

# absolute india



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**NATION** > 02  
J'khand govt passes 2 bills; reservation in jobs for OBCs...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
Lindsay Lohan finds 'refreshingly exciting' on returning to movie set...



**SPORTS** > 07  
FIFA World Cup: Messi's last shot at glory...

## SC ORDERS RELEASE OF ALL CONVICTS IN RAJIV GANDHI ASSASSINATION CASE

# 'CONDUCT SATISFACTORY'

The top court said the conduct of the convicts has been satisfactory in the prison, some of them are suffering from various illnesses, and they have also obtained various degrees.

**"We direct that all the appellants are deemed to have served their sentence. The applicants are thus directed to be released unless required in any other case."**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered the release of all the six life-term convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case in view of the Tamil Nadu government's recommendation.

In May, the top court had ordered the release of A.G. Perarivalan, who was sentenced to life imprisonment over the 1991 assassination of the former Prime Minister.

On Friday, a bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna passed the order of releasing the convicts. It noted that the state government has recommended the release of all convicts, and also that the convicts have spent more than two decades in prison and that their conduct was satisfactory.

Besides Nalini and Ravichandran, the others jailed for the 1991 assassination of former Prime Minister



were Sriharan, Santhan, Murugan, and Robert Payas. In the case of Nalini and Ravichandran, the state government said both had served close to 30 years in jail and it had approved the remitting sentence of all seven convicts over four years ago. The state government, in response to separate pleas filed by both convicts, said the law is well-settled that the Governor is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers of a state under Article 161 of the Constitution.

### 'HISTORIC FOREWORD TO DEMOCRATIC THEORY': STALIN

Chennai: Welcoming the Supreme Court on Friday freeing all the six convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin termed the judgment a "historic foreword to democratic theory". He said that the judgment underlined the fact that Governors nominated to their posts should not sit on the resolutions passed by governments elected by people. Stalin said that this was the victory of the strong legal battles undertaken by the state government since the DMK assumed office and added that this was a victory for all people working for protecting human rights.

### 'WHERE'S JUSTICE FOR US?' ASKS SURVIVOR

Chennai: "What about justice for those killed and injured survivors in the 1991 suicide bombing that assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi?" asked Anusuya Daisy Ernest, a retired woman police officer. Ernest, then police sub inspector was regulating crowd when people jostled to move forward at the venue of a Congress public meeting at Sriperumbudur on May 21, 1991 to garland Rajiv Gandhi.

Asked on her reaction to the Supreme Court ruling that set free the 6 Rajiv case convicts, she told PTI: "I am still undergoing treatment for pellet injuries. This is the plight of the injured people. Where is justice? I am talking about justice for those killed and injured people like me who survived the dastardly terrorist attack." Terrorists should be treated as per terror laws and not as ordinary criminals, she said. Ernest retired as additional police superintendent in 2018. Now, she is 62. A total of 16 people were killed in the 1991 suicide bombing, including Rajiv Gandhi, 9 police personnel and 6 others. The woman suicide bomber Dhanu and LTTE sympathiser Haribabu, a photographer, died in the blast. Also, 45 others were injured.

### 'DON'T AGREE WITH SONIA GANDHI': CONGRESS

New Delhi: The Congress today seethed at the Supreme Court decision to free Nalini Sriharan and five other convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case and said it "disagreed with Sonia Gandhi", who had pleaded for their release from prison.

The Congress said it would seek legal remedy. "Sonia Gandhi, above all, is entitled to her personal views. But with greatest respect, party doesn't agree and has made our view clear. In this case, the Congress' views are the same as that of the central government. The party does not agree with Sonia Gandhi's view, has never agreed with that view, and has made this view clear for years," said Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi, responding to NDTV's question. In 2008, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the daughter of Rajiv Gandhi, met with Nalini in a prison in Tamil Nadu's Vellore. "The big learning from that meeting was that I was still... Though I was not angry anymore, I did not hate her... and I wanted to meet her, I was still thinking that I was somebody who could forgive her for something she had done. And then I met her, and I realized, what am I talking about...?" Priyanka Gandhi told NDTV.

### ASIAN ELITE BOXING

Lovlina, Parveen, Saweety, Alfiya strike gold as India dominates the day



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian women's boxing stars Lovlina Borgohain, Parveen Hooda, Saweety Boora and Alfiya Pathan triumphed in the women's finals in scintillating fashion and bagged gold medals at the 2022 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan on Friday.

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina dominated the 2021 Asian Championships silver medalist Ruzmetova Sokhiba of Uzbekistan and secured a convincing 5-0 win in the 75kg final showcasing strength, athleticism and resolute defence.

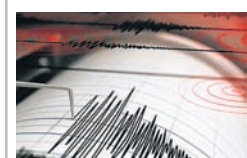
Similar to Lovlina, Parveen (63kg), who was also making her maiden appearance in the Asian Championships final, looked confident against Kito Mai of Japan. The 2022 World Championships bronze medalist Rohtak-born boxer

out-punched her Japanese opponent in a 5-0 win. The 2016 World Championships silver medalist Saweety (81kg) got the better of Gulsaya Yerzhan of Kazakhstan in her second final in the Asian Championships. Having suffered a defeat in the 2016 final, Saweety looked in no mood to settle for another silver this time around as she displayed sheer confidence before winning the bout 5-0.

Up against the local favourite Islam Husaili, Alfiya (81+kg) handed India its fourth gold in the women's section after her opponent was disqualified by the judges towards the end of the first round.

This was Indian women's third-best performance at the prestigious tournament in terms of winning gold medals, after seven gold medals in 2005 and five in 2003.

### 7.1 MAGNITUDE QUAKE NEAR ISLAND TONGA: TSUNAMI WARNING ISSUED



Sydney: A magnitude-7.1 earthquake struck in the sea off Tonga late Friday, according to the US Geological Survey, sparking a tsunami warning. According to the USGS, the earthquake hit 10 km (six miles) deep, about 200 km southeast of Neiafu, a town in the northeast of the Pacific archipelago nation.

## Russian offer for Indian medical students who left Ukraine

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Alaying fears of over 24,000 Indian medical students who left Ukraine when Moscow waged its war in February, Russia has said that they can continue their education in the country as the syllabus is same in both the nations.

Due to the ongoing war, students had to leave their studies midway and return to India.

"Indian students who left Ukraine can continue their education in Russia as the medical syllabus is almost the same (as Ukraine). They know the language of the people, as in Ukraine, most of them



speak Russian. They're most welcome in Russia," Russian Consul-General Oleg Avdeev said in Chennai.

Before Avdeev, Roman Babushkin, Deputy Chief of Mission of Russian Embassy in New Delhi, had also offered support to Indian students in June,

saying that they will be offered admission in Russian universities without losing out on their previous academic years.

The Russian Consul-General also highlighted how students keep going to Russia for studies and that it is an upward trend. "As far as students are

concerned, students keep going to Russia for studies. It is an upward trend. More and more students are applying for scholarships in Russia," he added. In September, India's National Medical Commission clarified that it does not plan to accommodate medical students from universities of Ukraine in Indian colleges, putting a spanner in their dreams.

Many of these students, according to local media reports, are quitting medicine, seeking transfers to educational institutions in other countries, or waiting for the Indian government to help them find a seat in medical colleges in the country.

### SENA MP (UBT) G KIRTIKAR JOINS SHINDE FACTION, 13TH MP TO LEAVE THACKERAYS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the Shiv Sena factional fight in Maharashtra, Lok Sabha member Gajanan Kirtikar switched sides today, ditching Uddhav Thackeray's camp to join Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's faction, called Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena.

Of the 18 Lok Sabha members of the Shiv Sena - before the mid-2022 split - Kirtikar is the 13th to go with Eknath Shinde, who already has support of 40 of the party's 56 MLAs and is in power, since unseating Mr Thackeray in June after a mutiny, with the BJP's backing. Kirtikar's move is not a



total surprise. He was saying for a while now that Uddhav Thackeray "should understand" what Eknath Shinde did.

Shinde tweeted after his joining: "Popular MP of Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency, Gajanan Kirtikar officially entered the party today. He was warmly welcomed on the occasion and we wished him good luck for social and political progress."

### US REMOVES INDIA FROM CURRENCY MONITORING LIST

New Delhi: The US Treasury Department has removed India from its currency monitoring list. The development came on a day when US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen was in India.

Apart from India, countries like Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam have also been removed from the currency monitoring list. The information was provided in the Treasury Department's bi-annual report to the Congress.

The biannual report also said that the countries that have been removed from the currency monitoring list have met only one out of three criteria for two consecutive reports.

"China's failure to publish foreign exchange intervention and broader lack of transparency around key features of its exchange rate mechanism makes it an outlier among major economies and warrants Treasury's close monitoring," said the report.

China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan are the countries which are part of the current currency monitoring list.

## IIP up 3.1% in Sep, experts say growth higher than expectations

Chennai | Agencies

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rose by 3.1 per cent to 133.5 in September, according to official data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Friday. The growth in the industrial index was aided by all major sectors like mining, which rose 4.6 per cent to 99.5 in September, manufacturing sector, which grew 1.8 per cent to 134.3, and the electricity sector, which soared 11.6 per cent to 187.4, according to the official data.

Expressing satisfaction at the 3.1 per cent growth in industrial production in September, experts said the December monetary policy action by the central bank on the credit flow and interest rates are key factors.

Experts also expressed concern on the poor performance of the consumer durables and non-durables segment.

On Friday, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation published the quick estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for September 2022.



As per the data, the IIP grew by 3.1 per cent as compared to 4.4 per cent logged during September 2021.

CARE Ratings' Chief Economist, Rajani Sinha, said: "The IIP growth for September has been higher than expectations. The strong growth recorded in capital goods

and infrastructure sector is encouraging and is hopefully a precursor to pick up in the capex cycle."

However, improvement in domestic consumption demand will be critical for sustained recovery in India's growth momentum, she said.

### "DARO MAT": RAHUL GANDHI'S STERN MESSAGE AT MAHARASHTRA RALLY

Nanded: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday asked the young generation of the country to be fearless against all adversities and refrain from spreading hatred that divides the nation. "Daro mat (don't be afraid)," he replied sternly when asked about his message to the country's new generation. The former Congress president's remarks came in Nanded in Maharashtra, during his nationwide Bharat Jodo Yatra. Gandhi clarified he was not talking about Prime Minister Narendra Modi or the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological mentor of the ruling BJP. "Never be afraid of anything in your life. If you're fearless, you won't hate anyone. Remove fear from your hearts and work for the country," he said. Spread love and brotherhood in the country, not hatred, added Gandhi.



"You can't show your love towards the country by dividing it. On one side, you salute the national flag, and on the other you make brothers fight among each other - this is not patriotism. This weakens the nation," he said. Gandhi said his foot march was aimed against what he called the BJP's policies of "spreading fear and hatred".

### SCHOOLS IN CHENNAI, FIVE OTHER DISTRICTS SHUT AMID HEAVY RAIN WARNING



Chennai | Agencies

The Tamil Nadu school education department has declared a holiday for schools and colleges in Chennai and five other districts on Friday and Saturday following heavy rain forecast.

Holidays have been declared for educational institutions in Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Vellore, and Ranipet districts after the IMD forecast of heavy rains.

The weather department has also issued a red alert for Ranipet, Tiruvallur, and Kancheepuram districts for

November 11. A Red alert was issued in Dindigul, Theni, and The Nilgiris districts on November 12. This is following a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours.

Heavy to very heavy rains and extremely heavy rains are likely in some places in these districts on November 11 and 12.

Chennai city and surrounding areas are expected to receive thunderstorms and lightning along with heavy to very heavy rains in the next 48 hours. An orange alert has been issued for the city in the next 48 hours.





# GUJARAT POLLS: WORKERS, LEADERS UNHAPPY WITH SELECTION OF BJP CANDIDATES

Gandhinagar | Agencies

A section of BJP workers and leaders are unhappy with the leadership's selection of candidates for the two-phase elections to the 182-member Gujarat Assembly polls with some of them announcing to contest as independents.

While the party has declared 160 candidates, it needs to finalise 22 more.

Raising a banner of revolt, sitting MLA of Vadodara's Waghodia Assembly seat Madhu Srivastav, who has been dropped despite serving six terms, has decided to contest as an independent. The party has nominated Ashwin Patel for the seat.

Srivastav told the media that he had filed nomination only after getting approval from the party leadership. Suddenly, the party has changed its decision. "My workers are angry with the party's decision and so have decided to contest as an independent candidate."

BJP has not announced its candidates for Radhanpur and Gandhinagar south constituencies, because, if it renominates OBC leader Alpesh Thakor from Radhanpur, local leaders and former MLAs will oppose it. If Thakor is nominated from Gandhinagar south, then also there is strong opposition to his nomination.

On being denied a ticket, his close confidant and right hand Dhavalsinh Zala will meet his supporters and



workers and decide his future course of action. He will take a decision on whether to contest on Bayad constituency as independent or not against the BJP candidate.

The party leadership's decision of fielding Mukesh Dwarakdas Patel in the Mehsana constituency, too has not gone down well with many. Party's former district president Jasubhai Patel has started consulting supporters and is mulling contesting as an independent candidate.

With Mahuva's (Bhavnagar district) sitting MLA R.C. Makwana being denied a ticket, hundreds of workers have resigned from the party. Even hundreds of leaders are opposing the party's decision to nominate Ghanashyam Virani from the Botad constituency. Ganpat Kasjariya and hundreds of supporters have reached Gandhinagar, party state unit office and pressuring party to renominate Saurabh Patel.

BJP has already formed a damage

control committee and members of the committee to do fire fighting work.

In Bhavnagar, Gohil Rajputs are angry with BJP, as since last many terms BJP is not nominating Rajput candidates from Bhavnagar district, Vasudevsinh Gohil has appealed Rajput to work against the ruling party. Even Prajapati community leader Dinesh Prajapati has appealed to community members to vote against the ruling party.

## 'Withholding names not acceptable': SC notice to Centre on delay in judges' appointment

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed its strong discontent over delay in appointment of judges, saying, "needless to say that unless the bench is adorned by competent lawyers, the very concept of rule of law and justice suffers".

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Abhay S. Oka said: "If we look at the position of pending cases for consideration, there are 11 cases pending with the government which were cleared by the Collegium and yet are awaiting appointments. The oldest of them is of vintage September 4, 2021 as the date of dispatch and the last two on September 13, 2022. This implies that the government neither appoints the persons and nor communicates its reservation, if any, on the names." It added there are also 10 names pending with the government which have been reiterated by the Supreme Court collegium starting from September 4, 2021 to July 18, 2022. The bench further added that among the names, the reconsideration has been sought by the government on cases where despite second reiteration, the person was not appointed and consequently



withdrew the consent and the system lost the opportunity of having an eminent designated senior advocate on the bench. Similarly, in another case where the government has sought reconsideration, reiteration has occurred three times, it said. The bench

noted that in the elaborate procedure from taking inputs from the government post recommendation from the collegium of the high court, the Supreme Court collegium bestowing consideration on the names, there are enough checks and balances.

## PROTECTION OF AREA INSIDE GYANVAPI MOSQUE WHERE 'SHIVLING' WAS FOUND, EXTENDED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday extended the protection of the area inside the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi where a 'Shivling' was found till further orders.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices Surya Kant and P.S. Narasimha said the interim order passed on May 17, in connection with the protection of the area found during a survey, will remain in operation till further orders. Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, representing the petitioner, submitted he has no objection to the continuation of the interim order. On Thursday, the apex court had agreed to set up a bench on Friday to hear a plea by Hindu side seeking extension of an order providing protection of the area.

## Three, including two juvenile, held for killing Dera Sacha Sauda follower in Punjab

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi Police's Special Cell has apprehended, from Punjab's Patiala, three persons, including two juveniles, who were among the six assailants that shot dead a Dera Sacha Sauda follower and sacrilege case accused, an official said on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Jitender alias Jeetu and two juveniles, all from Haryana.

Pradeep Singh Kataria, 38, an accused in the 2015 Bargari sacrilege case, was

shot dead in his shop at Kotkapura in Punjab's Faridkot on Thursday evening, even while having Punjab Police protection.

The entire incident was captured in a CCTV camera installed nearby. The accused had fired 55 bullets at him.

Later, in a social media post, Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar of the Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate, which carried out the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in May, took responsibility for the killing of Kataria.

In the audacious attack, while Kataria had died on the spot, his Punjab Police gunman and another shopkeeper had sustained bullet injuries.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Cell, Manishi Chandra, the counter-intelligence unit of Special Cell was on lookout for Jitender for quite a long time after his name cropped up in the murder of Pramod Bajad on January 27, this year, in Delhi's Alipur area and a double murder in Haryana's Ambala area.

## After Morbi tragedy, MP govt bars vehicular traffic on ROB in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh medical education minister Vishwas Sarang on Friday reprimanded the Public Works Department (PWD) officials for illegal encroachment and running of shops under a dilapidated railway over-bridge (ROB) in Bhopal.

During an inspection of the bridge, the minister asked officials to make the area free from encroachment.

Sarang, who is the MLA from Narela Assembly constituency in Bhopal district, said that the nearly 50-year-old bridge located near Bharat Talkies would be renovated as soon as possible to avoid any untoward incident.



The bridge was established in 1973, and since then it has been renovated at least thrice. Hundreds of vehicles pass through the bridge every day. The slabs and iron parts of the bridge have got damaged which need to be repaired soon.

"This old bridge needs to be repaired. I have instructed the PWD officials to put a ban on movement of commuters on this bridge and to start repair work as soon as possible. All old bridges, which are outdated, are being inspected and necessary action would be taken accordingly," Sarang said. The development came in the wake of a tragic incident in Gujarat's Morbi town where a suspension bridge collapsed on October 30, killing 134 people. The incident sent shock wave across the country as the deceased included over 50 children.

According to PWD officials, there are at least 364 bridges in Madhya Pradesh that were built more than 30 years ago. Of these, at least 14 bridges need special attention. The officials told reporter that three out these 14 bridges are located in Bhopal.

## J'khand govt passes 2 bills; reservation in jobs for OBCs now 27%

Ranchi | Agencies

The Jharkhand Assembly on Friday passed two bills related to the domicile policy on reserving 100 per cent government jobs in third and fourth grade for the locals in the state, and increasing Other Backward Classes' (OBC) reservation from 14 to 27 per cent.

The bills were passed by voice vote in a special one-day session, convened by the state government. The assembly also passed a resolution to include both these bills in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

Both these bills will take the form of law if the Centre includes them in the Schedule. It is also to be noted that the laws included in the Ninth Schedule cannot be challenged in the court.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren



while describing the bills as historic, added that the previous government reduced the OBC reservation in the state. Rejecting the objections of the opposition, Soren said that a tribal is

no longer a "boka" (stupid). The reservation for Scheduled Castes will be increased from 10 per cent to 12 per cent and for Scheduled Tribes from 26 per cent to 28 per

cent.

A provision of 10 per cent reservation has been made for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS). By this, the overall reservation in the state will be increased from 50 to 77 per cent. The second bill that was passed pertains to the Domicile Policy in the state, according to which a person will be considered a resident of the state only if their name or the name of their ancestors is mentioned in the land survey (Khatiyani) conducted in 1932 or earlier.

People whose ancestors have been living in the state since 1932 or earlier, but do not have their names in the Khatiyani due to non-availability of land, will be considered domicile on the basis of their identification by the Gram Sabha. Only state domiciles will get reservation in the state.

## JeM terrorist, involved in terrorising locals, killed in J&K's Shopian

Srinagar | Agencies

A foreign terrorist, belonging to the JeM and involved in terrorising locals, was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday, officials said.

An army official said based on specific inputs provided by Jammu and Kashmir Police regarding presence of terrorists in the Madrasa Darul Uloom Khalid Ibyn Walid in Kaprein village of Shopian, a joint cordon and search operation was launched in the area by the army and police.

"Maintaining surprise, multiple small teams converged towards the target area thereby sealing all possible escape routes. Special care was taken during the



clearance of the target area as it included a madrasa having presence of three teachers and 31 students.

"It was also made sure that the masjid in proximity of the area was not used by the terrorist to take refuge and due restraint was exercised to prevent any damages to the masjid and madrasa during the operation," the official said. The army said interrogation of suspected Over

Ground Workers (OGW) by police revealed the presence, inside the madrasa, of the terrorist who came out and fired indiscriminately on security personnel in an attempt to escape.

"In retaliation, precision fire was brought down by security forces resulting in the neutralisation of the terrorist. One AK series rifle and other warlike stores were recovered from the terrorist."

## Delhi Excise Policy Scam Accused changed 140 phones to destroy evidence

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is probing the Delhi Excise Policy Scam, on Friday alleged that the accused changed 140 phones worth Rs 1.20 crore to destroy evidence and evade arrest.

A bribe of Rs 100 crore had also exchanged hands, it added. The allegations have sparked a fresh controversy as it indicates that the accused knew how to fool prosecution agencies. "During the course of investigation, various persons involved in the Delhi Excise Scam have revealed that bribes to the tune of Rs 100 crore had been given in advance for undue benefits to select business groups to operate in the Delhi Excise Policy, 2021-22. It has also been found that kickbacks and bribes were demanded and

taken by the Excise officials of Delhi for opening of retail shops in Delhi," read the document.

In its documents, the probe agency has alleged that a large number of mobile phones have been changed by the persons suspected in this case with intention to destroy digital evidence during the relevant period. "All 34 important persons involved/suspected to be involved in the Excise scam have changed a total 140 phones (valued at Rs 1.20 crores approx.) with intention to destroy digital evidence during the relevant period. These persons include all the main accused, liquor barons, senior government officials, Excise Minister of Delhi and other suspects. The timing of change of phone indicates that these phones were mostly changed just after the scam surfaced," the ED has alleged.

## ED finds Telangana granite firms' links with Chinese named in Panama leaks

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has found that some granite companies in Telangana, including those associated with a state minister, have links to Chinese entities owned by Li Wenhao, whose name surfaced in the Panama Paper leaks.

The ED, which conducted searches at offices and residential premises of six granite companies in Karimnagar and Hyderabad to investigate and unearth evidences pertaining to FEMA violations, said the search action led to detection of money being routed back from Chinese entities into Indian entities in the form of hand loans without documents.

During the search action, the ED teams found and seized unaccounted cash of Rs. 1.08 crore, allegedly received through the Hawala channel against exports and also seized voluminous granite dispatch data of 10 years from the quarries.

The searches were conducted at the offices and residential premises of Swetha Granites,



Swetha Agencies, Sri Venkateshwara Granites Private Limited, PSR Granites Private Limited,

Arvind Granites, Giriraj Shipping Agencies Private Limited and their related entities in

Karimnagar and Hyderabad on November 9 and 10.

Some of the companies are associated with state Minister for Civil Supplies and Backward Classes Welfare, Gangula Kamalakar, and his family members. His residence in Karimnagar was also searched by the ED team.

These companies were exporting rough granite blocks to China, Hong Kong and other countries. "During the course of inquiries, it was found that the exported quantity was more than the quantity on which royalty was paid and there was under reporting of the quantity while exporting. In many instances, the export proceeds were not realised in the declared bank accounts, thereby indicating that the export proceeds were received through other than banking channels," the ED said in a statement.

The ED search teams also found multiple benami bank accounts held in the name of employees of granite exporters, in which cash received against the illegal granite exports was being deposited.





# INDORE'S GIS EXERCISE TO WOO INVESTORS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan himself has taken command of making the Global Investors Summit to be held in the industrial city of Madhya Pradesh successful in the month of January next year. They are directly communicating with the industrialists and are also engaged in inviting them for investment by giving serial details of the facilities available in Madhya Pradesh.

Global Investors Summit is going to be held in Indore on 11th and 12th January, where the event is important for another state, while it is also very important for the government. The reason for this is also because the assembly elections are going to be held in the state next year. Chief Minister Chouhan also understands very well that this event is sure to have an impact on the state's economy, employment and politically. More successful this event is, the BJP will get the benefit of it politically as well.

The Chief Minister has also given importance to the administrative set-up to make the event a success and this is the reason why he has made a



big change in the officers associated with the Industries Department. With this, the Chief Minister himself has taken the front and is also visiting many places and interacting with the industrialists. The Chief Minister is giving details of the facilities available in the state to attract investors. The Chief Minister met industrialists in Pune in October and told them through Investment Opportunity in Madhya Pradesh that there is land

availability, electricity, enough water, roads and the environment is calm with efficient human resources. Along with this, the Chief Minister is constantly interacting with the representatives of the country and abroad. Met Ambassadors of many countries in Delhi.

The Chief Minister was in Mumbai last day and he made a series of references to the resources available in the state. The Chief Minister held discus-

sions with the officials of Reliance Jio there and assured that free WiFi zones of 5G service in Bhedaghat, a tourist destination near Khajuraho and Jabalpur. will be installed. Apart from this, the Chief Minister also had a discussion with Ratan Tata of the Tata Group. The Chief Minister also interacted with the representatives of the pharma company.

The Chief Minister says that once upon a time there were dacoits in the Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh, now they have been cleared. Atal Progressive Way is also being built in Chambal region, industrial corridors will be built on both sides of it. Similarly, the Narmada Expressway will pass through the middle of Madhya Pradesh, on both sides of which Industrial Corridor Township will be built.

Overall, the Investors' Summit of Indore is of great importance for the state. Lessons are also eyeing this event. Congress is raising questions on the summit held earlier. The head of the media department, KK Mishra, has also demanded the release of a white paper on the summit held earlier.

# Man suspended mid-air, thrashed over theft charge in Ujjain

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A man accused of theft was tied to a machine, suspended mid-air and beaten mercilessly in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain. Although the incident took place a week ago, the police learnt about the incident on Thursday, after the video of the incident was widely shared online.

The video of the incident shows the victim pleading and apologising while he is hit with sticks. At one point a person is seen trying to stop the assaulter but his appeal is not heard.

"Hit him on the leg," a man is heard instructing the assaulter who follows the instruction.

The incident is reported to have taken place in Sijawata village which comes under Ingoriya police station on November 4.

According to reports, a police officer was briefed about the incident by a person but he did not take



action. The officer has been suspended and sent to police lines for dereliction of duty.

"We came to know about the incident after the video appeared online. We have

launched an investigation and will make arrests soon," a police officer said.

Humiliated by the torture, the victim has left the village and efforts are being made to locate him.

# MP government covering up on Karam dam scam: Congress

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The report of the inquiry committee formed after the leak in the Karam dam of Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh is yet to come. On this, Vice President of Media Department of Congress Ajay Singh Yadav raised the question and said that the scam in this dam construction is being covered up. Yadav issued a statement saying, "On August 11, 2022, the 100 crore Karam dam of the scam was washed away in water. Today he has completed three months. The way some officer employees were acted upon by the government for the smudge and ran away from their responsibility, then an investigation team was formed. Now the report of that investigation team is nowhere to be found. Yadav alleges that the government had blacklisted two



companies. But the work of repairing the Karam Dam was also given to the same blacklisted company which was blacklisted. There is a tradition of hiding the scam in the Bharatiya Janata Party government, that is why even after three months, the investigation report of the scam has not come yet and those responsible for more than 100 crore scam in Madhya

Pradesh are being saved. It is to be known that in Dhar district, there was a leak in the dam being built at a cost of about 304 crores in August, many villages had to be evacuated. Two construction companies were blacklisted by the government. At the same time, an inquiry committee was also formed, which was to report in five days.

# ONE KILLED IN GUTKHA DISPUTE IN GWALIOR

Gwalior: A youth lost his life in a dispute over a five rupee gutkha in Gwalior's Kampu police station area. The police has started the investigation

According to the information received from the police, the Pan Center operator and his two sons had a dispute with a person in Lalitpur Colony of Kampu police station area, the reason for the dispute is being told as gutkha. The young man was wanting gutkha and he did not have money, he started running away from the paan shop with gutkha, seeing this, the operator Sanjay Chaurasia and his two sons ran and caught the young man.

The youth, who was running away with gutkha, was beaten up fiercely by all three and kept beating till it was not appropriate, later that young man has died. The name of the deceased is being told as Sanjay Shakya. Police have recovered the body of the youth and sent it for post-mortem, while a case has been registered against the accused.

# The tradition

# Making the child lie in the cradle in the water of the river Poorna

Team Absolute | Betul

On the banks of river Poorna, which flows in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh, there is a fair of fulfillment of vows and those who seek vows, whose vows are fulfilled, they are making their child sit in the river in the cradle. This sight is seen here every year after the full moon of Kartik month.

On the occasion of the full moon day of Karik Purnima, a large number of couples reach the banks of the Poorna river, whose wish to have a child was fulfilled and here they lay the child in the cradle of their child in the water of mother Poorna (in the symbol form of the lap). Lay down. It is said that only after doing this the worship



of the vow is completed. Every year a huge fair is held here on Kartik Purnima, in which childless couples from Chhattisgarh including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra come every year to pray and offer prayers on the completion of the vow.

Naresh and Rani, a couple who reached here from Maharashtra, say that they had wished for a child from Poorna Maa, after that there

was prosperity in their courtyard and they have now come here after fulfillment of their wish. On the question of any fear about the child being made to lie in the cradle in the water of the river, he said that he has got the child by the grace of Poorna Mai, so he does not have any apprehension in his mind.

About 65 km from district headquarter Betul. Near Bhaishdehi there is Maa Poorna river. This river,

which is called Chandra Putri i.e. daughter of the Moon, originates near Bhaishdehi town of Betul. From the full moon of Kartik month, people come here for a whole fortnight with the hope of childless couples and happiness and prosperity. Devotees come here from all over the country including Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. There are many mythological legends behind the origin of this river called Chandraputri. Some tell it the fruit of worship of the Saptarishis, while many believe that after a king's penance after the famine spread in the area, Lord Shiva had incarnated Poorna here. It is said that once it used to flow as a stream of milk.

# Will ensure increase in Production to double the income of farmers: CM Chouhan

Agricultural irrigation area being continuously increased. Will bring plan to make straw from Narwai. Agriculture fair will prove to be lucky for farmers. Farmers should strengthen themselves with new agricultural technology - Union Agriculture Minister Tomar. Inauguration of 3-day agricultural fair and exhibition in Morena

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that for the fulfillment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to double the income of farmers, production will also have to be increased and the cost will have to be reduced. In this direction, while the Madhya Pradesh government is continuously increasing the area under irrigation, on the other hand, loans are being provided to the farmers at zero percent interest. Today's Krishi Mela will prove to be lucky for the farmers. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the inauguration programme of three-day 'Krishi Mela and Exhibition' in Morena district.



Chief Minister said that while on the one hand Prime Minister Shri Modi gives Rs 6000 to small

farmers in three installments in a year as financial assistance, Madhya Pradesh government on its part is also providing Rs 4,000 to these farmers in 2 installments in a year. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Rs.7618 crore has been deposited in the accounts of farmers under the crop insurance scheme in Madhya Pradesh. The farmers of any state did not get such a huge amount. This time the Prime Minister has also given support to the farmers by providing support price of wheat at Rs.2125 per quintal. The Chief Minister said that in order to increase the income of the farmers, new agricultural techniques along with many innovations, are being adopted in the country and Madhya Pradesh. Natural farming is being promoted instead of traditional farming.

# Chief Minister Chouhan plants saplings in memory of former Chief Minister Late Patwa

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Ashok, Cassia and Tikoma along with MLA Surendra Patwa in the memory of former Chief Minister Padma Vibhushan Late Sunderlal Patwa on his birth anniversary in Smart City Garden. MLA Surendra Patwa presented a copy of "Padma Vibhushan Sunderlal Patwa Smriti Granth" to Chief Minister Chouhan.

Chief Minister remembered the contribution of former Chief Minister Late Patwa in the development of the state. Chief Minister Chouhan is continuously encouraging the activity of



planting saplings on birth anniversaries, death anniversaries, auspicious occasions and in the memory of family members. In the sequence of

planting saplings every day by Chouhan, various organisations and families take part.

# MP'S ECONOMIC CONDITION LIKELY TO BE AN ISSUE IN ASSEMBLY POLLS



Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

The economic condition of the state will likely be one of the key issue in the upcoming assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, with the Opposition Congress hitting out at the ruling BJP time and again over this particular issue. On the other hand, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is making all possible efforts to counter the Congress and also to present a better report card before the people during the elections.

Although, the BJP pats its back claiming that the state has witnessed tremendous growth in the last 17 years under Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the increasing state debt has been a major concern and the Congress is making no mistake in cornering the ruling party over the economic condition of the state. Usually, economic issues do not get much space during the elections and the political parties emphasise more on caste equations, regions, tribals and

some other issues, but this time the Congress has been picking up economic issue to attack the BJP.

Therefore, the global invest summit, which is going to be held after a three-year gap in Madhya Pradesh's economic city Indore in January 2023, will be crucial for the Chouhan government. The present situation suggests that the BJP government is making all out efforts to invite investors and convince them to establish industries in Madhya Pradesh. Moving ahead with his plan, Chouhan on Thursday visited Mumbai and held meetings with nearly a dozen businessmen and invited them to invest in Madhya Pradesh. During the meeting, Chouhan tried to convince the businessmen that there is great scope for flourishing business in Madhya Pradesh. As per the information, Chouhan met the heads or senior officials of the business firms, which have already invested in Madhya Pradesh. He also met some new investors and invited them to establish industries in

Madhya Pradesh.

"I have come here to meet you all not because I am Chief Minister and it is my duty to attend this investment meeting, but I have come with full preparation and to tell you all that the doors of growth are open in Madhya Pradesh. For making self reliant India, we have to make self reliant Madhya Pradesh, and you and me can make it happen," Chouhan said during the meeting with investors.

The Congress has been taking on the Shivraj government on economic issues. The opposition led by the former Chief Minister and the state Congress president Kamal Nath, who is also a successful businessman and has a long experience of heading ministries during the Congress rule at the Centre is trying to make the economic condition of the state an issue ahead of the election.

"Employment won't come from visiting mandir (temple) and masjid (mosque) but it will come from eco-

economic growth and by establishing industries in Madhya Pradesh. The BJP government has put Madhya Pradesh under high debt burden and most of the money borrowed as loans from banks is being used for publicity," Nath said while addressing a rally last week in Jabalpur.

As per reports, the debt of the Madhya Pradesh government has crossed over Rs 3 lakh crore, out of which around Rs 14,000 crores have been borrowed from different banks between April and October this year. However, the BJP leaders defend the increasing debt burden year after year saying the government is borrowing money to improve the life of the people in the state.

The global investment summit would be a crucial opportunity for Shivraj Singh Chouhan to convince a large number of business houses to invest in Madhya Pradesh and if he is successful it would give an edge to the BJP during the election campaign.





EDITOR'S SPECS

Global Covid infection rates higher than previously reported

A joint study by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Unity Studies and SeroTracker and colleagues suggests that based on seroprevalence, global Covid-19 infection rates are likely to be higher than previously reported. The study, published in the open access journal PLOS Medicine, found that global seroprevalence rose from 7.7 per cent in June 2020 to 59.2 per cent in September 2021, suggesting two-thirds of the global population may be SARS-CoV-2 seropositive from either vaccination or infection. Estimates of Covid-19 infections based on seroprevalence data far exceed reported cases, suggesting a bigger global impact of Covid-19 than previously known. According to the authors, "this study on global seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies found that while seroprevalence has increased over time, a third of the global population tested negative for antibodies against the virus as of September 2021 estimates. It was also found that compared to seroprevalence estimates, routine testing for Covid-19 has largely underestimated the number of global infections". Serosurveillance provides estimates of antibody levels against infectious diseases and is considered the gold standard for measuring population immunity due to past infection or vaccination. In order to ascertain the true rates of infection and indicators of immunity in the population against SARS-CoV-2 over time, researchers conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of seroprevalence studies published from January 1, 2020 to May 20, 2022. From their search parameters, the authors identified 965 distinct seroprevalence studies sampling 5,346,069 participants between January 2020 and April 2022, with 43 per cent of these studies being from low-middle income countries. "As we enter the third year of the pandemic, implementation of a global system or network for targeted, multi-pathogen, high-quality and standardised collaborative serosurveillance is a crucial next step to monitor the pandemic and contribute to preparedness for other emerging respiratory pathogens," said the researchers.

DESPITE AAP PRESENCE, HIMACHAL'S POLITICAL BATTLE BETWEEN ARCHRIVALS BJP, CONGRESS

Vishal Gulati

Facing strong winds of anti-incumbency, the BJP leadership in Himachal Pradesh led by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur seems to be banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "charisma", while the main Opposition Congress is eyeing to return to the helm by wooing its 2.5-lakh strong government employees, state's crucial vote bank, with a promise of restoring the old pension scheme. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is in the fray for the first time in the Assembly polls, has been missing from the state with its leaders focusing on strengthening its vote bank in another poll-bound Gujarat. Despite AAP presence, the political scenario in the state seems so far largely bipolar -- a tug-of-war between the two conventional archrivals -- the Congress and the saffron party. Political observers told correspondent the ruling BJP has managed an edge over its seemingly somnolent rival Congress by holding a statewide campaign with back-to-back public meetings by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party's national leadership comprising Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, J.P. Nadda and Anurag Thakur. The Congress, however, largely banked on Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The saffron party had won 44 of the 68 Assembly seats in 2017 with a vote share of 48.8 per cent, up from 38.47 per cent in 2012. Its rival the Congress won 21 seats with a vote share of 41.7 per cent in 2017, down from 43 per cent in 2012. This time, the Congress reposed faith on its old warhorses to leave behind greenhorns to win the November 12 electoral race. In comparison, the BJP has largely discarded its veterans and reposed faith on comparatively younger faces with the slogan 'trivaj badlega' (electoral traditions will change), meaning to buck the trend to sweep the polls alternatively as both arch rivals ruled the state from



1985. Out of 412 candidates in the fray, 24 are female and 388 male candidates. A total of 55,92,828 voters will elect their representatives. Of them, 193,106 are first-time voters in the age of 18-19 years. There are 121,409 voters above 80 years, while 56,501 voters with disabilities. Among the elderly candidates, the Congress has fielded Col. Dhani Ram Shandil (82) from Solan; Chandra Kumar (78) from Jawali; Kaul Singh Thakur (76) from Drang; Thakur Singh Bharmouri (75) from Bharmour; Kishori Lal (75) from Baijnath and Khimi Ram (73) from Banjar. Congress rebel Gangu Ram Musafir (77), who has been denied the party nomination, is contesting as an Independent from Pachhad. The youngest candidate is Piyush Kanga (26), who is in fray from Bilaspur as an Independent. The others are Chaitanya Sharma (28) of the Congress from Gagret; Jabna Kumari (29) of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) from Nachan; Puja (29) of the Himachal Jan Kranti Party from Bharmour; Manisha Kumari (30) of AAP from Nurpur; Kishori Lal (31) of the CPI (M) from Karsog; Vikramaditya Singh (33) of the Congress from Shimla (Rural); and Deep Raj (34) of the BJP from Karsog. The BJP has denied the party ticket to 11 sitting legislators, shift-

and ignored Musafir's claim. He is in fray as an Independent from Pachhad in Sirmour district. For the BJP, it has almost dumped its two former chief ministers and stalwarts -- Shanta Kumar and Prem Kumar Dhmal -- citing the party's policy of not holding any post in the government and the organisation after 75 years of age. Both are almost a miss from the party's election strategy. The prominent saffron faces who were denied ticket include legislator Kishori Lal from Anni and BJP state vice-president Ram Singh from Kullu. Both are contesting as an Independent from their respective seats. In Mandi, the home district of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who is in fray from his stronghold Seraj, and Kullu district, the prominent rebels include Abhishek Thakur, son of six-time legislator Roop Singh, from Sundernagar; and Hiteswar Singh, the son of Maheshwar Singh, from Banjar. They are in the fray as an Independent. Upset supporters of Cabinet ministers Suresh Bhardwaj and Rakesh Pathania are questioning the high command over changing their stronghold seats at the last minute. The Congress appointed its three-time MP Pratibha Singh, the widow of six-time chief minister Virbhadra Singh, as the state unit president in April. Unlike her husband who had a direct connection even at the grassroots, Pratibha Singh has spearheaded the poll campaign in a bid to oust the incumbent Thakur-led government. With women voters outnumbering men in every election in the state, the BJP has come out with the 'Stree Sankalp Patra' that would further strengthen the objectives of women empowerment and women-led development, said Chief Minister Thakur. Talking to IANS during his campaigning, he said, "In our outgoing five-year stint, we started many schemes for empowering the women. Now in our election manifesto, we have made 11 commitments for women-led development." The BJP's manifesto promised to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the government jobs and educational institutions, establish a corpus of Rs 500 crore to give interest-free loans to women entrepreneurs to set up homestays, besides construction of two hostels for girls pursuing higher education in all 12 districts. An election official said the percentage of women voters exercising their franchise in the state has been on the rise since the 1993 Assembly elections. The Congress promised to restore the old pension scheme, which will directly benefit nearly 2.5 lakh government employees, to fill one lakh jobs in the first Cabinet meeting, besides 300 units of free electricity, if the party returns to the helm. Eyeing to woo the government employees who have been demanding the restoration of the old pension scheme, the Congress in its manifesto said all arrears of the employees would be cleared and contract employees regularised within two years. A first-of-its kind massive anti-government protest by apple growers in the state capital in August over challenges to the Rs 5,000-crore apple industry is a case in point. The Congress tried to woo the apple growers, who have considerable political clout in at least 20 Assembly seats mainly in the Shimla region. The growers were on the streets against the government over high input costs and the government's failure to protect their interests. There are over 55 lakh eligible voters in the state, for whom 7,881 polling stations have been set up. Of the voters, 28,54,945 are male electors, 27,37,845 female and 38 third gender voters. Polling in Himachal Pradesh will take place on November 12, while the counting of ballots on December 8.

international

OVER 272,000 CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER AS TROPICAL STORM HITS FLORIDA

Miami | Agencies More than 272,000 customers were without power across the US state of Florida, due to the impact of tropical storm Nicole, according to utility tracker Poweroutage.us. Nicole made landfall along the east coast of Florida just south of Vero Beach as a Category 1 hurricane on Thursday morning and later weakened to a tropical storm, reports Xinhua news agency. Florida's emergency management tweeted later in the day that tropical storm conditions are still being experienced across much of the state due to Nicole. "Please don't go out & visit



impacted areas," the management warned. "Not only is it unsafe, but it also inhibits first responders." Additional weakening is forecast while Nicole moves over land during the next day or two, and the storm is likely to become a tropical depression over Georgia Thursday night or early Friday. Nicole is an unusual development for Florida for November as state has been hit by hurricanes in the month only twice before in 1935 and 1985. Nicole's late arrival follows a relatively quiet storm season -- for the first time since 1997 not a single hurricane or tropical storm formed in the Atlantic basin this August.

BIDEN TO MEET XI ON NOV 14, TAIWAN ON AGENDA

Washington | Agencies In an address to the media, US President Joe Biden has confirmed that he will meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on November 14 in Bali during which Taiwan is expected to top the agenda. The meeting in Bali on the sidelines of the G20 summit will be the first between the two leaders since Biden took office in January 2021, according to the White House. When asked at the press briefing if he was committed to defending Taiwan militarily and willing to make any concessions, Biden said: "I'm not willing to make any fundamental concessions." Referring to when he was Vice President in the former Barack Obama administration, Biden said that he "met with him (Xi) many times.... And I've told him: I'm look-



ing for competition, not conflict". The President also said he would want to understand from Xi "what each of our red lines are, what he believes to

be in the critical national interests of China, what I know to be the critical interests of the US, and to determine whether or not they conflict with one another". "And if they do, how to resolve it and how to work it out," he added. On Taiwan, Biden said: "The Taiwan doctrine has not changed at all from the very beginning. So, I'm sure we'll discuss Taiwan. And I'm sure we'll discuss a number of other issues, including fair trade and relationships relating to his relationship with other countries in the region." Tensions soared between the US and China over the Taiwan issue when US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited the island in August. China responded with large scale military exercises around the island.

STUDENT FROM ANDHRA DIES IN AUSTRALIA CAR CRASH

Canberra: Sai Rohit Paladugu, a 27 year-old student from Andhra Pradesh, died on the spot after his car crashed into a tree in Australia's Victoria state, media reports said. Paladugu, who came to Australia in 2017 to pursue higher studies, was a resident of Polakala Yellampally village in Chittoor district, the Herald Sun reported. Victoria police believe the car was travelling north on the Goulburn Valley Highway on November 3 when it left the road and struck a tree near the Hume Freeway interchange. They are still investigating and are yet to determine what time the collision occurred. Investigators are urging anyone who witnessed the incident or has dashcam footage of the vehicle to contact Crime Stoppers, or submit a confidential report online at .crimestoppersvic.com.au, the NCR Review reported. Friends said Paladugu was also working to help his mother and to pay off the education loan taken to come to Australia.



Indian-American Nabeela Syed makes history in US midterm polls

Yashwant Raj | Washington |

Nabeela Syed is 23-years-old and member-elect of the Illinois state general. When sworn in, Syed will be its youngest member yet. "My name is Nabeela Syed. I'm a 23-year-old Muslim, Indian-American woman," she announced in a tweet on Wednesday. "We just flipped a Republican-held suburban district." She added: "And in January, I'll be the youngest member of the Illinois General Assembly." And as it invariably happens with these path-breakers, she has notched a few more firsts along the way: first Indian-American elected to the Illinois state House -- man or woman of any faith -- and along with Palestinian-American Abdel Nasser Rashid, the first Muslim elected to the state legislature. Syed wears a hijab, and some publications noted it. Kesha Ram, who is now serving in the Vermont state Senate, probably holds the record for being the youngest Indian-American ever elected to a state legislature.



She was only 21 when she was elected to the state's legislative body. She ran unsuccessfully for Lt. Governor in 2016. She belongs to the family of Sir Ganga Ram, the builder of modern Lahore who has a Delhi hospital named after him. Syed was born in Illinois, but not much else could be ascertained about her family, other than that her parents, or one of them at least came from India. Syed's campaign website says she graduated from the University of California,

Berkeley, with a degree in political science and business administration, where she served as the President of a pro-bono consulting organisation assisting local businesses and non-profits. "It doesn't seem real, but I am a state representative-elect now and I will be the youngest member of the General Assembly," she told ABC News. The 2022 midterm will go down in history as responsible for giving the US the first Generation Z member of the US Congress -- Maxwell Alejandro Frost, a 25-year-old Democrat elected to the House of Representatives from Florida. President Joe Biden joined the national celebration of his election by congratulating him in a phone call. Syed frames her election as part of this effort by youngsters to claim their place in politics, rather than wait for their turn, euphemism for waiting for someone to retire. "It is so important for us to have a seat at the table, for us to have a voice in the legislative process," Syed went on to say in the ABC interview. "People say wait your turn or there is no space for you. We made space," she added.

Iran develops hypersonic ballistic missile



Tehran | Agencies A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said that the country has built a hypersonic ballistic missile that is capable of penetrating "all missile defence systems". "The missile has a high velocity and can maneuver both in and out of the Earth's atmosphere," Iran's Press TV network quoted Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC's

Aerospace Division, as saying on Thursday. "The new missile can pass through all missile defence systems," he said, adding that "I don't think that the technology capable of countering it will be achieved in the decades to come." "It can target the enemy's anti-missile systems, and its production marks a huge leap in the development of a new generation of missiles," Hajizadeh noted as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.





# BJP CALLS SHARAD PAWAR 'BHONDU BABA' WHO PRACTICES 'BLACK MAGIC'

Quaid Najmi | Satara

Political discourse plummeted to a new depth with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) calling Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar an alleged "bhondu baba" who indulges in "black magic", here on Friday. This hitherto "unknown face" of the 82-year-old veteran politician Pawar was "unmasked" by the state BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule during a media interaction, creating political ripples.

"Sharad Pawar is like a 'bhondu baba' (fake god-man). He resorts to 'black magic' on anyone who comes in his sphere of influence. In fact, his entire party also does this," claimed Bawankule.

Justifying his bizarre claim, the state BJP chief referred to the party's bete-noire, Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray as a prime example who fell victim to Pawar's purported "mumbo-jumbo machinations" in 2019.

"When we were in the process of forming the government then, Thackeray came in contact with him (Pawar) and was ensnared by Pawar. So he shut the door on us, left us and never returned. Whoever is trapped by Pawar meets the same fate," pointed out Bawankule with a glint and a grin.

In the first reaction from the NCP, the party MLA Nitesh D. Lanke termed Bawankule's utterances as the outcome of a "deranged mind".

NCP National Spokesperson Clyde Crasto slammed Bawankule saying he has "lost his sens-



es" and power has gone to his head. "He has a regressive mind and therefore, he believes in things like black magic. Look like he knows how it works and also practices it. The world has become modern with progress, but he is still living in the past and talking like this to gain cheap publicity," said Crasto.

On certain earlier occasions, Bawankule was noted for making controversial statements intended to provoke the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies of NCP, Sena (UBT) and Congress.

Two months ago, while touring the Pawar clan's six-decade old bastion of Baramati, Bawankule threatened to do a 'visarjan' (immersion) of the NCP-Congress in the state in the 2024 assembly elections. At one time, he warned the NCP supremo - whom Prime Minister Narendra Modi had once described as his 'guru' - not to dream of challenging the Prime Minister who is performing very well and popular all over the country.

The ostensible provocation was speculation of Pawar for the post of a joint Opposition candidate for Prime Minister or Chairman of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) but the Maratha strongman himself scotched both the rumours.

A couple of months ago, Bawankule had sounded a warning to Thackeray, advising him to "keep shut" and stop criticising the new government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and BJP's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, which came to power after the MVA government collapsed in June.

"You got one opportunity (as Chief Minister) and you frittered it away. What you couldn't manage to do in two-and-half-years, the new government has achieved in barely 50-60 days. They are making quick decisions and the people of the state are happy. So you keep shut now," he growled at Thackeray.

# Cops nab ex-NCP minister for violence in multiplex

Team Absolute | Thane

Thane Police have arrested senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Jitendra Awhad for indulging in violence at a city mall during the screening of the Marathi film 'Har Har Mahadev' earlier this week, officials said here on Friday.

The ruckus broke out at a multiplex in the Viviana Mall on Monday night when Awhad, along with some 100 supporters, allegedly roughed up a few persons at the venue of the film screening.

The Vartaknagar police station, which had filed a case in the matter on Tuesday and issued show-cause notices, has arrested Awhad while more arrests are likely to be made soon, said an official.

Later on Monday, the ex-NCP minister and other activists had thronged the multiplex to interrupt the film screening - which was later stopped - alleging historic distortions pertaining to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, allegedly made by the filmmakers.

Soon after his arrest under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Mumbai Police Act, Awhad tweeted that he would not plead guilty but will continue to fight against wrong portrayal of historic events.

He also charged the police of following orders from "some higher-ups" in a bid to frame him. Incidentally, Thane is the hometown of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.



Playing Awhad's arrest, senior NCP MP Supriya Sule said there 'British Raj' in Maharashtra, while hundreds of party workers staged protests outside the police station. Awhad said he got a call at 1 pm from the Vartaknagar police station, saying that either the cops will send him a notice or he could come to the police station house, to which he agreed.

Later, at the police station, cops engaged him in small talk till the local Deputy Commissioner of Police reached there.

# Bomb-like device sparks fresh scare in Raigad, neutralised



Raigad | Agencies

A mysterious bomb-like device was detected under a bridge near Pen town in Raigad, which was safely neutralised Friday even as the incident sparked a fresh scare in the coastal district of Maharashtra.

According to police, the suspicious apparatus with a dozen gelatin sticks and linked with a timer and electric circuit, were found under

a bridge on River Bhogavati at around 6 p.m. on Thursday.

As the discovery triggered alarms among the locals, the Raigad Police summoned the Bomb Detection & Disposal Squad (BDDS) from Navi Mumbai to investigate.

The BDDS team carried out a close examination, took the device to a deserted spot nearby and neutralised it by separating the gelatin sticks and the electrical circuit at around 2 a.m. on Friday.

Later, Superintendent of Police Somnath Gharge, who had rushed to spot with other senior officials, confirmed that the device was not an explosive nor connected to any detonator.

However, as a precaution the entire apparatus will be sent for a forensic analysis even as police teams are combing the neighbourhood of over a square km to probe how it came to be placed there, the persons and the motives behind it.

# Aaditya Thackeray joins Bharat Jodo Yatra, marches with Rahul Gandhi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray on Friday joined the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' being led by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi at Kalamnuri in Maharashtra's Hingoli. The two leaders walked side by side while waving to the people lining the way.

His party colleague and the leader of the opposition in the state Legislative Council Ambadas Danve accompanied Aaditya Thackeray in the march. Former MLA Sachin Ahir joined in too.

Party Chief Uddhav Thackeray has also been invited to take part in the march during its Maharashtra leg.

The cross-country foot-march has entered its 65th day.

The gesture signals closeness between the two parties, with different ideologies, which agreed on a common minimum program to form the now-removed Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra.



Several prominent leaders have participated in the Rahul Gandhi-led march so far. The Congress party has consistently maintained that anyone who agrees with the message of the Yatra -- to stand in solidarity with people from different communities across the country -- can join them.

Rahul Gandhi has also been attacking the BJP-led state government on Maharashtra losing some big projects to other states -- an issue that Aaditya Thackeray has

been consistently raising. Aaditya Thackeray and Rahul Gandhi have come together at a time when a new government in the state will contest its first poll after the Shiv Sena split and BJP backing rebels to bring down the Maha Vikas Aghadi government. With the civic body polls (BMC) and other Municipal Corporation elections ahead, Aaditya Thackeray's visit could mean that the two parties will contest these elections in an alliance.

# DEMONETISATION, GST SHATTERED INDIAN ECONOMY: RAHUL GANDHI

Nanded: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying his Demonetisation and hasty implementation of GST destroyed the economy and led to massive joblessness in the country. Gandhi criticised Modi for the disastrous decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes six years ago and implementation of GST with five tax slabs which broke the back of the Indian economy and finished off unemployment opportunities.

"For the first time in India's history, farmers are being taxed, GST is being levied on fertilisers and every other items of daily consumption which is compounding the problems for the masses," Gandhi thundered. Attacking Modi for the false claims that Demonetisation would eliminate black money, Gandhi said: "Modi had said that if Demonetisation did not work then hang me, he shed crocodile tears and floated theories. Tell me, has the country been rid of black money after all these years?"

# GRAM PANCHAYAT ELECTION IN LATUR DISTRICT ON DEC 18

Mumbai: Voting to elect new members of 351 gram panchayats in Latur district of Maharashtra will take place on December 18, the Maharashtra State Election Commission has announced. Along with new gram panchayat members, voters will also directly elect sarpanches in these polls. Nomination papers can be submitted from November 28 to December 2 and they will be scrutinized on December 5, as per the poll schedule released by the commission on Wednesday. Nomination papers can be withdrawn on December 7 and on the same day the list of candidates will be released and the poll symbol allotted, said the commission. If necessary, polling will be held on December 18 and counting of votes will take place on December 20, it said.

# BJY marcher killed in road accident; Rahul mourns

Team Absolute | Nanded

A 62-year old veteran Congressman from Tamil Nadu was killed and another person injured when they were knocked down by a speeding truck, a Congress leader said here on Friday.

The deceased is Ganesan Pnraman and the injured person is P. Savayul. 30, both hailing from Thanjavur, informed State Congress Working President Arif Naseem Khan.

On hearing of the tragedy, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY), visited and paid homage to the departed participant before commencing the fifth day's march at dawn on Friday.

He was accompanied by state party chief Nana Patole, Khan,



ex-MP Sanjay Nirupam, ex-ministers Yashomati Thakur and Vishwajeet Kadam and a large number of other BJY participants. Later, Gandhi said in a social media post that he was deeply saddened by the demise of Ganesan who was a committed Congress worker and a campaigner for the past three

decades. "We have lost a true soldier of the party and a beloved companion in the BJY. His dedication to the country and Congress will serve as an inspiration to all of us in our endeavour to unite the country," said Gandhi.

The BJY, which saw the participation of Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders like Aaditya Thackeray, Ambadas Danve and Sachin Ahir, as it left Nanded and wend its way to Hingoli district this evening.

A police officer said that the tragedy occurred early today when they were returning from Gandhi's rally last night to the BJY's night halt camp.

The formalities for the autopsy and later handing over the body to the family of the deceased is being completed, said the police.

# TWO KILLED, TWO INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

Mumbai: Two persons were killed and as many injured after a speeding car rammed into two vehicles after jumping the divider, the police said.

The car hit an auto-rickshaw and a bike coming from the opposite side on the western express highway. The auto-rickshaw driver and a passenger died on the spot, while two bike-borne persons sustained serious injuries, the police added.

The injured were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. The police said that the driver lost control over his car near Jai Coach signal and it reached on the other side of the road after jumping the divider and rammed into two vehicles coming from the opposite side. The driver fled from the spot leaving the car at the accident site, they added.

The police are trying to arrest the car driver after establishing identity.

Meanwhile, a first information report (FIR) has been registered against the unknown car driver under sections 279 (Rash driving), 304 A (causing death by doing any rash or negligence act) and 338 (Causing grievous hurt) of Indian Penal Code and relevant section of motor vehicles Act at Vanrai police station.

# 13 women rescued, 23 arrested in orchestra bar raid in Mumbai



Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least 23 persons were arrested and 13 women rescued from an orchestra bar, which was allegedly being operated illegally in the eastern suburb of Mumbai's Ghatkopar, police said on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police's social service branch raided the bar, located on 90 feet road in Pant Nagar, around 11.15 pm on Thursday, an official said.

Women were allegedly found dancing in the establish-

ment, he said. At least 13 women were rescued and 23 persons, including the bar manager, cashier, seven waiters and 13 customers were apprehended, he said. An FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Maharashtra Prohibition of Obscene Dancing in hotels, restaurants and bar rooms and protection of the dignity of the women (working in them) Act 2016, the official said. The police seized Rs 35,760 cash and computer equipment during the raid, he said.

# MAN HELD WITH HEROIN WORTH RS 35 CRORE AT MUMBAI AIRPORT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Friday arrested a traveller with 4.98 kg of heroin worth Rs 35 crore at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, an official said.

The DRI had received information about a passenger trying to smuggle a drug consignment into the country, following which officials beefed up surveillance at the airport, the official said.

A man traveling from Nairobi (Kenya) to Mumbai was intercepted on suspicion when he



crossed the green channel, he said.

On searching his luggage, officials recovered 4.98 kg of off-white colour powder in a trolley bag and on testing, presence of heroin was found, the official said.

The contraband was kept in a black polythene bag concealed under a false cavity created in the trolley bag, due to which it was difficult to detect the drug, he said.

Further investigation in the case is underway to unearth and neutralise the international drug smuggling syndicate, the official said.

MAHARASHTRA JEEVAN PRADHIKARAN DIVISION, PALGHAR

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.18 for 2022-23 (3<sup>rd</sup> call)

The Executive Engineer, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran W.M. Division Palghar. Invites e-tender for the Following Work under Jal Jeevan Mission Programme The e-tender details are available on [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) form Dated 11/ 11/ 2022

Scheme Name	Cost of Tender (Rs)
1. Kasatwadi And 13 Villages Water Supply Scheme Tal Jawhar Dist Palghar.	18,78,17,270 /-

All relevant dates will be as per the tender published in web portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

-SD-  
(Tanmay Kamble)  
Executive Engineer  
MJP W.M. Division Palghar

ROC-2022-23/No - 5/C3989



# LINDSAY LOHAN FINDS 'REFRESHINGLY EXCITING' ON RETURNING TO MOVIE SET

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Lindsay Lohan had taken a break from acting in recent years and explained it was "refreshingly exciting" to return to movies with festive romcom 'Falling for Christmas'. "It's a great movie. I wanted to make this movie because I missed being on set and I really miss bringing characters to life, and this was just the perfect script full of love, family, romance and joy all in one. I wanted to get to the point where I was craving being on set. It felt really refreshingly exciting," she said, reports.

The 'Just My Luck' star went on to add that 'Falling for Christmas', in which she plays the role of a spoiled hotel heiress who loses her memory in a skiing accident, has a "great message" which she

loved being able to bring to the screen.

She added, "And it has a great message, which is that you don't really need all of the material things in life. It's good to just focus on the simple things, and I really love that."

As part of the film's soundtrack, Lindsay has recorded a version of 'Jingle Bell Rock' and explained that she was "nervous" about performing the song because she hoped fans of 'Mean Girls', which features a memorable scene in which she performs the Christmas classic in a high school talent show alongside Rachel McAdams, Lacey Chabert, and Amanda Seyfried - would enjoy it just as much. She said, "I was (nervous) because I haven't recorded in a long time and felt the pressure of doing it in a way that people who had seen

'Mean Girls' would like it the same."

"With 'Mean Girls', we had the dance behind it and I had all the other girls with me. This was just my voice. So,

it was nerve-racking. But the outcome was incredible. I'm really, really happy."



## CHRIS EVANS IS 'SECRETLY DATING' PORTUGUESE ACTRESS ALBA BAPTISTA

Los Angeles | Agencies



Hollywood star Chris Evans has been reportedly secretly dating Alba Baptista, for more than a year and the romance is "serious." Revealing the 41-year-old's relationship status was People, says reports. "They are in love and Chris has never been happier," a source told the publication adding: "His family and friends all adore her."

The news arrived after Chris was named PEOPLE's Sexiest Man Alive 2022 earlier this month. In an interview with the outlet, he also got candid about his desire to get married and start a family.

"That's absolutely something I want: wife, kids, building a family," the actor, who is best known for playing Captain America in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, confessed. "When you read about most of the best artists, whether it's actors, painters, writers, most of them [admit] it wasn't the work they made [that they are most proud of], it was about the relationships; the families they created, the love they found, the love they shared."

"So it's also something through my long 41 years that also rings true. Those things are the most important," Evans added. "I love the idea of tradition and ceremony. I had a lot of that in my life, so the idea of creating that - I can't think of anything better." As for Evans' rumoured girlfriend Alba, she's a Portuguese actress who was born in 1997. She made her debut in an English language film by starring in "Warrior Nun". In addition to that, she has starred in several Portuguese series and films like "A Impostora", "Filha da Lei", "A Criacao" as well as "Jogo Duplo".



## Anya Taylor-Joy puts on a very leggy display

Los Angeles | Agencies

Anya Taylor-Joy puts on a very leggy display in thigh-skimming shorts and sky-high heels as she exits Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year Awards. She had earlier wowed in an eye-catching white crop top along with a matching structured skirt after attending the Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year Awards on Thursday. And Anya Taylor-Joy stunned once again as she put on a very leggy display while rocking a second outfit at the ceremony held at Claridges Hotel in London.

The actress flaunted her incredible pins in thigh-skimming white lace shorts which she teamed with a pair of sky-high nude Louboutin. The Queen's Gambit star teamed her shorts with a matching top covered by a chic cream blazer. The beauty left her platinum locks poker straight and wowed in the dame striking make-up she had earlier worn. Anya looked in great spirits as she gave a wave to onlookers before retiring for the night.

And the actress certainly caught the eye in her underboob-flashing white lace crop and matching structured skirt with a sheer detail.

The detailed garment featured a patterned floral detail and a frilled embellishment. Wearing her platinum locks in pigtails, The Queen's Gambit star also donned an eye-catching silver necklace. Nicholas looked dapper for the evening in a black blazer and trousers which he paired with a matching bow tie and crisp white shirt.

## My skin colour put limitations on my career: Viola Davis

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Viola Davis said that her career was "limited" by her skin colour in the early days and believes there is a "lack" of stories for black women to tell. The actress started out in the industry in the late 1990s and explained that there is a "deficit" of stories about black women and often found herself playing supporting characters because Hollywood has failed to "dig deep" into her culture, says reports.



She said: "There is a deficit of stories that women of colour are able to access in Hollywood. When I started off as an actor, the scope of what I wanted to do was infinite. It was definitely a big blow to see the limitations put on me in my career."

"You're just there to give the white lead advice, to be the sage, to be the nurturer. There is a lack of really digging deep into who we are."

Meanwhile, the Academy Award-winning star received the Icon award at the Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year Awards 2022 on November 10 and explained that the honour has become "embedded in (her) spirit and she will use it to help progression in showbusiness."

She told Britain's magazine: "When I'm at home I don't feel like an icon. I'm always looking at little Viola who wet the bed and was just trying to find a meal every day and thinking, 'OK, now I'm an icon?' I don't take the honour and run off the stage with it. It's embedded in my spirit and I use it as warrior fuel to shift the industry so that I'm not the only one anymore."



## I actually don't even like wearing clothes anymore: Jason Momoa

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jason Momoa during his appearance on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!' stripped down to nothing but his traditional Hawaiian malo. "I actually don't even like wearing clothes anymore," Momoa told the host, reports. The star then shared he began wearing the underwear-like garment while filming his Apple TV+ series, "Chief of War". "I'm in it every day. I wear it all the time," he said. The star continued, "its all 1780s, 1790s Hawaii."

That's what I wear every day. I was just getting ready for the role and I like to get into character and so I was tanning my white a\*\*."

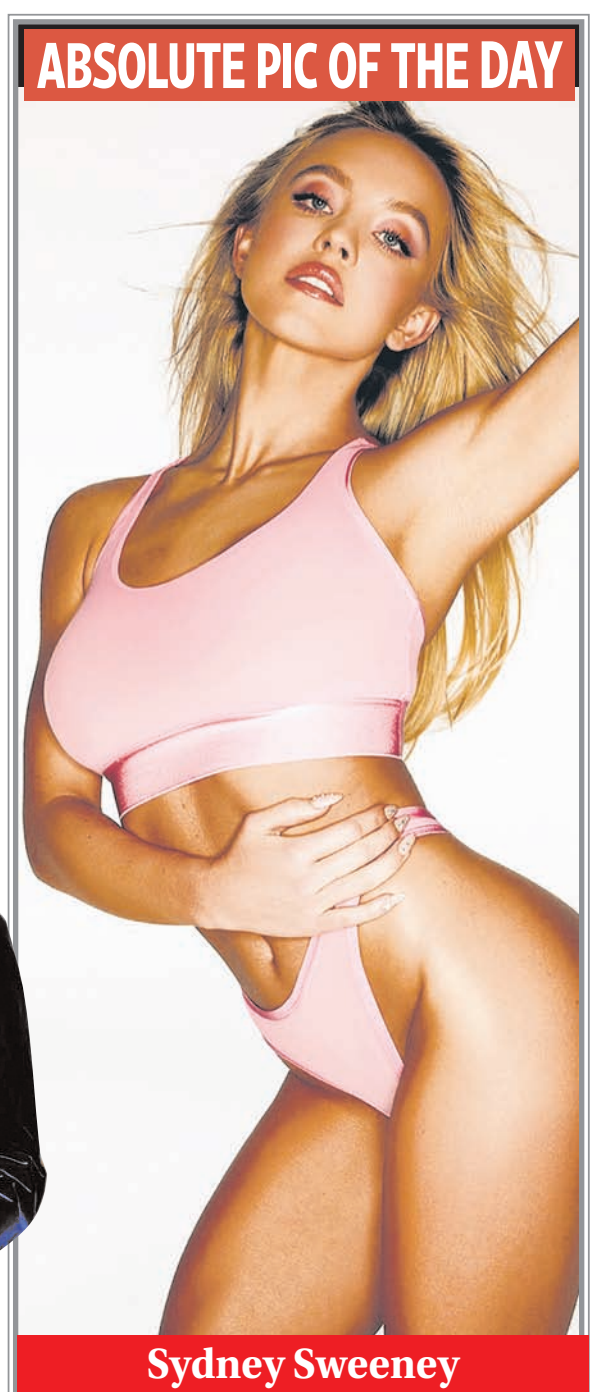
Kimmel then asked if the actor was wearing malo under his clothes during the interview, to which Jason responded, "of course." He then stood up, prompting the studio audience to cheer on him. Much to everyone's surprise, he later took off his purple satin pajama set to reveal his malo. Not stopping there, the "Slumberland" actor left little to the imagination as he turned his backside to show his bare butt to the crowd. "Let me tell you, I never felt more like Danny DeVito than I do right now," Jimmy quipped.



## Comedian Chris Rock is the first funnyman to perform live on Netflix

Los Angeles | Agencies

Comedian Chris Rock is set to become the first funnyman to perform lives on streaming giant Netflix. Robbie Prawn, the vice-president of stand-up and comedy formats at Netflix, announced that the star will make history when he performs in a yet-to-be-titled comedy special in 2023, reports. "Chris Rock is one of the most iconic and important comedic voices of our generation. We're thrilled the entire world will be able to experience a live Chris Rock comedy event and be a part of Netflix history," Robbie said. "This will be an unforgettable moment and we're so honoured that Chris is carrying this torch." Rock previously joined forces with Netflix in 2018, when his stand-up special, 'Chris Rock: Tamborine', aired on the streaming platform. Earlier this year, meanwhile, Rock was involved in an infamous on-stage clash with Will Smith at the Oscars. The actor smacked Chris after he made a joke about Jada Pinkett Smith, Will's wife, and the Hollywood star subsequently described his behaviour at the Oscars as "shocking, painful, and inexcusable."



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Sydney Sweeney





## ASIAN AIRGUN CHAMPIONSHIP: DIVYANSH WINS GOLD

New Delhi | The Indian shooters began their campaign in the 15th Asian Airgun Championship on a positive note in Daegu, South Korea, picking up gold, silver and bronze medals on competition Day One.



According to information received here, the gold came from Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar in the 10m Air Rifle Men Junior event while Kiran Ankush Jadhav shot silver in the corresponding senior competition. Sri Karthik Sabari Raj Ravishankar also won a bronze in the Junior Men's Air Rifle. Divyansh out-gunned local favourite Bang Seungho 17-9 in the gold medal match after topping the ranking round with a score of 260.7. Sri Karthik shot 258.8 to finish behind Seungho and settle for bronze. In the gold medal clash, Kiran went down 10-16 to yet another Korean Park Hajun.

## T20 World Cup

London | Agencies

Injured middle-order batter Jonny Bairstow heaped praise on England for their ten-wicket victory over India in the semi-final of Men's T20 World Cup, saying that the side were 'fearless all the way' in the run chase of 169 at the Adelaide Oval.

"It was amazing, what a performance, as clinical as you can be. You need people to stand up in a semi-final and that's exactly what happened. They were fearless all the way through the run chase," said Bairstow.

Bairstow was all set to open the batting for England; only for a freak leg injury suffered at a golf course

# England were fearless through the run chase: Jonny Bairstow

ruled him out of cricketing action for the rest of the year. It gave Hales a chance to open the batting alongside Buttler, as the duo starred in England's victories over New Zealand, Sri Lanka and now India after a shock five-run loss to Ireland.

Bairstow added that England will be aware the job is not done yet as the title clash with Pakistan is still to be completed. "The character the guys have shown to come back from losing to Ireland and now being in a World Cup final is amazing but they will be well aware the job is not done yet.

"There will be confidence after that seven-match series in Pakistan (England won the series 4-3 in

September and October) that we came out the right side of but we also know the qualities they have."

"It is a level playing field when it comes to a World Cup final, I don't think there are favourites. If Pakistan's players stand up, it is going to be an enthralling game but if we can take early wickets and get into the middle order, we should be alright."

"To stand up to the pressures of a game of that magnitude and perform like that was exceptional. Credit to Jos for being able to get us in this position to be peaking at the right time. He looks very happy within himself and you can see that in his performances and the players around him."



# We aim to qualify for Pro League: Hockey team captain Savita

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian women's hockey team is all set to participate in next month's FIH Women's Nations Cup in Valencia, Spain from December 11-17, hoping to make it back to the Pro League after finishing third in the 2021-22 season as a special invitee.

Goalkeeper Savita, who will lead the 20-member squad, is confident of a good outing in the tournament.

The FIH Women's Nations Cup is an important fixture in the international calendar as it introduces a system of promotion-relegation for the Pro League. Thus the Nations Cup champion will be promoted to the Pro League's 2023-2024 season while the last-place team in the 2022-23 seasons will be relegated.

Savita and her teammates have prepared very hard hoping to win the Nations Cup and get promoted to the



Pro League.

"Our team has been working really hard in the camp for the Nations Cup 2022. We are determined to win the

tournament as it will also allow us to participate in the next season of the Pro League 2023-2024. Playing in the last edition of the Pro League was a

good experience for us and we want to play in the next edition as well. It will serve as a good preparation for Asian Games and the 2024 Paris Olympics," said captain Savita.

"All the players are confident of a good outing in the Nations Cup 2022. We will face Canada, Japan and South Africa in the group stage and we will look to play the best hockey we can and execute the plans properly," said the skipper.

She also believes that the upcoming competition will help prepare the Indian team for the Asian Games next year.

"We also have our eyes on the Asian Games which is going to happen next year. Every tournament till the Asian Games will act as a preparation for it and I am sure all the players will get the much-needed confidence with a good performance in the Nations Cup," signed off captain Savita.

ISL 2022-23

# Silva helps East Bengal win against Bengaluru FC

Bengaluru | Agencies

Cleiton Silva left his former fanbase in silence, scoring the only goal of the game as East Bengal FC handed Bengaluru FC their third successive defeat of the season in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday.

The Blues failed to score in their third consecutive game as the Torch Bearers secured their first clean sheet of the season.

No goals were scored in the opening 45 minutes as the hosts finished the half without a single shot on target. In the first minute, Bruno Silva fired an effort from a distance that flashed just wide of the goal. Ten minutes later, Charis Kyriakou tried his luck from range, but his strike was collected comfortably by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

In the 69th minute, the deadlock was finally broken. Running towards his own goal on the left as the last man, Wangjam came under pressure from Mahesh and miskicked his backpass towards the goalkeeper. Mahesh pounded on the loose ball and was one-on-



one with the keeper when he squared it for Silva, who calmly tapped the ball in against his former club.

The season's second win for East Bengal FC saw them leapfrog Bengaluru FC in the ISL table and move into eighth place. The Blues are now ninth in the table, level on four points with Jamshedpur FC. For their next game, the Torch Bearers will return to the Salt Lake Stadium to face Odisha FC on November 18. The Blues will travel to the west coast to face Mumbai City FC next on November 17.

# Cristiano Ronaldo and Pepe, continuing to lead the team

Lisbon | Agencies

Portugal coach Fernando Santos has announced a 26-man squad for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar with two veteran players, Cristiano Ronaldo and Pepe, continuing to lead the team.

Ronaldo will take part in his fifth World Cup, having played for the national team in every edition of the tournament since 2006.

Two young players from Benfica, Antonio Silva and Goncalo Ramos, are World Cup debutants, reports Xinhua. RB Leipzig striker Andre Silva replaces the injured Liverpool star Diogo Jota. Manchester City, Manchester United and Wolves in the English Premier League, Benfica and Porto in the Portuguese Premier League and French Ligue 1 giants Paris Saint-Germain have each contributed three players to the squad.



"All the players I have called up come with the hunger to win and make Portugal world champions," said Santos.

Portugal will play a warm-up match with Nigeria in

Lisbon on November 17. Drawn in Group H with Uruguay, South Korea and Ghana at Qatar 2022, Portugal will kick off their campaign against Ghana on November 24.

# UK's West Midlands region to host Kabaddi World Cup 2025

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Kabaddi World Cup will move out of Asia for the first time with the West Midlands region of the United Kingdom hosting the 2025 edition of the competition, the World Kabaddi Federation (WKF) announced on Friday.

The UK region will host the sport's most prestigious global tournament which will feature the world's best kabaddi players from leading men's and women's teams, including India, Iran and Pakistan. The tournament will take place across the West Midlands during the first quarter of 2025.

The news was revealed as part of a West Midlands trade mission to India (November 6-12), led by the region's Mayor Andy Street and Portfolio Lead for Economy and Innovation at the West Midlands Combined Authority, Cllr Ian Brookfield. The week-long mission will create opportunities for bilateral trade and investment between India, the West Midlands,



and the wider UK. The 2025 Kabaddi World Cup will be the first edition after the 2020 edi-

tion could not be held because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The previous three editions were all held in India

with the hosts emerging champions in all three editions.

Ashok Das, President of the World Kabaddi Federation and England Kabaddi, said: "Awarding the 2025 Kabaddi World Cup to the West Midlands in the UK was a straightforward decision and a very exciting milestone in the global growth and expansion of the sport across Europe."

"Kabaddi is a sport for everybody, regardless of age, gender, or social background. As we've seen with the launch of the British Kabaddi League earlier this year, and the vibrancy and ambition on show during the hugely successful Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the West Midlands is a region, which promotes positive community engagement, celebrates cultural diversity and inclusion, and loves its sport."

"We look forward to engaging with businesses and people across the West Midlands and introducing more new fans to our fast and entertaining sport as we create a memorable first World Cup outside of Asia."

# Team will get better from here on: Virat Kohli

Melbourne | Agencies

Former India skipper Virat Kohli has said the team had come to Australia for the ICC T20 World Cup to achieve their dream but fell short, but promised the side will strive to "get better from here on".



Kohli again played a key role in helping India to a competitive 168 for six in 20 overs, scoring a 40-ball half-century, but Alex Hales and England skipper Jos Buttler's unbeaten blitz of 170 runs made the target look minuscule as they breezed into the final to set up blockbuster showdown with Babar Azam's Pakistan with four overs to spare and all 10 wickets in hand.

Kohli was the stand-out batter in the side and continues to top the scoring charts with 296 runs from six innings and a batting average of 98.66, but his innings wasn't enough on a perfect Thursday after-

noon at the Adelaide Oval as India bowed out of the global tournament, with the bowlers letting the side down.

Kohli took to twitter to express his disappointment at missing the trophy one more time, saying "We leave Australian shores short of achieving our dream and with disappointment in our hearts but we can take back a lot of memorable moments as a group and aim to get better from here on," said the charismatic India batter.

Kohli also thanked the fans for showing faith in the side and turning out in huge numbers to watch the match.

# FIFA WORLD CUP: MESSI'S LAST SHOT AT GLORY

Doha | Agencies

In a group where Argentina are the only team in the top 10 in FIFA's last rankings before the FIFA World Cup kicks off in November, Mexico, Poland and Saudi Arabia will also be vying for a ticket to the round of 16.

ARGENTINA It has been 36 years since Argentina last won the World Cup. If 35-year-old Lionel Messi wants to recreate the team's golden age after Mario Kempes in 1978 and Diego Maradona in 1986, this might well be his last shot at glory, reports.

Although nobody on the team made this year's Ballon d'Or 30-man list, the Albiceleste are feeling their oats after beating rivals Brazil to win the Copa America last year, and the team is now more creative, balanced and united since head coach Lionel Scaloni took charge in 2019.

But midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso injured his right hamstring in last weekend's La Liga game and will



miss the World Cup. Despite not playing a single minute in Russia four years ago, Lo Celso has become a regular starter and Messi's best partner. His ability to control the ball and create chances in multiple positions, especially on the left side, could have released Messi closer to the goal area. How to fit in a replacement in an already polished and well-shaped squad is something Scaloni will have to work on in the next few days.

Star player: Lionel Messi Messi will no doubt be one of the headliners in Qatar as he chases the World Cup one last time. Having scooped the FIFA World Youth Championship in 2005, an Olympic gold medal in 2008 and the Copa America title in 2021, along with every possible titles at club level, Messi's trophy room has everything except the World Cup.

There's nothing much more to say about how and why Messi is the best player on the planet; perhaps all he needs is a bit of luck and patience.

# Some senior players will be dropped from T20 format

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Following Team India's humiliating defeat in semifinal against England, it is believed that the national T20 squad will undergo a major transition in the next few months.

According to sources, senior players like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Dinesh Karthik and Ravichandran Ashwin would be gradually eased out from the shortest format of the game.

The next T20 World Cup is still two years away and it is learnt that a new team will be picked with all-rounder Hardik Pandya being the captaincy choice. Earlier on Thursday, legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar has also said that he is expecting a few retirements from the current team in near future. The former India captain said that he expects several changes in the line-up, adding that Pandya will be taking over



the Indian team after the World Cup.

"Having won the Indian Premier League on his first assignment as the captain, they would have marked Hardik Pandya out as the next captain. Hardik Pandya will definitely take over the team in the future and there will be some retirements, you never know. Players will be giving it a lot of thought. There are several players in their mid-30s who will be reconsidering their position in the Indian T20I team," Gavaskar said on Star Sports.





## KRITI SANON USED TO SING 'TU KITNI ACHI HAI' FOR HER MOTHER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kriti Sanon said that she used to sing 'Tu Kitni Achi Hai' for her mother during her childhood days. The actress also called her mother a 'superwoman' as she always stood by her and motivated her to grow in life.

After witnessing the performance of Debosmita Roy on the iconic song 'Tu Kitni Achi Hai' from the 1968 film 'Raja Aur Runk', the actress got emotional and talked about the importance of her mom Geeta Sanon and her words always inspires her.

Kriti said: "Your voice is so beautiful Debo, it has purity. I was just looking at your mom and she is quite emotional. What I feel is internally she is very much strong and I think every mother is a strong lady which we never notice. During my childhood days, I used to call my mother a 'Superwoman'."

While the star cast enjoyed performances by the contestants on 'Thank You Maa' special episode, Kriti Sanon also shared memories associated with her mother and how she used to sing the same song for her mother.

She added: Wherever I go, whether it was my school exams, she used to make sure I am reaching school on time, she took me to dance classes, and she could do anything and everything for me and I used to always think of where she gets so much energy. The way you sang took me back to my childhood. When I was a child, my sister and I used to sing this song for our mother."

## Kartik Aaryan will be starring in the comedy film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Paresh Rawal has confirmed that Kartik Aaryan will be starring in the comedy film after the news of Akshay Kumar stepping away from 'Hera Pheri 3' made rounds. Paresh confirmed the news on Twitter after a social media user asked the veteran actor if Kartik will be a part of the third installment. The user asked on Twitter: "Paresh Rawal sir, is it true that Kartik Aaryan is doing Hera Pheri 3?"

"Yes it is true," Paresh replied.

'Hera Pheri', which released in 2000, is a comedy film. It was directed by Priyadarshan. It starred Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty and Paresh Rawal. The movie is a remake of 1989 Malayalam film 'Ramji Rao', which itself was inspired by the 1971 TV movie 'See the Man Run'. Over the years, the film has attained a cult status. The first installment of Hera Pheri revolves around two tenants, Raju and Shyam and a landlord Baburao, who in desperate need of money, chance upon a ransom call via a cross connection. The second installment 'Phir Hera Pheri' released in 2006. It stars Bipasha Basu, Rimi Sen, Johnny Lever and Rajpal Yadav. The central plot draws inspiration from the 1998 film 'Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels'.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Niti Taylor revealed that as a kid, she had a hole in her heart and she was not allowed to do many things including dance as it could have adverse effects on her health.

She said: "As a kid, I had a hole in my heart and there are many things that I was not allowed to do including dance because it could jeopardise my health. I couldn't go to amusement parks or take flights or do anything remotely adventurous." The actress, who is currently seen on the dance reality show 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10' slipped and fell down while performing on the song 'Saat Samundar Paar' from late actress Divya Bharti-starrer 1992 film 'Vishwatma'. This was her debut film and the song was also picturised on her.

During the 90s special episode of the show, the actress performed on the track along with her choreographer partner Akash Thapa. Though she slipped and fell down, her performance was appreciated by the judges Madhuri Dixit, Karan Johar and Nora Fatehi.

Later, she told the judges about her past and how she suffered a serious illness but she never gave up and posts her recovery she started dancing. "When I recovered, I danced with joy and I've been dancing since then. I'm so happy that I'm getting to live my adventure on 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa'. I'm super grateful," added the 'Kaisi Yeh Yaariyan' actress.

I had a hole in my heart: Niti Taylor

## ROCKET GANG: BOSCO MARTIS' DIRECTORIAL DEBUT IS A ROCKET IN WATER, JUST CAN'T BE LIT



### FILM REVIEW

SHACHI CHATURVEDI

**Director:** Bosco Martis

**Cast:** Aditya Seal, Nikita Dutta and ensembles

**Duration:** 2h 20m

**Ratings:** 1.5 /5

### Synopsis

A group of friends unintentionally became the cause of the death of five children who were about to accomplish their dreams. To make amends for their error, these friends decide to help the spirits of the children.

### Review-

The film begins by establishing the plot, which is too predictable from the start, in which a group of five friends receive a free staycation and end up in a haunted hotel. Two of the five friends are lovers who are unable to marry due to the girl's family's dissent.

The film takes a crazy turn when the 5 friends meet 5 kids who are the ghosts in the film. These kids wanted to participate in DID but dies because of these 5 friends.

So these 5 noble souls decide to help the kids and participate in DID and let the ghosts possess their bodies. Where is the Logic???

The five children who died in an accident do not wish to meet their families and instead wish to perform a dance for their mothers. Who are we fooling? When it comes to the star performances, Aditya Seal was okay but overdramatic, and Nikita Dutta, as we have seen her before, is not acceptable with this much drama. When it comes to the rest of the cast, everyone is overacting throughout the film and needs to calm down.

It was a Bosco Martis film, so if we get bad dancing, there will be nothing left to see. The dancing is good, the music is nice, and extra points go to the film's VFX, which occasionally gives fairytale vibes.

### Conclusion

This is a film that a kid might want to watch on a cartoon channel, but it is not one that a person would want to see in a theatre.

## UUNCHAI : A CLASSIC SOORAJ BARJATYA FILM THAT TUGS AT YOUR HEARTSTRINGS

### FILM REVIEW

SHACHI CHATURVEDI

**Director:** Sooraj Barjatya

**Cast:** Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani, Parineeti Chopra, Neena Gupta, Sarika as Mala Trivedi, Danny Denzongpa, Nafisa Ali and ensembles

**Duration:** 2h 49m

**Ratings:** 3/5

### Synopsis

Three friends leave their comfortable lives behind to climb Mount Everest for their friends.

### Review

Is there a movie that explains friendship without including any offensive scenes? Yes, Uunchai. A film that will make you laugh while also leaving you teary eyed.

Uunchai is the story of three friends, all over 70, who decide to climb Everest for their fourth friend's "Asthi visarjan." Seems implausible? Sooraj Barjatya's direction comes into play here. The story is so well-crafted that you don't find it unrealistic. Although, the movie has problems in putting facts, but when it comes to delivering the values everything just fits perfectly.

The film begins with Big B summarising what is going on in the current scene and then takes you back two months. Danny's character Bhupen is celebrating his birthday with three other friends, and he expresses his desire to climb Everest one day. At this point, tragedy strikes the "Yaari," and Bhupen dies of a heart attack.

It is now that all three friends have decided to climb Everest Base Camp.

When it comes to special moments in this film, there are many. The chemistry between Boman Irani and Neena Gupta is unrivalled and a joy to watch. This film confronts you with difficult facts in a subtle but emotional manner. The way Amit put Bhupen's hat next to his ashes to Om asking Amit, why life is so hard. Each of these scenes has an ocean of emotions delivered in buckets, one after the other. In terms of star performance, Big



B's character is the rope that is holding everything together, and he pulls it the best way he can. Anupam Kher is a master of his craft, and there is no doubt that he gave his all in the film. Boman Irani portrays a friend in a group who is lazy, foodie, funny, and the group's soul. Sarika and Neena Gupta are stunning in their own right.

Nafesa Ali's cameo in the film as Amitabh Bachchan's wife is a pleasant surprise. Parineeti's presence is felt, and she has done an excellent job.

Sooraj Barjatya's films never disappoint when it comes to the soundtrack. The music is so captivating that it assisted you in eliciting the appropriate emotions. The film is shot well, and the beauty of the Himalayas can be seen in almost all of the frames.

### Conclusion

It's a nice film with minor flaws. It clearly speaks for itself, and it is worth watching with friends.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Juhi Godambe