

# absolute india

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WITH 90 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE, GUARDIANS OF SKIES CELEBRATE AIR FORCE DAY

## PRIDE OF NATION

With 90 years of excellence, the Guardians of the Skies on Saturday celebrated Air Force Day in Chandigarh amidst cloudy skies, the first time the annual day celebrations were held outside the national capital. Apart from the air warrior drill showcase and aerial displays, Rafale, Jaguar, Tejas and Mirage 2000 will fly in 'Sekhon' formation.

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

A ceremonial parade was organized at the Air Force Station with Chief of Air Staff V.R. Chaudhari took the salute.

ALH Mk IV chopper will fly past in Rudra formation at the parade event. There will be a demonstration by the mechanical transport team of vehicle dismantling and reassembly in a short time at the event, followed by a performance of the air warrior drill team.

The fly-past will commence with an 'Aakash Ganga' team of paratroopers in an AN-32 aircraft. Mi 17 V5 choppers will undertake a fire fighting operation using a 'bambi bucket' while Mi17 IV helicopters will be performing helo casting.

Later in the afternoon, the fly-past will be held at Sukhna Lake. Extending greetings, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "On Air Force Day, my greetings to the courageous air warriors and their families. The Indian Air Force has shown exceptional dexterity for decades. They have secured the nation and also shown remarkable human spirit during disasters."

On the occasion, the IAF will unveil new camouflage uniforms for personnel.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh extended greetings and best wishes to all courageous IAF air warriors and their families on the Indian Air Force Day. "The IAF is known for its valour, excellence, performance and professionalism. India is proud of its men and women in blue. Wishing them blue skies and happy landings," he said.



### WEAPON SYSTEMS BRANCH APPROVED FOR IAF: AIR CHIEF MARSHAL

The Centre on Saturday approved the creation of a weapon systems branch for the Indian Air Force (IAF) officers for the first time since Independence. Addressing a gathering during the 90th Air Force Day celebrations here, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari said, "It is my privilege to announce that the government has approved the creation of a weapon systems branch for the officers of the Indian Air Force." "This is the first time since Independence that a new operational branch is being created. The creation of this branch would result in savings of over Rs 3,400 crore due to the reduced expenditure on flying training," he said. This was the first time that the annual day celebrations were held outside the National Capital Region (NCR).

## WhatsApp's cloned app spying on Indians via recording video, audio

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India is among the countries with highest number of Android trojan detections and a cloned, third-party unofficial version of WhatsApp is leading in spying on people's chats in the country, a new report has warned.

Behind a large portion of Android spyware detection in the past four months was 'GB WhatsApp' -- a popular but cloned third-party version of WhatsApp, according to the report by cyber-security firm ESET.

Such malicious apps have a wide range of spying capabilities, including recording audio and video.

"The cloned app is not available on Google Play and, therefore, there are no security checks in place compared with the legitimate WhatsApp, and versions available on various download websites are riddled with malware," said the report.

India (35 per cent) was also ranked second after China (53 per cent) as the geolocation for bots making up the largest internet of things (IoT) botnet called 'Mozi' from May to August 2022.



The IoT botnet 'Mozi' saw the number of bots drop by 23 per cent from 500,000 compromised devices to 383,000 in May-August.

However, China and India continued to have the highest number of IoT bots geolocated inside the respective countries.

"These statistics confirm the assumption that the 'Mozi' botnet is on autopilot, running without human supervision since its reputed author was arrested in 2021," said the report.

Even with declining numbers, Russian IP addresses continued to be responsible for the largest portion of remote desktop protocol (RDP) attacks. "Russia was also the country that was most targeted by ransomware, with some of the attacks being politically or ideologically motivated by the war," said Roman Kovac, Chief Research Officer at ESET. The report also examined threats mostly impacting home users.

"In terms of threats directly affecting virtual and physical currencies, a web skimmer known as Magecart remains the leading threat going after online shoppers' credit card details," said Kovac.

## NASA'S HUBBLE CAPTURES SPECTACULAR PAIR OF INTERACTING GALAXIES

WASHINGTON | Agencies

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has captured a stunning pair of two face-on galaxies, providing spectacular views of their spiral arms, background stars and galaxies.

The two interacting galaxies, making up the pair known as 'Arp-Madore 608-333', seem to float side by side in this image from the Hubble Space Telescope.

"Though they appear serene and unperturbed, the two are subtly warping one another through a mutual gravitational interaction that is disrupting and distorting both galaxies. Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys captured this drawn-out galactic interaction," NASA said in a statement.

The interacting galaxies are part of an effort to build up an archive of interesting targets for more detailed future study with Hubble, ground-based telescopes, and the NASA/ESA/CSA James Webb Space Telescope.

To build up this archive, astronomers scoured existing astronomical catalogues for a list of targets spread throughout the night sky.

They hoped to include objects already identified as interesting and that would be easy for Hubble to observe no matter which



direction it was pointing. "Deciding how to award Hubble observing time is a drawn-out, competitive, and difficult process, and the observations are allocated to use every last second of Hubble time available," said NASA.

However, there is a small but persistent fraction of time - around 2-3 per cent - that goes unused as Hubble turns to point at new targets.

Snapshots programmes not only produce beautiful images but also enable astronomers to gather as much data as possible with Hubble, according to the space agency.

The Hubble Space Telescope was launched into low-Earth orbit in 1990 and remains in operation.

## At home with roots and beyond

She talks about exploring the layers of her roots, about how different elements of Khasi music offer an inexhaustible insight into diverse socio-cultural aspects of her people's lives. In almost the same breath, singer and music teacher Amabel Susngi from Meghalaya swears by the magic of Jazz and Blues, and how fusion is much beyond coming together of different musical traditions.

Sukant Deepak | Jodhpur

Recipient of the prestigious Samvaad Fellowship by the Tata Steel Foundation, this 28-year-old vocalist remembers being inspired by her grandmother, who would sing folk songs often -- something she feels has been instrumental in her career choice. "She passed on before I could document all the songs. My parents were also involved in church choirs."

From an early age, Susngi knew she also wanted to get involved in the academic side of music. "So my mother sent me to an institute to learn Western music. I went to Martin Luther Christian University in Shillong. It was here that my first exposure to traditional instruments happened. I did not really join the university for the purpose of documentation. I always knew that performing was my true calling. But back in my time, there was not much clarity and support. However, youngsters today know the kind of openings after graduating from music school."

Talking about Shillong, dubbed the rock capital of India, the singer says that living there has a lot to do with encouraging young singers.

Susngi, who performed at the ongoing Jodhpur RIFF feels that such festivals play an important role in promoting independent musicians.

"We need more such platforms to develop an ecosystem. With more such festivals, the audience base is bound to expand," says the artist who has performed at different festivals across the world including the prestigious Belize International Jazz Festival in Central America.

The musician, who is part of a band '4th element' which plays Jazz, Blues and R&B, adds: "While my roots are firmly entrenched in Khasi music, I have always been open to other genres. Exposure to different genres adds multiple dimensions to one's style. It opens one to different techniques and styles."

The musician feels that the different initiatives by the state government for young musicians have had a positive impact on music back home.

## Archana Puran Singh calls late Raju Srivastava a 'fine actor'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Well-known actress and TV personality Archana Puran Singh recently remembered late comedian Raju Srivastava and shared her experience working with him in films.

She said: "I have done numerous films with him and realised that he was a very fine actor but then, he became more popular with his stand-up comedy. I think he was an actor, a stand-up and a wonderful comic talent. It is heartbreaking as we lost him too soon."

Archana added his last visit to a comedy reality show and the way he expressed his love for comedy.



"Just one week before he was hospitalised, he came on the set of 'India's Laughter Champion' and graced the sarpanch's chair. And in this very studio where the set was put up, standing on the stage he said 'I want to live on this stage, and I find my share of happiness here. He told me I

am made for comedy and if I have to leave this world then I would want to leave making people laugh with my comedy."

"So I am happy that we are paying him a tribute not with tears but with laughter and that is the kind of tribute that Raju deserves."

## BHUTAN TO HOST THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST ULTRA-MARATHON

Nine runners from Bhutan are among the 29 endurance athletes who will compete across a distance of 203 kilometres (125 miles) spread over five days at an average altitude of 4,500 metres (14,800 feet), with the highest point reaching 5,470 metres (17,946 feet). Fewer people than those who have climbed Mount Everest have finished the path, which is known as the toughest race in the world. It typically takes 20 to 25 days to complete.

- ▶ The Race will travel the Snowman Trail, Bhutan's most difficult trekking trail, travelling through some of the most breathtaking regions of the country, including the wild Lunana area, a rarely visited settlement of nomadic herders living between glaciers. Additionally, competitors will go through the base of Gangkhar Puensum, the highest mountain that has never been climbed (and Bhutan's tallest peak at 7570m/24,836ft).
- ▶ Between Gasa Dzong and Chamkhar Town in Bumthang, the path crosses the mountain passes and, in some places, soars to altitudes of 5470 metres (17,946 ft). The Jigme Dorji National Park and the Wangchuck Centennial Park, two of the largest national parks in the nation, are traversed by the trail. Both parks have a variety of highly rare and protected plants and animals, and they span from deciduous woodland to ice fields and glaciers in the eastern Himalayas.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

On behalf of the Snowman Race Secretariat, the Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) has announced that Bhutan would host the first-ever Snowman Race, dubbed the world's most difficult ultra-marathon, from October 13 to October 17,

2022. His Majesty The King of Bhutan's project, The Race, aims to raise public awareness of the climate issue. Bhutan is extremely vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change because of its delicate ecosystem. The country is subject to a rising number of disasters each year, including landslides, unpredictable weather fluctuations, and an ecology

that is changing quickly. The occasion will draw attention to the shockingly real effects of global warming, especially on the most endangered ecosystems on the planet, like those in the high Himalayas. Bhutan also seeks to strengthen its position as a vocal thought leader on climate change and keeps supporting efforts for sustainable development that are focused on getting outcomes across the whole nation. A virtual climate conclave, which will take place the day after the race's last day, will wrap up the event.

Runners from the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, France, Germany, Singapore, Tanzania, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom will compete in the ultramarathon, along with nine athletes from Bhutan. The Bhutanese athletes are chosen through competition, and prior to the choice, they receive physical preparation.

Similar to this, a group of specialists who trained under the direction of the Snowman Race production also choose the international athletes. Before they take part in the Race, they will all become used to the rocky, mountainous terrain.





# NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES ARE BROUGHT TO INDIA FROM MYANMAR AND AFGHANISTAN: SHAH

GUWAHATI | Agencies

While chairing a meeting with Chief Ministers of northeast states and top police officials in Guwahati, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday asserted that stern actions would be taken to check the drug menace in the region.

He said that Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) earlier decided to destroy 75,000 kgs of drugs and it is a matter of happiness that NCB already crossed the target by destroying around 1.5 lakh kgs of narcotic substances.

"But, the war against drugs is not yet finished. We have dreamt of a drugs-free India and for that, all stakeholders should work together," he added.

Shah further said that the Union Government has formulated a two-fold approach to deal with the drug menace which has spread all over the country.

"Strong actions will be taken against those involved in drug peddling, while those who are the victim



and fell into this vicious cycle, government machinery will work to bring them into the mainstream of the society," he added.

Union Home Minister also said that narcotic substances were primarily peddled into the country from Myanmar and Afghanistan. In the

meeting with NCB officials and security personnel here, he has directed to increase the vigil along international borders.

Shah has virtually inaugurated destroying of around 40,000 kilograms of drugs in the northeastern states.

As per the official statement, drugs weighing around 11,000 kg in Assam, 8,000 kg in Arunachal Pradesh, 4,000 kg in Meghalaya, 1,600 kg in Nagaland, 398 kg in Manipur, 1900 kg in Mizoram, 1500 kg in Tripura and 12,000 kg in Tripura were destroyed on Saturday.

# Let one candidate contest from one seat only, EC proposes to Law Ministry

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Election Commission (EC) has proposed to the Law Ministry to let one candidate contest from one constituency only.

Although it is one of those electoral reforms which had also been proposed in the past, but, the sources said that the proposal gained momentum after Rajiv Kumar was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner.

Sources said that the proposal was sent to the Ministry, and the government is in discussion with the Commission regarding the proposed electoral reforms. Meeting in this regard is likely soon, said sources.

As per the existing electoral law, a candidate is permitted to contest election from two different constituencies in a general election or a group of bye-elections or biennial elections. If a person is elected from more than one seat, then the person can only hold on to one of the seats that he or she won.

As per the Commission, when a candidate contests from two seats, it is imperative that he has to vacate one of the two seats if he wins both. This, apart from the consequent unavoidable financial burden on the public exchequer and the manpower and other resources for holding bye-election against the resultant vacancy, would be an injustice to the voters of the constituency which the candidate is quitting from. AS per the Proposed Electoral



Reforms, the Commission has recommended that the law must be amended to provide that a person cannot contest from more than one constituency at a time for conduct and better management of elections. In case the provision needs to be retained, then there is a need for an express provision in law requiring person who contests and wins election from two seats, resulting in bye-elections from one of the two constituencies, to deposit in the government account an appropriate amount of money being expenditure for holding the bye-election. The recommendations made by the Election Commission in 2004 as to the amount to be deposited in the government account for being used as the expenditure for holding the bye elections has to be increased from Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh to something more appropriate for serving as deterrence to the candidates.

# Punjab Police arrest 3 more members of drone-based arms smuggling module

Chandigarh | Agencies

Punjab Police have arrested three more members of the drone-based arms and ammunition smuggling module and recovered a fresh cache of sophisticated arms and ammo from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav here on Saturday.

A total of five members of this module have been arrested so far.

Those arrested have been identified as Surinder Singh of village Barwala in Tarn Taran, Harchand Singh and Gursahib Singh, both residents of Valtoha in Amritsar. The Police have recovered Rs 1.01 crore cash, 500 grams heroin, 17 pistols along with 400 cartridges, one MP-4 rifle along with 300 cartridges, two weighing machines and two currency counting machines from their possession.

Earlier on Wednesday, a police team from Counter Intelligence Amritsar had arrested two members of this module, including a prisoner identified as Jaskaran Singh and his aide Rattanbir Singh, after recovering 10 foreign-made pistols from locations pinpointed by them, taking total recovery of pistols to 27.

Divulging details, DGP Yadav said that during investigations, it came out from Jaskaran Singh and Rattanbir Singh that their associate Surinder had picked up the consignment of arms and ammunition that was previously smuggled by them with the help of drones from Pakistan.



Following inputs, the police managed to arrest Surinder on Friday and recovered 10 pistols along with six magazines and 100 live cartridges from his possession, he added.

He said investigations revealed that Surinder, on the directions of Jaskaran Singh, used to pick consignments from Rattanbir to further deliver them to two brothers - Harchand and Gursahib. The police have also arrested them.

The DGP said that further investigations are on to determine other consignments from Pakistan, which may have been retrieved by this module for further delivery to unidentified persons for commission of anti-national activities. AIG Counter Intelligence Amritsar Amarjit Singh Bajwa said: "During investigations, accused Jaskaran confessed that he is in contact with a Pakistan-based smuggler identified as Asif, who used to deliver consignment of narcotics and arms and ammunition from Pakistan using drone and Rattanbir used to retrieve them on his directions.

# Top woman Maoist leader surrenders before Telangana DGP

HYDERABAD | Agencies

A top leader of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) surrendered before the Telangana police on Saturday.

Aluri Usha Rani, a divisional committee member of the north sub-zonal bureau of the Dandakaranya special zonal committee of CPI (Maoist), laid down arms before Director General of Police, M. Mahender Reddy.

Usha Rani alias Vijayakka alias Pochakka is a native of Tenali in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh and was brought up at Gudivada in Krishna district. She surrendered on health grounds.

According to the police, she was involved in several violent incidents both in Telangana and Chhattisgarh. She participated in a total of 14 offences during her underground life in both the states. These include five attacks on security forces, three exchanges of fire with the police, three blasting of buildings, one abduction and two assault cases.

The DGP appealed to the Maoist cadres to join the mainstream and take part in the advancement of the



nation through constructive participation and benefit from the rehabilitation process of Telangana state, which includes immediate relief with suitable amount and other support measures.

The DGP said Usha Rani will be provided total rehabilitation by the state as per the policy. He also gave her Rs 50,000 cash towards meeting her immediate expenses. Usha Rani

disclosed that many of the senior cadres of CPI (Maoist) over 60 years of age are suffering from severe health problems and are not getting due attention or treatment on account of lacking access to medical facilities. According to her, many members of the central committee, including Muppala Laxman Rao alias Ganapathi, ex-general secretary of CPI (Maoist), are suffering from ill

health due to old age. Laxman Rao, unable to move across the struggle areas in the country, was relieved from the responsibilities of general secretary. Now his health condition is highly precarious. She told the police that the organisation suffered setbacks, both militarily and organisationally, due to arrests, deaths and surrender of important as well as senior cadres..

Usha Rani hailed from a revolutionary family and had joined the organisation with a lot of expectations to bring change in the society. She actively participated in armed struggles for more than three decades and failed to see the light at the end of the tunnel, the police said.

Her father Bhujanga Rao, a government teacher, took voluntary retirement in 1985 and joined in CPI(ML) People's War Group. He went underground and worked as special zonal committee member for about 10 years. He used to translate Prabhath magazine of CPI(ML) People's War Group from Telugu to Hindi.

Usha Rani's mother Lalitha Parameshwari also worked for the CPI(ML) People's War Group along with Bhujanga Rao.

# Jammu Air Force station conference hall dedicated to Flt Lt Advitiya Bal

Jammu | Agencies

On the occasion of 90th Air Force Day, Air Force Station Jammu inaugurated the Station Conference Hall dedicated to 'Son of the Soil' braveheart, Flt Lt Advitiya Bal.

A Defence Ministry statement said: "Braveheart Flt Lt Advitiya Bal, Born on 16 July 1996 at MH Jammu, as a true 'Son of the Soil' gave the ultimate sacrifice in the 'Line of Duty' on 28 July 2022 while flying a Battle Inoculation Training mission on a Mig-21 Type 69 trainer aircraft."

"The officer with his sheer hard-work and perseverance joined Sainik School Nagrota and National Defence Academy. He was commissioned into the Fighter Stream of IAF on 16 Jun 2018."



"The Bravery and supreme sacrifice made by Flt Lt Bal will always be

remembered and inspire generations of this soil for years to come."

"To mark this auspicious day of Indian Air Force as a red letter day, the 'Bal Conference Hall' of Air Force Station Jammu was inaugurated by Praveen Kumari (mother) and Sub Maj Swaran Bal (father), parents of braveheart Flt Lt Advitiya Bal in the presence of Air Commodore G.S. Bhullar, VM (AOC Jammu) and Ruhi Bhullar (President AFWWA (L)) with senior Officers of Station along with Principal of Sainik School Nagrota Capt(IN) Desai."

"Symbolically, The first video call in newly inaugurated conference room was made between the parents at Jammu with the CO and Officers of Fighter Squadron at Utarlai (Flt Lt Bal's squadron), where the young officer made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty."

# CBI questions Satya Pal Malik in Rs 300cr bribery claim

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sources in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said on Saturday that former Governor of J&K and Meghalaya, Satya Pal Malik, was questioned in connection with his claim that he was offered Rs 300crore to clear two files during his tenure as J&K Governor.

The CBI had registered two separate cases following allegations leveled by Malik of malpractices in awarding contract of J&K Employees Health Care Insurance Scheme to a private company and release of Rs 60crore in 2017-18. The second case was lodged on the allegation that a civil works contract



worth Rs 2,200crore for Kiru Hydro Electric Power Project was given to a private firm flouting the rules in 2019.

Malik was the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir between August 2018 and October 2019.

After lodging these two cases, the probe agency had formed several teams to unearth the entire conspira-

cy. In April, the CBI had raided 14 locations across the country, including the residence of senior IAS officer Navin Choudhary. The raids were conducted in Jammu, Srinagar, Mumbai, Noida, Delhi, Trivandrum and Darbhanga.

**नाम परिवर्तन**  
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पूर्व में मेरा नाम Akhtar S/o Anwar था। जो कि परिवर्तित होकर Akhtar Dosani S/o Mohammad Anwar Dosani हो गया है। अतः अब मुझे मेरे नए नाम Akhtar Dosani S/o Mohammad Anwar Dosani से जाना व पहचाना जाए।  
पता : म.नं. 36, मौलाना आजाद मार्ग, सैधवा, वार्ड नं.10, सैधवा, बड़वानी, (म.प्र.) - 451666

# Explosion in police station in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati | Agencies

An explosion occurred on the premises of a police station in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district on Saturday, police said.

The explosion took place when some explosive material stored in Gangadhara Nellore police station premises went off in the early hours of the day. A policeman sustained minor injuries.

The explosive material was seized in 2018 when it was being illegally transported by quarry operators in the region. The same was buried at the rear side of the police station building.

According to police, the seized material suddenly went off early Saturday morning. The loud explosion and fire created panic in the area.

A car and some two-wheelers seized in various cases were gutted in the fire. Doors and windows of the police station building and adjoining houses were also damaged in



the incident. Since there was no one around the storage site at the time of the explosion, there was no loss of life. One of the policemen present in the police station received minor injuries. Senior police officials visited the police station. An officer said that a probe has been ordered into the cause of the blast.

# CENTRE APPROVES BULK DRUG PARK IN HIMACHAL

► THE DETAILED PROJECT REPORT (DPR) OF THE BULK DRUG PARK TO COME UP IN HIMACHAL PRADESH'S HAROLI IN UNA DISTRICT HAS BEEN GIVEN THE FINAL APPROVAL BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEF MINISTER JAI RAM THAKUR SAID.

Shimla | Agencies

The detailed project report (DPR) of the Bulk Drug Park to come up in Himachal Pradesh's Haroli in Una district has been given the final approval by the Central government, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said. He said the Scheme Steering Committee of the Union government gave its final approval on Saturday. Expressing pleasure on the consent



given by the Scheme Selection Committee, the Chief Minister said the final approval of this project of national importance will herald the second industrial revolution in the state, especially in the pharmaceutical sector.

He said the project was the result of the 'double engine government' of the Centre and the state governments that works in unison and strengthened the

spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism. Thakur said the state government and the Industries Department were committed to execute both Medical Device Park and Bulk Drug Park in a time-bound manner so that the entire region could reap the benefits of the mega projects.

He said it was an historic moment both for the state government and people, adding the Bulk Drug Park will not only ensure the retention of existing pharma formulation units in the state but also will be a step towards making India self-reliant in API sector. The Chief Minister said this project would be implemented through Himachal Pradesh Bulk Drug Infrastructure Ltd which would be state implementing agency.

He said the total estimated cost of the Bulk Drug Park Project was Rs 1,923 crore, out of which the eligible CIF for the government of India grant was Rs 1,118 crore and the remaining amount of Rs 804.54 crore would be borne by the state.

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## RISING FOOD, CRUDE PRICES COUPLED WITH WEAK RUPEE FUEL INFLATION IN INDIA

# FIGHT AND SURVIVE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Inflation in India has been on the rise consistently for the past several months and various reasons can be attributed to it such as soaring food and oil prices, among others.

However, most importantly, the sharply depreciating rupee against the dollar is one of the most significant reasons behind it.

India's retail inflation rose to 7 per cent in August from 6.71 per cent in July and this was due to higher food prices. In fact, retail inflation has been beyond the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance limit of 6 per cent for eight months in a row.

A rise in food prices has led to a spike in retail inflation and this is evident from the fact that inflation in food basket was 7.62 per cent in August, up from 6.69 per cent in July and more than double from 3.11 per cent in August 2021.

Earlier this year, crude oil price had touched \$130 a barrel. However, in September, it slid to less than \$85 per barrel. But now they may rise again as OPEC+, the group of oil-producing nations, has decided to cut down oil production.

Rising oil prices directly impact inflation in India. This can be gauged from the fact that India imports more than 85 per cent of its oil requirement.

As crude oil prices start to rise, imports will also go up, which in turn will widen the current account deficit (CAD).

Widening CAD will further weaken the rupee, as in the face of widening deficit, the country will be forced to sell rupee and buy dollars.

A weak rupee has fuelled inflation in India.



The RBI on September 30 had decided to hike the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.4 per cent and focus on withdrawal of accommodation to keep inflation within tolerance limits.

In order to control inflation, the RBI has been hiking repo rates since May this year.

Last week, the central bank had also retained its retail inflation forecast for the current financial year at 6.7 per cent.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI had observed on September 30 that inflation is projected to remain above the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent through the first three quarters of 2022-23.

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## PRICES OF VEGETABLES, GRAINS GO THROUGH ROOF

Noida: Skyrocketing prices of essentials has dealt a heavy blow to the public already struggling to recover from the repercussions of the Covid-induced lockdowns imposed in phases since early 2020.

Be it vegetables or foodgrains, the prices have touched the roof right from taking them out of the farms to reaching the common man's kitchen.

Prices increase manifold by the time it reaches the consumer from the farms via markets, wholesaler and the vendors.

The farmer grows vegetables in the field and sells it in the government-mandated markets (mandis), but a lot of expenses get incurred while bringing these to the mandi like the transportation charges while taking it to the arhtiya or commission agent.

## COMPANIES GO FOR 25 KG PACKS TO AVOID 5% GST ON PRE-PACKED FOOD ITEMS

Noida: After the Centre imposed 5 per cent GST on unbranded labelled and pre-packaged food items weighing less than 25 kg in July, most of the companies are now packing their goods, in excess of 25 kg, in a single packet to be exempted from the tax levy.

In a notification, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had clarified that pre-packaged food items like cereals, pulses and flour weighing more than 25 kg and packed in a single packet will be exempted from GST, said a senior GST department official.

Five per cent GST is applied only on packaged food items weighing less than 25 kg. If a retailer buys a 25 kg packet directly from the distributor or product manufacturer and sells it in retail quantity, then the customer is saved from the GST, but if a person buys a packet of 10 kg of a food item from the market, then he pays 5 per cent from his/her pocket.

While imposition of GST on food items lightens the pockets of the public, a huge amount recovered as tax directly reaches the government coffers. However, the retail traders and manufacturing companies found a way out to counter the Centre's move. Since food packets weighing more than 25 kg does not attract GST, most of the companies are resorting to packing their goods, weighing more than 25 kgs, in a single packet.

## Thousands of crores spent on media to shape me wrong: Rahul Gandhi



TUMAKURU (KARNATAKA) | Agencies

While leading 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Karnataka, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday stated that thousands of crores have been spent to shape him untruthful. Addressing a press conference at Turuvekere town in Tumakuru district, he stated that "the thing to understand is I always stand for certain ideals. That of course disturbs the BJP, RSS and other forces. Thousands of crores of media money or media energy has been spent in trying to shape me in a way which is just untruthful and wrong," he said.

"That machine is going to continue. It is a well oiled, financially rich machine. My truth is different. It is always different and people who care to look carefully will see what I stand for and what I work for," Rahul Gandhi explained. "For me this yatra, of course, has a political element to it. For me, the main purpose of this yatra, I see in the political system, I don't just say, I say it across the board, a distance has developed between the political class and our citizens. The idea for me was to go right on the road and go close physically to our people. Now, this is very different than

## Bharat Jodo Yatra is being taken up on three fundamental issues:

- First being the violence, the hatred BJP and RSS are spreading, the division of the country they are carrying out.
- The second issue is the massive concentration of wealth they allow to happen. This is resulting in few people getting very very rich and which is resulting in the destruction of the Indian backbone economy, small and medium businesses and farmers. This is resulting in unemployment. India is heading towards an unemployment disaster.
- Third is the massive increase in prices.

going in a car or in a plane or reaching out through the media," he said.

"The objective of Bharat Jodo Yatra is to bring India together. Objective from my perspective is not the 2024 elections. I am seeing India is being divided, violence is being spread in our society and this is damaging for our country," Gandhi said.

## Kolkata youth murder: five sent to police custody till Oct 12

Kolkata | Agencies

A court in Kolkata on Saturday sent five of the seven persons arrested in connection with the murder of a 21-year-old man Ayan Mondal to police custody till October 12. Two others, who are below 18, have been sent to juvenile home.

Those sent to police custody include Ayan's girlfriend, her father, mother, one among their two associates, and the driver of the pickup van that was used to dump Mondal's body at a secluded place.

The brother of Mondal's girlfriend, who allegedly killed him by hitting on the head with a blunt and heavy object, being a juvenile, was sent to the juvenile remand home. So was the fate of a friend of the latter who helped the family to dump the body.

The body of Mondal, who was missing since Wednesday evening, was recovered from Magrahat in South 24 Parganas district on Friday night.

On Saturday, the police arrested seven persons in connection with the murder.



Later, they were presented in the court.

The preliminary investigation has hinted towards a love triangle -- involving Ayan, his girlfriend and her mother -- behind the murder.

The police while probing the matter got some clues which indicated towards a parallel affair that the deceased was having with the girl as well as her mother, and that resulted in a feud after which he was brutally murdered and his body dumped at a secluded place at Magrahat.

## Rape won't not stand if woman continues sexual relations after knowing man is married: Kerala HC

Kochi | Agencies

In a path breaking judgement, Kerala High Court observed that "an allegation of rape on false promise to marry will not stand if the woman knew that the man was already married and still continued the sexual relationship with the accused. The judgment came from the bench of Justice Kausar Edagapath who said that any sex had between such a couple could only be termed as one on account of love and passion, and not based on any false promise to marry.

"The admitted fact that the 4th respondent is having a relationship with the petitioner since 2010 and she continued the relationship knowing about his marriage from 2013 onwards would nullify the story regarding the sexual intercourse on the false pretext of marrying her. The alleged sex can only be termed as one



on account of love and passion for the petitioner and not on account of misrepresentation made to her by the petitioner," read the order.

The court reiterated that if a man retracts his promise to marry a woman, then consensual sex they

had will not constitute an offence of rape under Section 376 of the IPC unless it is established that the consent for such sexual act was obtained by him by giving false promise of marriage with no intention of adhering to the same and that the promise

made was false to his knowledge.

The court then passed the order on a plea moved by man to quash the case registered against him for the alleged commission of offences punishable under Sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 376 (rape) of Indian Penal Code. The prosecution allegation was that over a period of nine years, the petitioner, by giving a false promise of marriage to the complainant, had sexual intercourse with her in several places in India and abroad. The court noted that the statement of the complainant disclosed that she knew the petitioner since 2010 and she came to know about the fact that the petitioner was married five to six years ago. Still, she was in a sexual relationship with him till 2019.

The court finally decided to quash the FIR registered against the petitioner.

## Weapon systems branch approved for IAF, says Air Chief Marshal

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

The Centre on Saturday approved the creation of a weapon systems branch for the Indian Air Force (IAF) officers for the first time since Independence.

Addressing a gathering during the 90th Air Force Day celebrations here, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari said, "It is my privilege to announce that the government has approved the creation of a weapon systems branch for the officers of the Indian Air Force."

"This is the first time since Independence that a new operational branch is being created. The creation of this branch would result in savings of over Rs 3,400 crore due to the reduced expenditure on flying training," he said.

This was the first time that the annual day celebrations were held outside the National Capital Region (NCR).

The Defence Ministry said in a statement, "In a historic step for the

Indian Air Force (IAF), the government has approved the creation of a new branch called the weapon systems branch."

The creation of this branch would entail unification of all weapon system operators under one entity dedicated to the operational employment of all ground-based and specialist airborne weapon systems.

The branch would encompass operators in four specialised streams -- surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles, remotely piloted aircraft and weapon system operators in twin/multi-crew aircraft. It will contribute immensely by enhancing the war fighting capability of the Indian Air Force.

"We are increasingly seeing the convergence of all these domains in one continuum in the form of hybrid warfare. The conventional systems and weapons will need to be augmented by modern, flexible and adaptive technology," Chaudhari said while emphasising

on 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

"We've inherited the proud legacy curated by sheer hard work, perseverance and vision of our predecessors. We must acknowledge the contributions of our veterans who charted this course. Now the onus is on us to usher IAF into the centenary decade."

Speaking about the synergy of all three services - the Army, Navy and Air Force - he said, "One single service can't win a war on its own. Work is in progress to enhance the jointness of three services."

The Air Chief Marshal also spoke about the recently-launched Agnipath scheme, saying, "Induction of air warriors into IAF through the Agnipath scheme is a challenge for all of us. But more importantly, it's an opportunity for us to harness the potential of India's youth and channelise it towards the service of the nation."

"We've changed our operational training methodology to ensure that each Agniveer is equipped

with the right skills and knowledge to start a career in IAF. In December this year, we'd be inducting 3,000 'Agniveer Vayu' for initial training. This number will go up in the years to come."

The Air Force chief also said that next year, the force will induct women Agniveers.

"We are also planning to induct women Agniveers starting next year. Creation of infrastructure is in progress and streamlining of trade structures is being finalised," he said.

A ceremonial parade was organised at the Air Force Station to mark the occasion with Chaudhari taking the salute.

Earlier, the IAF chief reviewed the ceremonial parade commanded by Group Captain Anoop Singh, with a three aircraft formation of Mi-17 helicopters trooping the IAF ensign followed by a formation of three Rudra helicopters flying past the saluting dais in an aerial salute.

The IAF's new combat uniform was also unveiled on the occasion.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION SHOULD BE RECORDED EITHER ON SAME DAY OR FOLLOWING: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has said that no long adjournment should be granted while recording the statement of prosecution witnesses and the cross-examination should be recorded either on the same day or on the day following.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and C.T. Ravikumar said the mandate of law itself postulates that examination-in-chief, followed with cross-examination, is to be recorded either on the same day or on the day following. It emphasised that there should not be a long adjournment.

The bench said: "We do not want to dilate at this stage since the trial is pending but we would like to observe that the trial judge may take a note of the judgment of this court in reference to Section 309 Cr.P.C and not only expedite the trial but the examination-in-chief/cross-examination is to be recorded either on the same day or on the day following but no long adjournment should be granted while recording the statement of prosecution witnesses."

It made this observation while hearing plea seeking quashing of bail granted by the Allahabad High Court to a person in a murder case.

Counsel for the petitioner informed the



bench that there were three eye-witnesses as per the calendar of witnesses and charge sheet has been filed and statement of a witness by this time has been recorded which took almost three months to conclude.

"So far as statement of PW-2 is concerned, part of the examination-in-chief was recorded on September 21, 2022 and despite request being made the mandate of Section 309 Cr.P.C. is not being followed which has been considered by this court in 'Vinod Kumar versus State of Punjab (2015)'," noted the bench.

Section 309 of the CrPC deals with power to postpone or adjourn proceedings.

The top court, in its order, said: "The mandate of law itself postulates that examination-in-chief followed with cross-examination is to be recorded either on the same day or on the day following. In other words, there should not be any grounds for adjournment in recording the examination-in-chief/cross-examination of the prosecution witness, as the case may be."

In an order passed in March, the high court granted bail to a person for the alleged offences, which also included murder charges. The top court has scheduled the matter for further hearing after six weeks.





# Slow pace of implementation of Jan Seva Abhiyan will be unforgivable: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that 100 percent saturation of eligible persons should be ensured in the schemes identified in the Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan. Today it has been 21 days since the campaign started on 17th September and there are still 23 days left. This is a campaign to serve the public; no eligible beneficiary has been left behind. Speedy disposal of the applications received in the campaign should be ensured. All collectors should take immediate decision regarding pending applications and ensure their disposal. There should not be any delay in the process of distribution of benefits in the sanctions issued. The slow pace of disposal of applications in the campaign will be unforgivable. Uniform standards should be adopted for rejecting and accepting applications. Chief Minister Chouhan gave these instructions in the review meeting of Mukhya Mantri Jan seva campaign at the residence office.



Chief Minister Chouhan congratulated everyone for the Navratri festival and immersion programme being completed smoothly in a peaceful, reverent and devotional atmosphere. He said that this is a result of the efficiency of the police administration. CM Chouhan congratulated all the concerned officers for disposing off more than 22 lakh applications in the

Mukhya Mantri Jan seva Abhiyan in 21 days. Chief Minister Chouhan directed to run a special campaign of the Revenue Department to separate the joint accounts of land in Jhabua and Alirajpur for transfer and distribution. He said that according to the special circumstances of different divisions and districts, it is necessary to conduct special activities to solve

the problems existing there.

CM Chouhan said that the authenticity of the camps being organized in the campaign will be established only when the applications received will be considered systematically and they will be definitely resolved. The Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary of the concerned departments should review the campaign continuously from Mantralaya. CM Chouhan said that after the campaign, if applications or problems related to these schemes are received during the visits of the districts, it will be considered that the district has not taken the campaign seriously.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the distribution of benefits of the applications received in Jan Seva Abhiyan will be done from November 1 on Madhya Pradesh foundation day.

It was informed that 21 thousand 485 camps have been organized in rural areas and 5 thousand 139 camps in urban areas till 7 October in the campaign which started from September 17.

## Molestation charges against Cong MLAs: BJP slams party's silence, Kamal Nath initiates probe

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As the report of two Congress MLAs from Madhya Pradesh being booked for allegedly molesting a woman co-passenger while travelling on a train came to the fore, the ruling BJP on Friday slammed the grand old party for "remaining silent" on the issue.

Madhya Pradesh BJP president V.D. Sharma, speaking to media persons, said that the "condemnable act of two MLAs have shown the real face of the Congress".

Sharma also raised question on why the Congress remained silent on "this serious matter". He alleged that Congress talks about women empowerment and safety and security of women, on the other side, their MLAs are misbehaving with women.

Sharma said that "the act of two Congress MLAs has exposed their real face".

"Their leader Priyanka Gandhi says Ladki Hun Lad Sakti Hun, now I want to ask Priyanka Gandhi as to what action she would take against



her party's MLAs. I condemn this act and believe that the Congress leadership would take action against the two MLAs," Sharma said.

Sources said that state Congress chief Kamal Nath has formed a panel of three senior party leaders to find out the truth of allegations made against the MLAs.

"Kamal Nath has asked both the MLAs to submit their reply against allegations made against them in written. A committee has also constituted to inquire the matter," said a source in Madhya Pradesh Congress.

MLA Kushwaha said, "I along with Sunil Saraf was coming to Bhopal. I boarded the train from Satna and after few minutes the same woman requested me to exchange her seat as she was

carrying her little baby, so I did the same. We had our dinner and asked her as courtesy for dinner. I fail to understand why the woman has leveled such serious allegations against me and my colleague MLA."

Kushwaha further said that he didn't even switch on the light in the compartment so that no one gets disturb. "There was no further conversation with the woman took place after the exchange of berths. It was in Sagar when a police team arrived in our compartment, and we came to know about the complaint she made against us," Kushwaha added.

"How is it possible for anyone to indulge in such a criminal act when there are co-travellers, ticket-checking staff, coach attendants, government railway police personnel, etc.," the MLA asserted. The alleged incident was reported on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday when they were travelling in an AC coach of Rewanchal Express (Rewa to Bhopal).

## CM Chouhan plants Amla, Shahtoot and Banyan saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Amla, Shahtoot (Mulberry) and Banyan saplings along with the members of Consumer and Human Rights Protection Samiti in the Smart City Garden. Satish Nayak, Viren Pappu Ram, Yogantar Nayak and Sadhna Nayak of the Samiti also participated in the plantation.

Various programmes have been organised by the Samiti during the last 20 years to make people aware about tree plantation in Bhopal. Along with this, to prevent illegal logging in the forests of Chandanpura and Kaliasot, the entire area has been declared as a Protected Forest.



## CM CHOUHAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO LOK NAYAK JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN ON HIS DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan on his death anniversary. CM Chouhan paid floral tribute by garlanding his picture in the auditorium at his residence office.

Jayaprakash Narayan, popularly known as 'Lok Nayak', was an Indian freedom fighter, social reformer and politician. The Central Government posthumously awarded him the country's highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna' in the year 1998. In the year 1965, he was also honoured with the 'Magsaysay' award for social service. He passed away on 8 October 1979 in Patna after prolonged illness.

## Village lights and pumps will run with solar energy in "Surya Shakti Abhiyan"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

"Surya Shakti Abhiyan" has been launched in Madhya Pradesh for supply of electricity from solar energy to make villages self-reliant. Madhya Pradesh is the first state to launch such a unique campaign in the country. This is an important step towards fulfilling the dream of PM Narendra Modi to make the country self-reliant in the field of solar energy. Solar electricity will be used in village street lights, tap-water supply, offices and other works while promoting solar energy in village panchayats.

Under the Jal-Jeevan Mission, the target is to provide one crore household water connections in rural areas, which were only 15

lakh two years ago. With this, the expenditure on electricity of village Panchayats, which was about 450 crores, is likely to increase to 2 thousand crores. With the help of solar energy, the expenditure of about Rs. 2000 crore on electricity bills in future in the village panchayats of the state can be reduced. This amount can be used for other development works of the village. Along with this, the benefit of carbon credit will also be available to the panchayats. This campaign will be helpful for increasing the income of Panchayats. In the first phase, 714 village panchayats with a population of more than 5 thousand and all villages with Haat Bazar and all district and Janpad Panchayat offices are being

included in Surya Shakti Abhiyan. Apart from these panchayats, other panchayats can also join this campaign.

Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Umakant Umrao informed that "Surya Shakti Abhiyan" is being started to reduce the dependence on conventional electricity in the operation of various systems at village level in the state.

In this campaign, after estimating the total monthly electricity consumption of district and janpad panchayat offices and village panchayats, plants of solar power generation capacity for its equivalent supply will be set up. Energy audit of village panchayats is also being done to ensure effi-

cient consumption and production. For expenditure, the amount will be arranged from the 15th finance, state finances and panchayats' own income.

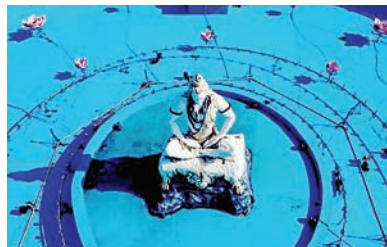
Installation of solar plants in panchayats will ensure regular power supply. There will be a one-time expenditure on setting up the plant, in which the benefit of subsidy will be given by the government. Under the campaign, energy audit is to be done by October 15, training of panchayats by November 15 and establishment of solar power plants by January 26. Such panchayats, which will be able to generate solar energy according to their power consumption, will be rewarded by declaring them as solar rich village panchayats.

## Dedication of Shri Mahakal Lok will be historic for the state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

October 11 is going to be a historic day in the history of Madhya Pradesh. On this day, Deepotsav will be celebrated in all the temples and religious places of the state including the ancient city of Ujjain. This will be the occasion of the dedication of the newly constructed Shri Mahakal Lok by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ujjain, the city of Mahakal. Developed with the wonderful aura of Shiv Leelas, Shri Mahakal Lok will become a center of attraction not only for the people of the state but also for the devotees from all over India.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's special interest has developed the city of Ujjain for the devotees in a very attractive way for the tourists and devotees. Infra-structures have been built with Shiva Leelas focusing on mythology, seeing which people will have a vision of Shiva Lok on Earth.



All necessary preparations have been completed to make the dedication ceremony of Shri Mahakal Lok pleasant and joyful. CM Chouhan said that the dedication of Shri Mahakal Lok would be a wonderful ceremony, efforts are being made to connect people in this. For the past several days, CM Chouhan himself has been inviting the people of the state to the function through various media. Along with this, a call is also being made by him that on October 11, bhajan-kirtan should be done by lighting lamps in all the temples of the state.

Arrangements will also be made for live telecast of the main program of Ujjain, so that the residents can witness the celebrations. CM Chouhan believes that the ceremony is definitely taking place in Ujjain, but its aura is scattered and visible throughout the state. To fulfill this intention of the CM, preparations are being made by the local administration in all the districts for the ceremony with public participation. Lamps will be lit in all devasthan of the state. Abhishek-pujan etc. will be held for two days on 10th and 11th October in all Shiva temples of all the districts and the temples will be illuminated. The concept of Shri Mahakal Lok emerged in the mind of CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the year 2017. A plan was outlined in consultation with various social and religious institutions, saints and subject-experts, based on which the first phase of the plan has been implemented successfully and completed.

## "WON'T STAY AT HOME": BJP'S UMA BHARTI ON ANTI-LIQUOR CAMPAIGN

Bhopal: Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti on Friday said she will not stay in house from November 7 to January 14 as part of her campaign against illegal liquor sale in Madhya Pradesh. The former Union minister also announced that she wanted to contest the next Lok Sabha election from a state other than Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Her anti-liquor campaign will begin from Amarkantak in MP, she said. "From November 7 to Makar Sankranti on January 14, I will leave the house and stay in a hut or tent in front of a liquor shop or 'ahata' in an area where liquor is prohibited, and organize a choupal (public meeting)," Bharti said in a series of tweets. Despite the MP government closing liquor vendors and ahatas in response to her campaign, they remained open after getting a stay from the courts and she became a laughing stock, Bharti told reporters.

## Schools will install online attendance appliance for classes I to 12

Team Absolute | Bhopal

This system seeks to ensure the average attendance of students increases and collect information on students with weak attendance and study the reasons and thereby provide a suitable solution.

The department has named this online system - Hajri-Online. A mobile application, as per an official statement, has been prepared to monitor the attendance of the students and teachers. The mobile application, the statement added, has

been made in such a way that it can be used in places with low mobile network connectivity.

By identifying the schools with weak attendance, the regional officers of the Education Department with the help of local bodies can take efforts to increase attendance and improve education. On the basis of the attendance recorded with the help of the online attendance mechanism, the achievement level of quality education can also be analyzed and the distribution of mid-day meals can also be monitored.

## NCPCR recommends removal of mazaars from school premises in Vidisha

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has found two illegally constructed 'mazaars' built on government land inside a school premises in Vidisha district and has recommended that "the unlawful structures should be removed from the premises".

The NCPCR has surveyed the CM Rise School of Kurwai in Vidisha district after taking suo-moto cognizance of a report about presence of mazaar-like structure in the school. The NCPCR Chairperson Priyank Kanoongo visited the school to conduct an inquiry in the matter. After his visit, the child rights body said that there were two mazaars constructed in the premises of CM Rise School.

"The first Mazaar like-structure was located in the backside area of the school and it was built by former councillor, Munne Khan Hussaini. It was found out that on the said platform, no person comes to do any kind of religious ritual. Further, it was told by the teachers that sometimes, the former councillor comes on the said platform," the NCPCR in a statement.

It was also observed during the visit that there was no boundary wall against the said mazaar and was open to the public for visit. The open access to the mazaar inside the school premises was observed to "pose a threat to the safety of children in the school".

The NCPCR has instructed the Sub-Divisional Police Officer to take action, thereby prohibiting the entry of Munne Khan and others in the school premises.

The second mazaar was recently constructed in February 2022 by Banne Khan, the husband of then Principal In-charge, Shahina Firdaus. The child rights body observed that no information of any kind was provided to the SDM, Kurwai by the School management regarding the construction of the said platform till date. "It was informed to the Chairperson during the visit by the teachers and the students that the National Anthem and other patriotic songs were not sung in the school till the time Shahina Firdaus was the principal. Previously, they used to sing the Madhya Pradesh Anthem and 'Ae Maalik Tere Bande Hum'. The National Anthem was used to be sung only on the Independence Day and Republic Day during her tenure.

## Centre forms task force to monitor cheetahs in MP's Kuno National Park

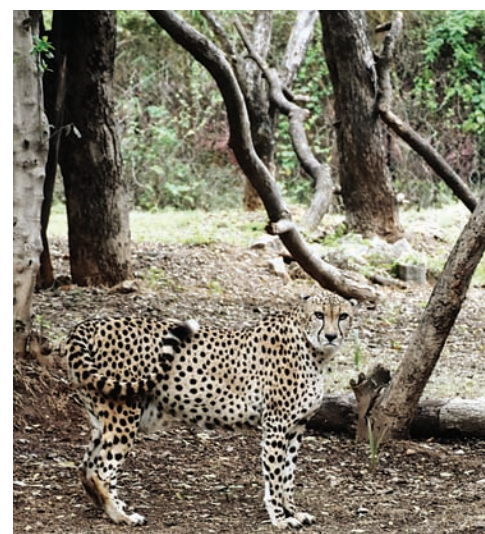
Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has constituted a task force for monitoring cheetah's introduction in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, and other suitable designated areas.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) would facilitate the working of the Cheetah task force and render all necessary help. The task force will come into force for a period of two years and may appoint a subcommittee to regularly visit the cheetah introduction area as and when decided by them.

Officials said that cheetah restoration is part of a prototype or model for restoration of original cheetah habitats and their biodiversity. This will help to stem the degradation and rapid loss of biodiversity.

Bringing back a top predator restores historic evolutionary balance resulting in cascading effects on various levels of the ecosystem. Bringing the cheetah back is expected to have important conservation ramifications.



The task force has been constituted to review, progress and monitor the health status of cheetah, upkeep of the quarantine and soft release enclaves,

protection status of entire area, adherence to the defined protocols by forest and veterinary officials and advice on cheetah introduction in India to the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and NTCA on status of cheetah with respect to overall health, behaviour and their upkeep.

It will also monitor hunting skills and adaptation of cheetahs to the habitat of Kuno National Park and release of cheetah from quarantine bomas to soft release enclosures and then to grassland and open forest areas.

It will open cheetah habitat for eco-tourism and suggest regulations in this regard and will also suggest and advise on development of tourism infrastructure in the fringe areas of Kuno National Park and other protected areas. The task force comprises nine officials, including Principal Secretary (Forests), Principal Secretary (Tourism), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, (Retd) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden -- all from Madhya Pradesh and few other officials.





# NASHIK BUS TRAGEDY TOLL CLIMBS TO 13; PREZ, PM EXPRESS GRIEF

Team Absolute | Nashik

The death toll in the Nashik bus accident rose to 12 with two more victims succumbing to their injuries, while another 28 are under treatment at different hospitals, officials said here on Saturday.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other leaders have expressed grief over the tragedy.

At around 5 am on Saturday, a private passenger bus belonging to Chintamani Travels rammed into a truck carrying diesel on the Aurangabad Road on the outskirts of Nashik.

The impact of the crash was so severe that the bus burst into flames, trapping many of the passengers who were sleeping at that early hour.

As per details available, the bus started

from Yavatmal and was bound for Mumbai via Pusad and Pune, with over 30 passengers on board.

Ordering a probe into the incident, Shinde rushed to Nashik on Saturday afternoon and visited some of the victims undergoing treatment at the local hospitals.

The Prime Minister has announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of the 12 deceased persons, and Rs 50,000 each to the injured, while Shinde said that Rs 5 lakh each will be given to the families of the dead while the state will bear the full treatment expenses at public or private hospitals for the injured.

The spokespersons of Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena, along with Shinde group's ministers have also condole the tragic accident and demanded an in-depth probe into the matter.



# Maha Police nabs 2 dreaded Maoists with Rs 10 lakh bounty

Team Absolute | Nagpur

In a big breakthrough, police in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli have arrested two dreaded Maoists with a combined reward of Rs 10 lakh on their heads, a top official said here on Saturday.

The two are Krishna Shyamlal Narote, 24, of Savargaon with a bounty of Rs 8 lakh and Surya Ghasen Narote, 22, carrying a reward of Rs 2 lakh, said Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal.

"As per preliminary interrogation, Krishna Narote was sent as part of an advance receive team to 'reorganise' the Dalams (militant groups) which were eliminated in the Mardintola encounter of 2021," he said.

Krishna Narote was recruited in October 2015 when he was barely 17 with the Tipagad LOS and worked as a bodyguard of senior Divisional Committee Member (DVCM) Joganna till 2018 and quickly grew up the ranks by 2020 when the state government announced the booty for his capture, while Surya Narote is a Jan Militia Member.



Both Narotes were involved in various serious crimes like murder, arson, firing, etc.

Goyal said that the timely arrests have dealt a serious setback to their nefarious intentions to revive the destroyed Dalams in the region and further probe is on into their activities.

Both the Narotes were involved in various serious crimes like murder, arson, firing etc. Goel said the arrest dealt a serious blow to their nefarious intentions to revive the destroyed Dalams in the area and further investigation into their activities was on.

# Man booked in assault case 17 years ago, held

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Samta Nagar Police in Mumbai managed to arrest a wanted accused 17 years after he was booked for an assault case. The accused has been identified as Lali Yadav, 48 who was nabbed from Hanuman Nagar area of Kandivli east on Friday, the police said.

According to an official, Yadav's address mentioned in the police record was never proper as a result he remained out of reach for 17 years, said officials. The court had already issued a "top priority" Non Bailable Warrant (NBW) against him.

According to the police, Yadav was booked in 2005 in connection with a case registered under section 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). For years he remained elusive to the police. The police tried to trace him however

they could never find his address as a reason he remained out of police reach. After failing to trace him, the police informed the court which issued a "top priority" NBW against Yadav.

Recently the Summons and Warrant staff of the police station, police constable Pravin Bhoir and police constable Vishwesh Borkar received a tip-off that Yadav could be in Ramanand Yadav Chawl at Vadar Pada Road at Hanuman Nagar. They gathered information about him and it was confirmed that it was the same person they were in search for last 17 years they apprehended him.

"Based on technical analysis and with the help of informants we have managed to nab Yadav after 17 years," said Narendra Shinde senior inspector of Samta Nagar police station.

He was produced before the court which sent him to Magistrate custody. Yadav has claimed that he was wrongly named in the case, he said.

# Bandra-Worli sea link accident: 'I haven't slept for two nights'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

I saw five of my friends die in front of me. I can still see the horrific scene unfold every time I close my eyes," said Rinku Rajput, a survivor of the tragic Bandra Worli Sea Link accident. The 28-year-old, who was waving an LED baton, signaling drivers to avoid the lane, is also the only eyewitness who saw the car approaching them. He said, "I saw the car speeding towards us. I jumped towards the railing and it was only a fraction of seconds before the SUV rammed into the vehicles. I was lucky to have survived, but my friends did not."

Rajput, who hails from Chitrakut in Uttar Pradesh, said, "I joined as a security staff around 4 months ago at a monthly salary of Rs 7,500 for 8-hour duty. That night, I, along with



Rajendra Rajput, joined duty at 10 pm as usual. We got information about a car hitting the divider around 2.40 am. Rajendra and I immediately went

which suddenly changed to lane 4 and came towards us. I was waving the baton but the driver did not seem to slow down. I instinctively jumped towards the railing. The car dashed into Rajendra and then the other vehicles," he said, adding, "Once the car crossed me, I just sat down and saw the accident happen right in front of me. I went numb and don't remember anything after that."

"It was unlike anything I saw before. I am shivering just speaking about it. I haven't been able to sleep for the last two nights. I wake up after having nightmares. My family wants me to leave the job, but what will I do after going back?" he said.

Visibly shaken Rajput concluded, "All who died were my friends. In fact, Rajendra was my buddy. I still can't believe they are no more."

# 50 kg cocaine worth Rs 500cr seized from container carrying fruits at port

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized around 50kg of "high-quality" cocaine worth Rs 502 crore from a container carrying fruits at the Nhava Sheva Port in neighboring Navi Mumbai, an official said on Saturday.

This is one of the largest seizures of cocaine attempted to be smuggled through sea containers in the recent past, he said, adding that the drug was seized on Thursday.

"The DRI's Mumbai zonal unit had received intelligence inputs about the consignment, which was brought to Nhava Sheva Port from South Africa. Accordingly, the container was identified and opened in the presence of the DRI officials, following which it was revealed that



a large number of bricks made of high-quality cocaine and weighing approximately 1kg each, were concealed inside the boxes of green apples," an official statement said.

A total of 50 such bricks weighing 50.23kg and valued at Rs 502 crore in illicit markets were recovered during the examination, it said.

The container was brought to India by the same importer, who was arrested by the DRI in the case involving seizure of 198kg meth and 9kg cocaine from a consignment of oranges originating from South Africa at Vashi earlier this week, the official said.

The importer was arrested by the DRI officials under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, he said.

# SEVEN BOOKED FOR TRAPPING MHADA OFFICER IN FALSE CASE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An offence has been registered against seven persons, including two retired officers of the Mumbai police, for allegedly trapping a MHADA officer in a false case of cheating and getting him arrested, an official said on Saturday.

Based on a complaint lodged by the officer of the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA), the Khar police on Monday registered an offence against seven persons, including two retired police officers and an inspector with the Economic Offences Wing, the official said.

The complainant has alleged that the police officials arrested him in a fake case of cheating in 2018 by submitting fabricated documents in court with the help of fake witnesses, he said.

The complainant claimed that he spent



two months in jail after the FIR was registered against him in the fake case of duping people on pretext of providing MHADA flats at cheaper rates, the official said.

A case under sections 182 (giving false information), 192 (fabricating false evidence), 196 (using evidence known to be false), 211 (false charge of offence made with intent to injure), 120b (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC against the seven accused, he said, adding that no arrests have been made so far.

# UDDHAV THACKERAY TO START 'MAHAPRABODHAN YATRA' FROM SHINDE'S STRONGHOLD



Thane: The Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena will begin its mass outreach programme titled 'Mahaprabodhan Yatra' on Sunday from Thane, the stronghold of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, whose rebellion brought down the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in June. The programme comprises a series of rallies across the state to garner support of the people and highlight their issues and also boost the spirit of workers, Sena leader Chintamani Kharkhanis told reporters on Saturday.

Incidentally, the posters of the yatra, with the slogan 'Aapla Maharashtra, Mahaan Maharashtra' will have images of both party founder late Bal Thackeray and Thane strongman later Anand Dighe, just like the publicity material used by the Shinde camp.

The yatra is beginning from Thane as it is the cradle of the "betrayal and revolt" in the party, local Lok Sabha MP Rajan Vichare told reporters, a reference to Shinde walking away with a majority of MLAs to bring down the Uddhav Thackeray government on June 29.

# More than 600 smuggled exotic animals seized at airport by DRI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In one of the biggest seizures of rare and exotic wildlife species, the Mumbai zonal unit of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has recovered 665 reptiles of many exotic species from Air Cargo complex. The exotic species includes pythons, lizards, iguanas and turtles which were found concealed in the cartons containing aquarium fishes.

The estimated market value of the consignment is around Rs. 3 crore. In the matter, the importer and the receiver were arrested.

The DRI said, Acting on specific information, the sleuths of DRI intercepted a vehicle at Vile Parle soon after it left the Air Cargo Complex with the consignment that had reached the city from Malaysia on Wednesday. The consignment was in the name of M/S Zion Aquatic and was supposed to be containing aquarium fishes however the DRI suspected it to be carrying live exotic animals. The consignment was brought back to the air



cargo complex, upon checking it, reptiles including pythons, lizards and iguanas and turtles were found hidden under trays over which fishes were kept. After finding reptiles a team from wildlife crime control bureau was called in for help.

Of the total 30 boxes recovered by the DRI, 13 were containing reptiles

and other exotic species. A total of 665 exotic species including pythons, lizards, iguanas, turtles were found while remaining boxes were having 'declared items' and one box was found to be empty.

117 were found to be dead. It is suspected that these may have died during transportation. The estimat-

ed market value of the consignment is over 12.98 crore, officials said.

As per the officials, these rare and exotic species are prohibited for import and are also listed under Appendices in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Following the seizure, Immanuel Raja proprietor of Zion Aquatic and one Victor Lobo were arrested under the relevant provisions of Customs Act, reads the remand application. The animals were reportedly sent by one David Lu of M/S Sea Garden Aquarium, Malaysia.

Advocate Sujay Kantawala, who appeared as defence lawyer for the two accused said, "my clients are innocent and were illegally detained, the seizure memo is dated October 8 and since afternoon of October 6 his clients were in detention, hence, bail now is a matter of right he contended. He further added, five persons were detained, while some of them were released, two were shown arrested on Saturday morning.

"Apart from this, dealing with these alleged exotic species as per DRI allegations, it is also a bailable offence, moreover, the value shown in the panchnama is highly inflated and was not backed by any expert's valuation," argued Kantawala.





# MILA KUNIS LIED ABOUT HER AGE TO BAG 'That 70s Show'

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Black Swan' star Mila Kunis has confirmed a longstanding rumour about how she landed her breakout role as Jackie Burkhart on 'That 70s Show'.

The actress revealed to Vanity Fair that in order to bag the role, she lied about her age. Kunis was 14 years old at the time, but the rumour claims she told the show's creators she was 18 years old in order to audition, as the network was only looking for older teen actors, reports Variety.

"There's a rumour going around that I may or may not have lied about my age," Kunis said. "I'd like to make it very clear now that I did lie. I did."

"However, by the time I went to what was then a producer's network call, you have to sign a contract before you get the job and in my contract I had to put an asterisk for 'studio teacher,'" she added, quoted by Variety.

"They were like, 'What do you mean?' And I was like, 'Oh P.S., I'm 14.' But at that point if you talk to the creators, they were like, 'We loved you at that point so what did we care?'"

As per Variety, though Kunis lied about her age to get her foot in the door to audition, co-creators Bonnie and Terry Turner were well aware she was a 14-year-old by the time the show started filming.

Variety further states that Kunis will be reprising the role of Jackie on Netflix's upcoming sequel series 'That '90s Show', but the streamer is yet to announce a release date.



# Keanu Reeves opts out of 'The Devil in the White City'

Los Angeles | Agencies

'John Wick' star Keanu Reeves has walked out of the streaming series adaptation of 'The Devil in the White City'. The show was first put into development at streaming platform Hulu in 2019 and was officially ordered at the streamer in August 2022.

It is based on the book of the same name by Erik Larson, reports Variety.

As per the official logline, the show "tells the true story of Daniel H. Burnham, a demanding but visionary architect who races to make his mark on history with the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and Dr H. H. Holmes,

America's first modern serial killer and the man behind the notorious 'Murder Castle' built in the Fair's shadow."

Variety further states that Reeves was cast as Burnham in what would have been his first major American television role, but the search is now on for a replacement. No one has been cast as Holmes as yet.

This is the latest chapter in the long development history of the book. DiCaprio acquired the rights in 2010 with plans to adapt it as a film in which he would star as Holmes. Scorsese came on-board to direct in 2015 with Billy Ray set to write the script.



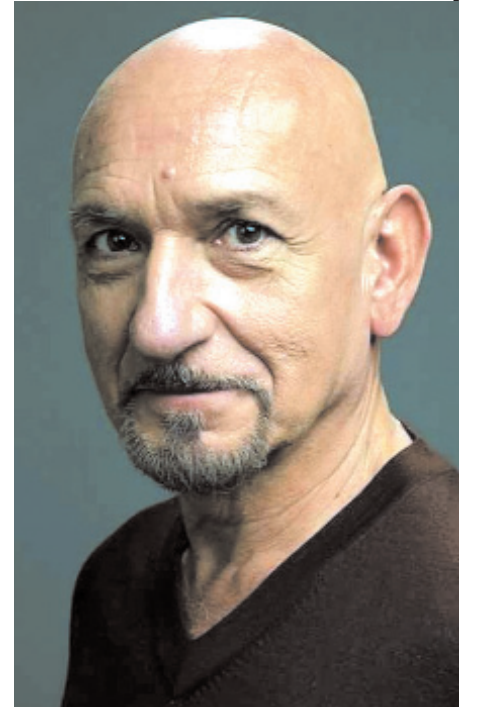
# BEN KINGSLEY SET TO STAR IN SCREEN ADAPTATION OF 'VIOLENT CASES'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar and Grammy winning English actor Ben Kingsley has been signed to star in a feature film adaptation of 'Violent Cases'. This will be the first ever graphic novel from Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean, reports Variety.

Kingsley will play the osteopath.

Kingsley said, quoted by Variety: "I'm delighted to be



working with this fantastic team on 'Violent Cases', which for me is about the power and importance of storytelling, about how we negotiate the shadows cast by the father figures in our lives and above all about the right of our inner child to be heard".

The feature will be led by writer Mike Carey, director Colm McCarthy and producer Camille Gatin and produced by Scary Monster, Lakesville Productions and Foton Pictures.

As per Variety, Carey has also worked on 'Lucifer' and other books in the Sandman universe, which Gaiman also created.

"Violent Cases' is a journey into the mind of Neil Gaiman, as a famous author recounts fragmented childhood memories and visits to an osteopath who once worked for Al Capone, weaving a dark and twisting tale about stories, our memory, violence and the ways we can't escape our past," reads the logline, accessed by Variety.

Edmund Kingsley produces for Lakesville Productions, Camille Gatin and Colm McCarthy for Scary Monster and Carlos Enrique Cusc and Ari Taboada for Foton.Pictures.

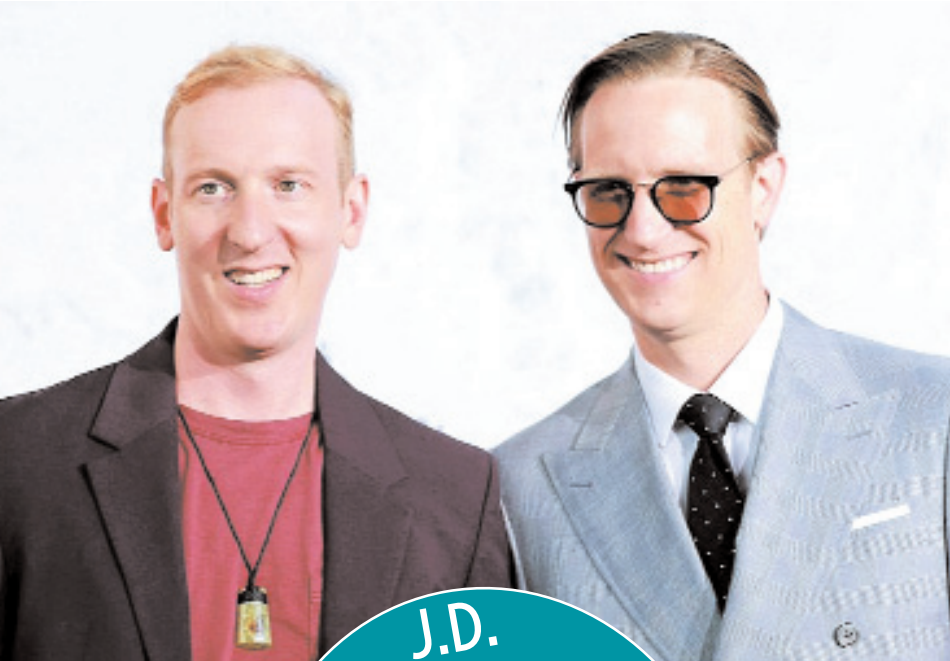
Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Taylor Swift has put a little extra 'mayhem' in 'Midnights Mayhem with Me', the TikTok series in which she reveals the names of each of the songs on her upcoming album 'Midnights' one at a time. On Thursday night, at the stroke of midnight (Pacific Standard Time), the singer shared the title of yet another track on the album, which is set to drop October 21, reports 'People' magazine. "The tension is palpable," the 32-year-old singer said, spinning the cage of numbered ping-pong balls until one - which she revealed to be the album's first track - pops out. "Track one is called 'Lavender Haze'," the singer announced, quoted by 'People'.

Following the announcement, the 'Bad Blood' singer took to Instagram, where she shared a reel explaining the inspiration behind 'Midnights' opening song.

"I happened upon the phrase 'Lavender Haze' when I was watching Mad Men, and I looked it up because I thought it sounded cool," Swift said in the post. "And it turns out that it's a common phrase used in the '50s, where they would just describe being in love." 'People' further states that the 'All Too Well' singer got a little more specific, hinting that 'Lavender Haze' is specifically inspired by her relationship with longtime boyfriend, actor Joe Alwyn.

Taylor Swift's 'Midnights' is inspired by her relationship



J.D. Payne, Patrick McKay explain idea behind creating Sauron in 'LOTR' series

Los Angeles | Agencies

The streaming series 'The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power' has enthralled the audience with its epic storytelling. As the season 1 inches towards an epic finale, the question remains - Who is Sauron after all? J.D. Payne and Patrick McKay, the showrunners of the series, recently provided answers to the question.

Talking about the importance of building the world before showing the evil force, McKay said, "It would be very tempting to make the first season of this show, The Sauron Show, very villain-centric. But we wanted that level of evil and complexity of evil to emerge from a world that you're invested in - not because evil is threatening it immediately. We wanted you to fall in love again with Middle-Earth. We wanted you to understand and relate to the struggles that each of these characters are having before we test them in

a way they've never been tested before."

Further adding to McKay, Payne said that fans have speculated some important characteristics of the sinister and his disguise, which is what the writers also anticipated. He said, "It's another Tolkien (English author J.R.R. Tolkien) thing where when a shadow spreads - which is part of what is happening in our show - it affects everyone's relationships. Even Frodo and Sam. They're the best friends in all of Middle-earth, yet they started to mistrust each other because that's a manifestation of that shadow."

He further mentioned, "So having an audience suspect this person or that person could be Sauron is drawing them into that thing where the shadow is overcoming all of us and making us suspicious of each other."

# KIM KARDASHIAN MODELS A BUSTIER THAT HIGHLIGHTS HER CHEST

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kim Kardashian was not listening to her ex-husband Kanye West on Friday when she took to Instagram. The 41-year-old siren posted several new images where she had on a tight black undergarment that pushed up her chest and highlighted her tiny waist in a new promotional plug for her shapewear brand SKIMS.

This comes after the rapper blasted her 'overly sexualized' SKIMS campaigns when chatting to conservative political commentator Tucker Carlson. The mother to four young children looked very slender in the new outfit, reports dailymail.co.uk. The V-shaped bustier top had thin straps and a tight zip-up bodice that pushed up her ample chest creating a generous amount of cleavage.

The garment also came in at the waist, showing off her 24in waistline. And the piece was very tight around her toned thighs. "Your nights start with SKIMS Glam. Shop select styles in this flattering, corset-effect collection. @KimKardashian wears the SKIMS Glam Catsuit, Bustier, Pant, and Slip Dress, size XS, in Onyx. Photos: @grayhammer, the caption read.

The Selfish author pulled her blonde hair back and wore minimal makeup for the shoot in a closet at her home.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Karolina Kurkova





## WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

# SHAFALI, SMRITI, BOWLERS SET UP INDIA'S 59-RUN THRASHING OF BANGLADESH

Sylhet (Bangladesh) | Agencies

Shafali Verma hit her first T20I fifty since March 2021 and picked two wickets with her off-spin while stand-in captain Smriti Mandhana came out all guns blazing to set up India's 59-run thrashing of hosts and defending champions Bangladesh in Women's Asia Cup at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Electing to bat first, Shafali (55) and Smriti (47) shared a 96-run stand for the first wicket in 12 overs. Though Bangladesh made a fightback by taking out the duo and took some scalps in the end, Jemimah Rodrigues ensured India didn't throw away the momentum brought in by the openers with an unbeaten 35 off 24 balls.

The trio's efforts meant India posted 159/5 in 20 overs, just 24 hours after they were bowled out for 124 and suffered a shock 13-run loss to Pakistan. In reply, Bangladesh were never in the hunt to chase 160 from the word go, as



they made 51/1 in the powerplay.

Against a soaring asking rate, they lost their way in a stiff chase to end up at 100/7 in 20 overs. The win also means that India are firmly on the path to making the semifinals with eight points from five matches.

With Harmanpreet Kaur unavailable due to a niggles, the onus on India to get a big score was high on Smriti and Shafali. Smriti began aggressively by dancing down the pitch to loft Salma Khatun and Fariha Trisna for a brace of fours in successive overs.

Shafali joined her captain by flicking Fariha for six over deep square leg and hit fours through mid-wicket and long-on to take 17 runs off the fourth over. The duo then took Nahida Akter to the cleaners in the final over of powerplay yielding 17 runs, including four fours.

One of the striking aspects of the opening partnership was the constant usage of the feet to go aerial and place the ball through gaps to get boundaries apart from occasional shuffling at the crease. Bangladesh found a breakthrough when Smriti was run-out at the non-striker's end in a mix-up, with the opening stand falling short of the 100-run mark by four runs.

An over after reaching her fifty, Shafali was castled by Rumana Ahmed while attempting a reverse sweep. Rumana would take out Richa Ghosh and Kiran Navgire on successive deliveries in the 17th over. But Jemimah got India crucial runs by slamming fours with her adept footwork and crisp drives while Deepti Sharma lofted a six

over long-on before slicing to backward point in the final over as India crossed 150-mark.

In the chase, Bangladesh openers Fargana Hoque and Murshida Khatun stitched a 45-run opening stand but took nine overs to do so. Murshida departed in the 10th over after a 25-ball 21, chipping a catch to cover off Sneha Rana. Five overs later, Fargana holed out to long-on off Deepti for a rusty 40-ball 30.

Skipper Nigar Sultana tried to inject momentum in the chase with 36 off 29 balls, including five fours. But it was too late by then for Bangladesh to get back in the match. After the top three, none of their batters were able to get double-digit scores and crumbled under the pressure of a high required run rate as India got back to winning ways.

Brief scores: India 159/5 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 55, Smriti Mandhana 47; Rumana Ahmed 3/27) beat Bangladesh 100/7 in 20 overs (Nigar Sultana 36, Fargana Hoque 30; Shafali Verma 2/10, Deepti Sharma 2/13) by 59 runs

## DICC T20 Champions Trophy 2022

# INDIA BEAT SOUTH AFRICA IN QUALIFIER 1, ENTER FINAL



Ajman (UAE) | Agencies

India Deaf Cricket Team entered the final of the DICC T20 Champions Trophy 2022 after beating South Africa by seven wickets in the Qualifier 1 match here on Saturday.

India, the only undefeated team in the tournament, won all their matches so far against Bangladesh, Australia and South Africa.

On Saturday, India came up

with a spirited show with both ball and bat as India successfully chased the target of 101 runs.

Earlier, put into bat, India knocked out South Africa in 100 runs. India player Sai Akash was the top scorer with 36 runs. On the other hand, Kuldeep Singh does well bowling for his team as he took three wickets with one maiden over of South Africa in 4 overs. Kuldeep Singh holds the Man of the Match award.

# Japan Open: Fritz overcomes Shapovalov, sets an all-American final against Tiafoe



Tokyo | Agencies

America's Taylor Fritz battled back from 1-3 down in the deciding set to secure a 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3 victory over Denis Shapovalov in the semi-finals to reach his first ATP Tour final of the season at the Japan Open Tennis Championships, here on Saturday.

Fritz thought he would have to miss the Japan Open after testing positive for Covid-19 in Seoul, where he had to quarantine for one week. But after arriving just in time for his Tokyo opener on Wednesday, the American has made the most of his opportunity by reaching the final at the ATP 500.

Adding to the achievement, Fritz also clinched what will be his Top 10 debut in next week's edition of the ATP Rankings.

In an exhibition of first-strike tennis from both men in the Ariake Colosseum, the American was in control early behind his big serve and forehand. After saving a break point in his opening service game, he claimed the first set then broke for 3-2 in the second before Shapovalov fashioned an immediate reply. The Canadian was fearless in winning a dramatic tie-break to force a third set.

After seeing a Fritz passing shot clip the line to erase a mini-break and knot the score at 4/4, Shapovalov ventured forward again on each of the next two points and was rewarded for his bravery. He then claimed the set by moving Fritz from corner to corner in a tense rally that was one of the longest of the match.

Ahmedabad | Agencies

With five days left for the immensely successful 36th edition to draw to a close, hosts Gujarat have surpassed their best-ever performance in the National Games, justifying the State's decision to step in at short notice and stage the Games.

The state won its 10th gold on Friday night, with their star swimmer Maana Patel scooping her third medal from the pool, they had recorded their best return in the National Games.

As hosts, the state had already created history by organising the National Games in less than 100 days. Gujarat upgraded and spruced up all the venues in six cities and left no stone unturned to give over 7,000 athletes a memorable experience. But with their athletes grabbing the opportunity to showcase their rise, Gujarat's decision has been vindicated.

"I commend the Gujarat government for taking up the challenge of hosting the Games in such a short



time," honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said at the Opening Ceremony 10 days back. The sports fans of Gujarat will, however, be more pleased with how their athletes have performed.

Most hearteningly, the state has taken a keener interest in sport only in recent times, has accumulated medals from 11 different disciplines, ranging from aquatics to yogasana,

badminton to wrestling and judo to shooting. Back in 2015, the majority of Gujarat' 20 medals came from tennis and swimming.

Pooja Patel, who won women's gold in traditional yogasana, archer Amita Rathva, who won an individual silver and team bronze in the Indian Archery event, Hinaben Khalifa, who became only the second woman wrestler from the state to win a

National Games medal, are prime examples of the wide range of performers.

The likes of Olympians Elavenil Valarivan (shooter), Ankita Raina (tennis), and Maana Patel (swimming) have all become Indian stars. Indeed, at Tokyo 2020, six women players, including three para-sportspersons, from the state were part of the Indian contingent, which is highly commendable.

The Shaktidoot scheme itself currently supports 64 hand-picked athletes from 14 sports. The DLSS (District Level Sports Course) scheme along with the Khel Mahakumbh have also been crucial triggers that have seen Gujarat rise from a poorly 28th position in the medal table in 2011. Gujarat today also boasts of many high-performance centres to train their athletes, in addition to world-class stadia.

Chief National Coach of rowing, Ismail Baig couldn't stop gushing over the Sabarmati course. It can only be onward and upward for the progressive state.

# Babar Azam slams unbeaten 79, leads Pak to six-wicket win over NZ

Christchurch | Agencies

Pakistan captain Babar Azam carried his bat through the innings to slam an unbeaten 79 off 53 balls and lead Pakistan to a six-wicket victory over New Zealand to win their second match on the bounce in the ongoing T20I tri-series at Hagley Oval on Saturday.

After fast bowler Haris Rauf led the bowling attack's good showing by picking three wickets in the penultimate over to restrict New Zealand to 147/8

in their 20 overs, Azam played a sterling knock to take Pakistan home with ten balls to spare, with Shadab Khan chipping in with a cameo of 34 off just 22 balls.

It was a match where everything clicked well for Pakistan, right from being pushed into bowling first. They never let go of the pressure upon the Blackcaps batters, which resulted in Devon Conway and captain Kane Williamson being unable to get going and they consumed a lot of deliveries. It took a 16-ball 32 blitz

from Mark Chapman for New Zealand to reach a below-par 147/8.

For Pakistan, Rauf strengthened his T20I credentials by picking three wickets in the 19th over while conceding five runs to finish with figures of 3-28. His fellow fast-bowler Mohammad Wasim Jr. gave away five runs in the final over to finish with figures of 2/20. Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz picked up 2-44 while Shahnawaz Dahani finished with 1-22 in three overs.



# Washington Sundar replaces Deepak Chahar in India's ODI squad for series against South Africa

Ranchi | Agencies

The All-India Senior Selection Committee on Saturday named off-spin all-rounder Washington Sundar as replacement for pace all-rounder Deepak Chahar for the remainder of the ODI series against South Africa.

Chahar had a stiffness in his back after the third and final T20I against South Africa in Indore and did not feature in India's playing XI in the first ODI in Lucknow. He will now head back to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) and will be monitored by the medical team there.

India will play the second ODI in Ranchi on October 9, 2022 and will play the final ODI of the series in New Delhi on October 11, 2022.

India's ODI squad: Shikhar Dhawan (Captain), Rituraj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill,



Shreyas Iyer (vice-captain), Rajat Patidar, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Shahbaz Ahmed, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan, Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar.

# IND V SA India seeks to correct mistakes in must-win second ODI against South Africa

Ranchi | Agencies

After losing the series opener to South Africa by nine runs in Lucknow, India will be eyeing corrections of their mistakes in all departments of the game when they take the field for a must-win second ODI at the JSCA International Stadium on Sunday.

With Washington Sundar drafted in the squad as Deepak Chahar's replacement on the eve of the match, it means that India will be a pace option less in Sunday's match, especially after Mohammed Siraj and Avesh Khan couldn't impress in the first ODI at Lucknow apart from leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi being expensive in his first 50-over match for India.

Moreover, India had plenty of misfields and dropped catches at various junctures in the truncated



match, allowing South Africa to reach 249/4 in 40 overs, especially with David Miller (75 not out off 63 balls) and Heinrich Klaasen (74 not out off 65 balls) sharing a rollicking stand of 139 runs off 106 balls to rescue the visitors' from 110/4.

In the batting, captain Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, debutant

Rituraj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan fell without contributing much, leaving Shreyas Iyer and Sanju Samson to step up to the occasion. Though Iyer made a counter-attacking fifty and Samson displayed great shots in his unbeaten 86, India fell short by nine runs, as being at 51/4 in 17.4 overs came back to haunt

the hosts'.

The knocks of Iyer and Samson in the middle-order were huge positives for India from the game in Lucknow apart from Shardul Thakur picking two wickets and making a quick cameo of 33 with the bat. With the T20 World Cup happening next year in this time in the country, Dhawan needs to get big runs to be in the reckoning for opening the batting for India. The hosts' will also hope that Gill and Kishan step up to score runs after the off-day in Lucknow.

For South Africa, getting those ten crucial World Cup Super League points with the narrow win in the first ODI will be a huge motivating factor to seal the series in Ranchi and inch closer to automatic qualification for ODI World Cup next year in India. Miller and Klaasen, who have been the nemesis of India pre-

viously in white-ball matches, will be looking to continue their rich vein of form.

The concern points for the Proteas will be the form of their captain Temba Bavuma, who hasn't been in double-digit scores on the tour till now. With the T20 World Cup in Australia two weeks away, South Africa need their captain to be amongst the runs.

With the ball, South Africa were tight and got wickets at crucial times to stop India at 240/8. But Tabraiz Shamsi, the left-arm wrist-spinner, had a forgetful time in Lucknow. In his eight overs, he conceded 89 runs for his one wicket, including being hit for 21 runs in the final over by Samson. With pitches in Ranchi being kind to both pacers and spinners, South Africa can be upbeat about Shamsi getting his groove with the ball.

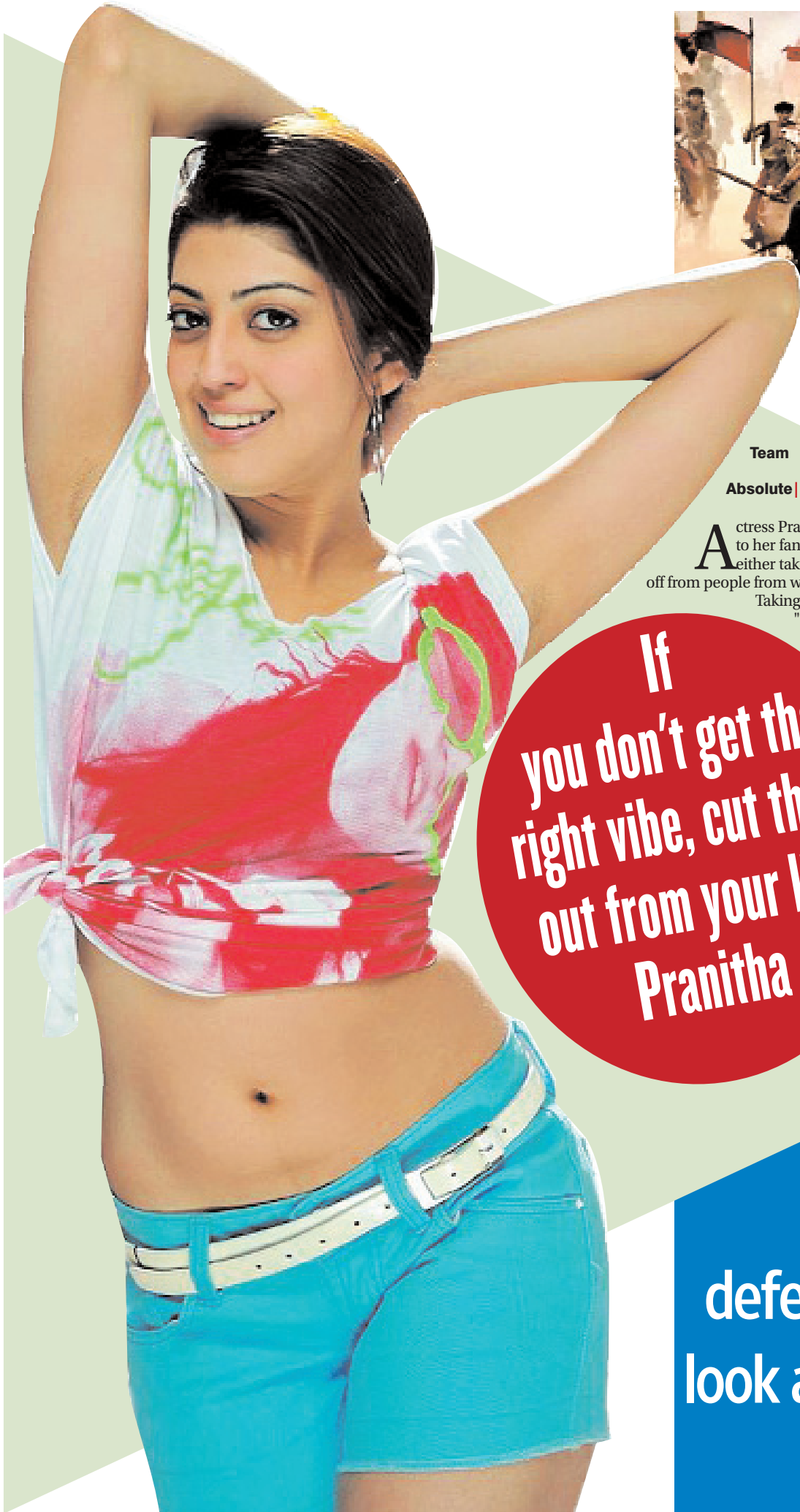
# VERSTAPPEN TAKES POLE POSITION IN JAPANESE GRAND PRIX



**Suzuka (Japan):** Reigning Formula One champion, Red Bull's Max Verstappen took the pole position at the Japanese Grand Prix, enhancing his chances of wrapping up the 2022 world title this weekend, as he edged out the Ferrari pair of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz in

qualifying on Saturday. The 25-year-old Dutchman led after the opening Q3 runs and his initial time of 1 minute 29.304 seconds was just quick enough to seal top spot. He finishing 0.010 seconds clear of Leclerc and 0.057 seconds up on Sainz, as team-mate Sergio Perez completed the top-four, according to formula1.com. However, a potential setback awaits Verstappen as the stewards will be taking a look at an incident involving the Dutchman and Lando Norris in the early stages of Q3, after the reigning champion darted left at the exit of 130R on a slow lap, forcing Norris to take avoiding action as the McLaren built up speed.





If you don't get the right vibe, cut them out from your life: Pranitha



**Team Absolute|Chennai** : Dance Choreographer and director Brindha Gopal, who choreographed the songs in director Mani Ratnam's recently released magnum opus 'Ponniyin Selvan', has lauded her director's work in the film, saying, that he has "created magic on screen". The ace choreographer, who watched the film only recently as she is in the US, took to Twitter to register her thoughts on the film. She wrote: "Finally got to see the epic 'PS-1' in the USA. Mani Ratnam sir, you have created magic on screen. Such a mind-blowing experience. Amazing BGM (by) A R Rahman sir." Congratulating the director of photography, S. Ravi Varman ISC (Indian Society of Cinematographers), she said: "Camera has made each and every frame look like a painting. Kudos to the entire team." The ace dance choreographer, who is also directing a film called 'Thugs' now, also showered praise on all the actors in the film. She wrote: "Happy to be part of this film. Chiyaan (Vikram) you have rocked as Aditha Karikalan. Karthi has lived his role as Vandhiyathevan." Nobody could have portrayed Ponniyin Selvan better than actor Jayam Ravi. Ash has been bewitching as Nandini and Trisha as Kundhavai is beauty and brains personified", she added in her social media post. The film, which is based on eminent writer Kalki's literary classic 'Ponniyin Selvan', has emerged a huge success and has already grossed over Rs 300 crore worldwide in a week's time.

**Team Absolute|Chennai**

Actress Pranitha has suggested to her fans and followers that they either take a step back or completely cut off from people from whom they don't get the right vibes.

Taking to Instagram recently, the actress said:

"This is specially for postpartum mamas because it's a very emotional and sensitive phase which no one will understand."

Taking a leaf from her personal experience, she mentioned: "I've made that mistake of trying to be a people pleaser and it has backfired sometimes. One advice I can give new mamas or in fact, anyone is ... if you are not getting the right vibe from someone, make sure you cut them out of your life or make sure you take a step back."

"It will be hard. There are times when people have wondered if I was 'avoiding' them. But if it makes you happier, then do it. You're not obligated to hang out with anyone out there. Also so glad my husband has been so supportive of me through things like these," her post further stated.

Making an important point, she concluded her post saying: "It's very hard to tell if someone is being toxic but if you feel uneasy after meeting them, if you find yourself trying to remember everything you said while you were with them etc, it clearly means the vibe wasn't healthy."

Mani Ratnam has 'created magic on screen', says Brindha Gopal for 'PS 1'

**Team Absolute|Mumbai**

The controversy around the upcoming Hindu mythological film 'Adipurush', which stars pan-India star Prabhas, Kriti Sanon and Saif Ali Khan in leading roles, seems to be gaining further momentum with each passing day. The film was earlier trolled for its poor VFX that was visible in its teaser. Then the Home Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Narottam Mishra objected to Lord Hanuman being depicted in a 'leather costume'. More recently, a section of people on the Internet are trolling the film because of Saif Ali Khan's look as Raavan in the film. Now, the director of the film, Om Raut has come out defending the portrayal and his creative choice.

Reacting to the film's heavy trolling over Saif's portrayal of Raavan, the director told Aaj Tak: "Our Raavan in today's time is demonic, he is cruel. The one who has abducted our Goddess Sita is cruel. We have shown what Raavan looks like in today's time. This is not a film or a project for us."

Calling the film "a mission" for the entire production team, Raut further said: "Our film is a symbol of our devotion and we need everyone's blessings for this. Whosoever is speaking about the film are our elders. I am listening to all of them and taking note of everything. When you will watch the film in January 2023, I will not disappoint anyone."

Om Raut defends Saif's look as Raavan in his film



Shankar Mahadevan finds 'Mini Manna Dey' in talent hunt show contestant

**Team Absolute|Mumbai**

Music directors Shankar Mahadevan and Anu Malik were impressed with the performance of 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li' Champs' contestant Atanu Mishra and called him "Mini Manna Dey" on the show.

The 9-year-old contestant, who hails from West Bengal, told the judges that he idolises the late singer and before starting his practice, he worships him.

Atanu stunned the judges and audience with his rendition of the track 'Ae Meri Zohra Jabeen' from the movie 'Waqt'. After listening to his melodious voice, judges Anu Malik and Shankar Mahadevan praised him and said he is a true follower of the late singer Manna Dey. Shankar said: "We must name him as the 'Mini Manna Dey' of our show



today itself."

Anu also added: "It's very exciting to see such an extraordinary talent on the stage of 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li' Champs'. We all got emotional as we could literally feel Manna Dey's presence through Atanu's voice."

He called him the true devotee of the legendary singer: "I have understood that you are a true 'bhakt' of Manna Da and the song that you have sung is a 'qawwali' from the time when we were all kids. But the way you sang it, it was just fantastic."

Denzel Washington is super humble: Divi Vadhya

**Team Absolute|Chennai**

Actress Divi Vadhya, who has just returned from Italy where she met actor Denzel Washington on the sets of 'Equalizer 3', says the Hollywood star is super humble and grounded.

Taking to her Instagram to share details of her first trip abroad, Divi said, "Had an amazing time on the sets of 'Equalizer 3', in Rome." She thanked cinematographer Robert Richardson, who she said was the one who made it possible for her to meet the unit of 'Equalizer 3'. "Thank you Bob - the great cinematographer Robert Richardson for making this happen and giving me this wonderful experience.... Without you, this wouldn't have happened. Three years ago, I worked as an assistant for him in India for an ad film", she further noted in her social media



post.

Talking about Denzel, she mentioned, "Met Denzel Washington - such an amazing person he is. Super humble and grounded. Loved the conversation with him."

I watch his speeches and follow his videos. He motivates and gives a lot of strength, also spreads a positive

aura." She also wrote about the director of the film and their style of working. She said the clarity Antoine Fuqua, the director of the 'Equalizer' series and films like 'Training Day' has towards the scene and see him work on the sets was incredible. "My respect for them (has) increased 10 times after seeing them work. So happy to share this. My trip to Rome was worth it. This is my first time out of India and I shall cherish these memories forever."



Salman advises Shalin Bhanot to

'NOT TRY TO BE A HOST, BE A CONTESTANT'

**Team Absolute|Mumbai**

Superstar Salman Khan, who is currently seen hosting 'Bigg Boss 16' lashed out at 'Naagin' actor and contestant Shalin Bhanot and advised him to not try to be a host on the show and just be a housemate.

During the recent episode, Shalin said that he would like to host the show if the makers allow him to do so even for a day. This made the host angry as he said: "You are not here to be the host, you are a contestant and try to be a good one first."

Meanwhile, the 'Shukraavaar ka Vaar' episode of 'Bigg Boss 16' saw many interesting series of events including Salman entering the show with dhol beats and having a fun conversation with contestants Gori Nagori and Sumbul Taouqeer.

He announced a party and invited Abdu Rozik, Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia and others. However, Ankit Gupta, Priyanka Chahar Choudhary, Sreejita De, Archana Gautam, Manya Singh and Gori Nagori were not invited for the bash.

Furthermore, Shalin is also being trolled for asking Abdu about his family and height.

He said during the episode: "Can I ask you a personal question, if you don't mind?" As Abdu replied "yes", Shalin said: "Your parents have good height or?" to which Abdu answered that all his family members except him are tall.

Sajid Khan added: "But only you are a star."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Pranati Rai Prakash