

# absolute india

VOL. 9, ISSUE 378, MUMBAI | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022 ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** > 02  
L-G sends back 'Red Light On Gaddi Off' file, advises to...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
'The Astronaut' by BTS' Jin sells 700,000 copies on day 1...



**SPORTS** > 07  
Playing two sets of qualifiers is quite strenuous on...



## IIT Bombay best in employability, IIT Delhi ranks second

IIT Bombay is the best higher education institution in India, as per the 'QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2023'.

- IIT Bombay was featured in the 281-300 rank range, followed by IIT Delhi (321-340 rank) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) at the third rank (361-380).
- IIT Kharagpur was featured in the 551-600 rank range.
- IIT Roorkee was included in the 451-500 rank range of the list.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In the rankings, released in London recently, IIT Bombay was evaluated as India's top higher education institution for its excellence in employability, social concern, and environment. Apart from this, IIT Bombay was also included in the world's top 100 institutes based on the employability of its graduates. IIT Delhi was ranked for its employability and envi-

ronment while Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was ranked for gender equality and removing other inequalities.

In terms of competition and academic freedom, Delhi University ranked fourth in India.

Globally, the University of California was declared the top university, followed by the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia in second and third ranks respectively.

The US dominates the rankings with 135 ranked universities (19.2 per cent of the total). Of these, 30 universities are included in the top 100. Similarly, the UK was ranked second with 67 British universities being included in the rankings.

After the US and the UK, Australia and Germany are at the forefront of this ranking. The students and teachers of JNU are excited by the university's performance in the rankings. JNU Vice

Chancellor Professor Santishree D. Pandit said that she congratulates the students and teachers of JNU "for fulfilling the dream of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

IIT Kharagpur has secured the highest in continuous and regular research efforts. IIT Kharagpur has taken many special initiatives to improve lifestyle and health which are being appreciated globally.

IN INDIAN CONTEXT, FEMALE FAMILY MEMBER NEEDS TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN: KERALA HC

## Maternity Must



The bench compared the importance placed on the role of women in child rearing in India as opposed to the more equal sharing of responsibilities that exists in other countries, including Scandinavian countries. It went on to voice its concerns regarding the safety of the child.

KOCHI | Agencies

A division bench of the Kerala High Court noted that in the Indian context, a female family member is always needed to look after children as we have not reached the level of Scandinavian countries where you have same-sex marriage and everybody is equipped to rear children.

Justices Alexander Thomas and Sophy Thomas made this observation while considering a habeas corpus plea moved by a man, who is based in Gujarat, for releasing his 4-year-old daughter, who he alleged was being illegally detained by his in-laws.

The court also took note of the fact

that the petitioner resided in Gujarat and that there was no material placed before it to indicate that any female family member resided with him who may be capable of taking care of the child. "Irrespective of the gender of the child, it is very difficult for you to look after a child under the age of 10. You will be going to work and children can get exposed to so many dangerous things. Nowadays sexual violence is increasing even against young children, some children below the age of 2 years. It may not be a frequent occurrence but safety of the child is very importance. Especially if you are living in a faraway state in a remote town," the bench said. "Please don't keep any hope, we

can give you a judgment on merit. If you don't agree with it, please challenge it. We do not know if the children will be proper and safe with you at this stage. You can come here from Gujarat and see your children and you can have weekly video calls with the child. Suppose you are using parents patriae jurisdiction, first and paramount is the welfare of the minor," the Court said. "Who will take care of the minor? You are a 38-year-old man living alone and you will take care of a four-year-old child and that too a girl child? No sensible court will allow that request," the bench added.

The bench further said that it cannot find any gross illegality with the

**"Always there should be a woman at home. Either mother, sister-in-law, mother-in-law, grandmother, somebody should be at home to look after the children."**

fact that the petitioner's minor daughter is with her grandparents and suggested that he settle the matter of custody in a Family Court rather than attempt to convert a habeas corpus proceedings into a custody matter. The court posted the case to be considered again next week when it will converse with the minor child and her grandparents on video call.

## Turnkey to represent global music major BMG in India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

(Aerosmith), 'Everybody Wants To Rule The World' (Tears For Fears), 'Wild World' (Cat Stevens/Yusuf Islam) and 'Come As You Are' (Nirvana).

BMG, the world's largest international music company outside the three 'majors', has struck a sub-publishing agreement for India with Turnkey Music & Publishing, one of the country's only standalone music publishing companies. BMG's music publishing catalogue comprises over three million songs, made up of works by legends including George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Roger Waters, Ray Davies, Buddy Holly, Paul Anka, Diane Warren, Kurt Cobain and Chris DeBurgh as well as contemporary superstar songwriters, including Lewis Capaldi, Bebe Rexha, Kings Of Leon, Juice WRLD, and thousands of others. Some of the greatest songs in music history are represented by BMG, such as 'Another Brick In The Wall' (Pink Floyd), 'Walk This Way'



Publishing represents the works of independent Indian songwriters such as Shaan, Papon, Leslee Lewis, Raghav Meattle, Louiz Banks, Rudy Wallang and Tipriti Kharbanga of blues band Soulmate, Merlyn D'Souza, Sanjay Divecha, Purbayan Chatterjee and more, apart from artists including like Merchant Records of Salim & Sulaiman Merchant, Taalim of Bickram Ghosh, and Anuradha Pal's Sur Aur Saaz.

## World's tallest Shiva statue to be inaugurated in Rajasthan

Five tallest Shiva statues in the world are: Vishwas Swaroopam, Rajasthan - 369 feet, Kailashnath Mahadev Temple, Nepal - 143 meters, Marudeshwara Temple, Karnataka - 123 metres, Adiyoga Temple, Tamil Nadu - 112 metres, Mangal Mahadev, Mauritius - 108 metres.

Team Absolute | Jaipur

World's tallest Shiva statue 'Vishwas Swaroopam' (Statue of Belief) will be inaugurated in Rajasthan's Rajsamand district on Saturday. It will take at least four hours to watch the 369-feet tall statue built on Ganesh Tekri of Nathdwara.

Built on a hill of 51 bighas, the statue took 10 years to complete and has been constructed by Sant Kripa Sanatan. It has been part of the dream project of Madan Paliwal, Chairman, Miraj

Group, Udaipur.

The statue is styled in a meditation posture and is said to be visible from several kms away. Special lights have also been arranged for this statue so that it is clearly visible even at night. The story of this statue becoming the world's tallest Shiva statue is also interesting. As per plan in 2012, its height was to be kept till 251 feet. But later during construction, its height reached 351 feet. A stream of the Ganga was added on to the matted locks of the Shiva's statue, after which its height fur-



ther increased to 369 feet. Elevators, stairs, halls, among others, have also been made in this statue. Around 3,000 tonnes of steel and iron, 2.5 lakh cubic tonnes of concrete and sand have been used during construction. The statue can withstand wind speed up to 250 km. The beauty of the statue is that 10,000 people can come at a time in the hall built inside it.

## CAKLE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS HERALDS WINTER IN KASHMIR

SRINAGAR | Agencies

Navigating with instinct and skill, hundreds of migratory birds have reached Kashmir from far off lands to ward off the extreme cold of their summer homes.

Migratory birds come to Kashmir every year by the end of October, flying through the central Asian fly zone from Siberia, north China and north Europe to spend the winter months in the less harsh winter here.

The arrival of these avian visitors also heralds the beginning of winter in Kashmir. Rashid Naqash, Regional Wildlife Warden (Kashmir), told correspondent that the bird reserves of



Hokersar, Mirgund, Hygam and Shalabugh are the main water bodies where these migratory birds arrive at the beginning of the winter season. The navigational skills of the migratory birds are a marvel of aviation travel. It is always the eldest bird of the

flock, which is well acquainted with the route, who leads the flock in flight.

So far, over 3 lakh migratory birds have reached the Valley and their number is likely to increase manifold during November and December.

Species of migratory birds which come to Kashmir each year include mallard, teal, pochard, wigeon, shoveler, coot, gadwall, pintail, ruffed duck, shelduck and greylag goose.

The bar-headed goose doesn't come to the Valley, as they go to the Gharana wetland reserve in Jammu division. As they descend from the sky into the water bodies, the migratory birds create a spectacle of colour and cackle that is unmatched even by the best ceremonial bands in the world. For hundreds of years, braving the vagaries of weather and other odds, these avian visitors have never failed to keep their tryst with Kashmir.

## Suryakumar Yadav relives last-ball six against the Netherlands

Team Absolute | New Delhi

When Suryakumar Yadav ended India's innings with a beautifully flicked six over deep backward square leg off Logan van Beek to reach his fifty in 25 balls as India made a challenging 179/2 in 20 overs against the Netherlands in Men's T20 World Cup Super 12 match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on October 27, his camaraderie with Virat Kohli was a joyful sight to watch. In a video, captioned - Review, Reflect and Repeat, Suryakumar can be seen looking back at the six which brought up his half-century on the last ball of the innings. His shot was followed by celebrations from a pumped-up Virat Kohli. In T20Is this year, Virat and Suryakumar have added 463 runs in just eight matches at a staggering average of over 70. The duo have also added two hundred-plus stands and two fifty-plus stands, adding another chapter to the amazing partnership through the match against Netherlands at Sydney. "It's just the respect we have for each other when both of us are batting together. We just enjoy batting with each other, and what shot he plays. We try and run hard as much as possible. It's a great thing and really looking forward to having more partnerships with him," added Suryakumar on what makes his combination with Kohli click.



## MOBILE TOUCHSCREENS, AI VOICES MESSING UP CHILDREN'S BRAINS

-A recent study conducted by the School of Clinical Medicine, Cambridge University, has established that routine communication with artificial intelligence (AI) based mechanised voices adversely affects children's social and cognitive development. It hampers their ability to feel emotions for others, be compassionate and also, limits their critical thinking skills. Siri's or Alexa's responses are a collection of millions of sound bites fed into it.

Latika Gupta | New Delhi

It is a common sight these days at Indian homes to see four-five-year-old kids engaged with smartphones independently while his/her parents go about their activities at home or outside.

Such an independent engagement with mobile involves various activities such as listening to songs, watching cartoons and other material on different apps, and playing games. It usually ends up being a long engagement in every episode as the child navigates from one activity to the next and back to the first one after a while.

Since children remain occupied for a long time negotiating different apps and their exciting images and sounds, several parents have taken to a mobile handset as a babysitter.

The parents feel a sense of relief when their baby remains engrossed in a touch and response activity over a game or a video while they attend to different chores. They complain with an affectionate tint that the child does



not let them do anything unless he is given the mobile in his/her hand. By the time a parent gets into the small screen to check what the child

is doing, a simple touch can alter the information. Their child's wrong posture for long hours, the damage caused to the eyes by the screen's

light and vision fail to become a matter of worry.

Several studies have already reported a sharp rise in the incidence of dry eye syndrome among children. One of the most common reasons for chronic dry eye these days is spending too much time staring at computers, TVs, smartphones and tablets.

Several parents may brush aside even feeble attempts to make them conscious about their child rearing habits as being cynical. They claim that their child only works on learning apps and is able to learn things that they themselves are incapable of teaching.

And, learning English words from cartoons, that have been woven around adult themes including violence, rape, sexuality etc, brings its own issues.

It is high time that the schools take on this responsibility and counsel parents against excessive use of mobile as a babysitter. Sadly, schools are also uncritical users of mobile apps in the present times.



## L-G SENDS BACK 'RED LIGHT ON GADDI OFF' FILE, ADVISES TO RECONSIDER WITH HIS OBSERVATIONS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena has sent the file pertaining to 'Red Light On Gaddi Off' campaign to the Chief Minister with advise to reconsider the proposal in light of observations made by him (LG) on the file and resubmit again.

Underlining the use of Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs) at extremely polluted traffic intersections and sites, the LG has highlighted that "the basic premise of the campaign which seeks to risk the health of 'few individuals' on the assumption of protecting the 'health of many' is faulty and does not appear to have any parallel in any other civilized metropolitan city."

"Moreover, any effective and sustainable solution to this longstanding problem will involve technological interventions and not ad hoc steps, year after year and in the long run technological solutions need to be found for enforcement of such measures, rather than deploying humans and putting them at risk," he observed.

"It is well documented that though air pollution threatens us all, the poor and marginalized sections of the society bear



greater and disproportionate impact of the pollution, often created by those who are well off. The deployment of volunteers under the proposed campaign seems to reinforce and perpetuate the same inequality, which is unfortunate and in contravention of the basic right to life and equality," the LG noted.

"Outcome of the previous campaigns is not reflected in the proposal and there is no impact assessment report provided to support the effectiveness of the earlier campaigns in improving air quality in the city. So, the multiple risks posed to the safety and health of the volunteers proposed to be deployed at the traffic cross sections under the campaign, merits seri-

ous attention," the LG observed.

He opined "The people of Delhi who suffer the most due to air pollution, are aware and alert citizens who are conscious of their duties and will undertake any measure on their own, to mitigate such pollution."

Underlining the legal tenability of the proposal to allow the engagement of volunteers for the proposed campaign, the LG has instructed to examine it in consultation with the Law Department and Revenue Department. He also noted "The proposal was pending at the level of Hon'ble CM for more than 10 days from October 11 to October 21 and the file was received in my office only on October 21."

Reacting to Delhi Minister Gopal Rai's statement that LG should not do politics with the lives of people in Delhi, the LG said, "I am constrained to mention that such frivolous behaviour entailing baseless allegations, false accusations and political insinuations, on part of a minister is unbecoming to say the least. That it was done against a Constitutional Authority, solely for political one-upmanship and publicity is extremely improper and unfortunate."

## CHILD KILLED, 2 HURT IN MUMBAI TENEMENT CRASH

Mumbai: A minor boy was killed and at least two others injured when the portion of a tenement crashed at Govandi in north-east Mumbai, late on Saturday, the BMC Disaster Control said.

The incident occurred at the Dattnagar slums in Chitah Camp area around 7 p.m.

A portion of the balcony on the upper floor of a two-storey structure suddenly came crashing down. The tragedy claimed the life of a 4-year-old boy, Pranav Ashok Mane, said the BMC. Two others, 8-year-old Prince Ashish Kolji, and 45-year-old Jafar Mandal, were rushed to the Govandi Shatabdi Hospital where their condition is described as stable.

The legality or otherwise of the two-storey structure, stated to be an old construction, is not clear and further investigation is underway.

## Girl's marriage to be governed by Muslim personal law: HC

Chandigarh | Agencies

Observing that a girl's marriage continued to be governed by the Muslim personal law, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the handing over of a minor Muslim girl's custody to her husband.

A bench of Justice Vikas Bahl was hearing a habeas corpus petition by the husband for the release of the wife in the custody of Ashiana Home in Panchkula. The Bench was told that both the petitioner and the detainee belonged to the

Muslim religion.

Seeking the petition's dismissal, the counsel for state said the detainee was minor as her date of birth was March 15, 2006.

Justice Bahl observed that as per the reply and a statement recorded on July 28 before the Judicial Magistrate First Class in Panchkula would show that the detainee had run away from her house, along with the petitioner, out of her own will.

She said her family forcibly engaged her with her maternal uncle, but she performed "nikah" with the petitioner and did not wish

to stay with her family.

In fact, she was married to the petitioner and wished to reside with him. "After considering all the aspects, the coordinate Bench of this Court had further observed that in case she wishes to accompany the respondent, she would be entitled to the same. The respondent in the case was a person who had married the Muslim girl more than 15 but below 18 years of age. The law laid down in the judgment would apply to the facts of the present case," Justice Bahl observed.

## Teen stabbed to death by 2 juveniles in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 17-year-old teenager has been stabbed to death by two juveniles near his house here in Patel Nagar area, the police said on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Manoj Kumar Negi, a police officer said, adding the two accused have been apprehended.

The gruesome episode was captured in a CCTV camera installed in the area.

In the CCTV footage, two teenagers are seen engaged in a scuffle. After a while, another boy comes -- seems to be carrying something in his hand, comes there, and attacks the victim.

The teenagers later can be seen fleeing while the victim can be seen faltering and taking his mobile phone out of the pocket. But soon he collapses near a bike on the street, and a knife can be seen stuck on his back.

While he was lying in a pool of blood on the streets, people kept watching and passing through the narrow street without helping him, as per the CCTV footage.

A senior police officer said that at 9.22 p.m. on Friday



night, an information was received at Patel Nagar police station about a stabbing incident. Manoj was taken to Sardar Patel hospital where he was declared brought dead.

"On the basis of a statement given by the victim's father, Chandan Singh Negi, a case under section 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC has

been registered," the police official said.

"In his statement, Manoj's father also alleged when he was taking his son to the hospital, Manoj told him that the two juveniles were making comments on his sister and had indulged in eve teasing," said a police officer.

"Manoj had even warned and slapped one juvenile a few days ago. Aggrieved by this act, the accused with the motive to take revenge, stabbed Manoj multiple times with knives on Friday night while he was coming home after attending computer class," said the police officer.

"The accused juveniles have been apprehended and a knife used to commit the crime has also been recovered from their possession."

Police said that till date no complaint has been made by the victim girl or from her family members regarding molestation or sexual harassment at Patel Nagar police station.

"Further investigation is going on and if any conspiracy on the part of any other person shall be found, legal action shall be taken up accordingly," the police said.

## TRS releases 'chargesheet' against BJP ahead of Munugode bypoll

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) on Saturday released a 'chargesheet' against the BJP for miserably failing the country and for its indifferent attitude towards Telangana.

TRS working president and minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) released the chargesheet ahead of the November 3 by-election to Munugode Assembly seat.

The minister lashed out at the BJP-led central government for what he called its failed promises and blatant lies.

Mentioning a host of contemporary issues in the chargesheet, KTR came down heavily on the ruling dispensation at the centre. He told reporters that the TRS is filing the chargesheet on behalf of various aggrieved sections of the society.

The TRS leader alleged that the BJP government has not allocated even a single rupee to Telangana in the last eight years.

"We are asking for votes by showcasing the development done in the last eight years and promising what we will do to Munugode if we win. On the contrary, the BJP is resorting to personal abuses and making degrading remarks on our honourable chief minister," KTR said.



The chargesheet has mentioned that the BJP did not get moved by the plight of fluoride victims in Munugode nor they safeguarded the livelihood of weavers. It also speaks about the ruling BJP's gross injustice towards Telangana like dishonouring the reorganisation act promises, and the party's decisions against the interests of Telangana.

The document also highlighted the effect of the skyrocketing prices of daily essentials on the commoners and how Prime Minister Narendra Modi's anti-farmer policies are sounding a death knell for the farming sector.

The 13-page document also

explains in detail how the central BJP government and some BJP-ruled states cheated the backward classes. It also speaks about how the BJP misled the citizens of the country and how they fooled the youth of the nation and the way they discriminated against the students of Telangana.

KTR said that the BJP has sold the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and many navaratna and mini-ratna companies. He added that the Modi government has tripled the price of cooking gas cylinders thus making life miserable for crores of Indians.

The minister went all guns blazing on the BJP for benefitting their 'cor-

porate friends'.

"On one hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote off corporate loans worth Rs 11.5 lakh crore while on the other, he is terming the welfare schemes given to the poor as freebies and revidis," KTR said.

He pointed out that after the independence, in 67 years, all the PMs have cumulatively made a debt of Rs 55.97 lakh crore while PM Narendra Modi himself made a debt of Rs 110 lakh crore in just 8 years.

KTR has appealed to the voters of Munugode to be aware of the 'jumlas' and 'jhoor' of the BJP and asked the electorate to punish the saffron party in the ensuing bypoll.

## RAHUL GANDHI SHAKES A LEG WITH TRIBALS IN TELANGANA

Hyderabad | Agencies

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday shook a leg with a group of tribal artists during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Telangana's Mahabubnagar district.

Donning a horned tribal headgear, the party MP joined the tribals in performing the traditional dance much to the excitement of party leaders and other participants in the yatra.

Taking to Twitter, he said: "Our tribals are the repositories of our timeless cultures & diversity. Enjoyed matching steps with the Kommu Koya tribal dancers. Their art expresses their values, which we must learn from and preserve."

The senior leader also posted a video of his dance with the tribal artists. On the fourth day of its journey in Telangana, the walkathon started from Dharampur and entered Mahabungara town. Rahul Gandhi was accorded a warm welcome by a



group of tribals with display of traditional arts.

Hundreds of party cadres enthusiastically walked along with their leader. He stopped enroute to meet a group of students learning karate and also watched performances by the children and their instructor.

Some members of the traditional shepherd community also called on Rahul Gandhi, who interacted with them to know their problems.

Leaders and workers of National Students Union of India (NSUI) Telangana unit also met the Congress leader to brief him on the problems faced by the students in the state.

Members of Osmania University PhD Scholars Association also called on him to explain their problems.

The yatra halted at Erukonda for a mid-day break. Later in the day, Rahul Gandhi will interact with representatives of various educational institutions, eminent academicians and student leaders.

## Internet & social media platforms now potent toolkit of terrorists: EAM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on

Saturday said the internet and social media platforms have turned into potent instruments in the toolkit of terrorists and militant groups for spreading propaganda, radicalisation, and conspiracy theories aimed at destabilising societies.

The Minister was speaking at a special meeting of the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee.

"In recent years, terrorist groups, their ideological fellow-travellers, particularly in open and liberal societies and 'lone wolf' attackers have significantly enhanced their capabilities by gaining



access to these technologies. They use technology and money, and most importantly, the ethos of open societies, to attack freedom, tolerance and progress. Internet and social media platforms have turned into potent instruments in the toolkit of terrorist and militant groups for spreading

propaganda, radicalisation and conspiracy theories aimed at destabilising societies."

Terrorism, he said, remains one of the gravest threats to humanity. The UN Security Council, in the past two decades, has evolved an important architecture, built primarily around the counter terrorism sanctions regime, to combat this menace. This has been very effective in putting those countries on notice that had turned terrorism into a state-funded enterprise.

"Despite this, the threat of terrorism is only growing and expanding, particularly in Asia and Africa, as successive reports of the 1267 Sanctions Committee Monitoring Reports have highlighted," he added.

## 'MLAs POACHING' CASE HITS BJP CAMPAIGN IN MUNUGODE BYPOLL

Hyderabad | Agencies

The 'MLAs poaching' case has impacted the BJP's campaign for Munugode Assembly by-election, while the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) is working aggressively to cash in on the alleged attempt by the saffron party to buy its MLAs.

In an apparent fall-out of the case, the BJP has cancelled the October 31 public meeting which was scheduled to be addressed by its national president J.P. Nadda

The decision came amid the political storm triggered by the alleged attempt by three BJP agents to 'buy' four TRS MLAs. The arrests and leak of sensational audio tapes of the telephonic conversation between the accused and TRS leaders have caused a huge embarrassment to the BJP and put the saffron party on the defensive ahead of the November 3 by-election. After the arrest of three alleged agents of BJP on October 26 from a farmhouse near Hyderabad, the TRS went aggressive in its campaign. The ruling party leaders are targeting the saffron party for the conspiracy to topple the TRS government.



Though the saffron party has denied any link with the aMLAs poaching' case, it is apparent that the episode has rattled the party in the midst of a by-election campaign.

The proposed public meeting to be addressed by Nadda was planned as the highpoint of the BJP campaign and also a counter to the October 30 rally to be addressed by Chief Minister and TRS president K. Chandrababbar Rao.

The BJP, however, denied that the cancellation of the public meeting had anything to do with the case. Its leaders said the party decided to organise mandal level public meetings instead of a large public meeting. The BJP's Telangana unit has invited Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister Smriti Irani for the mandal-level public meetings. The party is also trying to rope in Tejaswi Surya and other leaders for the campaigning during the last two days. The saffron party plans to mobilize 25,000 people for each of the mandal-level public meetings.

State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar has launched a counter-attack on TRS by daring KCR to swear at Yadadri temple that MLAs poaching drama was not scripted by him.

“No amount of politics would be of any avail until the masses in India are once more well educated, well fed, and well cared for.”



Swami Vivekananda

## COURT ORDERS RESUMPTION OF TRIAL IN NADIMARG MASSACRE OF 2003



Srinagar | Agencies

The high court of J&K and Ladakh on Saturday ordered the reopening of the Nadimarg massacre case in which 24 Kashmiri Pandits were killed on March 23, 2003.

Allowing a revision petition filed by government against the 2011 order by the trial court in Shopian, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul directed examination of the witnesses on commission.

"In view of the well settled legal position laid down by the Supreme

Court, I am of the view that the court below has dismissed the application of the prosecution for examining the witness on commission while overlooking the material and relevant aspects of the case.

"This revision petition is allowed

and order dated 09.02.2011, passed by the court below is set aside and the application for issuance of commission for examination of witnesses moved by the prosecution/petitioner is allowed," the order said.

The high court also held that the court below shall now take all the necessary measures for ensuring the examination of the witnesses concerned by issuing commission and/or recording their statement through video-conferencing and shall ensure expeditious proceedings so as to conclude the matter at the earliest.

In August this year, the high court had recalled its December 21, 2011 order by virtue of which it had upheld the February 9, 2011 order by the trial court in Shopian district.

The petition filed by the government in 2011 seeking fresh trial of the case or the transfer of the case to Jammu was dismissed by the high court. On March 23, 2003, LeT terrorists had lined up 24 Kashmiri pandits in Nadimarg village and killed them in cold blood.

Terrorists had disarmed the police guards posted for the security of the 11 Pandit families comprising 54 members in the village.

Those killed included 11 men, 11 women and 2 children.

## 120 killed, 100 injured in stampede at Halloween parties in Seoul



Seoul | Agencies

As many as 120 people were killed while 100 others were injured in a deadly stampede in Seoul's Itaewon district, as huge crowds of people stampeded at Halloween parties, according to fire authorities.

Choi Seong-beom, Head of the Fire Department in Yongsan, which includes Itaewon, told reporters there were a large number of casualties during Halloween festivities, Yonhap news agency reported.

Choi Seong-beom, head

of the fire department in Yongsan, which includes Itaewon, told reporters there were a large number of casualties during Halloween festivities, at the time going for print.

The stampede took place near the Hamilton Hotel in the nightlife district of Itaewon, as a large number of people were believed to have entered a narrow alley near the hotel.

President Yoon Suk-yeol, who presided over an emergency meeting on the stampede, ordered officials to swiftly administer first aid

and treat the injured, the presidential office said.

Yoon also ordered officials to deploy emergency medical officials to Itaewon and secure emergency beds.

Separately, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo instructed the officials to make utmost efforts to minimise damages.

Meanwhile, Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon, who is on a visit to Europe, decided to return home in the wake of the accident, city officials said.

A total of 142 firefighting vehicles were mobilised for the area.

## TRADITION OF INDIA



People buy bamboo items, fruits and other things for the Chhath Puja festivities. An artist giving final touch to earthen made 'Hathi' for Kosi Pujan ahead of Chhath puja.

## Telangana High Court stays probe in 'MLAs poaching' case

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Telangana High Court on Saturday stayed the ongoing investigation into 'MLAs poaching' case till further orders.

A single judge bench of the court passed the interim orders on a petition by the BJP seeking probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the alleged attempt to buy four MLAs of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy asked the state government and other respondents to file the counter by November 4. Petitioner's counsel Rachna Reddy said the court deferred the investigation temporarily until further orders of the court.

She said since the TRS leaders were taking BJP's name in the case without

prima facie or circumstantial evidence, the petitioner approached the High Court seeking transfer of the case to CBI for an impartial investigation.

The judge made it clear that his order is only for a few days and hence not in conflict with the order passed by another single judge allowing the remand of the accused.

Earlier, Justice S. Sumalatha set aside the order of a lower court rejecting remand for the three accused. The judge asked the lower court to remand the accused to judicial custody upon their production by the police.

Justice Chillakur Sumalatha passed the orders on a criminal revision petition filed by the Cyberabad police seeking to set aside the ACB special court judge order rejecting remand of the accused.

## RALLY ON UNEMPLOYMENT TURNS VIOLENT IN SHILLONG, MANY INJURED

Shillong: Many people including two journalists were injured when a rally taken out here on Friday by the Federation of Khasi, Jaintia and Garo People (FKJGP) turned violent, the police said.

The police are yet to confirm how many people were injured during the rally organised against unemployment in Meghalaya.

The violence began as soon as the rally started to march on the Guwahati-Shillong road leading to Khyndailad.

According to an eyewitness, while it looked like any other normal rallies, some members of the FKJGP, many of them masked, punched, kicked and pushed passers by indiscriminately, causing panic and huge traffic jams. At Dhankheti junction, people were beaten up with flag poles while shopkeepers downed shutters as panic gripped the hill city. Mostly non-tribals were targeted in the attacks.

## 'I developed a dependence on cocaine'

Former Pakistan Cricket team captain and ace Pacer Wasim Akram makes a shocking revelation

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Pakistan captain and legendary fast bowler Wasim Akram has revealed that he was addicted to cocaine after the end of his playing career but quit following the death of his first wife.

The 1992 World Cup-winner, who took more than 900 international wickets before retiring in 2003, began using cocaine while working as a television expert around the world.

In an interview with the Times, the 56-year old revealed that he has mentioned about the addiction in his new autobiography.

"The culture of fame in South Asia is all consuming, seductive and corrupting. You can go to 10 parties a night, and some do. And it took its toll on me," Akram was quoted

as saying by BBC. The former left-arm pacer also mentioned about the selfless act of his first wife Huma, who died suddenly in 2009 from a rare fungal infection. "Huma's last selfless, unconscious act was curing me of my drug problem. That way of life was over, and I have never looked back," he said. After making his international debut in 1984, Wasim played 104 Tests and 356 one-day internationals for Pakistan, winning the 1992 World Cup. He led Pakistan in 25 Tests and 109 ODIs between 1993 and 2000 and is widely regarded as one of the best bowlers of all time.

According to Akram, he "developed a dependence on cocaine" while he was travelling away from Huma and their two sons, who were living in Manchester.

"It started innocuously enough when I was

offered a line at a party in England; my use grew steadily more serious, to the point that I felt I needed it to function," the former cricketer further revealed.

The legendary quick sought help after his late wife discovered his drug use, but said he had a bad experience in a rehab facility in Lahore and fell back into the habit during the 2009 Champions Trophy, where he worked as a pundit. Akram said the drugs were "a substitute for the adrenaline rush of competition, which I sorely missed" but Huma's death shortly after that tournament spurred him to quit. He has since remarried and has a young daughter with his second wife.

The former Pakistani cricketer also addressed allegations of match-fixing during his career, again denying any involvement in corruption.



## 4 FEARED DEAD, 6 INJURED IN J&K LANDSLIDE

Jammu: Four people are feared dead while six others were injured after a landslide in J&K's Kishtwar district on Saturday, officials said.

"Four people buried under the rubble are feared dead, while six injured persons have been rescued after a landslide on the site of the under construction Rattle hydro power project in Kishtwar. A JCB machine along with its driver and labourers was buried under the rubble when the landslide struck the area. The injured have been shifted to the hospital in Doda district. Relief and rescue operation is going on at the site," officials said.

## STAGE III OF GRAP IMPLEMENTED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT ACROSS NCR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The sub-committee for invoking action under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas held an emergency meeting on Saturday to address the deteriorating air quality in the NCR.

While reviewing the overall air quality parameters during the meeting, the Commission noted that due to unfavourable meteorological conditions with slower wind speed and sudden spike in farm fire incidents, it is considered necessary to implement Stage III of GRAP with immediate effect in the entire NCR.

The sub-committee reviewed the air quality scenario in the region and noted that the air quality parameters are likely to dip in the coming days and in an effort to address the AQI of Delhi-NCR, it took the call to invoke all actions as envisaged under Stage III of GRAP -- 'severe' air quality



(AQI ranging between 401 and 450) -- on Saturday with immediate effect in the entire NCR. This is in addition to the restrictive actions mentioned in Stage I and Stage II of GRAP. Various agencies responsible for implementing measures under GRAP and pollution control boards (PCBs) of NCR and DPCC (Delhi Pollution Control

Committee) have also been advised to ensure strict implementation of actions of Stage III under GRAP during this period. The air quality is likely to deteriorate and remain in 'severe' category from October 31 to November 1 and for the subsequent 6 days, the air quality is likely to fluctuate between 'severe' to 'very poor' category. The winds are forecast to be calm in the coming days and the wind direction is likely to change course frequently.

Further, the CAQM appealed to the citizens of NCR to cooperate in implementing GRAP and follow the steps mentioned in the Citizen Charter under GRAP.

The Commission advised people to choose a cleaner commute -- share a ride to work or use public transport or walk or use cycle. People whose positions allow working from home may work from home, it said.

The CAQM also banned use of coal and wood for heating purpose. Individual house owners may provide electric heaters (during winter) to security staff to avoid open burning, it said.

## Northeast monsoon sets in over TN: IMD

Chennai | Agencies

The Northeast monsoon has set in over Tamil Nadu from Saturday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The IMD in a statement said, "The Northeast monsoon rains commenced over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikkal and adjoining areas of south coastal Andhra

Pradesh from today, October 29, 2022." The weather department has also predicted scattered, widespread light and moderate rainfall with thunderstorms over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry till November 2.

Rainfall is also predicted in Kerala and Karnataka during these days.

Tamil Nadu gets its maximum rainfall during the northeast monsoon.



# BUREAUCRACY GETTING TRAPPED IN MADHYA PRADESH

Recent case is related to former IAS Radheshyam Julaniya. The Lokayukta organization has started investigation by registering a case against Julania on the complaint of corruption. He is accused of benefitting the contract company of the Water Resources Department and the company deposited an amount of about one crore in his account, apart from this there are many other allegations.

Sandeep Puranic | Bhopal

The days of bureaucratic trappings seem to have begun in Madhya Pradesh, in a few days the steps of the investigating agency Lokayukta organization and the slanting eyes of the government are giving some similar indications.

Cases of bureaucratic domination in the state have been coming to the fore. Mistakes in government schemes are also not hidden from anyone. The image of the government is also being affected by these situations. There is resentment among the ministers of the state government regarding many officers. As a result, the government is beginning to feel that next year's election will not be easy if the bureaucracy is not controlled.

For a few days, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is also in a strong mood and he is also taking action against the wrongdoers. In the matter of Prime Minister's housing and ration distribution in the state, a big mess has come to the fore. Both these are cases from which no one is denying the possibility of creating a negative image of the government among the poor sections.

The attitude of the Chief Minister can



also be understood from the virtual meeting held yesterday. He says that if news of any department comes in the media, then the lights should be lit immediately, it is not my job or the public relations department's work alone. If any news is published, then what should the Chief Minister-Minister

have to do with us, this feeling will not work.

If any news is published then it is your duty to tell that this information is wrong, and if it is correct then take action.

The change in the modus operandi of the government can be understood from the

FIRs lodged against the ration shop operators at many places and the action taken on 104 employees in the Women and Child Development Department and the sacking of many employees.

On the one hand, while the government is tightening the ground situation to the bureaucracy, on the other hand the Lokayukta organization, the investigating agency of the state government, is also seen to be active. The government is being appreciated for the Mahakal Lok of Ujjain, but in a case related to this, the Lokayukta has issued notices to 15 besides three officers of the Indian Administrative Service. These officers are accused of not only changing the fixed rates to benefit the contractors of crores, but also changed the items used. It is to be known that the Mahakal Lok was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi only recently.

Experts believe that the Lokayukta organization may have registered cases against the officials, but whether the investigation will be possible against them is a big question. This is because in addition to IAS, IPS, IASS, the complaint of corruption of first class officers can be investigated only when permission is given from the Chief Minister.

## Jatashankar Dham will be declared a tourist destination: CM Chouhan



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Mauniya Mahotsav depicts the culture of Bundelkhand. This festival gives us the message to live life with joy and gaiety. Mauniya Mahotsav will be celebrated with great pomp by including it in the government calendar. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the Mauniya dance ceremony at Janki Niwas temple complex in Tehsil Bijawar of Chhatarpur district.

Chief Minister Chouhan announced to sanction an amount of 18 crores for development works in Bijawar and to make Satai a

tehsil. The CM also announced about restarting civil hospital in Bijawar, establishment of ITI, construction of bus stand along with stadium and upgradation of hospital at Satai. The Chief Minister said that B.Com and B.Sc classes would start in the college from this year itself. The Central Government will be requested to start Ekavya Vidyalaya in Bijawar. Chief Minister Chouhan said that there are many pilgrimage sites in Bundelkhand region. The stalled development works will be completed soon after declaring Jatashankar Dham, which is called Kedarnath of Madhya Pradesh, as a tourist destination.

## Two minors dragged by a truck on suspicion of mobile theft in Indore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a shocking incident, two minors were tied to a truck with rope and dragged on suspicion of mobile theft in Indore.

The brutal punishment was executed by a group of individuals in the presence of several people at a vegetable market in the Rajendra Nagar area of the city on Friday.

A video of the incident surfaced on social media, showing the minors with their hands and legs were tied with rope being mercilessly dragged by a truck. What was more shocking is the fact that the people present there were either busy filming the brutal act, or running behind the truck.

As the video went viral, the local police took cognisance of the matter and launched a probe after registering a case.

"A case has been registered and a hunt is on to nab those involved in the incident," a police officer said.

However, it wasn't the only incident when people have punished someone on suspicion of theft, as such acts have become common across Madhya Pradesh now, especially in



cases of theft or religious issues.

A similar incident was reported on October 24 when a man was tied to a pole and brutally thrashed by a group of people merely on the suspicion of stealing cotton from a field. A case was registered on October 27 after a video of the incident surfaced on social media.

In August, a tribal man was shot dead while three others were injured after forest guards opened fire on them near the Katiyapura forest beat in Vidisha district on suspicion of stealing dry wood.

## HINDU GROUP ALLEGEDLY USED MUSLIM NAME TO BUILD REAL ESTATE

Team Absolute | Khargone

An organisation with an Urdu name, a plan to set up community places by flattening rocky land, and the "fear of Muslims" - men linked to a Hindutva outfit in Madhya Pradesh bought 200 acres of land allegedly using a mix of development and communal stereotypes.

The people who sold them the land on the outskirts of Khargone town in the 2000s - most of them small farmers - have approached the police for an inquiry, as a housing colony is now taking shape in the area. They say they feel cheated as they sold the land "because we were told it'd become a Muslim area".

The group currently headed by a Ranjeet Singh Dandir, a leader of the ruling BJP, went from being "Tanzeem-e-Zarkhez" to "Professor PC Mahajan Foundation" in 2007 after the deals were done. Its officials deny any trickery.

"We are only putting the land to good use," said Ravi Mahajan, director of the Foundation. Besides hous-



ing plots, a gaushala or shelter for stray cows is being built too, he said.

The police and the administration did not respond to requests for comment. The BJP has distanced itself. "Our party has nothing to do with this. This issue is between the seller and the buyer and they have their own economic interest," said Rajnish Agarwal, state BJP secretary.

Civic development on the land; a board that declares it belongs to 'Professor PC Mahajan Foundation'.

Farmers say they were "tricked" out of their land, as they thought the agents who approached them were Muslims. "I sold my land in 2004 when a man named Zakir came to us and said he has bought all the land around ours," claimed Nandkishore Kushwaha, "He told us there will be a slaughterhouse here soon. 'Sell your land to Muslims as the community is settling here anyway,' we were told."

He said he got Rs 40,000 for five acres. Others say they were told a Haj

Committee would be formed, and a burial ground set up too.

Tanzeem-e-Zarkhez was formed in 2002 by a group of Hindus, who hired a Muslim man named Zakir Sheikh as manager. He told NDTV, "I thought the purpose of the organisation was to work towards a social cause. But I never forced or misled anyone to sell their land." Some of the land was bought by another organisation formed by the same group, Prakash Smriti Sewa Sanshan.

Of the 200 acres, 150 were bought from 11 individuals or organisations. The remaining land belonged to small farmers. One of the farmers, Deepak Kushwaha, said a man named Bablu Khan came to his father, "We sold the nine acres we had." A businessman named Sanjay Singhvi said, "My relatives felt that a Haj Committee would be formed, Muslims would settle here - that's why they panicked and sold the land. In the end, I sold mine as well." Officials of the Trust at the site of the upcoming housing complex.

## Tikamgarh gang rape

# 6 accused drink liquor, took the woman hostage and made porn videos

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the case of gang rape that took place two days ago in the city, the police have taken DNA samples of all the 6 accused arrested. FSL officer Pradeep Yadav said that samples have been sent to Bhopal for DNA test. It may take 10 to 12 days for the report to come. The DNA report will be strong evidence against the accused. This will help in getting the harshest punishment to the accused in the court.

On the night of 26 October, a 23-year-old woman was gang-raped by 6 youths. The accused kept the woman hostage overnight and raped her several times one by one. During this, the woman kept pleading in front of the accused to go home, but the accused youths, who were drunk, did not listen to her.

All the accused kept torturing the woman



throughout the night. During this, they made obscene videos of the woman and sexually assaulted her. This entire incident has been cited by the victim woman in the complaint letter given in

Kotwali. At present, after conducting a medical examination of the woman, the police have taken samples of all the 6 accused for DNA test.

It has been learned in the information that the accused youths were under the influence of alcohol on the night of the gang rape incident. On the complaint of the woman, when the police and FSL team investigated the spot, four empty liquor bottles were found. The woman also told the police that all the youths were committing cruelty by drinking alcohol. The woman had come after leaving the son at the neighbor's house.

The woman had left her three-year-old son in the neighbourhood, before going to the site of accused Arvind Sahu. Dehat police station in-charge Preeti Bhargava told that after the divorce of the woman, she was living with her three-year-old son in Tikamgarh.

## Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan plants saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Cassia, Peepal and Gulmohar in the Smart City Garden. Along with CM Chouhan, social worker of Rajgarh KP Panwar planted sapling on his birthday.

The foundation is working in the fields of social service, distribution of food to the needy and environment with the goal of "a resolution towards a better future". In the Hara-bhara Madhya Pradesh campaign, tree-planting activities are carried out on the birth anniversary of great personalities.



## From Mahakal temple to Indore road, social media-obsessed youngsters risk trouble

In an era of technology where social media has become like an integral part of our life, reports suggest that teens and youngsters are said to be the most impacted with its excessive use, which is putting their lives at risk.

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

Earlier this month, two young women in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district attracted strong public reactions for dancing to Bollywood music on the premises of Mahakaleshwar temple to shoot videos for their Instagram accounts.

Following a public outrage, the state administration ordered a probe into the matter and directed registration of a case against them.

This is not one odd instance but a closer examination illustrates how the youth is obsessed with social media and can go to any extent to get their share of the social media fame. Another instance of this madness came to the fore recently, when three teenage boys risked their life while filming a tiger from a close range while it was crossing a road in some forest area.

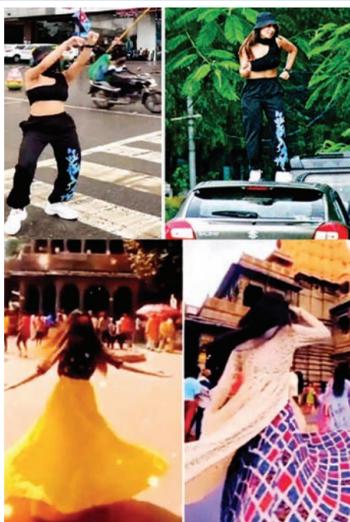
After the video went viral on social media, Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Susanta Nanda tweeted the video advising that,

"Remember that if you see a large carnivore, it wants you to see it. It never wanted to be chased. The tiger can maul you to death feeling threatened. Please don't resort to this weird behaviour." For instance, a young woman was filmed running across the road to dance at a busy intersection in Indore last year. Later, the stunt performed for an Instagram video, landed her in trouble with the police charging her for violating traffic rules. The woman was identified as Shreya Kalra, who had shared the video on her

Instagram account.

According to Indore-based lifestyle coach Priyanka Tiwari, the teens and youngsters are more involved in social media, which has become the root cause of several other problems. "Major lifestyle problems take root in teenagers and youngsters, who are under 35-year-old," she said.

Tiwari, who often organises her show in this particular subject, was of the view that one should realise how bad habits are being reward-





# CONCERNS RAISED AS POST-COVID CASES LIKE DIABETES, BRAIN FOG, HEART DISEASES INCREASE

▶ MAHARASHTRA STATE COVID-19 TASK FORCE (SCTF) HAS EXPRESSED FRESH CONCERNS AS THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF THE CORONAVIRUS LIKE DIABETES, BRAIN FOG AND HEART DISEASES ARE SHOOTING UP, OFFICIALS SAID HERE ON SATURDAY.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

It has called for monitoring and follow-up of recovered Covid-19 patients as necessary besides recommending use of face masks in hospitals and clinics by medics, healthcare workers and others.

state, Singapore and other countries, it has concluded that even if the number of cases increases, the new variant seems 'mild'. Accordingly, most patients can be treated in home isolation with a minimum number needing hospitalisation. Dr. Shubhangi Deshmukh, head of Holistic Healthcare & Panchakarma Centre,

in the posh Powai - the first specialising in post-Covid treatment-cum-rehab in Maharashtra - said that recovered Covid-19 patients complaining of all types of residual or even new health issues have been flocking to her clinic for treatment. "So far, we have successfully treated and rehabilitated more than 6,000 patients for issues like weak-

ened lungs, breathing problems, general body weakness, bone and limbs problems, respiratory or digestive-related issues. Most of these complications are an outcome of the powerful Covid-19 drugs given during treatment, though it was not necessary," Dr. Deshmukh explained to reporter.

According to the State Health Department, till date, 36 XBB variant cases have been detected, of which 32 were treated in home quarantine and the rest four had to be admitted, but nobody required oxygen support or ventilators.

The maximum was in Pune (21), Thane (10), Nagpur (2), and one each in Raigad, Akola and Amravati.

Of the 36, six were previous Covid-19 patients, while 34 were fully vaccinated including five with booster doses.

Meanwhile, the state Covid-19 cumulative cases since March 2020 have risen to 81,31,458 while a staggering 148,385 deaths have been reported so far - both highest in the country, with a current recovery rate of 98.16 percent.

# MVA cries foul as Shinde-Fadnavis govt slashes security of 25 Oppn leaders

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid stinging criticism over the state losing out mega-projects to Gujarat, the ruling government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has slashed the protection accorded to at least 25 Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders.



They include prominent MVA personalities like several ex-ministers, MPs, MLAs of Nationalist Congress Party, Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT), and follow an "assessment of their security perceptions", even as leaders of the three parties raised howls of protests.

However, the protection given to NCP President Sharad Pawar, Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray, NCP MP Supriya Sule, NCP MLA Dr. Jitendra Ahwad and certain others has not been touched. Those whose security has been removed include three ex-home ministers - State NCP President Jayant Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal and Anil Deshmukh, currently in jail.

Others who forfeited their security are former NCP ministers like Nawab Malik, presently in jail, Dhananjay Munde, Narhari Zirwal and Eknath Khadse, Congress state President Nana Patole, Vijay Wadetiwar, Balasaheb Thorat, Satej Patil and Sunil Kedar, besides Sena (UBT)'s Bhaskar Jadhav, Anil Parab, Varun Sardesai and MP Sanjay Raut, currently in jail, and MP Kalaben M. Delkar from the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

In contrast, a trusted aide of Thackeray and MLC Milind Narvekar has been given a 'Y-Plus-Escort' cover, on par with the NCP's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar and ex-home minister Dilip Walse-Patil, while

two ex-CMs of Congress Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan have been provided 'Y Security' cover.

NCP's Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said the cut or removal of security is only intended to suppress the voice of the Opposition on the continuous failures of the Shinde-Fadnavis regime.

Congress' Wadetiwar rued how his cover has been taken away though he lives in the treacherous Maoist-infested areas of eastern Maharashtra while Sena (UBT)'s Sardesai slammed the government move to drop his security cover terming it as political vendetta by the Shinde-Fadnavis regime.

# Mumbai-based vendor introduces juices named after Allu Arjun



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The most recent declaration of crazy fandom for actor Allu Arjun came from a Mumbai-based juice vendor Bunty, who introduced a range of beverages named after the star.

The beverage comes in a customised mug carrying dialogues and images of Allu Arjun's character from 'Pushpa: The Rise'.

son to pay tribute to Arjun in this manner, Bunty of Bunty Juice Centre said: "I am a huge fan of Allu Arjun sir right from his first film. I love all his dialogues but my favourite dialogue from Pushpa is 'Fire hai main, jukhega nahi' which reflects in the ice smoke that flows from the Allu Arjun Pushpa Juice Special.

'Pushpa: The Rise' is a 2021 Indian Telugu-language action drama film directed by Sukumar. It stars Allu Arjun as

the titular character alongside Fahadh Faasil (his Telugu debut), and Rashmika Mandanna while Jagadeesh Prathap Bandari, Sunil, Rao Ramesh, Dhananjaya, Anasuya Bharadwaj, Ajay and Ajay Ghosh play supporting roles. The first of two cinematic parts, the film depicts the rise of a coolie in the smuggling syndicate of red sandalwood, a rare wood that grows only in the Seshachalam Hills of Andhra Pradesh.

# MAN ARRESTED FOR RAPING BUFFALO CALF IN PUNE

Pune: A 38-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping a buffalo calf in Maharashtra's Pune city, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place in Deccan area of the city on Friday, when locals spotted the man allegedly raping a buffalo calf, and they beat him up till he fell unconscious, an official said. The accused, who hails from Nepal, was rushed to Sassoon General Hospital in an injured state, he said.

"Based on the evidence submitted by locals, we have registered an FIR against the man under section 377 (unnatural sex) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Cruelty Against Animals Act," a senior inspector of Deccan Police Station said.

# Amid Maha-Guj row over projects, Gadkari seeking investments from Tatas

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

At a time when Maharashtra is losing many big-ticket projects to neighbouring Gujarat, a letter written by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, seeking investments from the Tata Group in and around Nagpur has surfaced.

Citing strong points like infrastructure, land availability and connectivity, the minister sought investments from the Tata Group in and around Nagpur. Sources said the letter was written about three weeks ago. Tata Group companies are engaged in businesses like steel, automobile, consumer products, IT services and aviation, among others.

Gadkari is the Lok Sabha member from Nagpur.

Recently, Gujarat bagged many big projects, including over Rs 1.5 lakh crore investment from Foxconn-Vedanta in chip manufacturing, and nearly Rs 22,000 crore aircraft manufacturing project of Tata-Airbus.

Maharashtra BJP, which is a coalition partner in the Eknath Shinde-led state government, has been facing criticism after Gujarat walked away with the two



mega projects. Gujarat will go to the polls later this year.

The opposition parties have blamed the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government after the state lost the big-ticket projects to Gujarat. "Another project I have voiced this since July, asking 'Khoke' Sarkar to try for it (Tata Airbus). I wonder why every project is going to other states since the last 3 months. Loss of faith in 'Khoke' Sarkar is evident on

industry level. Will the industry minister resign after losing 4 projects," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray had asked in a tweet on Thursday.

"Will Maharashtra industry minister resign for this? Oh wait, one needs to have a spine to take responsibility for failing the state. But then, the only thing that matters is 50 'Khoke'," Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi tweeted.

# "Our Double Engine" worked well with centre: Aaditya Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray on Saturday slammed the Eknath Shinde-led government for the loss of the Tata-Airbus project and claimed that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) had "worked perfectly well" with the Centre than the current dispensation. Addressing a press conference, Aaditya, whose father Uddhav Thackeray leads a faction of the Shiv Sena, criticised Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and stated that Maharashtra was going backwards because of his "betrayal" and "demonic ambition".

"When we talk about the double engine government during the time of the MVA government, our double engine with the Centre worked perfectly well," the former state minister said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) uses the term "double engine government" for the party or its ally's government at the Centre and the state.

"After this unconstitutional govern-



ment came to power, one engine has failed and whatever investment that was to come to Maharashtra is going to other states," Aaditya said.

He further said that Subhash Desai, who served as the state industries minister from 2014-2022, had brought in investments worth Rs6.6 lakh crore during his tenure. "When we went to Davos, myself, Desai, and Nitin Raut could bring in investment to the tune of

Rs 80,000 crore," he said. "The important aspect is that it was the same Central government. So, if the MVA government and the Centre could work and bring investment to Maharashtra, then why did their engine fail?" he asked.

The opposition has been attacking the state government after a consortium of European aviation firm Airbus and the Tata group selected Vadodara in Gujarat for a Rs 22,000-crore project to manufacture military aircraft.

Aaditya claimed that this was the fourth major project for which other states were chosen over Maharashtra.

The Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor project, the Medical Device Park, the Bulk Drugs Park, and Tata-Airbus projects were planned in Maharashtra, but have now chosen other states, he said.

"No investor has any faith in the government. Be it law and order, investment or agriculture, the focus is only on politics," he said.

# MUMBAI'S AIR QUALITY CONTINUES TO REMAIN IN 'MODERATE' CATEGORY, AQI AT 149

Mumbai: Mumbai's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) continued to remain in 'moderate' category on Saturday.

According to the System of Air Quality Forecast and Research (SAFAR), the city recorded an AQI of 149 at 11:30 am.

On Saturday, the city recorded an AQI of 173, which falls in the 'poor' category.

An AQI between 201 and 300 is considered 'poor', 301-400 'very poor' and 401-500 'severe', while the AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory' and 101 and 200 'moderate'. The SAFAR dashboard on Saturday showed Worli's AQI as 65 and BKC's AQI as 43. Colaba's AQI and Mazgaon's AQI continued to stay in the 'poor' category at 228 and 228, respectively. While, Andheri's AQI and Malad's AQI improved to 'moderate' category at 190 and 176, respectively. Meanwhile, the city recorded a minimum temperature of 22 degrees Celsius. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the day will remain clear and maximum temperature on Friday will hover around 35 degrees Celsius.

# Passenger injured in severe turbulence in May died in September: SpiceJet



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Akbar Ansari, a passenger who was injured due to turbulence in a SpiceJet flight in early May, passed away last month.

Family members of Ansari, who was 48 years old, said he was on ventilator support for more than a month before succumbing to injuries on September 26.

On May 1, SpiceJet's Mumbai-Durgapur flight encountered severe turbulence during its descent phase, injuring 14 passengers and three cabin crew members.

The family members alleged that

Ansari did not receive proper treatment. According to the death certificate issued by the Mission Hospital at Durgapur on September 29, Akbar Ansari, age 48, died of "sepsis in shock" caused by poly-trauma with Spinal injury." SpiceJet on Saturday said that "a passenger who was injured during the severe turbulence encountered by SpiceJet flight on May 1, 2022 sadly passed away last month." The company "extended" all possible assistance including taking care of the passenger's medical and hospital expenses, it stated in the statement and added that "the Compensation is being paid as per norms."

# BNMC urges hawkers to take advantage of PM SVANidhi scheme

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation (BNMC) commissioner Vijaykumar Mhasal has asked hawkers to make use of the scheme that provides affordable collateral-free loans

The civic authorities in Bhiwandi of Maharashtra's Thane district have urged hawkers to take advantage of the PM SVANidhi scheme, which will resume in the town from November 1, an official said on Saturday.



Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation (BNMC) commissioner Vijaykumar Mhasal has asked hawkers to make use of the scheme that provides affordable collateral-free loans to street vendors.

In an official release, the BNMC's public relations officer Sunil Zalke said that all categories of hawkers will be eligible for a loan of Rs 10,000, and those in the urban region will be eligible for an additional Rs 10,000.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Vande Bharat Express on the Gandhinagar-Mumbai route hit a bull in Gujarat this morning, the third such incident in a month.

The semi-high-speed train was halted for around 15 minutes after the collision which resulted in damage to the nose cone cover of the driver coach.

Earlier this month, the newly launched train hit a cow near Anand station in Gujarat, a day after it had hit four buffaloes.

The latest collision took place at



8.17 am near Atul railway station.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav recently said such collisions with cattle are unavoidable and "this has been kept in mind while designing the train".

The train, the third service under the Vande Bharat series, was flagged off last month by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who also travelled in it from Gandhinagar to Kalapur railway station in Ahmedabad.

The train reaches 160 km per hour in just over two minutes, and has better riding comfort than other trains, according to the railways.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Madonna took to her Instagram story, where she shared pictures flaunting her bosoms but she carefully placed candy emojis to cover her breasts. In one image, she is seen leaning towards the camera and captioned it: "Went from candy to money." In the image she is seen wearing a gold corset with fishnets. She dropped a candy, money bag and a laughing emoji.

## Shirtless Madonna

Recently, Madonna made news after receiving backlash over bizarre circumcision confession

The 'Like a Virgin' songstress had written over a plain background: "I have a confession to make." She followed it up with a picture of her holding a wine glass with her colourfully-painted nails.

Another photo shows her taking a sip from the glass, while the third one sees her bending towards her phone's camera. The next shot features her in the same position with her sheer blue skirt and putting it around her head.



Queen of pop Madonna shared a racy picture on social media, where she was seen posing shirtless.

Over the images, she declared: "I was not circumcised." Prior to this, Madonna made a jaw-dropping confession about her sexuality. In an October 9 post, she appeared to come out as gay through a TikTok video.

## Emma Corrin talks about intimate scenes in 'My Policeman'

Los Angeles | Agencies

English actress Emma Corrin, who is awaiting the release of her movie 'My Policeman', recently opened up about the importance of intimate scenes in the film. The film, which also stars Harry Styles (Tom) and David Dawson, sees Emma playing the role of Tom's wife, Marion.

Talking about the intimate scenes and how they helped to move the narrative forward, Emma said, "When Tom and Marion are first intimate together, it's almost heartbreaking in the sense that, although they're physically close to each other, they're so far apart. I think it's one of the first times she realises there's something quite significant missing from their relationship. You feel that and feel for her, and that's very powerful."

The film is set in the 1957 Britain when homosexuality was a taboo. It tells the story of a married man falling in love with his best friend. But the 'many' intimate scenes in the film have become the talk of the town. Adding how the bond between the three friends is crucial in the film, Corrin said, "The friendship that the three of them have is so central and we knew that the audience would really need to believe in that. We were lucky to have a three-week rehearsal process before we started shooting where we got to know each other." Corrin, who identifies as a non-binary, found it challenging to play the character, "I was willing to explore it and I learned a lot. I certainly learned what it was like for people to exist at that time."

## 'My Policeman'



## 'The Astronaut' by BTS' Jin sells 700,000 copies on day 1

Seoul | Agencies

The first official solo single by BTS' Jin has sold more than 700,000 copies on the first day of its release, his agency said Saturday. 'The Astronaut' sold 700,754 copies a day after it came out at 1 p.m. Friday, Big Hit Music said, quoting data from Hanteo Chart, a local market tracker, reports Yonhap.

It marks a big sales figure for a single-track album. 'The Astronaut' also topped iTunes' top songs chart in 97 countries around the world, including the United States, Britain, Germany and France, as of 9 a.m. Saturday. The song's music video telling a story of an astronaut who accidentally landed on Earth has also garnered over 17 million views on YouTube as of 2 p.m. 'The Astronaut' is a pop-rock genre song co-written by Coldplay, with the British band also playing on the recording. Jin participated in writing the lyrics, expressing his affection for Army, the global fandom of the K-pop septet. Jin's deeply sentimental voice accompanied by a calming sound of acoustic guitar and gradual build-up of synth sound creates the mysterious and dreamy mood of the song. After wrapping up promotional activities for 'The Astronaut', Jin is set to temporarily leave the music scene to become the first BTS member to enlist for mandatory military service.



## JEFF GOLDBLUM IS IN FINAL TALKS ABOUT JOINING 'WICKED' MOVIES AS THE WIZARD

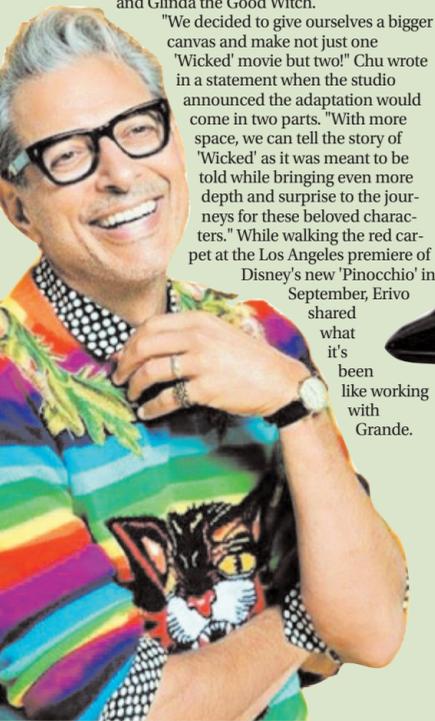
Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jeff Goldblum in final talks to play the wizard in Jon M. Chu's upcoming 'Wicked' movies. The latest casting news comes just over a month since Variety first reported that Fiyero will be played by "Bridgerton" star Jonathan Bailey, reports Variety.

Chu's two-part feature adaptation is headlined by Ariana Grande as Glinda and Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba. The Universal Pictures films are set for release on Christmas in 2024 and 2025.

'Wicked' is a prequel to 'The Wizard of Oz', telling the story of how Elphaba became the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch.

"We decided to give ourselves a bigger canvas and make not just one 'Wicked' movie but two!" Chu wrote in a statement when the studio announced the adaptation would come in two parts. "With more space, we can tell the story of 'Wicked' as it was meant to be told while bringing even more depth and surprise to the journeys for these beloved characters." While walking the red carpet at the Los Angeles premiere of Disney's new 'Pinocchio' in September, Erivo shared what it's been like working with Grande.



Los Angeles | Agencies

She recently split from her Love Island co-star boyfriend Toby Aromolaran, after a year-long romance. And on Friday, Chloe Burrows, 27, rocked red and blue hot pants with a slogan tee as she transforms into Harley Quinn at the KISS Haunted House Party

Chloe Burrows rocks red and blue hot pants with a slogan tee as she transforms into Harley Quinn at the KISS Haunted House Party

## NEWLY SINGLE

blue hot pants with a slogan tee as she transformed into Harley Quinn at the VOXI Presents KISS Haunted House Party. The newly-single reality star looked sensational in the skimpy Suicide Squad costume at the Halloween bash, which was held at London's OVO Arena in Wembley Park. Chloe opted to dress up as DC Comics villain Harley Quinn, the character made famous by actress Margot Robbie. Completing her look, Chloe donned a crop top brandishing the words: 'Daddy's Lil Monster' and covered up a little with red and blue Varsity style jacket. She styled her long platinum extensions into bunsches and completed her Halloween look with blue eyeshadow on one eye, and red on the other.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Lindsey Vonn



Tarantino dismisses Kanye West's claim of originating idea for

## 'Django Unchained'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Quentin Tarantino has dismissed rapper Kanye West's claim that he and Jamie Foxx "got the idea" for the concept of their 2012 film 'Django Unchained' from him. Kanye said that he pitched a similar idea when initially brainstorming the music video for his 2005 song "Gold Digger," which features Foxx. Ye released the official music video in 2009, which centres on a montage of Foxx and Ye dancing with various pin-up models, reports Variety. Tarantino appeared on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live' on Thursday and the host asked

him: "Kanye West said that he came up with the idea for 'Django Unchained.' He said that when he was making the 'Gold Digger' video with Jamie Foxx, he pitched it to you guys as a video and then you made it - is there any truth to that?" Tarantino replied: "There's no truth to the idea that Kanye West came up with the idea of 'Django' and then he told that to me, and I go, 'Hey, wow, that's a really great idea. Let me take Kanye's idea and make 'Django

Unchained' out of it.' That didn't happen." "I'd had the idea for 'Django' for a while before I ever met Kanye. He wanted to do a giant movie version of 'The College Dropout' (Kanye's debut studio album) the way he did the album - so he wanted to get big directors to do different tracks from the album and then release it as this giant movie - not video, nothing as crass as videos, it was movies, movies based on each of the different tracks," Tarantino added.



## Sultan of Johor Cup

# INDIA SHOW NERVES OF STEEL TO BEAT AUSTRALIA TO WIN THE TITLE

Johor (Malaysia) | Agencies

The Indian junior men's hockey team put in a fine display on a nervy evening against Australia to win the 10th Sultan of Johor Cup after a tense penalty shootout. The teams were tied at 1-1 in regulation time, following which nine penalty shots were needed to decide the winner.

India won the shootout 5-4 and clinched their third Sultan of Johor Cup title.

Australia controlled proceedings in the early exchanges while captain Uttam Singh and Bobby Singh Dhami tried to push India forward. The efforts paid off as India broke the deadlock through Sudeep Chirmako (14th minute). India went into the first break leading 1-0. Looking to build on the lead in the second quarter, India began on the front foot, with most of the contest being played in Australia's half. As the quarter progressed, Australia's hunt for



the equaliser intensified, and even though India were absorbing the pressure well, Jack Holland (29th min) scored. India and Australia went into the half-time break with the score reading 1-1.

Both sides came back out for the second half with a cautious approach, not keen to allow the opponent any space. Midway through the quarter, India almost edged ahead with Sudeep Chirmako, but neither side were able to outsmart the

other, as the quarter ended with the score at 1-1.

In the final quarter, which was played in the presence of the Sultan of Johor, both India and Australia turned up the heat by a few notches, making it a very entertaining phase in the game. However, as the final six minutes began, the score still read 1-1.

Both sides gave it their all, but weren't able to find the winner in regulation time, as the final went into a penalty shootout.

## T20 World Cup

Sydney | Agencies

Middle-order batter Glenn Phillips slammed a magnificent century while left-arm fast bowler Trent Boult picked four wickets in career-best figures to lead New Zealand to a commanding 65-run victory over Sri Lanka in their Group 1 match of Super 12 stage in the T20 World Cup at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

After Phillips made 104 off 64 balls, laced with 10 fours and four sixes, and shared an 84-run stand with Daryl Mitchell to lift New Zealand from 15/3 to 163/7, Boult and Tim Southee reduced Sri Lanka to 8/4 in 3.3 overs. Though Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Dasun Shanaka threatened with some big hits, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 102 in 19.2 overs.

Saturday's victory now sees New Zealand at the top of the table in Group 1 with five points in three matches and edge one step closer to sealing a place in the semifinals. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, stay on two points from three matches. The 65-run victory is also New Zealand's

# New Zealand clinch 65-run victory over Sri Lanka



biggest winning margin against Sri Lanka in terms of runs in T20Is.

Electing to bat first, New Zealand were in trouble in the powerplay, losing openers Finn Allen, Devon Conway (dismissed by Maheesh Theekshana) and Kane Williamson (falling to Kasun Rajitha), leaving New Zealand at 15/3 in four overs.

A partnership of 84 was then built by Glenn Phillips and a returning

Mitchell (22 off 24 balls), getting New Zealand out of trouble.

In reply, the New Zealand experienced fast-bowling duo of Southee and Boult bamboozled Sri Lanka's top four in 3.3 overs, which soon became 58/6 in ten overs. Rajapaksa (34 off 22 balls) entertained with some big shots, while Shanaka (35 off 32 balls) also kept the maximums coming.

**Brief scores**  
New Zealand 167/7 in 20 overs (Glenn Phillips 104, Daryl Mitchell 22; Kasun Rajitha 2/23, Maheesh Theekshana 1/35) beat Sri Lanka 102 all out in 19.2 overs (Dasun Shanaka 35, Bhanuka Rajapaksa 34; Trent Boult 4/13, Mitchell Santner 2/21) by 65 runs.

## French Open badminton

# Carolina Marin beats Yamaguchi to reach women's singles final

Paris | Agencies

Rio 2016 Olympic gold medalist Carolina Marin defeated reigning two-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi 21-14, 21-18 to reach the women's singles final at the French Open 2022 badminton tournament, here on Saturday.

Marin, who needed 47 minutes to defeat Japan's Yamaguchi in the semifinal, will face the winner between China's He Bing Jiao and Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying, in the final.

After recovering from an ACL injury that prevented her from defending her Olympic title in Tokyo, the Spaniard won the European

Championships crown in April. On Sunday, she will seek title number 35 of her career. It will be for the first time in two years that the 29-year-old will play a final of a World Tour Super 750 tournament. The last time she played a final of a BWF World Tour Super 750 tournament was in Odense, Denmark, in October 2020.

In her best victory since returning to the circuit, Marin dominated throughout, varying direction and pace of play toward an increasingly exhausted opponent. Yamaguchi had halted Marin's progress to the podium at recent tournaments, including August's World Cup in Tokyo, but this time she beat the circuit's form player.

## Satwik-Chirag reach men's doubles final

Paris: India's Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy stormed into the men's doubles final at the French Open 2022 badminton tournament after beating South Korea's Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho 21-18, 21-14 in the semifinals, here on Saturday.

Chirag and Satwiksairaj, the seventh seeds, will face either Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han or English duo Ben Lane and Sean Vandy in what will be their second-ever BWF Super 750 final as a team.



## BWF World Junior Championships

# Sankar Muthusamy storms into men's singles final

Santander (Spain) | Agencies

Indian shuttler S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian stormed into the men's singles final at the World Junior Badminton Championships 2022 with a 21-13, 21-15 win over Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul in the semifinal, here on Saturday.

With this win, S Sankar became the first Indian badminton player to make the finals of a junior badminton world championships since Siril Verma in 2016. Overall, he became the fourth Indian to reach the Junior World Championships final after Aparna Popat, Saina Nehwal and Siril Verma. Notably, former world No.



1 Saina remains India's only junior badminton world champion till date, having clinched the women's singles title in 2008.

Despite Teeraratsakul clearly enjoying the height advantage and an extended reach, Subramanian, India's highest-ranked junior men's singles player at world No. 4,

looked to take the game to his opponent and score quick points early.

Under heavy pressure, the 17-year-old Indian worked his angles well and made good use of his clever shuttle placement to comfortably bag the first game.

The Thai shuttler tried to infuse extra pace and power in the second game to try and disturb the Indian shuttler's technical style but Sankar did well to keep pace. His consistent returns frustrated the Thai player as he started making unforced errors and often placed his shots outside the scoring lines.

The play eventually paid off as the Indian badminton player settled the 40-minute affair in straight games.

## Vienna Open

# Medvedev marches into final with win over Dimitrov

Vienna (Austria) | Agencies

World No. 4 Daniil Medvedev marched into the final of the Vienna Open after downing Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 6-2 in their semifinal clash, here on Saturday.

The 26-year-old came up against a confident opponent striking the ball cleanly but the top seed had all the answers. Just as it had against Jannik Sinner in Friday's quarterfinals, Medvedev's relentless retrieving and precise serving proved the difference as he charged to a 85-minute victory to reach the championship match in Vienna for the first time. Dimitrov had hit his stride en route to the semifinals in Vienna, where he was particularly impressive in taking out third seed Andrey Rublev in the second round. Yet despite hitting 21 winners to



Medvedev's 17, he could not penetrate the top seed's defences frequently enough to gain a strong foothold in the match. As it had in his previous wins against Nikoloz Basilashvili, Dominic Thiem and Sinner this week in Vienna, Medvedev was dialled in on serve against Dimitrov. He won 87 per cent (27/31) of points behind his first delivery to improve his ATP head-to-head series record against the Bulgarian to 4-2.

## WTA Finals

# World No.1 Iga Swiatek to lead Tracy Austin Group

Texas (US): The stage is set for the 2022 WTA Finals, as the groups for the round-robin matches of the prestigious year-ending championships were drawn on Friday in Fort Worth, Texas.

Each singles player or doubles team will face off against all of the other participants in their respective group during the first six days of the tournament. At the end of the round-robin matches, the top two players or teams from each group will advance to the single-elimination semifinals.

World No.1 Iga Swiatek, the winner of eight titles this season including Roland Garros and the US Open, leads the Tracy Austin Group. Austin is a former World No.1 in singles -- the four group names are inspired by four legendary American champions. Swiatek will have a rematch of the Roland Garros final against No.4 seed Coco Gauff during round-robin play. The two youngest players in the field, 21-year-old Swiatek and 18-year-old Gauff, have both landed in the Tracy Austin Group.

# Playing two sets of qualifiers is quite strenuous on the heart: Ervine

Brisbane | Agencies

Zimbabwe skipper Craig Ervine wants the International Cricket Council (ICC) to change the qualification process for those not automatically qualified in the ICC T20 World Cup, saying playing two sets of qualifiers is "quite strenuous on the heart".

Zimbabwe couldn't play last year's World Cup and this year the team has come through the qualifier. Asked whether the ICC should look at a scenario where teams like Zimbabwe and Namibia play directly with 12 or 16 teams, Ervine said, "I think going forward, obviously for us to play the qualifiers back in



Zimbabwe and then coming to

the (T20) World Cup to play another qualifiers is quite strenuous on the heart. I think for all the supporters and the country, as well, to have to go through both qualifiers to get into the World Cup (is tough on the players and supporters). But I think the statement is already there that us lesser teams belong in the World Cup."

Zimbabwe are placed third in the group following the shocking win against Pakistan and the side sharing points with South Africa due to the abandonment of play. They take on Bangladesh here with a good chance of beating the side and brightening their chance of making the last-4 grade.

## T20 World Cup

# India-South Africa to clash in race for top spot in Group 2

Perth | Agencies

Playing in Perth, the capital of Western Australia, requires some adjustments for the cricketers to make off the field. Apart from the five-hour travel time from one part of the country to another end, Perth's time zone is also three hours behind cities like Melbourne and Sydney.

Moreover, with the Men's T20 World Cup being rain-hit this week, the unpredictability of the weather has to be countered too, with light rain and dark clouds hovering around in Perth. In this backdrop, the Perth Stadium is all set to witness an intense clash between India and South Africa for the race to be toppers of Group 2 in Super 12s on Sunday.

India are the current table toppers of the group with victories over Pakistan and the Netherlands, while South Africa, boasting of a superior net run rate, could have been there if not for rain washing out their pursuit of defeating Zimbabwe in



Hobart. India had hosted South Africa in seven T20Is in June and September this year, with the Rohit Sharma-led side being 4-3 ahead.

With the bat, India would like for KL Rahul to get amongst the runs before the race to reaching the semifinals heats up. Rahul, who got 51 not out and 57 against South Africa at home in September, would take some inspiration from the

previous good showings ahead of Sunday's clash against the Proteas.

With the bat, India have to be careful and decisive in attacking against the high pace generated by South Africa's tall fast-bowling attack. In the Proteas camp, their batters also have to be wary of the damage India's bowling attack can do. They will bank upon Rilee Rossouw, who got an unbeaten hundred against India in Indore and slammed a magnificent 109 against Bangladesh in their second Super 12 match at Sydney, to lead the charge with the bat, as well as opener-keeper Quinton de Kock. South Africa will also be praying that captain Temba Bavuma gets the big runs, which have eluded him for so long.

With them going to play against Pakistan and Netherlands in the upcoming week, the Proteas have to battle it out for a win on a pacy Perth pitch, while India will back themselves to make it a hat-trick of victories in the tournament at a place where fast bowlers called the shots at the nearby WACA Ground.

# Tagenarine Chanderpaul earns first call-up to West Indies' Test squad

St John's (Antigua) | Agencies

Left-handed batter Tagenarine Chanderpaul on Saturday earned a call-up to the West Indies squad for the two-match series against Australia to be played in December this year.

Tagenarine, 24, is the son of West Indies batting great Shivnarine Chanderpaul, and has aggregated 2,669 first-class runs at an average of 34.21 with five hundreds in first-class cricket till date.

"We have one newcomer to the team in Tagenarine Chanderpaul. He equipped himself very well in the West Indies Championship four-day matches and also did a very good job at the top of the order against Bangladesh A in Saint Lucia this summer. He has what it takes to do well at the highest level," said Desmond Haynes, lead selector of the senior men's team.

West Indies have also recalled two experienced players in off-spin all-rounder Roston Chase and middle-order batter Shamarh Brooks. "Roston Chase has returned to the squad as an all-rounder and we believe his experience and skill set will be beneficial and Shamarh Brooks has also returned to bolster the middle-order batting," added Haynes.

West Indies will play two Tests in Australia under the leadership of Kraigg Brathwaite.



The first Test between these two teams will be played at Perth Stadium (November 30 to December 4) and second Test will be held at the Adelaide Oval (December 8-12), which is a day-night Test match.

The Test squad is expected to assemble in Australia on 10 November. As part of the preparations for the two-match series, the visitors will have a three-day warm-up game against an ACT/NSW XI at the Philip Oval, Canberra from November 17-19.

# Learnt something from every senior colleague: Parineeti

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Parineeti Chopra, who is a part of Sooraj Barjatya's next film 'Uunchai' which also casts Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani, Danny Denzongpa, Neena Gupta and Sarika, feels blessed to have gotten the opportunity to work with the stalwarts of the industry.

Parineeti says, "Uunchai is going to be one of the most special films of my life as I got the opportunity to work with such legendary actors of our industry. Everyday I would be super excited to go on the sets and learn something new from these tal-

ented actors."

"Their passion, their dedication, their commitment towards the craft only motivated me to not only be a better actor but a better person as well."

Parineeti goes on to say something for all her co-stars, "When I got to know Anupam Sir will be a part of the cast I was thrilled as he is one of the closest friends I have in the industry and I have been wanting to work with him ever since we shared screen space in Daawat-e-Ishq."

"I also got to work with Neena Ji again after 'Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar', she is a powerhouse of talent and it's always fun to have her on

set. Sarika Ma'am was one of the sweetest people on set and would always look out for everyone."

"It was my first experience with Amitabh sir and I was a bit nervous initially given the megastar that he is but it was a dream come true for me to work with him. I have worked with Boman Sir for 4 years consecutively for a commercial, he surprises me every single time with his versatile performances and always has the biggest smile on his face."

"I didn't have many scenes with Danny Sir, but the little that I got to meet him, he is such a

wonderful human being and extremely humble."

Parineeti thanks Sooraj Barjatya for giving her this opportunity.



## Why Huma was afraid of Sonakshi misplacing her phone?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Huma Qureshi revealed that during the quarantine period in London with the entire cast of 'Double XL', she was most scared of Sonakshi Sinha losing her phone.

While sharing the entire incident and talking about her fear, Huma said: "When we went to shoot the film, the pandemic was still going on. We had to quarantine for 14 days in London together as a protocol. We had quarantined together so for the first 1-2 days we

respected and were cordial with each other. We three (Sonakshi, Huma, and Zaheer) were already good friends and Manat (Raghavendra) was the new one but since we were doing everything together for the 14 days we became a good quad."

Huma along with Sonakshi Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal, Mahat Raghavendra and director Satram Ramani are coming on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' to promote their film 'Double XL' which is all about two oversized women, played by Huma and Sonakshi.

Huma recalled how the four used to

play different games, watch series and record videos and click pictures. The 'Gangs of Wasseypur' actress once told Sonakshi that if she lost her phone, she will be more worried because of losing all the data in her phone. "We were playing Ludo and used to watch a lot of series. We used to do sting operations against each other and whenever we used to have fun everyone's phones used to pop out. We have so much masala against each other that I keep saying if Sonakshi's phone is lost then I would be the most upset as there are so many videos and pictures of mine with her that I would land in trouble," she added.



## Audiences should call out bad films: Kamal Haasan

Team Absolute | Chennai

Stating that fans had a great responsibility, actor Kamal Haasan said that they must make it a point to call good films good and bad films bad.

Speaking at the audio launch event of director Prabhu Solomon's 'Sembi', featuring Kovai Sarala and Ashwin in the titular roles, Kamal Haasan said: "During those days while seeking a chance, I would carry a photo album with my pics from the film '16 Vayadhinile'."

"I would keep showing it to people saying, 'I am acting in this film as its hero'. Some would have good words to say. There were others who would say, 'Don't you feel ashamed carrying a book in which you have a picture of yourself in a loin cloth?' I remember all those words today when one of the speakers here praised me saying I attend the audio launches of both big and small films."

"One cannot decide which is a big film or a small film from here," he said and then pointing to the audience, he added: "They are the ones who decide."

"If we are talking about '16 Vayadhinile', remembering it after almost 40 years after it was made, then that is what is a big film. There are times when we struggle to remember the name of a film, saying, 'What was that film that was made for so many crores?' That is a small film," he explained.

## Shraddha Kapoor hints at 'Stree 2'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

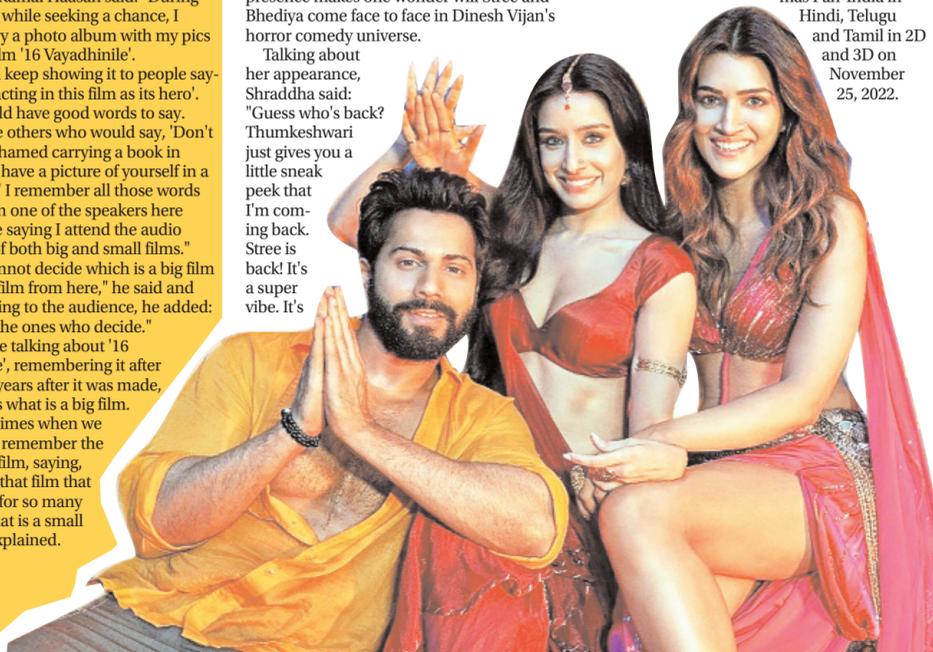
Actress Shraddha Kapoor, who made a special appearance in Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon's song 'Thumkeshwari' from the film 'Bhediya', has hinted that she will be back with the second installment of popular horror comedy film 'Stree'.

Shraddha makes a sizzling special appearance in Thumkeshwari, as she shakes a leg with an awestruck Varun in the song. Her presence makes one wonder will Stree and Bhediya come face to face in Dinesh Vijan's horror comedy universe.

Talking about her appearance, Shraddha said: "Guess who's back? Thumkeshwari just gives you a little sneak peek that I'm coming back. Stree is back! It's a super vibe. It's

so nice to be back on set with Bhediya...It's so exciting for me because we're going to start Stree 2 very soon." "Thumkeshwari" features Varun and Kriti in a desi avatar as they strike a few masala moves and flaunt killer chemistry.

Jio Studios and Dinesh Vijan present, 'Bhediya'. A Maddock Films production, directed by Amar Kaushik, produced by Dinesh Vijan and starring Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon, Deepak Dobriyal and Abhishek Banerjee among others, is releasing in cinemas Pan-India in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil in 2D and 3D on November 25, 2022.



Playing drunk on screen was tough: Kamyra

Team

Absolute | Mumbai

'Banoo Main Teri Dulhann' fame Kamyra Panjabi talked about the challenges of portraying a drunk character on-screen and it was tougher because she never played such a role before.

Kamyra is seen playing a mother Gauri in the show and for the upcoming sequence, she was shown drunk and having an argument with the other protagonist Amrita, played by Shefali Sharma about her daughter.

She said: "My character Gauri in the show is amazing and her personality has various layers to it. Being a part of this show has pushed me to explore my boundaries as an artist and I have experimented a lot with my skills. In the last 18 years of my acting career, I never got a chance to play a drunken woman but recently, I have shot for the same when Gauri is quite drunk and is arguing with Amrita for her daughter."

The 43-year-old actress has featured in a number of fictional and reality shows and she also acted in films. For her current show, she did everything to get into the skin of her character, from learning Rajasthani dialect to getting into the look of a banjaran by carrying long hair, traditional nose pins, and heavy silver jewellery. Now, to portray the sequence of being drunk perfectly, she worked on her body language and posture.

"It is indeed always a pleasure to learn something new about your craft and playing Gauri has taught me so much. Although I watched many videos to understand how to perform the drunk scene since I have never been drunk as such. But the videos I watched came across as very mechanical to me, hence, to go naturally about it, I had to unlearn a lot of things and play it by the ear. In order to do justice to the scene, I have focused on the nuances of body language and posture, etc," she added.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Jeniffer Piccinato