh would be brought down to three hours. From October 19, it will run six days a week, except

The Prime Minister's clarion call for Aatmanirbhar Bharat or selfreliant India has led to the country moving swiftly towards attainment of self-reliance across multiple sectors, through support of various new initiatives of the government.

One such key sector is pharmaceuticals, and in order to bring in Aatmanirbharta in this sector the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Bulk Drug Park at Haroli to be built at a cost of Rs 1,923 crore.

After the inauguration and the public meeting in Una, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of two hydropower projects -- the 48 MW Chanju-III Hydro-electric Project and the 30 MW Deothal

Chanju Hydro-electric Project -- in Chamba, the historical town visited by a Prime Minister for the first time after 1981.Both these hydro projects will generate over 270 million units of electricity annually and Himachal Pradesh is expected to get an annual revenue of around Rs 110 crore

Prime Minister Modi also launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III for upgradation of around 3,125 km of roads in the state.

from these projects.

Launching the rural roads scheme, Modi said in the past eight years 12,000 km roads have been built in rural areas.

The BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections had won all the four seats that saw 72.25 per cent polling.

### Bogtui massacre: CBI arrests another accused

Kolkata | Agencies

he Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said on Thursday that it had arrested another absconding accused in the carnage at Bogtui village in West Bengal's Birbhum district in which 10 persons were killed early on March 21.

The arrested person was identified as Bulu Sheikh alias Dollar Sheikh and according to a statement issued by the CBI, he was absconding since inception of investigation of the case.

The accused, with others, had allegedly bought petrol on March 21, which was used for burning the houses in Bogtui, the statement



Sheikh was produced before a lower court at Rampurhat in Birbhum on Thursday, which sent him to five days CBI custody.

Trinamool Congress strong-

On March 21, local

man Vadu Sheikh was killed in broad daylight. In the ensuing violence that broke out at Bogtui, several houses were set on fire, causing the

On June 21, the CBI had submitted its chargesheet at a lower court in Birbhum district, wherein it clearly said that the local police were negligent even as violence swept Bogtui village.

It was also mentioned that despite calls from the villagers, no one from the local police station reached the spot.

The charge sheet said the rioters first locked the main exits, before setting the

### Gujarat: Policemen suspended for illegal custody, atrocity; FIR lodged

Patan | Agencies

Police Inspector with A Local Crime Parand four jawans Local Crime Branch allegedly taking two shopkeepers into illegal custody and thrashing them in Gujarat's Patan district.

B-division police station officer said that an FIR has been lodged against LCB Police Inspector R K Amin, constable Rahul Patel and three others.

On October 9, Balvantsinh Thakor and Arvindji Thakor, who run a fabrication shop in the town, requested a vehicle owner not to park his vechile in front of shop, over which they had heat-



ed argument.

The vehicle owner then called his brother who is serving in the LCB after which the Thakor brothers were taken to the Crime Branch station and beaten with belt and sticks.

The injured Thakor brothers had to be admit-

ted to government hospital in Dharpur.

The case is now being investigated by Police Inspector MA Patel.

On Monday, Patan District Superintendent of Police Vijay Patel had ordered an inquiry into the

#### **GUJARAT: FOREIGN CIGARETTES VALUED AT RS 17 CR SEIZED**

Ahmedabad: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized a container loaded with 85 50 000 smuggled cigarette sticks worth Rs 17 crore from

Mundra Port in Ahmedabad. Acting on a specific intelligence, DRI Ahmedabad team intercepted a container at Mundra Port, and seized 850 cartons of Manchester brand cigarettes.

The DRI registered a case under the Customs Act, and the importer is being questioned by the agency

The search operation was carried out on October 11. In the current financial year, the DRI has so far seized smuggled cigarettes and e-cigarettes valued at Rs 100 crore.

### detained for running black magic centre Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

woman accused of

practicing black magic was taken into custody Pathanamthitta district where an incident of suspected human sacrifice was reported earlier in which three persons were arrested,

A centre at Malayolapuzha in the district came under the scanner of the locals after a video of the woman, now in the custody of the police, engaged in some rites being practiced, especially on children who were weak in

police said on Thursday.

studies, surfaced. On Thursday morning, angry youth activists



After human sacrifice case, Kerala woman

belonging to all the three leading political parties, CPI-M, Congress and the

BJP, marched towards the

centre where the woman

was engaged in doing her

Shouting slogans against superstitions and black magic, the activists reached the house and by then the nolice also arrived and afte a while the woman was taken away. Reacting to this, State Health Minister Veena George, who also hails from the district, said the state government views the happenings at the centre where children were being used in the black magic act very seriously. "Very strong action will be taken against those who use children as objects and the need of the hour is all should come together and see that there should be a total awareness against these things," said George.

#### **PARENTS OF BIHAR'S** SITAMARHI DISTRICT **SELL THEIR DAUGH-TER IN FAIR**

Patna: Parents of Bihar's Sitamarhi district sold their daughter to a resident of Uttar Pradesh in a fair, an official said.

The incident came to light after the victim fled from captivity of the accused and reached the SP office of Sitamarhi district. The SP of the district immediately directed the SHO of concerned police station to arrest the accused. The victim is a resident of a village under Dumra police station in Sitamarhi. Her parents took her to Uttar Pradesh to see a fair in Kushinagar district a few days ago and sold her to a youth named Gaurav Kumar. The accused parents reached home and told the neighbours that she has been married to Gaurav Kumar, hence, not around

After the victim escaped from Gaurav's captivity, she reached the office of Sitamarhi SP and requested him to take action against her parents.

"We have arrested the father and mother of the victim and questioning is on. We have also conducted the medical examination of the victim and report is awaited. The accused Gaurav Kumar is also on the radar. Investigation is currently underway. The victim was sent to rehabilitation centre," said S.K. Yadav, an investigating officer of Dumra police station.

# 39 prematurely born babies in Noida saved from going blind

Team Absolute New Delhi

Noida-based hospital saved 39 prematurely born babies, suffering from advanced stages of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), from going blind.

Noida-based ICARE Eye Hospital, conducted eye screening of 396 premature and low-birthweight babies born in various hospitals in Noida between January and September 2022. It found 39 of them suffering from advanced stages of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a disease that would have led to blindness if not detected and treated in time. The babies, who would have turned blind in just three to four weeks after birth, were provided immediate treatment by eye doctors at ICARE Hospital, saving their vision.

The neonatal infants screened included those born at Noida's Apollo Hospital, Yathartha Hospital, Felix Hospital, and Motherhood Hospital, as well as others referred to ICARE Eye Hospital. As per studies from different states in India, almost 10 to 15 per cent of all premature babies are detected with advanced ROP. Babies born with this condition can turn blind in less than a month after birth if left untreated.

Dr. Saurabh Choudhry, CEO, ICARE Eye Hospital, Noida said, "We are extremely delighted that these premature babies were screened by our eye doctors within a few days of birth, and the disease was detected in time.



Retinopathy of Prematurity carries a very serious risk of blindness. About 2,00,000 pre-term babies born in India every year are at risk of developing retinopathy of prematurity. About 5,000 of them go blind due to this entirely preventable cause of childhood blindness.

He added, "Premature delivery, low birth weight, multiple pregnancies, respiratory distress, NICU admission, and unregulated oxy-

gen therapy are important risk factors for ROP. An eye checkup done within 4 to 6 weeks after the birth of a premature baby can identify this disease. We need more awareness in society about the importance of conducting eye screening of babies born premature or with low birth weight.

India accounts for the highest number of premature births in the world (3.5 million). About one in six (about 6,00,000) children out of these are born at 32 weeks or less gestational age. Estimating that 40 per cent of these receive neonatal care and 80 per cent of them survive, about 2,00,000 children are at the risk of developing ROP in India every year. If 10 per cent of them develop treatable ROP, the number of newborns needing ROP management is at least

20,000 every year. ROP is a sight-threatening disease of the retina that can lead to permanent blindness if left untreated. It occurs due to abnormal proliferation of developing retinal blood vessels in premature and infants with low birth weight. In its severe form, ROP causes total retinal detachment, leading to blindness. ROP occurs due to premature delivery, so it is not preventable. However, with timely intervention (within a few weeks of birth), it can be cured, and permanent vision loss prevented. Treatment of ROP includes laser therapy and intravitreal injections. In severe cases, vitreoretinal surgery

### 6 feet deep pit

3 children drown in water-logged

Team Absolute New Delhi

n a tragic incident, three youngsters drowned in a water-logged pit at Kaya Maya Park in south Delhi's Khanpur area. The police said the water had collected in the pit following the recent heavy rainfall in the national capital.

The police said the deceased have been identified as Risabh (16), Piyush (13) and Piyush (16), all residents of Khanpur area. According to Esha

Pandey, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Southeast district, around 2.38 p.m. on Thursday, a police control room (PCR) call was received at the Pul Pehladpur police station regarding the drowning of three children following which an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) and police teams rushed to

the spot. "The caller, another 16year-old boy on the spot, told the police that he along with his seven friends came to bathe in the rainwater accumulated in the park. When they were taking a bath, three of his friends, Piyush, Risabh and another

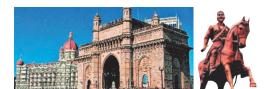
boy also named Piyush, went into the pit. They started drowning and after some time they disappeared in the water," said the DCP.

"On the instance of the boy, the police team jumped into the water filled pit. After an intensive search of about 30 minutes all the three children were fished out of the water and sent to Majeedia Hospital in a CAT ambulance, where they were declared brought dead by the doctors," said the DCP.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority said that Kaya Maya Park is under the jurisdiction of the DDA and rainwater has accumulated because of the recent rainfall.

'The park is so designed that a depression exists which creates a natural pond. After the recent rains it was filled to around six feet, at its highest point," said the official.

This comes two days after six children, aged between eight and 13, drowned in a rainwater-filled pond in Gurugram Sector 111 on



## maharashtra

# STOP THE 'SIN' OF CLOSING DOWN 14K SCHOOLS FOR POOR, CONGRESS TO CM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Congress' Maharashtra unit on Thursday called upon Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to stop the "sinful" move of shutting down some 14,000 schools ostensibly due to low enrolment of students.

State Congress President Nana Patole said that a majority of these targeted schools are situated in rural, remote, backward, or tribal belts of the state where there are no other educational options available for the poor children.

"They are children of farmers, labourers, ordinary families who sent their children to acquire education at these schools run by the districts. If these schools are closed, then these people from the poor strata shall be totally deprived of educationa It will be like a sin," he told Shinde.

Patole pointed out how Maharashtra is at the forefront in providing quality education at the highest levels, and where primary education forms the



foundation of a good academic background for lakhs of students.

"In 2009, the Right To Education Act was passed by the Congress government at the Centre, which provides for free and compulsory education to every child aged 6-14, with admission to the nearest school. The 25 per cent reservations for economically weaker sections in private educational institutions is also applicable under the Act. The State gov-

ernment is duty-bound to ensure that all children get proper education," he said.

Referring to a purported move to shut down around 14,000 schools where the enrollment/attendance figures range from 0-20, the Congress leader said this would totally deprive children in rural, tribal and backward areas of education, and they would be compelled to travel far for attending school.

Hailing the state's glorious legacy, he said many social reformers like Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil and others had thrown open the doors of schools for the 'Bahujan community' in every village.

"The Congress has taken the message to spread education in the remotest areasa On the contrary, the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Gujarat is closing down 6,000 schools and now plans to shut down 14,000 schools in Maharashtra. This will rob the Bahujans of the opportunity to get educated and progress in life," Patole cautioned.

#### TATTOO HELPED 75-YEAR-OLD MAHA MAN REUNITE WITH HIS FAMILY

Thane: A 75-year-old

man found in a paralysed condition in Mumbai's Santacruz East area was reunited with his family after functionaries of a social group managed to locate through an online search his village, the name of which was tattooed on his arm. Vijay Jagtap (75) was found near a bridge in Vakola on October 7 and he had no recollection of how he reached there, a Jeevan Anand Sanstha member said. "The Carver Day Night Shelter of Jeevan Anand Sanstha is located in Santacruz East in partnership with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. Functionaries searched 'Jangalpur' tattooed on his arm employing Google maps," he said. "It was found the Jangalpur village is in Selu taluka in Wardha

# Court tells BMC to accept resignation of Sena (UBT) bypoll candidate

**▶ THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT ON THURSDAY ORDERED THE BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNA-**TION OF ITS EMPLOYEE **RUTUJA R. LATKE - WHO** IS EXPECTED TO BE THE **SHIV SENA (UDDHAV BALASAHEB THACKERAY) PARTY NOMINEE FOR THE NOVEMBER 3 BYPOLLS ANDHERI EAST ASSEMBLY CON-STITUENCY** 

Team
Absolute | Mumbai

atke is the widow of the erstwhile Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke, who passed away in Dubai in May, necessitating the byelections.

the byelections.

A civic employee,
Latke had quit her
employment in the
BMC in September a mandatory require-

date is also tomorrow.

ment - to enable her contest the bypolls as a Sena (UBT) candidate.

However, the BMC had refused to accept her resignation, after which she moved the high court for relief today. Justice Nitin Jamdar, while asking the BMC what was its problem if any employee wants to contest elections, ordered the civic body to accept

the resignation by Friday 11 a.m., to enable her file

the election nomination papers - for which the last

## Suspect in RPG attack case in Mohali arrested from Mumbai

Team Absolute Chandigarh/Mumbai

Punjab Police, central security agencies and Maharashtra ATS on Thursday arrested a suspect from Mumbai in the rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack case in Mohali near here.

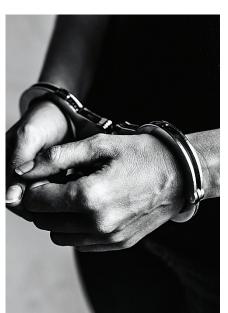
The suspect, Charat Singh, was instrumental in providing logistical support and arranging weapon.

"He is key operative & associate of #Canada-based #BKI terrorist Lakhbir Singh @ Landa. @PunjabPoliceInd will strive to make the state crime-free as per vision of CM @BhagwantMann," Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav tweeted.

An RPG was fired from outside the street, which landed on the third floor of the Punjab Police's Intelligence Headquarters in Sector 77 of Mohali on May 9.

During investigation, police found that the attack was a conspiracy of Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and local gangsters.

A 272-page chargesheet was filed in a court this week that framed charges against seven of the 13 accused in the case.



Seven accused, including a juvenile, have been arrested while the remaining are absconding.

## Gold, foreign currency worth Rs 8 cr seized at Mumbai Airport in 24 hrs

Team Absolute | Mumbai

n its continued crackdown on smuggling, the Customs
Department seized 15 kgs gold and foreign currencies of Rs 22 lakh

and foreign currencies of Rs 22 lakh in 24 hours, for which seven passengers have been arrested, an official said here on Thursday.

The haul by Mumbai Airport Customs was carried out during October 11-12 at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, as part of the intensified drive to catch gold and foreign currency smugglers.

An Indian national, who flew from Dubai to Mumbai by an Emirates flight EK-500, was found with 9.9 kgs gold worth Rs 5.20 crore, hidden in a specially designed chest belt with nine pockets and wrapped around his chest and shoulder.

The accused revealed that the gold was handed over to him at Dubai by two Sudanese nationals who have



also been nabbed and the trio has been sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

An Indian arriving from Chennai by an IndiGo flight 6E-6149, which had earlier arrived from Sharjah, was detected carrying 1.88 kgs gold dust worth nearly Rs one crore, concealed in his underwear.

In another detection, the Customs

sleuths retrieved 1.068 kg and 1.185 kgs gold dust - totally worth over Rs 1.10 crore - in packets hidden in the underwear of two passengers, arriving here from Jeddah by a Saudia flight SV-772.

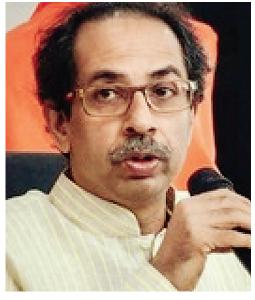
A Sudanese national, who landed here by an Emirates flight EK-504 from Dubai, was nabbed with gold dust of 973 gms in wax in eggs form, worth Rs 51 lakh, concealed in his rectum. Besides, the Customs nabbed two Indians, who were about to board a SpiceJet flight SG-13 to Dubai, each carrying Dh 50,000 (Rs 11.20 lakh) and Dh 45,000 (Rs 10.08 lakh), concealed in round cavity of biscuits stuffed in their pockets, after they had crossed the Customs declaration

## CPI PLEDGES SUPPORT TO SHIV SENA (UBT) IN ANDHERI EAST BYPOLLS

THE LEFT, WHICH HAS FOUGHT BLOODY' BATTLES IN THE CITY AGAINST THE UNIFIED SHIV SENA, HAS EXTENDED A HELPING HAND TO UDDHAV THACKERAY. A COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (CPI) DELEGATION MET THACKERAY AT HIS RESIDENCE ON WEDNESDAY TO PLEDGE FULL SUPPORT TO HIS PARTY'S CANDIDATE IN THE ANDHERI EAST BYPOLLS.

Team Absolute Mumbai

he Thackeray Sena spokesperson said in a statement that the CPI will stand with the Maha Vikas Aghadi in the fight against the BJP. "CPI Mumbai



Secretary Milind Ranade, senior leaders Prakash Reddy, Prakash Narwekar, Baba Sawant, trade union leaders Vijay Dalvi

and Babli Rawat were warmly received by Uddhavji at Matoshree today," he said. The development evoked reactions on social media. Political commentator and senior journalist Nikhil Wagle wrote on his FB wall, "History was made today. The communists have supported the Sena. The enemies of yesteryears have become friends today. "Senior journalist Mahesh Mhatre wrote, "Today's development is an extreme side of political show. The communists who fought the Sena all their life have supported Uddhav Thackeray's Sena in the bypolls."

He said that after leftist leader Krishna Desai's murder in 1970, the Shiv Sena established its clout in mill land areas. "In the bypolls [after the murder] Wamanrao Mahadik beat Desai's widow to become the Sena's first elected MLA. This is history," he said, adding that it has come a full circle. "Now the communists who are almost finished in politics have voluntarily come forward to help a party that has a new symbol and new name. Such is politics," he

## On Karwa Chauth day, Sonu Sood decides to open skill centres for women

Team Absolute | Mumbai

n the occasion of Karwa Chauth, when many women in north India keep fast for the long life of their husbands,
Bollywood actor Sonu Sood has decided to do something special for them and talked about opening centres for them in UP, Punjab, Bihar, and other states.

The actor, who has worked in movies such

as 'Aashiq Banaya Aapne','Jodhaa Akbar',
'Shootout at Wadala', 'R... Rajkumar' and
many more, he is often seen becoming a helping hand for the needy. Now, on this very special festival for women in India, he has come
forward for them.

He said: "I wanted to open these centres for a while now. The idea is to provide the tools necessary for these women to empower themselves. It is very important for a country to progress, and for women to be capable of financial independence."

He added that he wants to help women by helping them learn skills for getting better opportunities for work and especially for those, who have to earn for their families and



"Oftentimes, we see families where women are the sole breadwinners, I want to provide them with the necessary skill sets to get better jobs and improve their condition," added Sonu.

### TIGER THAT KILLED 13PEOPLE CAPTURED



Gadchiroli Agencies

The Maharashtra forest department on Thursday tranquilised and captured 'conflict tiger' CT-1 after it had killed 13 persons in Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts in the state's Vidarbha region, an

official said.

The tiger was moving in Wadsa forest range here in Gadchiroli and was becoming a threat to human lives, he added.

"The tiger had killed six persons in Wadsa, four in Bhandara and three in Brahmapuri forest range in Chandrapur district. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Nagpur had, in a meeting on October 4, directed that conflict tiger CT-1 be captured," he said.

"Accordingly, the Todale

CT-1 be captured," he said.

"Accordingly, the Tadoba
Tiger Rescue team, the Rapid
Response Teams of
Chandrapur, NavegaonNagzira and other units

worked on war-footing to

capture the tiger. It was tranquilised and captured from Wadsa forest range on Thursday morning," he informed.

It has been sent to Gorewada rescue centre in Nagpur, some 183 kilometres from here, for rehabilitation, the official added.

Generally, tigers that attack humans apart from circumstances like defending cubs or trying to save one's own life are referred to as conflict tigers.

# Rana Ayyub collected over Rs 2.5 cr, used Rs 29L for relief & pocketed the rest

HER THREE CAMPAIGNS WERE:

- ► HELP IN RAISING FUNDS FOR SLUM DWELLERS & FARMERS
- ► RELIEF WORK FOR ASSAM, BIHAR AND MAHARASHTRA
- HELP RANA AYYUB AND HER
   TEAM TO HELP THOSE IMPACT ED BY COVID19 IN INDIA

Team Absolute New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has mentioned in the charge sheet lodged against Rana Ayyub that she launched three campaigns for Covid relief and collected Rs 2,69,44,680, which was later transferred into her personal account, thus illegally acquiring public fund and cheating common people.

Out of the total fund, only Rs 29 lakh was used for relief and the rest was usurped by Ayyub.

"Investigation by the ED revealed that the funds raised on the online platforms were received in the accounts of her father and sister and subsequently transferred to her personal accounts. Ayyub utilised



these funds to create a fixed deposit of Rs 50 lakh for herself and also transferred Rs 50 lakh in a new bank account," the ED has mentioned in the charge sheet. The charge sheet was filed before a Special PMLA court in Ghaziabad.

The ED had initiated the money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered in 2021 by the Indirapuram police station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, under various sections of IPC, Information Technology Amendment Act 2008 and Black Money Act against Ayyub. It was alleged that Ayyub illegally acquired funds from the general public in the name of charity by launching fund-raiser campaigns on an online crowdfunding platform-'Ketto'. The ED has alleged that Ayyub received for-

eign contributions without registration under FCRA. The ED learnt that Ayyub launched three fundraiser campaigns on 'Ketto platform' starting from April 2020, and collected funds totaling to Rs 2,69,44,680.The ED investigation revealed that only Rs 29 lakh was used for relief work. In order to claim more expenses towards the relief work, fake bills were submitted by Ayyub. Subsequently, bank balances in the accounts of Ayyub amounting to Rs 1,77,27,704/- (including FD of Rs 50 lakh) were attached u/s 5(1) of PMLA vide a Provisional Attachment Order in February. The ED has also mentioned in the charge sheet that Ayyub illegally raised Rs 2.69 crore by launching three online campaigns in the name of charity by cheating the general public donors. These funds were not used for the intended purpose, instead used for creation of assets for herself. Ayyub has tried to project these funds as untainted and thus has laundered the funds received from the general public. She also received these funds from foreign countries without any approval or registration from the government, which is required under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. The ED investigation has established that Ayyub had launched the aforesaid campaigns with the "sole intention to cheat the general public and acquired the Proceeds of Crime in form of FD and balances in bank accounts projecting them as

**EDITOR'S SPECS** 

## FOR AKHILESH HUGE CHALLENGE AHEAD

khilesh had taken over the reins of the party in 2017 but it is now that he will have to take on the responsibility of the family too. The passing away of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh has increased the burden manifold on the frail shoulders of Akhilesh Yadav. Akhilesh Yadav now faces the challenge of keeping the party as well as the family together because the Yadav family and the Samajwadi Party have so far existed more or less as one entity. The party has been the family and family is the party. Till Mulayam Singh was alive, his word was command and no one in the party or the family dared to disobey him - even though Akhilesh was party chief. While Mulayam remained undisputed leader of the clan, it is unlikely that Akhilesh will be accorded the same position - especially from the elders. His uncle Shivpal has already branched SP while younger sister-in-law Aparna Bisht Yadav has joined the BJP. Akhilesh now faces the uphill task of keeping the family together and ensuring that his elders, Shivpal included, do not turn hostile. The manner in which Akhilesh's half-brother Prateek Yadav was "alienated" during the cremation of Mulayam Singh Yadav on Tuesday, does not augur well for the future of the family. His biggest test, according to family sources, will be the byelection in Mainpuri which will be necessitated by the demise of Mulayam Singh. Within the Samajwadi Party too, Akhilesh will have to work overtime to keep the flock together. Till now, the disgruntled elements used to rush to Mulayam Singh with their grievances and Mulayam would pacify them and ensure that they returned with a smile. Akhilesh will have to make himself more accessible to workers and receptive to suggestions-more so, if they come for the veterans in the party.

### Sardar Sarovar project renders three generations landless, poor

## CHILDREN OF THE 'DAMMED'

#### Pooja Yadav

Likaram Patidar of Pura village in Dhar district is slightly better off than the farmers rendered landless by the Sardar Sarovar Dam project on the Narmada. Though four acres of his land were acquired in 2001 to rehabilitate people from Nanakbeydi, a village in Chikhalda panchayat that was submerged due to the dam construction, he still has three acres left with him for cultivation.

Tukaram received a mere Rs 5.65 lakh for parting with his fertile land, which he believed was worth Rs 60 to 65 lakh at that time. After repeated appeals by aggrieved farmers like him, the government did disburse an additional Rs 9.35 lakh in 2015, but still it was not fair enough.

Tukaram belongs to the second generation of those affected by the project. Earlier, 14 acres were acquired from his late father Arjun Patidar for Rs 16 lakh. "None of the farmers gave their consent willingly. The authorities deposited money into bank accounts and evicted us from our own land. Most of the first generation fought against land acquisition and unfair compensation until their last breath. For 22 years, the second generation has been doing the same. Gradually, it will be passed on to the third generation," Tukaram's mother Ramkunwar Patidar told correspondent.

The land acquisition in Dhar, Alirajpur, Barwani and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh began in 1998 and continued for the next five years. The flood-impacted people, who had argued against unfair compensation in the Supreme Court, received Rs 60 lakh per two hectares from the State government following the apex court's direction in 2017. Unfortunately, those whose lands were acquired to rehabilitate the flood-impacted were not party to the case, and hence did not receive better compensation.

In fact, at that time, both types of land losers could not reach a consensus on approaching the courts jointly, mainly because acquisition proceedings took place at different points of time and compensation amounts were dissimilar. Later, the group that lost lands to rehabilitation did approach the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, which directed it to move the Supreme Court.

Farmers who have lost all their land are the most affected. They have no option but to take land on lease for Rs 2 to 4 lakh annually to cultivate cotton and chilli and cover input costs as



well. Even after putting all their income sources to best use, most landless families barely manage to save Rs 2 to 4 lakh a year for themselves.

"Marriages here usually happen at the age of 22, but my son Balram will be 27 soon. I want to see him married before I die. But nobody is interested as I am landless. The first question by the bride's side is - how much land does the groom's father have?" said an emotional Hariram Mewade of Taloon village in Barwani district.

Even Tukaram's son Gaurav Patidar (32) got a good match only recently, after searching for seven years. Most people are reluctant to get their daughters married into families with less or no land. Gaurav works at a mobile shop, while his brother Shubham (25) has recently launched a stationery shop. Both work 12 to 16 hours a day to earn Rs 5,000 to 8,000 per month.

Policy change

Beyond compensation, was there any measure to provide alternative lands to ensure livelihoods? Citing Paragraph 4.5 of the Rehabilitation Policy-2001, Suresh Pradhan, a farmer from Nisarpur in Dhar, said, "At least two hectares should be left out in cases of complete acquisition to ensure farmers' livelihood. If someone has less than that, a piece of that land should be saved for them."

As per the provisions of the earlier policy, SC/ST farmers were spared from land acquisition to facilitate rehabilitation. For others, there cannot be 100% acquisition. Pradhan claimed the government later changed it to include the word yathasambhav (as far as possible) in the clause, which meant the provisions would be applied only in situations where they were possible. In short, it gave the government a free hand to acquire lands.

Pradhan was paid Rs 6.7 lakh for five hectares

of land in 2001. His father Narayan Krishna Patidar's 2.5 acres were also taken. "A bulldozer was run through his standing, ready-to-harvest wheat crop. He was forced to take Rs 2.40 lakh as compensation. There was no other option. He raised an objection before the Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA). After much back and forth, the matter reached the apex court, but no solution came out of it. Despite braving chilly winters, rains and hot summers during the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), justice was not served. Now, I am carrying forward his fight," Pradhan said. When farmers intensified their demands of land for land and better compensation, the State government announced Rs 15 lakh (minus the initial amount paid) per farmer. However, many refused to accept it as land prices had skyrocketed by then. "The market rate for an acre was in the Rs 10-18 lakh range. How can they give such meagre compensations," questioned Pradhan.

Kantilal's father Kasana of Nisarpur had submitted an application before the Indore Division Bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court. Claiming that 1.20 hectares of his land had been acquired rendering him landless, he appealed for land in return. The division bench issued an order in October 2017, directing the disbursement of an equal land area to Kantilal, or compensation within six months. In fact, the NVDA commissioner (rehabilitation & field) himself asserted that being a marginal farmer, Kantilal should not have been left landless. Ironically, the NVDA later challenged the matter in a higher bench, which is pending there. Even today, Kantilal awaits his compensatory land.

Sandeep Patidar's father fought a similar battle until his death in 2011. A native of Ganpur village in Barwani, he received an inadequate compensation of Rs 10.50 lakh for eight acres of land that he had to part with for rehabilitating Nanakbeydi residents. Likewise, Bhagwan Singh of Ganpur received only Rs 20 lakh for 11 acres of land!

Rahul Yadav, who has been actively involved with the Medha Patkar-led NBA for over nine years, told 101Reporters, "These farmers are unable to marry their sons. Tomorrow, when the family grows, they will not have a piece of land to build a house. It will be impossible to buy land either, thanks to inflation. They will be forced to live a nomadic life within a few years."

Yadav alleged discrimination in the compensation amount. "As many as 192 villages of Khargone, Dhar, Barwani and Alirajpur submerged. The government announced a compensation of Rs 1.11 lakh per acre for the affected families, as well as compensation for houses, trees and wells. People rejected it and approached the court, which directed a compensation of Rs 5.58 lakh per two hectares. Those who had less than two hectares were also entitled to the same amount, but thousands still rejected it claiming it to be inadequate."

Though the Supreme Court intervention saved those from the submerged villages, the owners of lands acquired to rehabilitate them did not get even 25 per cent of that compensation, he said.

#### on, ne said. What next?

Rajkumar Sinha, who has been fighting on behalf of those displaced due to the Bargi Dam, said the government should give land to the affected farmers instead of monetary compensation. Medical shop owner Poonamchand, whose father Hariram Mewade is a farmer, said they sought justice from the NVDA. Landless farmers have also approached the authority. "We will meet the Governor, Human Rights Commission and the public representatives. If justice is not served, I will ask the President of India to grant permission to euthanise our families," he told 101Reporters.

Multiple attempts to reach Minister of State for NVDA Bharat Singh Kushwaha went in vain. NVDA Commissioner Pawan Kumar also did not respond to the questions.

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

## international

## BIDEN RULES OUT TALKS WITH PUTIN

Ashe O | Washington

S President Joe Biden ruled out talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at the upcoming G20 summit at Indonesia, saying "there is no rationale to meet with him now".

Asked during a CNN interview whether he would meet Putin at the summir, Biden said he didn't see a good reason for a sit-down.

"It would depend on specifically what he wanted to talk about," Bhe said, adding if Putin wanted to discuss the jailed American basketball star Brittney Griner, then he would be open to talking.

"He's acted brutally... I think he's committed war crimes. And so, I don't, I don't see any rationale to meet with him now."

Biden said threats arising from Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine is a "miscalculation "that could lead to catastrophic consequences close on the heels of his earlier warning that the world ran a risk of "nuclear Armageddon".

President Biden told CNN that "threats emanating from Russia



Russian troops suffer embarrassing

losses on the battlefield, Biden said:

"I don't think he will... I think it's

irresponsible for him to talk about

one of the largest nuclear powers in

the world says he may use a tactical

destabilizing effect, and warned of

it, the idea that a world leader of

nuclear weapon in Ukraine." He

said even Putin's threats have a

could result in catastrophic "mistakes" and "miscalculation," even as he declined to spell out how precisely the US would respond if Putin deploys a tactical nuclear device on the battlefield in Ukraine.

When asked whether the Putin would use a tactical nuclear weapon, a prospect US officials have watched with concern as

the potential errors in judgment that could ensue.

"The whole point I was making was it could lead to just a horrible outcome," he told CNN. "And not because anybody intends to turn it into a world war or anything, but just once you use a nuclear weapon, the mistakes that can be made, the miscalculations, who knows what would happen." Putin "in fact, cannot continue with impunity to talk about the use of a tactical nuclear weapon as if that's a rational thing to do", Biden said.

"The mistakes get made. And the miscalculation could occur, no one can be sure what would happen and could end in Armageddon."

The President refused to disclose what a US response would look like should Putin follow through on his nuclear threats. But he said the Department of Defence had proactively developed contingencies should the scenario come to pass.

Biden said he believed Putin is a "rational actor" who nonetheless badly misjudged his ability to invade Ukraine and suppress its people.

## IMF urges policymakers to keep tight fiscal stance to help fight inflation

Washington Agencies

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged policymakers to prioritise protecting the vulnerable through targeted support, while keeping a tight fiscal stance to help fight inflation.

"Governments confront difficult trade-offs amid sharp increases in food and energy prices," Xinhua news agency quoted Vitor Gaspar, director of the IMF's fiscal affairs department, as saying in a statement on Wednesday.

Policymakers must protect low-income families from large real income losses and ensure their access to food and energy, the blog noted.

"But they must also reduce vulnerabilities from large public debts and, in response to high inflation, maintain a tight fiscal stance so that fiscal policy does not work at cross-purposes with monetary policy," the statement continued. Higher prices threaten people's standard of living everywhere, prompting governments to introduce a variety of fiscal measures, including price subsidies, tax cuts, and cash transfers, the median fiscal cost of which is estimated to account for 0.6 per cent of national gross domestic product. Limiting price increases through price controls, subsidies, or tax cuts would be "costly" to budgets and "ultimately ineffective", Gaspar argued. "Facing high debt



levels and rising borrowing costs, policymakers should prioritize targeted support through social safety nets to the most vulnerable people."

The statement noted that in a time of high inflation, policies to address high food and energy prices should not add to aggregate demand, noting that demand pressures force central banks to raise interest rates even higher, making it more expensive to service government debt. "A tightening fiscal stance sends a powerful signal that policymakers are aligned in their fight against inflation."

Despite the economic slowdown, inflation pressures are proving broader and more persistent than anticipated, according to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook report released on Tuesday. Global inflation is now expected to peak at 9.5 per cent this year before decelerating to 4.1 per cent by 2024, the report said.

## Ukrainian military responsible for Crimean Bridge blast: Russia

Moscow Agencies

he Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) has said that the Ukrainian military was responsible for a recent deadly explosion on the Crimean Bridge.

Crimean Bridge.

"The organizer of the terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge was the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, its head Kirill Budanov, employees and agents," the FSB said in a statement on the findings of an investigation into the incident, Xinhua news agency reported.

A camouflaged explosive device was hidden in a batch of construction materials, which was shipped from the Ukrainian seaport of Odessa



to the Bulgarian city of Ruse in early August, it said. The cargo was delivered to

The cargo was delivered to Georgia and then Armenia before arriving at a wholesale depot in south Russia's Krasnodar region on October 6, according to the FSB.

A day later, with the assistance of two Ukrainian citizens and five Russian nationals, the documents on the sender and recipient of the cargo were changed, and the freight was loaded into the truck of a Russian citizen, it

# Kim Jong-un inspects long-range cruise missile launches

Seoul Agencies

orth Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected the test-firing of long-range strategic cruise missiles involving units operating "tactical nukes" earlier this week aimed at strengthening the country's war deterrence, Pyongyang's state media said on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the North fired two long-range strategic cruise missiles that flew for "10,234 seconds along an oval and pattern-8 flight orbits in the sky above the West Sea of Korea and clearly hit the target 2,000 km away", Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a report.

The launches were conducted in order to further enhance the "combat efficiency and might" of the missiles deployed at the units of the Korean People's Army for the operation of tactical nukes and reconfirm the reliability of



the overall operational application system, Yonhap News Agency quoted the KCNA report as saying.

Kim expressed satisfaction over the "high reaction capabilities of our nuclear combat forces which proved again their full preparedness for actual war to bring the enemies under their control at a blow through the unconditional, mobile,

precise and powerful counterstrike by any weapon system", the KCNA said.

Kim also urged all efforts for the "endless and accelerating" development of the national nuclear combat armed forces. Meanwhile, South Korea's unification ministry urged the North to immediately cease its provocations and change its approach toward President Yoon Suk-yeol's "audacious initiative" to help rebuild its economy in return for denuclearization steps.

North Korea has been ratcheting up tensions on the Korean Peninsula recently, with seven rounds of provocative ballistic missile launches in just two weeks.

The KCNA earlier reported that the North conducted an exercise of its tactical nuclear operation units from September 25 to October 9 in response to joint military exercises between South Korea and the US.

## Significant rainfall causes flash flooding in Aus state

Canberra | Agencies

Hundreds of incidents, including regional flooding, power outage and road closure, have been reported across the Australian state of Victoria as it was hit by heavy rainfall overnight.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) on Thursday issued major flood warning for several rivers and creeks across the state as a 24 hour rainfall totals of up to 120 mm was expected over elevated terrain in Victoria, reports Xinhua news agency. BOM said flash flooding may also become a risk, including for the Melbourne area on Thursday afternoon and evening.Until Thursday afternoon, the number of incident reports from the



state's emergency department had grown to over 500, with flooding and building damage impacting communities the most.

Victoria's State
Emergency Service (SES)
has issued dozens of flood
warnings and responded to
over 800 requests for assistance in the past 24 hours.
About 9,000 homes experienced outrage overnight
and more than 300 homes
were still without power as
of Thursday afternoon,
according to the Australian
Broadcasting Corporation.



## madhya pradesh

## **PROVIDING WATER TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD** IS LIKE CREATING HISTORY: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute Bhopal

M Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that only fortunate people get the opportunity to create history. Quenching the thirst of the thirsty is considered to be the most pious and virtuous act. People associated with Jal Jeevan Mission have got an opportunity to provide water from tap to every household in the villages of the state. This is an opportunity to make history. Officers-employees should not limit this work to completing their jobs. Rather, while connecting emotionally with this task of changing the lives of people, responsibilities should be discharged in a positive spirit with full commitment, efficiency and dedication. Your contribution from the present till the year 2024 will change the lives of innumerable families of the state, you must work hard. The Chief Minister said that we will not lag behind in promoting and providing incentive. We have to make Madhya Pradesh on the top in every field. It should be the effort of all of us that every district of the state should go to Delhi to receive the award.

CM Chouhan was addressing the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide water from every household tap to the rural households in the state and the state level workshop of officers and



employees engaged in the construction of water structures at Kushabhau Thackeray Convention Center,

Chief Minister Chouhan interacted with the Public Health Engineering and Jal Nigam officers and employees on the issues related to the construction of water supply schemes as per the mission guideline and guided and encouraged them for completing the work in a quality manner within the

stipulated time frame. Minister of State for Public Health Engineering Brijendra Singh Yadav, Additional Chief Secretary Malay Shrivastava and officers of the department were present.

CM Chouhan inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp. After Madhya Pradesh Anthem, Chief Minister Chouhan released Jal Darpan mobile app prepared for social audit of Jal Jeevan Mission with a single click. Information about the work done in the mission and geotagged photographs will be available on this app. The information will be compiled on the app through doorto-door survey. Chief Minister Chouhan also released the guide for operation and maintenance of tap water schemes. Chief Minister Chouhan gave citations to the officers of the department for doing excellent

## **Scam-tainted Vyapam renamed** again within 7 months

Team Absolute Bhopal

cam-tainted Vyapam, which was renamed as the Staff Selection Board (SSB) in February this year, will now be called the 'Madhya Pradesh Employees Selection Board (MP-ESB). The Shivraj Singh Chouhanled BJP government has renamed the board twice within a span of seven months, while it is the third time that Vyapam has been renamed since the multicrore scam broke in 2013.

The state government first rechristened it as the Professional Examination Board (PEB) in 2015. In February this year it was renamed as the Karmchaari Chayan or Staff Selection Board (SSB). Sources claimed that it was renamed after approval from the state cabinet in a bid to repair at least some of the damage to its reputation.

The opposition Congress said the Bharatiya Janata Party government is making all out efforts to hide its sins through changing Vyapam's name again and again.

Kamal Nath asks party cadre to gear up for assembly polls

मध्यप्रदेश कर्मचारी चयन मण्डल वाज भारत मेन रोह ने:1,चिनार पार्क ( ईस्ट ) भोपाल - 462011 M.P. EMPLOYEES SELECTION BOARD by the same department but

not work and the Chouhan government will have to face the allegations as it has not only destroyed thousands of youth's careers but several innocent people have been killed. "By changing the name of Vyapam for the third time the sins of this institution, which has become a monument to corruption, cannot be forgotten nor can the nexus of politicians, officers and education mafia involved in it," said K. K. Mishra, head of the media cell of the Madhya Pradesh Congress, who had earlier accused Shivraj's OSD Markam Singh of involve-

ment in the Teachers

Eligibility Test (TET) paper

leak. The TET was executed

with a changed name.

The Vyapam scam was an entrance examination, admission and recruitment scam. It was functional since the 1990s and was finally unearthed in 2013. It first rocked the government when it surfaced that candidates bribed officials to use imposters to take exams on their behalf.

Apart from all the entrance examinations held for state employees, Vyapam has been conducting the recruitment of class III and IV employees as well. Vyapam also used to conduct only Pre-Medical Test and Pre-Engineering Test till

### 5 members of MP involved in Bharat Jodo Yatra will donate eyes

Team Absolute Bhopal

harat Jodo Yatra is being taken out under the leadership of senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in which 33 members have filled the pledge letter for eye donation in Mysore, including five members from Madhya Pradesh. In the information provided by the Congress, it has been told that 33 passengers of India Jodo Yatra have pledged to donate their eyes. These passengers have pledged to donate their eyes to JSS Hospital, Mysore. Of these, maximum five members are from Madhya



It has been told that among those who have pledged to donate eyes

Paresh Nagar, Avinash Gupta, Ajay Patel, Avni Bansal of Madhya Pradesh who have pledged to donate eyes.

Team Absolute Bhopal

adhya Pradesh Congress Chief Kamal Nath has asked the party workers and leaders to gear up for upcoming assembly elections which are scheduled in November-December 2023.

The former Chief Minister made the remarks while addressing the gathering of party leaders who won panchayat and municipal elections two months back

Nath said that the municipal elections were just a rehearsal ahead of the assembly polls. He said that not much time has left for the elections, and thus all party leaders and workers should tighten their shoelaces

"...the real test is coming now and you have to work with double energy. It's time to meet the people, and con-



vince them of Congress's ideology. People are fed up with the false propaganda of the BJP and they want change in Madhya Pradesh," Nath

Meanwhile, Nath also accused the BJP of using money and administra-

tive power during the urban and panchayat elections. Police and administrative officials were forced to work for the ruling party. "We are preparing a list of such officials who have worked for the BJP. I ask you too to

as political agents. We are going to form the government in 2023 and then will teach them a lesson," he added. Delhi-based Congress politician Jai Prakash Agarwal, who has recently taken charge as in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, slammed the BJP for mocking Rahul Gandhi's "Bharat Jodo Yatra"

"BJP leaders can't understand the meaning of 'Bharat Jodo'. They (BJP) are doing all these things because they have realised that Rahul Gandhi is going to be a bigger challenge after this 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'," Agarwal said while addressing the gathering.

Notably, the Congress has won five mayoral posts in municipal elections, including Gwalior and Morena, the region which is considered the strong bastion of two Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Narendra

## Demand for bribe in housing scheme in Rewa, services of 12 village employment assistants terminated

Team Absolute Bhopal

n Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh, a demand for bribe has been revealed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Referring to the complaints received to the CM Helpline, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has removed 12 employment assistants from service, while deducting the salary of three hundred employment assistants. Chief Minister Chouhan while reviewing Rewa district said that there is a zero tolerance policy in the matter of corruption. Those who eat the money of the poor do not have the right to be in government service. They should be removed from service. It is the responsibility of the officers to keep an eye on the misuse of the amount of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Along with this, the Chief Minister expressed dissatisfaction over the construction of the approved houses of the first phase not being completed yet. He said that FIR should be lodged against the employees demanding unreasonable amount under the scheme. It was informed that 696 complaints have been received by the CM



Helpline regarding the demand of unreasonable amount. 14 village employment assistants of the district have been separated from the post and one week weight of 300 employment assistants has been deducted. Chief Minister Chouhan congratulated

the district magistrates for the achievement of Kilkari Abhiyan, CM helpline and better work in cleanliness, started in Rewa district for high risk pregnant women. Under the Kilkari Abhiyan, specially developed software is being used to register high risk preg-

nant mothers and provide them with necessary health check-ups and timely advice.

Chief Minister Chouhan obtained information about the situation from the collector after giving domestic tap connections to only 32 percent of the families under Jal Jeevan Mission. It was informed that due to poor quality of work, a penalty of Rs. 9 lakh has been imposed on the concerned contractor.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that no stone should be left unturned in demolishing those who run drug activities. 202 cases have been made in the anti-drug campaign in the district. 160 cases of drinking alcohol in public places have been registered and a hookah bar has been closed. 10 FIRs and 2 black marketing cases have been registered on irregularities in ration distribution. Also 4 vendors have been disconnected from the service.

Chief Minister Chouhan directed to suspend a sub engineer who gave fake electricity connection in Hanumana area of Rewa. He also expressed displeasure over receiving 10 thousand 416 complaints related to

### CM Chouhan plants Badam, Banyan and Karanj saplings



Team Absolute Bhopal

long with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, senior journalist Mrigendra Singh planted a sapling on his birthday in Smart City Garden. The volunteers of the National Service Scheme, Betul also planted saplings. Social worker and President of Gitanjali Group Umashankar Tripathi planted saplings on his birthday. Chief Minister Chouhan planted Badam,

Banyan and Karanj saplings Volunteers of National Service Scheme Betul, Sarvshri Lalit Taywade, Amardeep Bhalekar, Sanjay Kalme, Mohan Rajput, Rajendra Singh Baghel, Roshan Nigam, Vikas Chowkikar and Manish Kose also participated in the plantation. Volunteers are motivating people by planting saplings. The message is being given especially to the youth to plant saplings and not to use single use plastic.

### Centre approves tender for ropeway connecting Ujjain rly stn with Mahakal temple

Team Absolute Bhopal

he Central government on Thursday approved the tender for a 2-km long ropeway from Ujjain railway station to Mahakal temple in Madhya Pradesh at a cost of Rs 209 crore

**Union Road Transport** and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that the distance from Ujjain railway station to Mahakal temple will be covered in 5 minutes with the ropeway project.

"Its construction work will start from July 2023. Food zone, waiting room, toilets as well as bus and car parking facilities will be available for the people in the ropeway station, added the Minister.

Earlier, the Madhya

Pradesh government announced that a ropeway will be built from the Ujjain railway station to the Mahakaleshwar Temple so that pilgrims coming from other parts of the Country could reach the Temple conveniently. Thereafter, last week, National Highway Logistics Management Limited invited tenders for the project.

"Mahakal Lok" will be open for devotees from 6 am to 11 pm

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has informed that Shri Mahakal Lok, located in Ujjain, will remain open for devotees from 6 am till Shayan Aarti of Shri Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga i.e. till 11 am. Entry to Shri Mahakal Lok will be given till 10 pm.

## Important dimensions will be added in the development of Gwalior-Chambal region - CM Chouhan

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that on October 16, important dimensions will be added in the development of Gwalior-Chambal region. Union Home and Cooperatives Minister Amit Shah is coming for Bhumi-Poojan of various development works, dedication and to benefit the beneficiaries. He said that all necessary arrangements should be made to complete all the programmes systemati-

Chief Minister Chouhan was receiving information about the preparations for the 16 October programmes of the Union Home Minister through video conference from his residence today. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia along with ministers of Madhya Pradesh joined virtually. CM Chouhan said that this programme will be grand and historic. CM Chouhan said that earlier also discussions have been held with the commissioners of Gwalior and Chambal divisions and the collectors of the districts of both



the divisions regarding the preparations. Necessary instructions have been given. The presence of the general public in the pro grammes and the role of public representatives have been discussed. All necessary arrangements are being made. This effort should be made that there is no shortfall in the arrangements. Chief Minister Chouhan gave instructions to the officers regarding the welcome of the guests on their arrival, the presence of public representatives, inviting the general public respectfully, seating arrangement for each invitee, photo exhibition focused on achievements, announcement, publicity through social media, necessary arrangements for the beneficiaries, control room



arrangement at district, janpad and urban body level, digital system for dedication-foundation stone laying of the programmes and other arrangements. Chief Minister Chouhan also discussed with the Union Ministers in a video conference. Regarding the visit of Union Home Minister Shah to Gwalior, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Tomar said that the arrival of the Union Home Minister will bring many gifts to Gwalior region. CM Chouhan has got the outline of the programmes prepared by giving detailed instructions. This programme will be memorable for the general public. The Union Civil Aviation Minister Scindia said that the local administration is working in coordination for the

Bhumi-Poojan and other works of the new terminal building of Gwalior Airport. Surely the programmes will be better and organised. MP Revenue and Transport Minister Govind Singh Rajput, Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silawat, Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar and Minister of State for Horticulture and Food Processing (Independent Charge), Narmada Valley Bharat Singh Kushwaha also joined the video conference. Chief Minister Chouhan received information from the administrative officers about the preparations for all the programmes of the Union Home Minister Shah to be held in Gwalior on October 16 through video conference. The scheduled programmes include the laying of the foundation stone of the new terminal building of Gwalior Airport in the afternoon, the public meeting at the Mela Ground on Race Course Road, the Grih Pravesh of the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (both urban and rural) and laying the foundation stones of the Nal-Jal schemes. It is noteworthy that the Union Home Minister Shah will launch the Hindi course of medical education at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal before the programme of Gwalior.

ollywood star Dwayne Johnson, who is gearing up for the release of his superhero movie 'Black Adam', recollected his first rendezvous with the eponymous anti-hero. The Rock as he is colloquially known as, spoke to 'Variety' about what it was like for him to see Black Adam for the first time in the world of comics. He said, "As a little boy, I grew up loving the Super Friends, specifically Superman. I saw my first Black Adam comic and it was arresting to me. His face was intense.

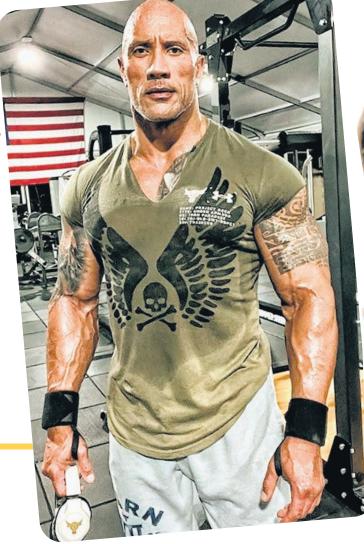
"He looked cool, looked different, badass and had brown skin. So automatically I was relating to him. I am DC through and through", he added.

According to 'Variety', while 'Black Adam' places Johnson's antihero in a packed ensemble that includes characters like Pierce Brosnan's Doctor Fate and Aldis Hodge's Hawkman, the star's vision for which superheroes could appear alongside his character extends far beyond his upcoming film, and even the larger DC universe.

When asked about the potential for a DC-Marvel crossover event, Johnson stated that it would only be a matter of meeting fan demand.

Well, I'm always optimistic. I'd like to think that we would see that. My philosophy is anything can get done. Let's start with the end goal. And if the end goal is to have some sort of crossover that can be compelling, smart, cool for the fans," Johnson said, quoted by 'Variety'

"Let's get a temperature gauge if they'd like to see something like that. And then if they do, then let's create it. I operate my businesses like that. I truly believe that anything can happen. Anything can happen with the right people and place, and the right leadership, having the right conversations", he concluded.



## Lucy Liu to star opposite Dwayne Johnson, Chris Evans in 'Red One'

Los Angeles | Agencies

rimetime Emmy nominee Lucy Liu has boarded four-quadrant actionadventure holiday comedy 'Red One' starring Dwayne Johnson, Chris Evans, and Kiernan Shipka.

The movie which reteams Johnson with his Jumanji franchise director Jake Kasdan has a plot that's under wraps, reports 'Deadline'.

But the project is billed as a globe-trotting, four-quadrant action-adventure comedy imagining a whole new universe to explore within the holiday genre. The project, which Prime Video won in a bidding war and was developed of an original story by Seven Bucks President of Production, Hiram Garcia, will stretch across multiple industries and businesses in the Amazon fold. Chris

Morgan wrote the script. Kasdan, Melvin Mar via the Detective Agency, Morgan Chris Morgan Productions: Hiram Garcia, Dany Garcia and Johnson t their Seven Bucks are producing. Sky Salem Robinson via The Detective Agency 'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle' and 'Jumanji: The Next Level' grossed \$1.7

billion worldwide. Morgan has also been a frequent collaborator with Seven Bucks Productions on titles such as 'Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw', 'The Fate of the Furious', 'Furious 7', 'Fast & Furious 6', and 'Fast Five'.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Bui

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Ilie Goulding led the stars scooping accolades at the Attitude Awards 2022 held at the Camden Roundhouse in London on Wednesday evening. The singer, 36, scooped the Ally award on the night while Mel C and Strictly's John Whaite and Johannes Radebe were also honoured.

The Attitude Awards showcase the very best of the global LGBTQ community and give a platform to role models while supporting the Attitude Magazine Foundation, which raises money for LGBT causes, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Spice Girls legend Melanie C scooped the Honorary Gay award presented by Rylan while John Whaite and Johannes Radebe, received the Gamechanger Award for their same-sex pairing on Strictly Come Dancing last year, and were presented the gong by H from Steps. The Icon Award went to Skin, presented by Dame Kelly Holmes while the Broadcast Award was won by Robert Rinder, presented by Owain Wyn Evans.Cat Burns scooped the Music Award, presented by Lady Phyll, while the Television Award went to Netflix series Heartstopper, presented by Rosie Jones.





### **VIN DIESEL DETHRONES PRINCE WILLIAM** AS 2022 WORLD'S HOTTEST BALD MAN



uke of Cambridge Prince William has been defeated by Hollywood star Vin Diesel for the title of 2022 World's Hottest Bald Man. According to a study carried out by SEO agency Reboot, the Dominic Toretto in the 'Fast & Furious' film franchise claimed the honour for 2022 with a score of 6.46 out of 10.

Different aspects such as facial Golden Ratio, Twitter sentiment analysis, net worth and height are considered in the study, reports aceshowbiz.com. The study also looked at the cranial shine factor for each heartthrob. These aspects were then used to create an index score out of 10. The study shows that Diesel's head is rather shiny, with a cranial luminance of reflects light with 70.46 per cent of the luminous intensity of a standard light bulb. The 55-year-old actor is also slightly taller than the average male, at 5-foot-9. Prince William, who previously won the title two times in-a-row, dropped to No. 5 this year with a score of 6.13.

### JOHNNY DEPP SHAVES OFF BEARD, LOOKS ALMOST UNRECOGNISABLE

Los Angeles Agencies

t seems like Edwards Scissorhands put his hands to good use as Hollywood star Johnny Depp's latest look sans beard has caught the attention of his fans

on the Internet. The actor looks almost unrecognisable after shaving off his famous beard, reports Mirro.co.uk

The actor, 59, unveiled his brand-new clean-shaven look while on tour with his friend and award-winning musician Jeff Beck, after the pair played a show in

The 'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor looked noticeably different from his appearances in the courtroom months ago amid his defamation case against ex-wife Amber Heard.

Johnny is now sporting a clean-shaven look - after famously rocking his signature moustache and facial hair for decades

According to Mirror.co.uk, following his latest show in New York City, Johnny was seen wearing a blue striped baker boy hat and large blue tinted sunglasses, which covered most of his face.

As fans waited outside to greet the Hollywood star, they could have been forgiven for mistaking the famous actor for someone else due to the drastic change in appearance.





## INDIA DEFEAT THAILAND BY 74 RUNS, TO FACE SRI LANKA IN FINAL

Sylhet (Bangladesh) | Agencies

hafali Verma made a quickfire 42 while Deepti Sharma bagged phenomenal figures of 3/7 as India defeated Thailand by 74 runs to enter the final of Women's Asia Cup at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

After India posted 148/6 in their 20 overs on a sluggish pitch, their bowlers produced another stunning show to restrict Thailand to 74/9 in their 20 overs. India will now await the winner of the second semi-final between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, to be held later in the afternoon, to see who they come up against in the title clash on Saturday.

Pushed into batting first, Shafali got going with a brace of boundaries via sweep and loft in the first three overs. After Shafali got a reprieve as the cover fielder co'ldn't take the catch, Smriti Mandhana sweetly punched a backfoot drive through cover to make it third boundary in the third over.

Shafali then took on Chanida Sutthiruang, by striking successive fours off her deliveries through midon. The opening partnership ended



on 38 when Smriti hit a full toss straight to mid-on off Phannita Maya. Shafali marched on to swipe through mid-wicket for four and smacked Thipatcha Putthawong for a huge six over long-on.

Shafali's 28-ball knock ended when she was caught by a sharp silly mid-on off Sornnarin Tippoch in the tenth over. Jemimah Rodrigues and captain Harmanpreet Kaur joined forces to hit five boundaries in the

next three overs before the former was beaten in flight and holed out to long-on in the 14th over.

Harmanpreet hung around to hit back-to-back fours through the gap in off-side before holing out to deep mid-wicket in the 18th over as Thailand made a good comeback in the last five overs, conceding 31 runs and taking three wickets, including of Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma. to keep India to 148/6. In defence of

the total, India had Thailand in check from the word go thanks to Deepti. Though Shafali put down a catch of Natthakan Chantham in the third over, she made up for it by taking the catch of Nannapat Koncharoenkai at square leg two balls later to give Deepti her first scalp of the match. Deepti went on to take out Natthakan and Sornnarin in her next two overs to break the back of Thailand's chase and effectively seal the match in India's favour with her 3/7, which also had 21 dot balls. Though Nattaya and skipper Naruemol added 42 runs for the fifth wicket, it was too little too late for Thailand as India picked three more wickets in the last three overs to storm into the final of the Women's Asia Cup for the eighth straight time.

Sports

#### **Brief scores**

India 148/6 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 42, Harmanpreet Kaur 36; Sornnarin Tippoch 3-24) beat Thailand 74/9 in 20 overs (Nattaya Boochatham 21, Naruemol Chaiwai 21; Deepti Sharma 3-7, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2-10) by 74

### **BCCI** considering having five teams in women's IPL, five overseas players in playing XI: Report

Tith the inaugural edition of the Women's Indian Premier League (IPL) all set to be held next year, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is considering having five teams as well as permitting five overseas players in a playing XI.

A report by Cricbuzz states that apart from these two, the tentative window for Women's IPL is March 2023 -which is after the Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa from February 10-26 and before the start of Men's

"A maximum of four of the overseas players in the XI can be from the ICC Full Member nations, it's being considered, whereas the remaining one can be from an Associate Nation," said the report.

In terms of the naming of teams in Women's IPL, the report said the BCCI is yet to decide between zone-wise or the team-wise format, which is used in Men's IPL, and a final decision on teams as well as venues will be taken by IPL chairman and officebearers in the BCCI.

"Zone wise -- North (Dharamsala/Jammu), South



(Kochi/Vizag), Central (Indore/Nagpur/Raipur), East (Ranchi/Cuttack), North East (Guwahati) and West (Pune/Rajkot) -- with matches held at non-IPL venues) and existing city-wise like with Men's IPL (Ahmedabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata - with October that year. matches held at IPL venues)," added the report. As far as format is concerned, teams may play each other twice in the league stage, which will be of just 20 matches. The team at

placed teams will be playing an Eliminator. The Women's IPL could

the top of the table could

qualify directly for the final

while the second and third-

mat, with all matches played in one city before going completely to another venue. The format was used in IPL 2021 before the Covid-19 outbreak brought the tournament to halt and was moved to UAE for completion in September-

"With only 20 league games in consideration, as few as two venues will be involved per season for the WIPL. So the inaugural 2023 season could be played at two of the aforementioned venues, the 2024 season at the other two and 2025 at the remaining one plus one of the venues of the 2023 season," concluded

#### **San Diego Open**

## Pegula beats Vandeweghe, qualifies for WTA Finals

San Diego | Agencies

merican Jessica Pegula booked a spot in the quarterfinals of the San Diego Open, and a berth at the WTA Finals at Forth Worth, with a straight-set win against compatriot CoCo Vandeweghe.

The No.4 seed Jessica Pegula closed out the night under the lights with a 6-3, 6-1 win over fellow American CoCo Vandeweghe while another American also reached the last eight when 2022 Australian Open finallist Danielle Collins defeated Italy's Martina Trevisan 6-2, 6-4. In her first match of the week, Pegula needed just 69



Top 10-ranked compatriot and won 12 of the last 14 games after falling behind an early break at 2-0. She also made personal history -- the win clinches Pegula's qualification for the singles field at the WTA Finals in Fort Worth, Texas which begins on October 31.

The victory was also a

No.1 Pegula, who lost her only prior meeting against Vandeweghe earlier this year in Charleston in three sets. Pegula said her game plan coming into the rematch was simple, said a report on the WTA Tour website.

"When she's on with her

serve and her returns, it's

really tough. My goal was just to try and attack and put pressure on her serve when I got the chance," Pegula was quoted as saying after her win. "On my serve, I thought I just had to serve smart and be ready for a big return. She's got so much easy power, so sometimes she can put a lot of pressure on you, so I was just trying to focus

## **Champions League**

## Porto upset Bayer Leverkusen; Salah hits fastest hat-trick in Liverpool's 7-1 win

ehdi Taremi's second-half brace paved the way for Porto's 3-0 away victory over Bayer Leverkusen in UEFA Champions League Group B.

Bayern Munich, Club Brugge and Napoli secured last-16 spots on a night of high drama in Europe on Wednesday night that brought the fastest-ever Champions League hat-trick courtesy of Mohamed Salah. They joined Manchester City and Real Madrid who have also made it to the last

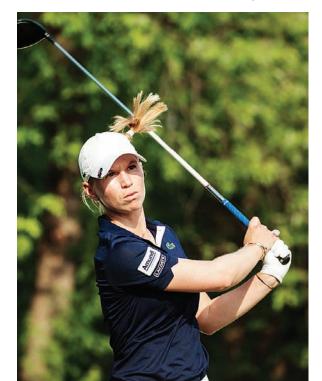
Salah was at his devastating best as former champions Liverpool continued to prosper as they thrashed Rangers 7-1 in a Group A encounter. In other matches on Wednesday night, Napoli overcame Ajaz 4-2 in another Group A match; French club Marseille defeated Sporting Lisbon 2-0, Tottenham Hotspur overcame Eintracht Frankfurt 3-2 and Bayern Munich defeated Viktoria 4-2.



Porto made a fairy-tale start on the road and stunned Leverkusen with the opener in the sixth minute as Galeno finished off a solo run from 10 metres into the bottom corner.

Leverkusen responded well and had a golden chance to restore parity in the 16th minute, but Porto goalkeeper Diogo Costa saved Kerem

Demirbay's penalty. Costa was also on guard at the half-hour mark when he neutralised a close-range attempt from Mitchel Bakker. The Werkself remained on the front foot but were unlucky moments later when Patrik Schick's goal was disallowed due to a handball. After the restart, Xabi Alonso's men started where they left off as Amine Adli unleashed a dangerous shot on target in the 49th minute. Adli remained in the thick of things as he felled Galeno inside the box to concede a penalty. Taremi stepped up and kept his nerves after beating Lukas Hradecky with a chip into the center of the goal in the 53rd minute. Things went from bad to worse at the hour mark as the referee pointed to the penalty spot again after Odilon Kossounou fouled Galeno inside the area. Taremi showed no mercy and wrapped up his brace off the left-hand post. Leverkusen pressed for a consolation, but Schick missed the target from 11 meters before Costa was equal to Moussa Diaby's hammer in the closing stages.



### Golf: Camille Chevalier set to return to women's Indian Open

Gurugram | Agencies

ix years ago, when Camille Chevalier came to India, all her thoughts centred around having a solid week to ensure that she moved from her rookie status to a better position the following season by keeping her

Even after playing 36 holes when she was three shots behind the second round leader, the 23-yearold from Aix-en-Provence in France confessed that she was not even thinking about a win as she teed off in the final round.

with a great back nine at the Hero Women's Indian Open 2017 - in fact she had five birdies in the last nine holes. That grandstand finish saw her grab her maiden LET title one shot ahead of Michele Thompson, who had a record-setting 64 on the second day.Chevalier is all set to come back to India next week and is looking at the Hero Women's Indian Open to revive her career graph, which after her maiden win here did take her to the United States, but the Epson Tour in 2018 was as far as she got.

Lately, she has been struggling with her form. The win in India apart, there have been only two other Top-10s - a third place at La Reserva Sotogrande in 2019 and a 10th place at the Andalucia Open de Espana in 2018.

For the last three years, she has been finishing around the 20s with an occasional Top-20 like the T-12 in South Africa last year and T-21 in the Italian Open. But she has been in the Top-10 at the Aramco Team Series

### All have to face rejection some day, says Sourav Ganguly on exit as BCCI chief

Kolkata | Agencies

reaking his silence on his forthcoming exit from the post of the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Sourav Ganguly on Thursday philosophically remarked "that all have to face rejections" eventually.

"No one can continue as the administrator throughout his life. All have to face rejections some time or the other. When you look at quick success it never happens. Remember, one does not become Narendra Modi or Sachin Teldulkar or an Ambani overnight," he said after attending a function of Bandhan Bank here on Thursday.

Ganguly said that he enjoyed his term as the BCCI President thoroughly, and cited the accomplishments.

"However, my life as a cricketer was much more difficult. If you see there had been several developments in Indian cricket during the last three years when I was the BCCI President. We organised cricket during an



extremely difficult period of COVID-19 pandemic. The Indian women's cricket team won the silver medal in the Commonwealth Games. The Indian men's cricket team had several successes overseas. Still as I said one cannot continue as the administrator throughout his life," he said.

Without mentioning any details, Ganguly hinted that people can see him in a new role

### West Indies tour of Pakistan in 2023 likely to be postponed: Report

**Lahore** | Agencies

he proliferating Twenty20 leagues seems to be having an impact on bilateral tours and could lead to the postponement of West Indies' three-match T20 tour of Pakistan early next vear. The tour is likely to be held in 2024.

With several T20 leagues like the ILT20 in the UAE, the SA20 in South Africa, the BBL in Australia and the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) taking place in January-February 2023, the two boards are not sure West Indies players will be available for national duty, according

to a report in the ESPNCricinfo.com.

West Indies have already visited Pakistan twice in the last 10 months, albeit because the Covid-19 pandemic split one white-ball series in December 2021 into two. The two sides played three T20Is that month, before a Covid outbreak in the West Indies camp meant the subsequent ODIs had to be postponed to June this year, the report said.

This series of three T20Is was scheduled in between New Zealand's visit to Pakistan in the winter of 2022-23 and the Pakistan Super League next year. The three

games will most likely be added to West Indies' visit in February 2024 when they are due to play three Tests as part of the World Test Championship, the report added.

Several West Indies players have already been signed up to take part in the BBL, SA20 and ILT20. Though Pakistan's players did not feature in the SA20 auction, none of the players have been given NOCs for the ILT20.

With the IPL set to follow these leagues in January 2023, many West Indies players would not be available, resulting in the tour of Pakistan could be postponed till the next

## Cricket Australia hints at lifting David Warner's leadership ban

**Melbourne** | Agencies

he directors at Cricket Australia have dropped hints about rewriting the Code of Ethics of the organisation, a process which could begin from the board meeting in Hobart on Friday, and could see the lifetime leadership ban on opener David Warner being

Warner has been under a leadership ban since the 2018 Cape Town ball-tampering scandal apart from punishments being given to Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft.

The 35-year-old, who is close to 100 T20Is as well as completed a century of Test match appearances



apart from captaining Sunrisers Hyderabad to the 2016 IPL title win, has been mentioned as a candidate for Australia's vacant ODI captaincy post since the retirement of Aaron Finch. But as per the current rules, he cannot take up the vacant job.

"The view within Cricket Australia is that David is doing particularly well on the field and making a great contribution off the field. The first step in terms of David's leadership ban is to review the code and see if those sanctions are able to be reviewed, and the appropriate revisions to that code that would need to be made," chairman Lachlan Henderson was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

Mumbai Friday, October 14, 2022

# Saiyami runs, cycles to and from sets

Team Absolute | Mumbai

ctress Saiyami Kher is ensuring to catch up on her workout amid her busy shooting schedule by taking up running and cycling while commuting to shoots. The actress, who made her debut with the 2016 film 'Mirzya', has always been active in sports, and gives utmost importance to discipline.

Elaborating on her fitness method, the actress said that her workout routine not just keeps her physically fit but also mentally sound: "I don't like to treat my workouts like a difficult task. The moment I do that, I start thinking of excuses. I love working out, not just for my physical health, but also for my mental health."

However, she also has days when she feels lazy but she has a perfect trick up her sleeve to get back on the path of motivation: Even though I have days when I am lazy, I remind myself of the sense of achievement when I get over that feeling. Moreover, since school I have been into sports. So having physical activity included in my daily routine is like a lifestyle that I have opted for.

Interestingly, the actress has played cricket at school level for Maharashtra and made it to the National team selection, but instead, opted for badminton state championships

Saiyami added: "I try to either cycle or run back from location. Not only does it save traffic time but also helps me unwind. I have also bought a really nice treadmill and a cycle trainer in my house so it's very convenient even if I have strange hours at work I can train at home at any time. I train myself along with some friends who are very involved in fitness.

On the work front, the actress has started working on Anurag Kashyap's project opposite Gulshan Devaiah. She is also teaming with Pratik Gandhi for Rahul Dholakia's 'Agni'.

Additionally, she will soon be seen in the third season of the streaming show, 'Breathe Into the Shadow', and 'Ghoomer', both opposite Abhishek Bachchan.

### Shankar Mahadevan was shy to perform on stage as a child

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ninger and composer Shankar Mahadevan has composed music for a number of films including 'Dillagi', 'Dil Chahta Hai', 'Bunty Aur Babli', 'Taare Zameen Par', '2 States'. He is also seen judging a number of singing reality shows and currently he is among the panel of judges on 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs', bet told how as a kid, he was shy to perform in front of an audience.

used to feel very shy performing in front of an audience," he said.

After looking at the performance of 9-year-old 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs' contestant Jetshen Lama on the song 'Udi Teri Aankhon Se' from Hrithik Roshan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchanstarrer 'Guzaarish', he compared her voice with popular singer Sunidhi Chauhan: "However, seeing kids like Jetshen get past their



shyness and perform with aplomb is a treat and inspires us every day. I will show your 'Udi' performance to Sunidhi Chauhan."

The young talents in the age group of 3 to 13 years are judged by Shankar Mahadevan, Anu Malik, and Neeti Mohan.

'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs'

airs on Zee TV.



Team Absolute | Mumbai elugu star Rana Daggubati, will be hosting the second episode of the docuseries 'The Journey of

India'. The actor shared that India's progress with

commendable and is

towards sustainability

Daggubati

regards to sustainability is

because of col-India's progress lective efforts of individuals at all levels. During the course of the episode, Rana will be seen alongside pioneer wildlife conservationist Latika Nath, and is commendable: Rana the two will highlight the grit, determination, and never-say die spirit of individuals and communities of the country,

who strive against all odds in their efforts to restore the right balance with "'The Journey of India' demonstrates the rich fruits of India's collective hard work and sheer willpower. Our progress toward sustainability and becoming more conscious as a nation is commendable; there is so much to being an Indian that one can never be too proud."

India's natural wealth is deeply ingrained in its cultural roots, from ancient species to sublime flora and fauna. In the upcoming episode of 'The Journey of India,' the narrator of the series, Amitabh Bachchan, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, will introduce the viewers to the country's history of coexisting with nature, its roots in tradition, and its evolution over 75 years of independence.

Team Absolute Mumbai

ctress Shruti Haasan, who is busy with her film 'Salaar', recently admitted to having done a nose job. The actress shared that she had a broken nose and getting to fix her nose is her right. She said that after doing her first film with the old nose, she chose to do the sur-

Shruti Haasan got her broken nose fixed after first film

talking to 'Hauterfly' magazine, the actress said, "I did get my nose fixed and it was very obvious I got my nose fixed. My nose was broken and quite different from before and I did my first film with my old nose.

She also revealed how people taunted her by saying that she was using deviated septum as an excuse to fix her nose.

She further mentioned, "And people are like she's just using the deviated septum excuse. No, I did have a deviated septum, it hurt. But if I could make it prettier, it's my face, why wouldn't I? It was that simple.

In addition, she also spoke about getting fillers and said that it is her body and those who want to do something to it or don't want to do something, it is their choice just like it was hers.



## Ayushmann following Kishore Da's song for his upcoming

Mumbai: If you are thinking about the reason for Ayushmann Khurrana's excellence and successful streak,



then hear it straight from the horse's mouth: he idolises one of the most proficient artistes of Indian cinema - singer-actor-composer Kishore Kumar. And that's what reflects in Ayushmann's work as well be it his acting prowess or the musical talent that he possesses. Talking about the same, Ayushmann said: "Kishore Kumar was multi-talented and as an artist, I draw inspiration from him at every juncture. He has been my guru and his work inspires me to push boundaries and explore uncharted territories." He also revealed that he has been listening to Kishore Da's most revered track 'Aake Seedhi Lagi Dil Pe' from the film 'Half Ticket', while shooting for the sequel of his successful movie 'Dream Girl'. Kishore Kumar had lent both the male and female voices for this song and it went on to become a massive hit.

Ayushmann noted: "I have been listening to Kishore Da's wonderful track Aake Seedhi Lagi Dil Pe on loop since I have been shooting for Dream Girl 2. His voice is magical and he has effortessly rendered both male and female voices for this helped me with massive inspiration.

## The world isn't ready to decode Parineeti's Code name Tiranga



BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

**Director:** Ribhu Dasgupta Cast: Parineeti Chopra, Harrdy Sandhu and Sharad Kelkar **Runtime:** 2 hours 17 minutes Rating: 2/5 (two stars)

Synopsis: 'Code Name: Tiranga' is an espionage action thriller about a spy on an unwavering and fearless mission for her country in a race against time where sacrifice is her only

Review: The film begins with an introduction to the characters and quickly establishes a plot in which the two have fallen in love, followed by action scenes.

Despite the fact that the film contains an action-packed segment in which the agent Durga fights for her country and sacrifices herself in the process, things were really all over the place.

The film lacks everything that makes a film successful. There is nothing wrong with saying that this film offers nothing new that distinguishes it from any other film depicting 'Desh-bhakti.' The film attempted to maintain suspense but failed miserably to make it

When it comes to the cast's performance, Parineeti literally does not act in the entire



film. Playing an agent necessitates a certain amount of stiffness, which Parineeti sadly lacks. It is not incorrect to say that she was a poor fit for the film.

When it comes to Harrdy Sandhu, there is no explanation that can make us understand his presence. The writers attempted to make him the main character as well as Durga's love interest, but his presence only added to



the misery. The fact that a good talent like Sharad Kelkar said yes to the film is a slap in the face, even though he did his part nicely.

It is clear that the actors tried but the film is simply just terrible, from the plot to the

It is amusing to see RAW carrying out a mission for India with the code name being 'Tiranga' as if it is too difficult to crack.





With multiple unwanted pans throughout the film, you often lost focus of the scene. So really, there wasn't much to look at even when we talk about the technical aspects. The songs were there to fill time and had nothing to do with the story.

Overall, the film fails to achieve the desired level of momentum. In fact, the film is unwatchable.



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