

absolute india



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MEET THE MAN WHO TURNED 1,112-ACRE IN B'LURU CAMPUS INTO MINI-FOREST

GREEN MISSION

THE MINI FOREST HAS:

▶ 162 AND ODD VARIETIES OF BIRDS IS RECORDED IN THE BIO PARK. CAMPUS IS AN ABODE TO LAKHS OF BIRDS

▶ 150 AND ODD BUTTERFLY VARIETIES IS RECORDED IN THE BIO PARK INCLUDES FLORA AND FAUNA IN THE FORM OF BUTTERFLIES, BIRDS, PEACOCKS, RABBITS, SNAKES, MONGOOSE.

▶ THE GREEN COVER IN THE CAMPUS ALSO INCLUDES MIYAWAKI, SEMI-MIYAWAKI FORESTS FOR WHICH PLANTS AND TREE SPECIES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FROM THE EASTERN GHATS REGIONS.

▶ IT ALSO HAS A FRUIT GARDEN WHICH HAS 168 VARIETIES OF 2,500 TO 3,000 TREES. FOUR SAHYADRI VANA'S WHICH HAVE RARE PLANT AND TREE SPECIES WESTERN GHATS AND MALNAD REGION OF KARNATAKA.

▶ CHARAKAVANA HAS 300 TO 400 VARIETIES OF MEDICINAL PLANTS.

▶ THE CAMPUS ALSO BOASTS OF ABOUT 10,000 SANDAL WOOD TREES AND A GOOD NUMBER OF RED SANDER TREES AS WELL.

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

The sprawling 1,112-acre Bengaluru University campus situated in the heart of the city serves as a lung space, oxygen bank, and groundwater reserve.

The campus also boasts of developing the first 'Bio, Geo and Hydro Park' in the country. The mission of one man, retired Professor T.J. Renuka Prasad, designated special



officer by the Government of Karnataka for Bio Park has turned this bushy, empty landscape into a mini forest. "Biodiversity is the only way of life and when it needs to be implemented, there will be challenges, especially in the urban areas. However, through ensuring of public, wildlife enthusiasts' participation, transformation is being brought," said Professor Renuka Prasad. The forest cover is being brought with continuous efforts of more than two decades. After the development of thick vegetation, life is thriving in the campus.

Many research papers have been submitted by students of Environment Science, Botany, Geology on various subjects related to bio, geo and hydro aspects. Teaching faculty has submitted research 44 titles from various departments across science, arts, and commerce departments. The campus offers two degree Celsius less temperature compared to the central business district of Bengaluru following construction of check dams and buffer zones at any point of time including summers.

Prof. Renuka Prasad, a former Geology Professor and Dean at Bengaluru University is retired but after seeing his efforts, the government issued an order to continue his services as the coordinator of Bio Park. "After spreading the word, indi-

viduals and organisations have donated 100 trees to 1,000 trees. They also provided labour, pipelines, helped to install bore wells, and made facilities for drip irrigation. I sought liberty to choose land, plant trees, which University reciprocated," he said. The school children who visit 'Bio, Geo and Hydro Park' in the campus will know about evolution of earth, water cycle, rock formations, filling of water, usage of crustal rocks, derived soil and development of life. Seeds will be sowed in their hearts for preservation along with development. The Central Government Water Board (CGWD), renowned environmentalist Dr A.N. Yallappa Reddy has played an important role in the mini forest taking shape.

When asked what Professor Renuka Prasad is getting for his efforts, he said that he recently had a miraculous recovery from a heart-related ailment. He believes that his tryst with nature is largely responsible for it. Renuka Prasad has raised his voice against construction of buildings at cost of greenery in campus. He also gave a report of the university's 200 plus acres being encroached upon, for which his retirement benefits are 'promptly' withheld till date. But, his focus is elsewhere. Professor Prasad had given a proposal to enhance reserve forests up to 670 acres in the campus of the uni-

"The Bio Park has been made into a 'Bio, Geo and Hydro Park'. All this has been done with one supervisor, six workers without causing financial strain on the university. Public and wild life enthusiasts' participation has made it possible. I am not against development. If vertical growth on big buildings is preferred, one more university can operate," Academician, freedom fighter, rationalist and the VC of Bengaluru University H. Narasimhaiah had got 1,500 acres granted by the government. His dream should be fulfilled and one should remember that nature, education and knowledge go hand in hand,"

Renuka Prasad.

He had also submitted a report to create a buffer zone throughout Vrishabhavathi valley. He is also demanding compulsory inclusion of certification courses for primary or high school children to get nature education through visits to bio, geo and hydro parks. It has been made compulsory in foreign countries.

INDIA-BORN VENKI RAMAKRISHNAN AWARDED BRITISH ORDER OF MERIT

London | Agencies

Venki Ramakrishnan, Indian-born British and American structural biologist and Nobel laureate, has been appointed by King Charles III to the Order of Merit.

Hailing from the temple town of Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu, Venkatraman "Venki" Ramakrishnan, 70, has worked as a biologist for more than 30 years, with much of his research being focused on central problem in molecular biology. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2009 alongside Thomas Steitz and Ada Yonath for the high-resolution atomic structure of the ribosome, which opened up new possibilities in the development of antibiotics.

King Charles III made the appointments on Friday -- his first since becoming the Sovereign of the Order. Ramakrishnan was conferred knight-



hood "for services to molecular biology" in the New Year Honours List 2012. He is also the author of the popular book, Gene Machine, which captures his first-hand account of the discovery.

Ramakrishnan is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina and EMBO, as well as a Foreign Member of the Indian National Science Academy.

In 2017, he received the Golden Plate Award of the American Academy of Achievement. A fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, Ramakrishnan was elected in 2015 as President of the Royal Society for a five-year term. He studied at Baroda University, Ohio University and the University of California, San Diego. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2010. The Order of Merit, a royal honour for distinguished service, became more diverse this time with four of the six new members from ethnic minorities.

Twitter manager vomits after Musk ordered to fire employees: Report

San Francisco | Agencies

A Twitter manager puked in a trash can after the new owner of microblogging platform Elon Musk directed him to fire hundreds of employees as part of the company's decision to cut its workforce in half, the media reported.

According to The New York Times, Musk gathered several human-resource executives in a "war room" in the company's offices and told them to prepare for widespread layoffs.

He said Twitter's workforce needed to be slashed immediately, and those who were cut would not receive bonuses set to be paid on November 1.

When told to lay off hundreds of employees, one engineering manager puked into a trash can. Others slept in the office while working long hours to meet Musk's demands.

Several Twitter employees



and people close to the company have described the fallout as excruciating, as well as internal documents and workplace chat logs. Some top executives were summarily fired by email, according to the report.

Moreover, layoffs were being discussed in an open channel on Slack on November 2, a messaging system used by the human resources and legal teams.

In a message seen by the NYT, one employee said 3,738 workers could be laid off, or about half of the workforce. The message was wide-

ly shared internally, said the report. Recently, a company lawyer has warned that Musk has put Twitter at risk of billions of dollars in fines, as chief privacy officer Damien Kieran, chief information security officer Lea Kissner, and chief compliance officer Marianne Fogarty have all quit in the fresh wave of resignations.

In a note posted to Twitter's Slack, an attorney on the company's privacy team said that Musk has shown that his only priority with Twitter users is how to monetise them.

Investment in sustainable food cold chains to decrease hunger: UN

Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt) | Agencies

As food insecurity and global warming rise, governments, international development partners and industry should invest in sustainable food cold chains to decrease hunger, provide livelihoods to communities, and adapt to climate change, the UN said.

Launched on Saturday at the 27th Climate Change Conference, the Sustainable Food Cold Chains report, from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), finds that food cold chains are critical to meeting the challenge of feeding an additional two billion people by 2050 and harnessing rural communities' resilience, while avoiding increased greenhouse gas emissions.

The report was developed in the framework of the UNEP-led Cool Coalition in partnership with FAO, the Ozone Secretariat, UNEP OzonAction Programme, and the



Climate and Clean Air Coalition. "At a time when the international community must act to address the climate and food crises, sustainable food cold chains can make a massive difference," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.

"They allow us to reduce food loss, improve food security, slow greenhouse gas emissions, create

jobs, reduce poverty and build resilience - all in one fell swoop."

The number of people affected by hunger in the world rose to 828 million in 2021, a year-on-year rise of 46 million.

Almost 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2020, up 112 million from 2019, as the economic impacts of the Covid pandemic drove up inflation. This year,

meanwhile, the conflict in Ukraine has raised the prices of basic grains threatening food security. According to the report, developing countries could save 144 million tonnes of food annually if they reached the same level of food cold chain infrastructure as developed countries. As post-harvest food loss reduces the income of 470 million small-scale farmers by 15 per cent, mainly in developing countries. Investing in sustainable food cold chains would help lift these farm families out of poverty. "Sustainable food cold chains can make an important difference in our collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. All stakeholders can help implement the findings of this report, to transform agrifood systems to be more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable - for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for all, leaving no one behind," said QU Dongyu, Director-General of FAO.

T20 WORLD CUP

Ben Stokes slams unbeaten 52 as England beat Pakistan, become white-ball kings

Melbourne | Agencies

All-rounder Ben Stokes showed calmness and poise in his typical gritty style to slam an unbeaten 52 in guiding England to the Men's T20 World Cup title with a five-wicket win over Pakistan in the final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here on Sunday.

Six years after Stokes was left heartbroken in the 2016 final at Kolkata when Carlos Brathwaite hit him for four consecutive sixes in the final over, Stokes finally found redemption by rising to the occasion in a big match and sealing England's second T20 World Cup trophy.

The win also makes England the first-ever side in men's international cricket to hold two World Cup trophies at the same time, after Stokes played a pivotal role in the 2019 ODI World Cup final win at home, with 'Sweet Caroline' being played at the MCG. Chasing 138, England lost



Alex Hales in the opening over, as Shaheen Shah Afridi got one to shape back in and take out the middle stump. He and Naseem Shah tried to find some swing, but Jos Buttler hit three boundaries off fuller balls to keep the scoreboard ticking for England.

Naseem then beat Buttler five times in the fifth over, though he conceded five wides and was scooped by the right-hander for a six over fine leg. But in the sixth over, Rauf found just a little bit of nip away and found

the outside edge of Buttler caught behind by the keeper. Stokes and Harry Brook did the rebuilding job for England with a 39-run stand for the fourth wicket. The duo relied on strike rotation while hitting boundaries in between -- Brook flicked past mid-on off Rauf while Stokes under-edged a reverse sweep off Shadab and drove Mohammad Wasim Jr. through extra cover. Brief scores: Pakistan 137/8 in 20 overs lost to England 138/5 in 19 overs by five wickets

TEJASVI SURYA BECOMES FIRST MP TO COMPLETE IRONMAN RELAY CHALLENGE



Bengaluru | Agencies

Baratiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Bengaluru South constituency Tejasvi Surya secured his name in the record books by becoming the first parliamentarian to complete an Ironman Relay Challenge, when he rode 90 km at the Ironman 70.3 in Goa on Sunday.

The Ironman 70.3, also known as Half Ironman, is a triathlon of swimming, running and cycling. The challenge was flagged off by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

It was the first time that any MP has taken up and completed an Ironman challenge, which is a pure test of human endurance,

form that tests our endurance and pushes us to maintain good health and fitness consistently. More and more young people are inspired to take up sports and fitness as a career and such events give them a platform to showcase their talent."

The event saw participation of around 1,500 young men and women from over 30 countries.

"Glad to have completed a personal achievement today. It was physically quite challenging as I was coming off recovering from a fever and I was not at my full fitness level. That said, I took it up as a challenge and did my part for Team New India," Surya said.



DELHI L-G AUTHORISES DSSSB TO RECRUIT GROUP B, C NON-JUDICIAL STAFF FOR HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena has authorised Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) to make recruitments and selections of Group 'B' and 'C' non-judicial subordinate staff for the Delhi High Court, an official said on Sunday.

The Chief Justice of Delhi High Court had desired that DSSSB -- being a professional government recruiting body, may organise and conduct open examination on behalf of the court for certain posts, examinations for selection to which are conducted by some outside agencies, according to different modes of recruitment at present.

The move aimed at expeditiously staffing the mostly understaffed judiciary increasingly burdened by rising cases, will help in addressing the problem of pending cases in the court due to procedural and logistical delays, by providing ample support staff, said an official source on Sunday.



The posts include Private Secretary, Court Master, Administrative Officer, Senior Assistant Librarian, Senior Personal Assistant, Senior Judicial Assistant, Senior Judicial Translator, Assistant

Librarian, Personal Assistant, Judicial Translator, Jr. Judicial Assistant, Chauffeur, Dispatch Rider cum Process Server and Court Attendant, etc.

Apart from these, the posts also

include several Technical positions like Director (Technical), Joint Director (Technical), Senior System Analyst, System Analyst, Assistant Programmer and Jr. Judicial Assistant (Technical).

These are the staff that are responsible for processes that include filing of cases, scrutiny, processing, date of hearing of cases, dictation of orders and computerised updation of dates, procedures and orders amongst others. As per the source, the Lt. Governor over-ruled the impediments to the effect that DSSSB was mandated only to recruit for GNCTD, MCD, NDMC and other Delhi government undertakings in light of the need of staffing the court adequately for the purpose of speedy disposal of cases. The DSSSB, hitherto mandated with the task of recruiting personnel for GNCTD, MCD, NDMC and other government undertakings, only in the Group 'B' (non-gazetted) and Group 'C' categories, will now similarly select personnel belonging only to these categories for the Delhi High Court.

MLAs' poaching case: Illegal constructions of accused demolished in Hyd

Hyderabad | Agencies

Municipal authorities in Hyderabad on Sunday demolished unauthorised constructions allegedly belonging to Nanda Kumar, one of the accused in the MLAs' poaching case.

The town planning wing of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) razed the unauthorised constructions in hotel Deccan Kitchen located in Filmnagar in upscale Jubilee Hills.

The hotel is reportedly owned by Nanda Kumar, who is said to be close to Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, G. Kishan Reddy. Cyberabad police had arrested Nanda Kumar alias Nandu along with Ramachandra Bharti and Simhayaji on November 26 when they were trying to lure four MLAs of Telangana's ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) with an offer of Rs 250 crore in cash.

Amid tight security, the officials razed the unauthorised



ised construction at the hotel which Nanda Kumar is running in partnership with another businessman. According to GHMC officials, a couple of structures were constructed in front of the hotel without obtaining valid permission. They said three notices were served in the past. The demolition is likely to continue on Monday.

However, Nanda Kumar's wife Chitralekha alleged that the demolition was illegal. She said that in the past, a notice was served on them and they had submitted a copy of the lease agreement in their response. She said the demolition was carried out of political vendetta. Chitralekha alleged that

they were not even allowed to shift their belongings from the shops. She said even before they took the property on lease, the shops were being run there.

Nanda Kumar and two other accused, all alleged agents of BJP, were arrested from a farmhouse at Moinabad near Hyderabad on the night of October 26 when they were allegedly trying to lure four MLAs of TRS with offers of huge money.

Cyberabad police conducted the raid on a tip-off by Pilot Rohit Reddy, one of the MLAs. He had alleged that the accused offered Rs 100 crore to him and Rs 50 crore each to three others.

Kerala cop absconding after abusing tribal victim of sexual assault

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

An officer with the Kerala Police, A.J. Babu, is absconding after being charged by the SC/ST Commission for abusing a Scheduled Tribe girl who was a victim of sexual assault.

The 17-year-old girl from Wayanad district was lodged at a children's home. During her counselling in July, she had narrated the ordeal she faced at the hands of Babu, who is an additional sub-inspector in Wayanad.

According to the girl, she was taken to Ooty by the police as part of the investigation into her sexual abuse where Babu allegedly physically abused her and also used sexual expletives against

her. The girl also accused Babu of clicking her photographs without her consent. The woman police officer and another cop accompanying them had gone out of the vehicle when Babu made advances toward her.

Social activist P.E. Usha said, "Stringent action should be taken against the accused. However, though the incident occurred in July, the police did not file a case against Babu until the news came out in the media. The police are now saying that the officer is absconding. He will now try to get an anticipatory bail and the police will provide support to him. Women, the downtrodden and the poor are now afraid to go to the

police station, as it is turning into a place where they don't get justice."

She added that Babu would not have dared to make advances towards the girl had her relatives accompanied her.

Usha also said that the girl was already vulnerable and this abuse on the part of a police officer has caused her further mental trauma.

Meanwhile, on Sunday morning, P.R. Sunu, the SHO at the Coastal Police Station in Kozhikode, was arrested on charges of gang-rape.

According to the police, the officer had served a jail term in another similar case of abusing a B.Tech engineering student under the pretext of marrying her.

MAN ALONG WITH HIS 5 DOGS ELECTROCUTED IN TN

Chennai: A 35-year-old hunter and his five dogs were electrocuted on Sunday when they came in contact with a live electric fence erected around a farm near Aranganallur in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu.

The deceased Manickam, 35, along with L. Karuppusamy, 29, and R. Manoj, 27, had gone for hunting hares late Saturday night. Manickam and his five dogs came in contact with the live electric fence and were electrocuted instantly. His friends managed to escape.

Police have taken into custody, Ashok Kumar (43), owner of the agricultural farm where the fencing was erected illegally.

According to sources, Manickam and his friends often hunted hares and he had accidentally come in contact with the illegal electric fence.

REVIEW ALL ARM LICENSES, SAYS PUNJAB CM

Chandigarh | Agencies

In a move aimed at checking gun culture and to maintain law and order in the state, the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday ordered review of all arm licences.

A decision to this effect has been taken after directions by the Chief Minister to discourage the use of arms for maintaining peace, tranquility, law and order situation.

On the directions of Chief Minister, the Principal Secretary, Home has issued a detailed letter to the Director General of Police, the Police Commissioners, the District Magistrates and the Senior Superintendents of Police asking them to



review all the existing arm licenses in the state.

It has also been directed that if any licence had been issued to anti-social element, in the past, then it must be cancelled immediately.

Similarly, it has also been

ordered that no new licence should be issued generally in the coming three months adding the licence should be issued only where it is utmost and genuinely required.

Even in that case also the issuing authority of arm

licence must be satisfied by the applicant. Likewise, it has been ordered to impose a blanket ban on public display of arms and ammunition. This ban will also be applicable on all the social media platforms.

Similarly, it has been directed that a complete ban should be imposed on the songs eulogising gun culture.

Likewise, ban must be imposed on carrying and display of weapons in public gatherings, religious places, weddings, parties and other.

In the same manner the officers have been directed to organise special and surprise checking in the areas under their respective jurisdiction.

Rare eye surgery performed on 4-yr-old in UP hospital

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh) | Agencies

First of its kind paediatric endoscopic DCR surgery was performed in the oculo-plastic camp on a four-year-old patient at an eye hospital in Prayagraj.

The surgery was performed by eye surgeon, cataract and retina specialist Dr Ashish Mitra and Dr Anuradha Iyer, an eye surgeon from Mumbai.

The team of these two surgeons performed the paediatric endoscopic DCR surgery, which was the cause of constant discharge and watering of the eye of the patient for a long time.

"The watering of the eye is a common symptom among newborn babies. Patients with recurrence of the symptoms are advised probing and syringing, but the percentage requiring surgery is very less," said Dr Mitra. This child was advised



for probing and syringing but a false passage was encountered during the procedure, therefore the decision to perform the endoscopic DCR surgery was taken and the tract was successfully created, he added.

Dr Mitra suggested that watering of the eye in newly born babies is common and it can be relieved by sac massage but if the symptoms persist or reoccur, an opinion from the eye specialist should be sought.

SHO ARRESTED IN RAPE CASE IN KERALA

Thiruvananthapuram: A circle inspector with the Coastal Police Station in Kozhikode was arrested by the police on Sunday morning in a rape case.

Sunu, the Coastal Police Station House Officer (SHO), is one of the accused in the case filed by a housewife at Trikkakara police station in Ernakulam district of Kerala.

A senior officer of the Trikkakara police said that Sunu was the third accused in the case lodged by the housewife who stated in her complaint that he was one among a gang of people who had sexually abused her.

Trikkakara police on Sunday morning arrested Sunu at Coastal Police Station, Kozhikode when he reported for duty. The police team had informed the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Farook region before the arrest of Sunu who is the Station House Officer in Kerala Police. The case is related to the sexual assault and rape that took place under Trikkakara police station limits in May 2022. Police said that he will be produced before the magistrate soon.



Children travel in tractor trolley to school in UP

Bareilly (UP) | Agencies

Despite the Yogi Adityanath government firmly stating that tractor trolleys are not to be used for travelling, a viral video shows school children in a tractor trolley.

The tractor trolley was open and returning to the kiln after supplying bricks when a few school children climbed on it for a lift.

The recent incident was reported from a state highway in the Keladevi area of the state.

Transport sub-inspector Anuj Malik said: "We are searching for the tractor trolley seen in the viral video. We have been advising locals to follow traffic rules and requesting parents not to send their children to school in overcrowded vehicles. There are



guidelines to be followed by school transport vehicles and if we see anyone flouting the same, we issue challans or seize the vehicles."

This comes a day after a picture of school children going to a school on a JCB machine went viral in Sambhal. Additional regional transport officer Ambrish Kumar seized the JCB. Later,

they met the children to record their statements. The children told them they had boarded the JCB just for fun and did not intend to travel on it.

The officials later conducted a session with school children advised them that such practices could put their lives in danger.

SCHOOL HEADMASTER ARRESTED FOR SEXUALLY HARASSING CLASS 10 GIRL IN K'TAKA

Hassan (Karnataka): The Karnataka Police has arrested the headmaster of a school on the charges of sexually harassing a girl student in Beluru town of Hassan district, police said on Sunday.

According to police, the accused headmaster of a private school had asked a Class 10 girl to clean his office room repeatedly and sexually harassed her. The girl fearing reprisal kept quiet.

Somehow, her schoolmates came to know about the sexual harassment by the headmaster on the victim and they asked her to share this with her family. The victim then shared about her trauma with mother and cousin brother. The family members and relatives questioned the accused. The accused headmaster had refused to come to the police station with them. The police then took him into custody and later arrested him.

The police stated that the parents of the victim were hesitant to lodge a complaint. They went to the village of the girl to record her statement. The police had the headmaster under the POCSO Act.

The accused headmaster was relieved from duty. Further investigation was on.

CBI arrests two CGST officials in Gujarat for demanding bribe

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested two officials of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) at Ankleshwar in Gujarat's Bharuch district for allegedly demanding a bribe of Rs 75,000, an official said on Sunday.

Gandhinagar | Agencies

Dinesh Kumar served as the CGST Superintendent and Yaswant Kumar Malviya worked as the Assistant Commissioner. Both were posted at Ankleshwar in Bharuch district of South Gujarat.

In a press statement, the CBI stated that a case was registered against a Superintendent, CGST, Ankleshwar on the allegations of demanding a bribe of Rs 75,000 from the complainant for transportation of goods from Modasa to Vapi through his jurisdiction. It was also alleged that the accused demanded a monthly undue advantage of Rs 1.5 lakh for the regular movement of



goods in his jurisdiction.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the Superintendent red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe. During the trap proceedings, the role of Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Ankleshwar was allegedly found in the demand and acceptance of undue advantage. He was also caught.

The searches were conducted at the premises of both the accused. Rs 1.97 lakh (approx) was recovered from the premises of the said superintendent.

Both the arrested accused were produced before the Competent Court and were remanded in police custody till Monday.



AS SHIVRAJ FUMES OVER STATE OF BHOPAL ROADS, HIS MINISTERS SPEAK IN DIFFERENT VOICES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The safety of commuters driving on dilapidated roads and the poor quality of construction of highways and stretches in the urban areas specially in the capital city Bhopal, is leading to questions from all corners, including BJP leaders, amid mounting pressure on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Chouhan himself had two weeks back expressed anger at officials for the decrepit condition of the roads in Bhopal after he saw life threatening potholes on a stretch in the city. Subsequently a high level meeting was called and the responsible authorities were instructed to repair all the damaged roads.

Complying with Chouhan's directions, the PWD and the Bhopal Municipal Corporation swing into action and that particular stretch was repaired within one week. However, several other roads, that got damaged due to excess rainfall this year or others which were not repaired for the last several years were left untouched.

Ironically, the ministers in the Chouhan cabinet would give different statements on different occasions on this issue, promising that the roads would be repaired as soon as possible. Faced with repeated questions from all corners on this issue, PWD minister Gopal Bhargava recently said that lack of funds was delaying the repairs.

"As soon as the budget is allocated, the roads will be repaired. Right now there is no money, but we will get the work done. In 8 months before June, we will make all the roads of Bhopal pothole-free," Bhargava had said on November 9. A few days back, he himself had stated that the roads of MP



will be made pothole-free within the next few days.

Bhupendra Singh, who is state urban development minister and Bhupendra Yadav, who is considered close to Chouhan refuted Bhargava's claim of shortage of funds for road repairs and said the state government has enough funds.

"What I know is that wherever the budget is needed yes, that much is available with the government," Bhupendra Singh, who is also in-charge of the Bhopal district, said on Thursday. When asked why there are differences in statements, Singh had replied mentioning that municipal roads and PWD roads are different.

With differing statements from prominent cabinet ministers and repeated assurances from the government, the citizens of Bhopal and across the

state where the condition of roads is even worse, are left with no choice but to keep waiting for the roads to be repaired. Surprisingly, it is happening despite Chief Minister Chouhan giving clear instructions that all damaged roads should be repaired as soon as possible.

It's not only the roads in Bhopal but some state highways are also in a bad condition. Reports suggested that the poor quality of roads in Madhya Pradesh has taken the life of several people, however, no attention is being paid to this issue.

In a recent incident, 15 people died after a bus overturned at a U-turn at Sohagi pahad in Rewa district on October 21. The highway connects Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh) and Rewa (Madhya Pradesh). An investigation team during a visit to the spot where the bus accident had occurred, had held the poor condition and design of the road responsible for that tragedy. However, later the state government gave a clean chit to the firm that built that road.

Notably, soon after a tragic incident in Uttarakhand where around 30 people died in June this year, Chouhan had visited the spot and then had formed a committee of three cabinet ministers -- Gopal Bhargava (PWD minister), Govind Singh Rajput (transport minister) and Arvind Singh Bhadoria (cooperative and public service minister) to review the steps taken for road safety in Madhya Pradesh and also to assess the causes of road accidents. However, that too remained just on paper. Besides all this, the roads of Madhya Pradesh are also in the headlines these days, specially after Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had to apologize for the poor quality of one road while addressing a large gathering in Mandla district last week

President Murmu will participate in the Tribal Pride Day program

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Tribal Pride Day in Madhya Pradesh will be celebrated with pomp on November 15. Various programs will be held on this occasion. President Draupadi Murmu will participate in the program to be held in Shahdol. Chief Minister

Shivraj Singh Chouhan has given this information. Chief Minister Chouhan has tweeted that, "Today I spoke to President Draupadi Murmu. I invited the President to come to Madhya Pradesh. She will visit Shahdol on November 15 for Tribal Pride Day. Entire Madhya Pradesh will listen to President Draupadi Murmu's

speech." Chouhan has said that the President is welcome on the land of Madhya Pradesh. We are fortunate that the President has accepted the invitation of Madhya Pradesh. President Draupadi Murmu first visit to Madhya Pradesh is a matter of pride for us.

PESA ACT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT: CM CHOUHAN

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that it is a matter of pride for Madhya Pradesh that the state level program of Tribal Pride Day will be organised on November 15 at Shahdol under the chief hospitality of President Draupadi Murmu. On this day PESA Act will also be officially implemented in the interest of tribal community in Madhya Pradesh. CM Chouhan said that the development of the state with social harmony is the priority of the government.



Chief Minister Chouhan was discussing with journalists at Guruwahi in Umaria district after reviewing the preparations for Tribal Pride Day in Lalpur village of Shahdol today. The CM also interacted with the children present here. While the Chief Minister was going from Guruwahi to Bandhavgarh, the students of Kasturba Gandhi Hostel met him and accorded him a warm welcome. The Chief Minister blessed his niece girl students and inquired about their education.

Rape of 9-year-old innocent in Indore, CCTV shows predator taking her away from home

Team Absolute | Indore

A case of rape of a 9-year-old innocent girl has come to light in Rajendra Nagar police station area of the city. The predator took the innocent away from the house and raped her. The police laid siege and nabbed the accused. The accused was released from jail a few days ago after serving his sentence in the rape case.



According to ACP Nihit Upadhyay, the incident is of a multi of Rajendra Nagar police station area. Here the family member of the child is the watchman. Last night at 1 o'clock she was sleeping with her parents, when a poor man came and took the innocent by force and raped her by taking her behind the multi. The CCTV footage of the incident has also surfaced in which the accused is seen forcibly taking away the innocent girl. The name of the accused is Chandan's father Laxman resident Akhirkhedhi. On getting information about the incident, the police team reached the spot and took the girl to the hospital for treatment.

ACP Nihit Upadhyay, who was seen being taken forcibly in the CCTV, said that to find out the incident, the police scanned the CCTV footage in which a person is seen forcibly taking away the innocent. After which the accused was arrested and arrested. The accused was released from jail only 20 days back.

The accused who had committed the crime was earlier imprisoned for raping a 4-year-old innocent and had come out of jail 20 days ago after serving his sentence and then committed the heinous incident.

As Assembly poll buildup picks up in MP, BJP leaders busy grooming their sons

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With Madhya Pradesh set to go to the polls next year, the sons of many senior BJP leaders have found themselves in the fray as probable candidates with their fathers directly or indirectly advocating for their candidature.

The party has been working on an unannounced guideline, which will prevent two members from the same family from contesting elections.

Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar's son Devendra Singh Tomar, former state BJP President Prabhakar Jha's son Tushmul Jha, Public Works Minister Gopal Bhargava's son Abhishek Bhargava, former minister Gaurishankar Bisen's daughter Mausam Bisen, Home Minister Narottam Mishra's son Sukarna



Mishra are some of those who can stake claim in the upcoming elections.

A statement by Satyanarayan Jatiya, member of BJP's Parliamentary Board, on how being a leader's child

is not anyone's fault and all qualified leaders should get tickets to contest elections, has added to the hopes of these ticket hopefuls.

Earlier, Jatiya had made another

statement regarding a 'no age criterion' in the party. He had said the party entrusts responsibility to the right worker at the right time.

After this statement, many discussions gained momentum in the party, including former minister Kusum Mahdele questioning the reasoning behind him and other leaders being denied ticket.

Dynasty politics has been a major election issue for the BJP. Political analysts believe that the party does not intend to give up the issue on which it hounds the Congress.

They feel that the saffron party will not create trouble for itself by being questioned over nepotism.

However, some analysts also believe that BJP leaders will not lag behind in introducing their next generation into electoral politics.

'Rahul Gandhi should apologise': BJP leader's demand as Bharat Jodo Yatra to enter State

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra is set to reach Madhya Pradesh on November 20. But ahead of the yatra's entry into MP, state agriculture minister and BJP leader Kamal Patel demanded that Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the people of Madhya Pradesh.

Kamal Patel claimed that the Congress had failed to deliver promises it had made during the 2018 state Assembly elections and Rahul Gandhi should apologise for it before he brings the Bharat Jodo Yatra to Madhya Pradesh.

BJP leader Kamal Patel said, "Before coming to Madhya Pradesh, Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the farmers and youth of the state as well as the entire public because he had formed the



government of 2018 by lying."

"When Rahul Gandhi came to Madhya Pradesh for the election campaign in 2018, he had prom-

ised the public that if elected the party would waive the loan of up to Rs 2 lakh in 10 days or else he would change the chief minister.

But, he did not do so," Kamal Patel said.

The MP agriculture minister alleged that because the Congress did not fulfill its poll promises, Rahul Gandhi's "credibility is over".

"Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the people of the state that he had lied to win the election. This is the reason why the Congress in Madhya Pradesh is now over forever. Congress-free India means corruption-free India. Rahul Gandhi's credibility is over, so whatever he might do, no one will believe his words," Kamal Nath said.

Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra is set to enter Madhya Pradesh via Burhanpur on November 20 and will be in the state for around 13 days travelling through Khandwa, Indore, Ujjain and Agar-Malwa before entering Rajasthan on December 3.

CM Chouhan congratulated Paralympic swimmer Satyendra Singh Lohia



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has congratulated Madhya Pradesh's Paralympic swimmer Satyendra Singh Lohia

for his excellent performance in the swimming competition. Lohia has won silver medal in 50m backstroke at the three-day 22nd National Para Swimming Championship in Guwahati. Chief Minister Shri

Chouhan has congratulated Shri Satyendra Singh Lohia on this prestigious victory. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that Shri Satyendra is the pride of the state and a role model for young swimmers.

CM Chouhan congratulates para kayaking player Pooja Ojha



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has extended best wishes and congratulated Madhya Pradesh's Para Kayaking player Pooja Ojha for being honored with the national

award by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Chief Minister Chouhan tweeted saying, "This award is indicative of Pooja's vigour and strong will. I wish Puja a bright future. It may be noted that Pooja Ojha has

been selected for the National Award in the Best Disabled Sports category by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Pooja, originally from Bhand, is a silver medalist in the Asian Para Championships.

Uneven rainfall, fewer rainy days matters of concern for Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

By the official end of the monsoon season, June 1 to September 30 this year, Madhya Pradesh had received over 23 per cent excess rainfall. In the previous two years rainfall was below par, whereas in 2019 the state had recorded over 45 per cent excess rain during the same period.

India Meteorological Department's (IMD) data showed that the state has been witnessing uneven rainfall since 1996 and there has been inconsistency in average rainfall in both the western and eastern parts of Madhya Pradesh. For instance, during this year's monsoon season, the eastern part of the state recorded 10 per cent excess rainfall, while the western part received over 35 per cent excess rain during the same period. If the state witnesses excess rainfall for two years, the situation will be quite different for the next two or three years and the average rainfall will be below average, the data showed.



Weather scientists claimed that uneven rainfall and inconsistency have been due to the impact of climate change. Another concern which has been consistently witnessed is that besides uneven distribution of rainfall, the number of rainy days has also decreased. According to weather scientists, out of 120 days, the number of rainy days should be between 60-70, which has reduced despite the excess rain. Excess rainfall within a lesser number of rainy days creates more problems -- for instance floods and damage to crops.

According to the IMD data, the maximum number of rainy days is between 47 to 52 days, while the minimum rainy days are between 32 to 36 days in some parts of the state. Weather experts were of the view that climate change has become a serious issue and it needs to be paid more attention otherwise the situation would worsen for human beings. Research reports of various institutions suggest that more than half of Madhya Pradesh faces the threat of adverse weather conditions on account of global warming and climate change. A survey conducted by the Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation (EPCO) in 2014, warned that districts located in the north and north-eastern regions of the state will be most affected due to climate change in the next one or two decades.

The study predicts there are 34 districts in the state which may face adverse climatic conditions in future, and warned that the policies regarding forests, socio-economic aspects and infrastructure should be upgraded and improved.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Guj polls 2022: Disagreement over candidates rise in BJP, Cong, BTP

All three leading political parties -- BJP, Congress, BTP -- fighting for the Gujarat Assembly elections are facing dissidence, and some of the dissenters have announced to contest as independent candidates, which can damage the party's prospects on a few seats. The BJP has deputed Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghvi to douse the fire and get the dissenters like Madhu Srivastav (Waghodia seat), Satish Patel (Karjan) and Dinesh Patel (Padra), back in fold. All three did not turn up for the meeting called by the BJP. Party sources said Sanghvi has given instructions to the local leaders to teach lessons to rebellions work hard and ensure that the party's official candidates win with a thumping margin. BJP's former MLA from Keshod Arvind Ladani has resigned from the party and has decided to contest elections as an independent candidate. The ruling party has decided to renominate sitting MLA Raman Patel. The decision has been opposed by the party workers and supporters of P.L. Patel and aspiring candidates. They staged a protest at the party state headquarters in Gandhinagar. Party General Secretary Pradipsinh Vaghela told the media persons that their anger "was understandable, their feelings would be conveyed to the party national leadership". In the Congress, the party's decision to field Ramesh Mer has been opposed by aspiring candidate Manhar Patel and his supporters. Patel met Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday morning and requested to reconsider the party decision to nominate Ramesh Mer. After returning to Botad and speaking to the party workers Patel will decide the future course of action. The Congress has deputed Pankaj Patela and Dr. Jitendra Patel to convince Manhar Patel. Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) is likely to split with party founder Chhotu Vasava's decision to contest from Jhagadia seat. In the beginning of this week, his son, Mahesh Vasava declared a candidate list, in which he had his own candidature from the Jhagadia seat. AAP's Sidhpur unit is also unhappy with the party decision to field Mahendra Rajput from the Sidhpur constituency. The party workers are demanding to review the decision.

THE MAN WHO SAW TOMORROW: NEHRU'S STEADFAST OPPOSITION TO PRINCELY INDIA

SANDEEP BAMZAI

"I do not consider myself an outsider in any State. The whole of India is my home and I claim the right to go to any part. I am not sorry for what has happened. If it makes rulers and others think hard of the new condition in India and the temper of her people, so be it."

- Jawaharlal Nehru in Delhi on June 23, 1946, speaking to members of the press after being forced to come back by the Indian National Congress when he was interned at the Uri Dak Bungalow for two days by Maharaja Hari Singh's forces as he tried to enter Kashmir.

When the decoloniser Lord Mountbatten arrived in India in March 22, 1947, to replace Viceroy Lord Wavell, the short order was to execute the transfer of power from the British Crown to India. However, that was the myopic view of looking at the issue.

The complexity was far greater though, for it involved in partitioning India, viz. Punjab on the west and Bengal in the east. It meant that he had to engage with the Congress and the Muslim League and concurrently try to bridge the trust deficit between the two parties. There was also the small matter of bringing the 560-odd egotistical princely states into the new Dominion of India and Pakistan.

As Mountbatten began his confabulations with the Indian leaders led by the key quartet -- Gandhi, Nehru, Patel and Jinnah -- there were many imponderables that needed answers. Nehru for instance was quick to realise that Mountbatten was on a mission. And that mission was to give independence to India. So, Nehru asked a simple question during these discussions: Do you have plenipotentiary powers? When he got an answer in the affirmative, he realised that the countdown to I-Day had begun.

By June 4 that year, in an address,

Mountbatten laid down the tent poles: "Since my arrival in India at the end of March I have spent almost every day in consultation with as many of the leaders and representatives of as many communities and interests as possible. I wish to say how grateful I am for all the information and helpful advice that they have given me. Nothing I have seen or heard in the past few weeks has shaken my firm opinion that with a reasonable measure of goodwill between the communities, a unified India would be far the best solution of the problem."

"For more than a hundred years, 400,000,000 of you have lived together, and this country has been administered as a single entity. This has resulted in unified communications, defence, postal services and currency; an absence of tariffs and customs barriers; and the basis for an integrated political economy. My great hope was that communal differences would not destroy this."

"My first course, in all my discussions, was therefore to urge the political leaders to accept unreservedly the Cabinet mission plan of May 16, 1946. In my opinion that plan provides the best arrangement that can be devised to meet the interests of all the communities of India." "To my great regret it has been impossible to obtain agreement either on the Cabinet Mission plan or on any other plan that would preserve the unity of India. But there can be no question of coercing any large areas in which one community has a majority to live against their will under a government in which another community has a majority -- and the only alternative to coercion is partition."

"But when the Muslim League demanded the partition of India, Congress used the same arguments for demanding in that event the partition of certain provinces. To my mind this argument is unassailable. In fact, neither side proved willing to leave a substantial area in which their community has a majority under the government of the other. I am, of course, just as much

opposed to the partition of provinces as I am to the partition of India herself, and for the same basic reasons. For just as I feel there is an Indian consciousness which should transcend communal differences, so I feel there is a Punjabi and Bengali consciousness, which has evoked a loyalty to their province. And so I felt it was essential that the people of India themselves should decide this question of partition."

Against this backdrop, Nehru was the man who saw tomorrow. In his mind's eye, his idea, ideal and idiom of India had been sharply etched as early as his return from England and moulded during his brutal incarceration in the Princely State of Nabha in 1923.

For Nehru, India always meant a whole, not bits and pieces to be handed over by the British on their departure from India. It included the Provinces under direct British Rule and the vast swathes of 565-odd Princely States controlled indirectly by the Paramount Power, where 100 million Indians lived in appalling conditions. Undivided J&K alone was bigger than France; Hyderabad was larger than many European countries.

Nehru chose not just to take on the Monarchy and their extension counters in India -- the Princes -- but he even repeatedly took on his ideological alter ego, Mahatma Gandhi, in ensuring that the Indian National Congress may be allowed to mobilise political opinion in the Princely States as it strove for full responsible governments which reflected a plurality of viewpoints.

For a long time, Gandhi opposed this move due to his own predilection for the concept of 'trusteeship', where the princes were to function as trustees and oversee the betterment of the populace under them. His own father, Kaba Gandhi, was Dewan to the Rajkot Thakore. But this concept of trusteeship soon became archaic in a rapidly changing environment where nationalism and freedom became the overriding -- and only -- objective. Nehru could not understand how the

Indians living in the Provinces could be jingoistic, while those residing in the Princely States would remain untouched by the freedom movement sweeping the core psyche of India. This was an anachronism for Nehru; he vowed to fight Gandhi's policy, which he found to be without a clear direction.

For Nehru, the map of India as it existed was sacrosanct: One free India, without any compromise.

He constantly talked down to the princes and showed them their place. To the main saboteur, Nawab of Bhopal, Nehru wrote: "The destruction of the Princes was bound to happen whether we wanted it or not. All we could do was to see that the changes that were inevitable took place in as reasonable and amicable way as possible."

Within a short span of 21 months, the princes were stamped by Nehru, Mountbatten, Patel and V.P. Menon using a mixture of threat, coercion, cajoling and grandstanding. "The work so far done has been of a piecemeal nature and there has hardly been any system or plan behind it. But the time has come when the Working Committee should assume this responsibility and discharge it in a comprehensive and systematic way and, if necessary, appoint a special sub-committee for the purpose." For Nehru, this became a defining moment as it enabled him to expand the scope of the freedom struggle to the princely states. His early experience in Nabha was not only mind-numbing, but mind-shaping as well. The rulers of two princely states in Punjab, Nabha and Patiala, were locked in a bitter dispute. This resulted in the deposition of Maharaja Ripudaman Singh of Nabha by the British Government of India and the appointment of a British Administrator to rule the state. The deposition of the Maharaja led to a fresh agitation by many Sikhs. Batches of volunteers (jathas) came to Jaito in Nabha state. These jathas were

brutally assaulted by the police, arrested, and protesters were later abandoned in remote places in the jungle.

Accompanied by two fellow Congressmen, A.T. Gidwani and K. Santhanam, Jawaharlal Nehru left for Nabha on September 19, 1923. They addressed a public meeting at Muktsar on September 20. The next day, while proceeding towards Jaito, they joined the members of a jatha and were soon halted by the police. The Superintendent of Police asked them to immediately leave Nabha.

They refused, and were immediately arrested under Section 188 of the Cr.P.C. All were handcuffed, and Santhanam's left wrist was tied to Jawaharlal's right. A police officer led them through the streets by chain and ordered them to board the evening train from Jaito to the main city, Nabha. The handcuffs were removed only after 20 hours. This spell in jail influenced Nehru to a great extent and he became obsessed with the idea of toppling the princes. It is ironic that the next time Nehru chose to make an example of a Princely State, he again headed for Punjab. This time he raided Faridkot on May 27, 1946. The ruler decided to ban his entry into the state. But Panditji defied the ban and -- tearing to pieces the notices served on him under section 144 Cr.P.C. -- asked the surging, peaceful mass of humanity to march into the city. The ruler gave way and requested for a compromise.

This was followed by Nehru, president-elect of the Congress, trying to force his way into Kashmir to support his friend, Sheikh Abdullah, who had been imprisoned by Maharaja Hari Singh for sedition. He was stopped in Domel on June 21, 1946, and jailed.

Each time, Nehru made it a point to show that his instinctive hatred for the princes was abundantly clear.

international

ASEAN SUMMITS CONCLUDE WITH EMPHASIS ON POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY, ASEAN CENTRALITY

Phnom Penh | Agencies

The 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in Cambodia concluded on Sunday, achieving fruitful results for greater regional cooperation towards post Covid pandemic socio-economic recovery.

"Within these four days, we have had a comprehensive and productive discussion on the way forward to strengthen ASEAN centrality and our value in relation with our external partners, particularly at a time when the world is facing the fast evolving complex regional and international issue," Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said at the closing ceremony of the four-day summit.

A total of 70 outcome documents and declarations covering the three pillars of ASEAN communities were adopted and noted at the summits, with various cooperation frameworks with dialogue partners endorsed, said Hun Sen, Xinhua News Agency reported.

For the ASEAN community building, the summits adopted the ASEAN



Leaders' Statement on the 55th Anniversary of ASEAN, the ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together, and the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Connectivity Post-2025 Agenda, he said. On Friday, the ASEAN leaders agreed in principle to admit Timor-Leste as the 11th ASEAN member, according to an ASEAN leaders' statement.

"I would like to stress that ASEAN centrality is the primarily driving force

for substantive dialogue and collaboration with our external partners through various ASEAN-led mechanisms," Hun Sen said.

At the closing ceremony, Hun Sen handed over the gavel of the ASEAN Chair to Indonesian President Joko Widodo. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

PAKISTAN'S IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE IN LONDON: IMRAN

Lahore: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan said that important decisions about the country were being made in London while he had never created controversy over the appointment of the new army chief, media reports said.

Addressing the participants in the Haqeeqi Azadi March through video link, Imran said the Prime Minister of the country Shehbaz Sharif had been in London for the last five days, The News reported.

"He is deciding who will become the army chief of Pakistan. Consider what is happening to this country. Our new army chief is being decided by a convict and fugitive and his sons and daughter. Sitting next to him are the sons of Ishaq Dar, who have fled the country. Ishaq Dar also did not return to the country until he was assured by his handlers that no one would arrest him," Imran Khan claimed.

Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's sons, he maintained, say they are not citizens of Pakistan because they cannot answer for their corruption.

"Four palaces were revealed in the Panama papers in the name of Maryam Nawaz. Thieves of this country are deciding what will be the future of this country. In any civilised society of the world, it cannot be imagined that important decisions are made outside the country by people who have been stealing the country's money for 30 years," he claimed.

Imran said Shehbaz Sharif accused a newspaper of insulting him but he did not know that British courts dispense justice.

At least 326 people killed in Iran protests which erupted two months ago



Oslo | Agencies

Iranian security forces have killed at least 326 people since nationwide protests erupted two months ago, the Norway-based Iran Human Rights NGO (IHRNGO) group has claimed, media report said.

That figure includes 43 children and 25 women, the group said in an update to its death toll on Saturday -- saying that its published number represented an "absolute minimum", CNN reported.

Death tolls vary by opposition groups, international rights organisations, and journalists tracking the ongoing protests.

Iran is facing one of its biggest and most unprecedented shows of dissent following the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman detained by the morality police allegedly for not wearing her hijab properly.

Public anger over her death has combined with a range of grievances against the Islamic Republic's oppressive regime to fuel the demonstrations, which continue despite law makers urging the country's judiciary to "show no leniency" to protesters,

CNN reported.

Despite the threat of arrests - and harsher punishments for those involved - Iranian celebrities and athletes have stepped forward to support the anti-government protests in recent weeks.

IHRNGO has urged the international community to take "firm and timely action" over the rising death toll and reiterated the need to establish a mechanism to "hold the Islamic Republic authorities accountable for their gross violation of human rights". "Establishing an international investigation and accountability mechanism by the UN will both facilitate the process of holding the perpetrators accountable in the future and increase the cost of the continuous repression by the Islamic Republic," IHRNGO director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam said, CNN reported.

Since the start of the protests, deaths have been recorded across 22 provinces, according to the IHRNGO. Most were reported in Sistan and Baluchistan, Tehran, Mazandaran, Kurdistan, and Gilan provinces.

Kenyan army deployed to Congo to stem rebel fighting

Goma (Congo): A contingent of the Kenyan Army arrived in Goma, the capital of the North Kivu province, located in the northeastern Congo, as part of the military intervention by the East African Community (EAC) to stem the armed violence in this part of the country. Received by officers of the Armed Forces of Congo (FARDC) at the airport, the Kenyan contingent on Saturday will be deployed in the Rutshuru territory where the FARDC have been fighting for several months the rebels of the March 23 movement (M23), Xinhua news agency reported. General Chiko Chitambwe, FARDC Deputy Chief of Staff, who welcomed the troops at the Goma airport, thanked the Kenyan elements for coming to the aid of the Congolese people during this difficult time.



"Good friends are those who help you during difficult times. This is why on behalf of the President of the Republic, I would like to pay tribute to you for your presence in our country," said Chitambwe during the ceremony on the tarmac of the airport.

Leaders of the seven-nation EAC bloc, in which Kenya is the regional heavyweight, had agreed in April to establish a joint force in order to help restore security in Congo.

Thousands of Iranians died of Covid-19 due to US sanctions: Official

Tehran | Agencies

A top Iranian human rights official on Sunday blamed US sanctions that deny Iranians access to essential medicines for thousands of deaths in the country during the first two years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Secretary of the Iranian High Council for Human Rights and Deputy Chief of the Iranian Judiciary for International Affairs, made the remarks while speaking to Iranian media in New York, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported.

During the visit, he will attend the UN General Assembly Third Committee meetings, according to IRNA. Gharibabadi noted that the sanctions, prevent-



ing Iran from transferring money through financial channels, made it difficult for the country to import Covid-19 vaccines and the necessary medicine during that period, Xinhua news agency reported.

The US and some European countries claimed to support Iranians' human rights, particularly during the recent "riots" in Iran, while the lives of millions of Iranians have been affected

human rights," he noted. Iran has, over the past four decades, been constantly under US sanctions, with the embargoes having intensified since 2018 when Washington pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

According to the Iranian Health Ministry, nearly 7,560,000 people have so far been infected with the coronavirus in the country, of which 144,609 have died of the disease.

Due to the US sanctions, which have indirectly impacted Iran's imports of medicine and other humanitarian items, the country initially could not purchase Covid-19 vaccines and necessary medicine, witnessing on some days, death toll of around 700 per day in 2021, according to the Ministry.

"We see that those countries that consider themselves human rights advocates, particularly the US and some other Western states, are extensively violating such rights in their own territories or in other countries. We maintain that these states are in no way eligible for being the flagbearers of

human rights," he noted. Iran has, over the past four decades, been constantly under US sanctions, with the embargoes having intensified since 2018 when Washington pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

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SEVEN HELD WITH 61 KG GOLD WORTH RS 32 CR AT MUMBAI AIRPORT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Seven persons, including two females, were arrested at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai by the Customs officials after 61 kg gold worth around over Rs 32 crore was recovered from them.

A senior customs official said that the passengers were held on Friday in two different cases.

The official said that this was the highest seizure in a single day in the reported history of Mumbai Airport Customs.

In the first case, four passengers of Indian nationality, who landed from Tanzania, were found in the possession of smuggled gold in the form of 1 kg bars ingeniously concealed in specially designed waist belts with multiple pockets. "Total 53 kg (12, 13, 14 & 14) gold valued at Rs 28.17 crore was recovered from the four passengers. The specially designed belts with UAE made gold bars concealed inside were handed over to the passengers by a person of Sudanese nationality at Doha airport during the transit time," said the Customs official.



At Mumbai Airport, based on the continuous monitoring of suspicious flights and building on the data-based analysis from the earlier high-quantum gold and foreign currency seizures, a systematic profiling of suspect passengers was undertaken on sensitive flights from certain places in Africa and the Middle East.

"In the recent case of Foreign Currency seizure of 4.08 crore, the

pattern and mode of operation noticed along with profiling of foreign national passengers and extrapolating the patterns led to success in this case," the official claimed.

The Customs department said that during the operation, four Indian passengers arriving from Doha in Qatar Airways Flight were intercepted. On inquiry, they were found to be coming from Tanzania. During a per-

sonal search of the said passengers, 53 kg gold (12, 13, 14 and 14) was recovered in total. The gold bars were concealed on their body in a specially designed belt, having multiple pockets, wrapped around their torso.

"During the interrogation, all four passengers confessed that they were handed over the gold in transit at the Doha airport by an unknown Sudanese national who had not travelled with them on the flight. All the four passengers have been arrested and remanded to 14 days judicial custody by the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate," the official said. Meanwhile in another case, based on intelligence, the officials of Mumbai airport seized 8 kg gold worth Rs 3.88 crore from three passengers. They arrived from Dubai via Vistara Flight. "Gold dust in wax form was found ingeniously concealed in the waistline of the jeans pants worn by the passengers. Of the three passengers, one woman passenger in her late sixties was in a wheelchair. All three passengers have been arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Further investigation in the matter is going on," the official said.

Political atmosphere in state has become polluted: Sanjay Raut

Team Absolute | Maharashtra

Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction MP Sanjay Raut claimed that Maharashtra's political atmosphere has become polluted where many people are out to "destroy" each other, reports.

Raut on Sunday said that he realised this after coming out of jail on November 9. Raut was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case on August 1 this year and granted bail by a court in Mumbai on November 9.

On Sunday, he resumed his weekly column Rokhthok in 'Saamana', the Thackeray-led Sena camp's mouthpiece of which he is the executive editor. "There is a feeling of hatred and politicians have now reached a stage where they don't want their opponents even to be alive. Maharashtra's political atmosphere has become polluted where people are out to destroy to each other," Raut



claimed. "When I was asked about (Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader) Devendra Fadnis's comment that bitterness in politics has to end, I replied that he is speaking the truth and media started saying I have toned down," the Sena leader said. "Democracy and freedom do not exist now, these are merely names now. Politics has become poison-

ous. It was not so during the British rule," Raut claimed. "Today's rulers in Delhi want to hear what they wish. Those who don't do that are considered enemies, he further claimed. "China, Pakistan are not Delhi's enemies, but those who speak the truth and are straight are treated as enemies and such political leaders lower the country's stature," he added.

Marathi TV Actor Killed After Tractor Hits Her Bike: Cops

Kolhapur | Agencies

A 32-year-old Marathi television actor died after her motorcycle was hit by a concrete mixer tractor in Kolhapur district, a police official said on Sunday.

Kalyani Kurale-Jadhav, who appears in the TV serial 'Tujyhat Jeev Rangala', was on her way home late Saturday evening when the accident took place near Halondi intersection on Sangli-Kolhapur highway, the official said.

"She was declared dead on arrival at a nearby hospital. A



case has been filed against the tractor driver under Indian Penal Code and

Motor Vehicles Act provisions," the Kolhapur police official said

Distortion of history will give wrong message to future generation: NCP leader Jitendra Awhad

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Maharashtra minister Jitendra Awhad, who was arrested two days back in a case of disrupting a show of Marathi film "Har Har Mahadev" at a theatre, has said distorting history will give a wrong message to the future generation.

Talking to reporters in Maharashtra's Thane city after being granted bail by a court on Saturday, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader maintained that the movie distorted the history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

This has not only defamed the Maratha king but also the tarnished the state's image and it will not be tolerated, he said.

On November 7, Awhad and his supporters forcibly stopped a show of "Har Har Mahadev" at a multiplex inside a mall in Thane city, alleging the film distorted the history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Some moviegoers were also beaten up when they protested against the disruption, videos



of the incident showed. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered over the incident at Vartak Nagar police station under Indian Penal Code sections 323 (assault) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace).

Awhad claimed he was asked to be present at the Vartak Nagar police station for an enquiry at 5 pm on Friday, but was placed under arrest at 2.30 pm without proper legal formalities.

The police were helpless and the orders had come from "higher authorities", he further claimed, adding that he had saved the man who was allegedly manhandled at the multiplex on November 7.

Awhad said he was ready to face the consequences for fighting against the distortion of historical facts. "Presenting history in a distorted manner will give a wrong message to the future generation and this should be stopped," the NCP leader said.

He said the censor board, while certifying a movie, should also verify the historical facts presented in it.

By dubbing the movie in different languages, there was a conspiracy to defame the Maratha warrior king, Awhad claimed.

On Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray giving a voice-over for the movie, Awhad appealed to the political leader to desist from giving the voice-over for films which distort history.

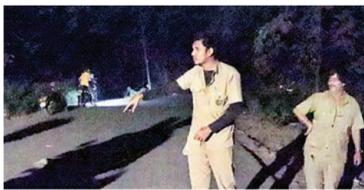
BEST driver rescues woman attacked on road by leopard

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Timely intervention by a BEST driver on Friday night helped save the life of a woman injured in a human-leopard conflict incident at Aarey Milk Colony. The incident took place at around 7 pm, when Sarita Gurav, 38, was walking on the road, near a forest patch.

A BEST bus driver, Dipesh Sunil Awade, was ferrying passengers along the same stretch, at around that time, when he spotted the leopard attacking the woman. Speaking with a reporter, Awade said, "While I was driving towards Adarsh Nagar, I reached a sharp turn and was shocked to see a leopard attacking a woman. She was lying a few metres away from my bus and the leopard was right next to her. I started honking and everyone in the bus also began screaming. The leopard immediately fled into the bushes."

Awade was about to get down from the bus to rescue the injured woman, when he noticed her approach his vehicle. As the location where the incident took place did not have street lights, the driver



turned on the headlights. "I opened the door on my side and helped her board the bus. The lady was in a state of shock, and had injuries to her back," said Awade, who then rushed her to her locality.

As news trickled in, around 300 people gathered near a local clinic, where Gurav was given first-aid. She was then taken to the BMC-run Balasahab Thackeray Trauma Centre in the Forest Department vehicle. Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) Girija Desai, Range Forest Officer (RFO) Rakesh Bhoir, along with the Mumbai Range staff and SGNP staff arrived at the hospital, and later visited the site where the conflict happened. Volunteers from the Aarey Camera Trapping team, including Kunal

Chaudhari, Imran Udat, Satish Lot, Wasim Athaniya, Hitendra Pachakale, Pushpak Tanavde, Shahid Khan, along with Rohit Mohite from NGO WWA and volunteers Raj Jadhav, Prasad Khandagale, Aditya Shinde, and Sai Awade were present on the ground to assist the forest department in setting up more camera traps and the trap cage. When contacted, Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF) Santosh Saste said, "The incident is unfortunate. The process of giving her compensation has already begun. More than 30 camera traps are already active in the area and four trap cages have been installed to trap the suspected leopard behind the attack. Our teams are also doing night patrolling and conducting awareness sessions at Aarey Milk Colony."

Attacks continue
October 4, 2022: Himanshu Avdesh Yadav, a resident of Adarsh Nagar, was attacked when he stepped out with his father

October 24, 2022: Sixteen-month-old Etika Akhilesh Lot was killed in a leopard at Unit 15 November 6, 2022: Ram Yadav, 61, suffered minor injuries, when he was attacked near Unit 15.

Seatbelt action to be paused till November 15

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After facing criticism for enforcing penalties on motorists without conducting awareness drives, the Mumbai Traffic Police has temporarily paused the "seatbelt" action. On October 14, the department had announced that they would start penalising motorists as well as co-passengers for not wearing seatbelts while travelling in city limits.

The order was to be implemented from November 1 onwards, but sources said that the joint commissioner of the Traffic Police, has told the staff to go easy on motorists and fine only those who aren't wearing seatbelt despite having it in their cars. Cab drivers were also given time till end of November to



install seat belts. However, the taxi union has requested three months to comply with the orders.

On Saturday, Joint Commissioner Rajvardhan issued orders to discontinue the action till next week. "During the first 10 days, we have made citizens aware about the seat belts. Now, the action on passengers not

wearing it will start from Tuesday, November 15," said a senior traffic official.

When contacted, Joint CP (Traffic) Raj Vardhan said, "We had given motorists 10 days to make changes and add seatbelts to their rear seats. In fact, on November 15, it will be a month since the intimidation. Action will start from Tuesday."

TWO-YEAR-OLD CRUSHED TO DEATH BY TEMPO IN TROMBAY; DRIVER HELD

Mumbai: A two-year-old child was crushed to death by a tempo while she was playing on a road in a Trombay locality, police said on Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday afternoon in Cheeta Camp area. The incident was recorded in a CCTV installed near the spot which showed the tempo driver did not notice the girl and the vehicle crushed her.

The driver did not allegedly stop the vehicle after it hit the girl and fled away from the spot, as per the reports.

The girl was sitting on a road in the locality along with her two brothers when the incident took place, an official from Trombay police station said. After the incident, the girl's brothers raised an alarm and alerted their parents, who took the child to a nearby hospital where she was declared dead before admission, the official said. Following a complaint by the girl's mother, the tempo driver was arrested and booked under relevant Indian Penal Code Sections including 304-A (causing death by negligence) and provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, the police said, adding that an investigation was on into the incident.

10-year-old Aadya to swim 12-km stretch from Elephanta Caves to Gateway of India

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aadya Agarwal, a young athlete from Thane, was always an enthusiast about sports and fitness since childhood. She started swimming as a hobby at the age of 4. Initially, she didn't think about making swimming her elementary sport. But as the days went on practicing, Aadya adapted the increased fundamentals on swimming as her primary sport.

She got her first opportunity at the age of 6.5 years to participate in an open water sea swimming event from Elephanta Caves Island to Gateway of India, Mumbai, covering a span of 12 kilometers swimming. The second event was conducted on March 15, 2020, from



Elephanta caves to Karanja jetty in Uran, covering a span of 21 km.

Unfortunately, the pandemic delayed future plans. And Aadya stopped swimming for two years, but she didn't give up and kept practicing with her coach, Deepika Patil. Family support made her different from other kids of her age. Father and mother take her for daily two hours of practice, take her for open water practice, take care of her diet and so on.

Looking at Aadya's interest, energy and focus a special event was organised in association with MSAAA. The open water swimming Individual event from Elephanta caves to Gateway of India, covering a span of 12 km on her 10th birthday on November 13, 2022.

Two held for taking away goods worth Rs 77 lakh from business partner's clothes outlet

Team Absolute | Thane

Police have arrested two persons for allegedly taking away goods worth Rs 77 lakh from a saree shop which they ran in partnership with a businessman in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Sunday. The incident took place on the

night of September 18 at the outlet located in Bhiwandi town, senior police inspector Chetan Kakade said.

Based on a complaint by the businessman, a case was registered against the two accused under Indian Penal Code Section 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 34 (common intention), he said. The police worked on various

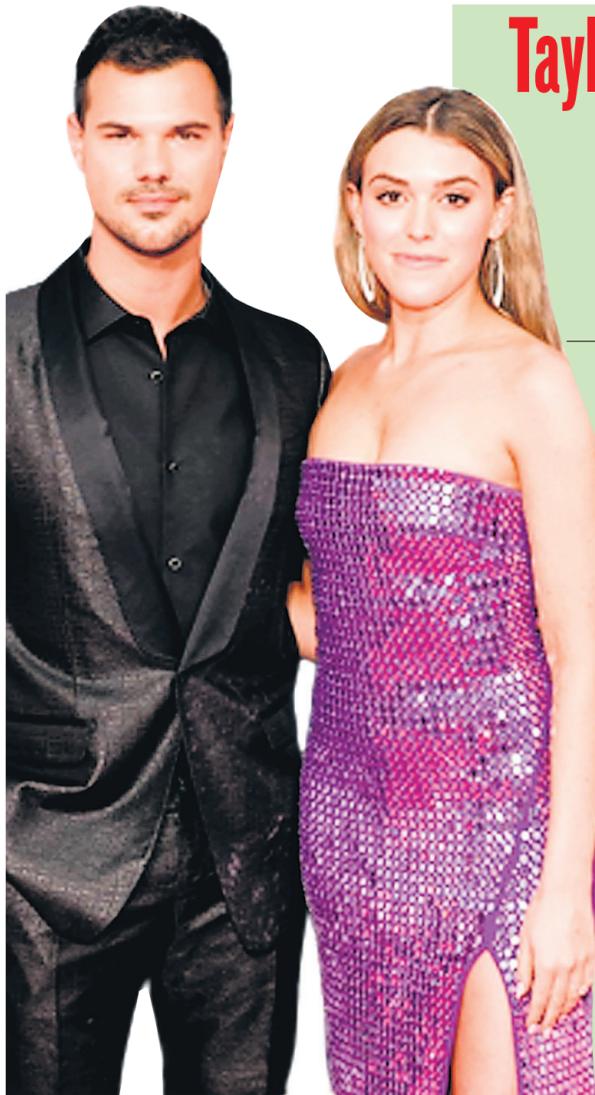
leads including the CCTV footage and intelligence inputs, and arrested the two accused from Maharashtra's Parbhani district on November 10, the official said. The police recovered sarees, a computer, printer and some other items valued at Rs 73.80 lakh from the accused, he said, adding that further probe was on into the case.

NAVY SAILOR DIES BY SUICIDE ON SHIP; PROBE ORDERED

Mumbai: A 25-year-old Indian Navy sailor allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle on a ship in the Mumbai harbour, an official said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday afternoon on the naval warship and the Navy has ordered an inquiry into the incident, he said. The sailor went to an isolated compartment on the ship and allegedly shot himself. He died on the spot, the official said.

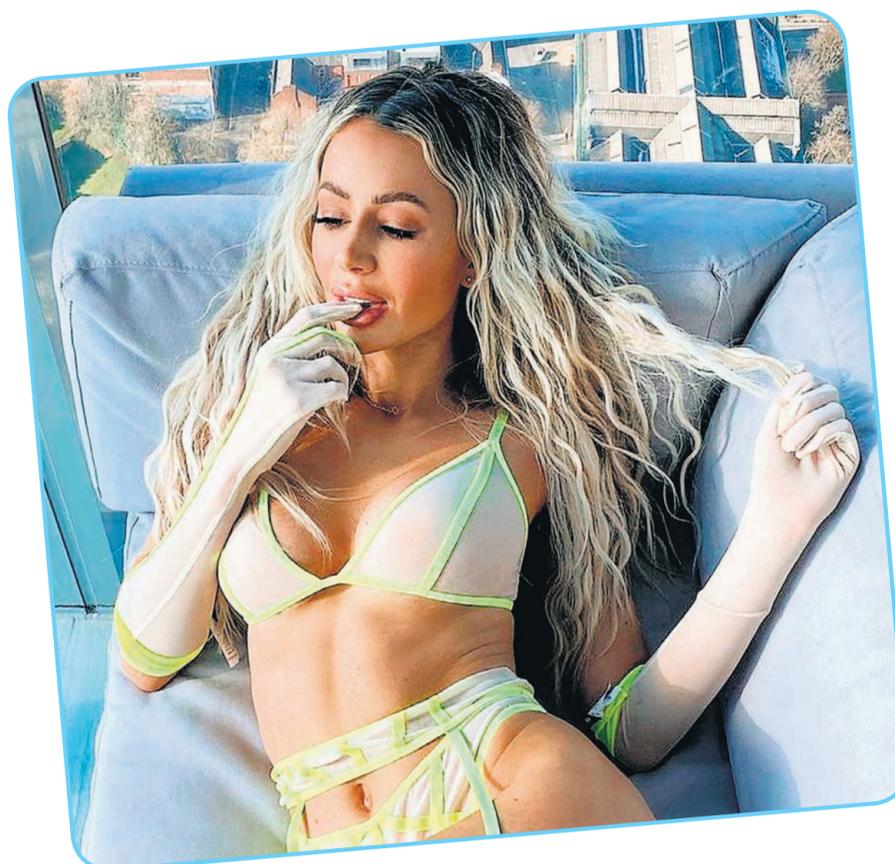
The exact reason behind the suicide was not yet unknown, but police suspect the sailor might have taken the extreme step due to some domestic issues, the official said. A case of accidental death has been registered, he said. When contacted, a Navy spokesperson said an inquiry has been ordered into the incident.



Taylor Lautner has tied the knot with Tay Dome

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Taylor Lautner, who is best known for playing the shapeshifter Jacob Black in 'The Twilight Saga' film series, has tied the knot with his girlfriend Tay Dome. The two had been dating for close to four years, says reports. The pair married one year after getting engaged, according to photos obtained by the sources. They said "I do" in front of about 100 guests at Epoch Estate Wines in California. The 'Twilight' star proposed to Dome in November 2021 after three years of dating. Lautner shared that his now-wife wanted a simple proposal and told him to "do it in the kitchen." The Michigan native listened to her request, "but did it big in the kitchen," he told in January. According to the reports, the room was surrounded with candles and roses, with a neon sign that spelled out "Lautner" in the background? Creating the perfect moment for the longtime couple. "When she came home at the end of the day, after a long day of work, she walked into that," Lautner continued at the time. "It was a lovely surprise." The duo often shares their relationship and affection for one another on social media.



Julia Roberts Once Called Nick Nolte 'Completely Disgusting'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Nick Nolte and Julia Roberts notoriously did not get along during the making of "I Love Trouble," director Charles Shyer's 1994 romantic comedy about two rival newspaper reporters forced to come together to investigate a train derailment. Roberts was midway through filming the movie when she told The New York Times in December 1993 while promoting "The Pelican Brief" that Nolte was "completely disgusting" on set. "From the moment I met him we sort of gave each other a hard time, and naturally we get on each other's nerves," Roberts said when asked about Nolte's reputation of behaving crudely on set. "[While he can be] completely charming and very nice, he's also completely disgusting. He's going to hate me for saying this, but he seems go out of his way to repel people. He's a kick."

Nolte gave a new interview to Insider to promote his role as a homeless Vietnam War veteran in the film "Rittenhouse Square" and was asked to reflect on the "behind-the-scenes drama" that took place with Roberts. The actor said he's never reached out to Roberts since production wrapped but maintained no feud still exists between the actors. "No, I haven't. Though it's buried," Nolte said when asked if the two have "buried the hatchet." "I mean, it was absurd what we went through. It was partly my fault and a little bit of hers. Julia got married at the beginning of that film and it was one of those things where I just approached it all wrong." "I Love Trouble" was widely dismissed by critics at the time of its release, with Variety writing in its review that "the goings-on seem lacking in wit and inspiration" and the film is "tolerably entertaining but far from effervescent."

Olivia Attwood reveals her terror at being rushed to A&E

Los Angeles | Agencies

Olivia reveals the real reason she had to leave after Monday's broadcast - and it's nothing as dramatic as the conspiracy theorists have cooked up, although heartbreaking nonetheless. She says a routine blood test, which all the jungle campmates undergo randomly throughout the show, suddenly and inexplicably disclosed she was dangerously anaemic. It also flagged up worryingly low sodium and potassium levels, which prompted ITV staff to immediately take her to A&E. All of which came as a complete shock to Olivia, who was, she stresses, feeling 'absolutely fine'. "I was so scared, I was like 'what the hell is wrong with me?'," she says in her first interview since her exit. "They couldn't give me an answer; they just told me that they had to get me to the hospital immediately. The results were really, really low when they put them into their reader and they consulted with another doctor off site. I had those bloods done in England before I left, and they were fine. I was confused and of course very, very worried." ITV staff then took Olivia, a model who first found fame on ITV2's Love Island, to the hospital,

40 minutes from the camp on what was last Tuesday evening in Australia. "It felt like the longest journey ever," she said. "I didn't know what to think. I was wondering if I had picked up a virus, was I pregnant, all of these things were going through my head. It was absolutely frightening." Then, the tests were repeated in the hospital - and came back normal. Naturally, she assumed the first tests had been faulty and that she'd simply be allowed to return to the jungle and the campmates she was keen to get to know better. "But instead I was taken to a hotel to get some sleep while ITV decided what they would do with me," she says. She had a restless night with her fate in ITV's hands, with bosses locked in meetings as to whether they would let her back in or not. "I tried to keep a hold of my emotions but it started to feel like I wasn't going back, you know when you just get a feeling? It started to dawn on me that I was out for good," she admits. "But then I was trying to rationalize it, there was nothing wrong with me so why wouldn't I be able to? I also knew how much the production team wanted me on the show. None of it was making sense. I was waiting for someone to tell me."

'WAKANDA FOREVER' EARNED \$84 MN ON OPENING DAY IN N. AMERICA



est preview gross in history and bested the first 'Black Panther' movie's figure by \$3 million. It is also the second biggest opening day of the year, behind the \$90.4 million earned by fellow Marvel Cinematic Universe entry 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness'. According to the reports, estimates heading into the weekend suggested 'Wakanda Forever' could net a gross between \$185 million and \$200 million in its opening, though some competitors are now projecting that the film will fall shy of that range. Source further states that the arrival of the 'Black Panther' sequel represents a box office surge for a theatrical landscape that has been largely bereft of high-profile releases since the summer. To put things in perspective, 'Wakanda Forever' will be the first movie since July's 'Thor: Love and Thunder' to open above \$100 million.

Los Angeles | Agencies

In a post-pandemic world, superhero movies seem to be the sole cinematic pieces that can pull the audience to theatres. Marvel's 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' pretty much reaffirms this as it's reigning over the North American box office. The superhero sequel earned \$84 million from 4,396 locations on its opening day, as per reports. Those figures includes \$28 million in Thursday previews, which marked the 15th-high-

DAVE CHAPPELLE DELIVERED A 15-MINUTE MONOLOGUE AS HOST

Los Angeles | Agencies

Comedian Dave Chappelle delivered a 15-minute monologue as host of the recent episode of 'Saturday Night Live'. He used his set to speak on current events, but declined to discuss anything related to anti-trans jokes he told which triggered controversy, reports. According to the source, this included a staged walkout from transgender Netflix employees and allies after the streamer's chief content officer Ted Sarandos defended Chappelle's harmful jokes as artistic expression, supporting his "creative freedom." Chappelle spent the first stretch of his monologue commenting on Kanye West's recent anti-Semitic remarks, opening by saying: "Before I start tonight, I wanted to read a brief statement that I prepared: 'I renounce anti-Semitism in all its forms, and stand with my friends in the Jewish community.' And that, Kanye, is how you buy yourself some time." He then proceeded to tell jokes about Kanye's anti-semitism scandal, as well as Kyrie Irving's recent anti-semitic tweet and apology. Reports further states that Chappelle also told a few jokes that made the audience gasp, including: "I've been to Hollywood and this is just what I saw: It's a lot of Jews, like a lot. But that doesn't mean anything. There are a lot of Black people in Ferguson, Missouri, but that doesn't mean we run the place." He then ended his set by saying: "I thank you for your support and I hope they don't take anything away from me - whoever they are."



Margot Robbie



T20 WORLD CUP

BEN IS JUST SUCH A SPECIAL PLAYER: EOIN MORGAN



Melbourne | Agencies

Former England captain Eoin Morgan was hugely impressed by the performance of Ben Stokes in guiding the side to their second Men's T20 World Cup trophy with an unbeaten 52, saying that the all-rounder continues to stand up for the side in big games.

"Ben is just such a special player. In big games, he continues to stand up for his country when his country needs him. That is such an incredible skill to have."

"When something has the potential to go awry, Ben is the guy that thinks coolly and calmly

under pressure and makes brilliant decisions. He's done it so many times now," said Morgan after the match ended.

"Jos Buttler said, 'We don't want to be known as a team just for our style of play'. We were known like that in 50 overs then won the 50-over World Cup in 2019. In T20 they've now won something tangible to be regarded as one of the great sides. They were excellent," he concluded. Asked after the end of the match whether he doubted England would get over the line, Stokes said he had no doubts as such in his mind. "I didn't feel like it was out of our hands at all. I tried to make sure I stayed there as

long as I possibly could at the end."

"It's easier when you have a batter in at the end of the innings and it's never really panic stations when it's under eight runs an over and Mo (Moeen Ali) got us really going. "Stokes, the Test skipper, revealed that England started to play their best version in the T20 World Cup after a shock five-run loss to Ireland in a rain-hit Super 12 match at the MCG. "In finals, especially chasing, you forget all the hard work that came first. To restrict them to 130, the bowlers have to take a lot of credit. Adil Rashid and Sam Curran won us the game."

BEN STOKES SHOULD BE GETTING PLAYER OF THE MATCH AWARD: SAM CURRAN

Melbourne | Though Sam Curran was given the Player of the match award in England's five-wicket victory over Pakistan in the final of Men's T20 World Cup for his sensational spell of 3/12 in four overs, the left-arm pacer believes all-rounder Ben Stokes should have received the accolade for his unbeaten 52 taking the side over the line in a chase of 138.

"I don't think I should be getting this, the way Stokes played there, to get a 50 in the final, he should get this. He has done it so many times for us! We're going to enjoy this occasion, very special." (Ben Stokes is) incredibly special. He is someone I look up to and always turns up when the team needs him. People question him (Stokes), but there's no questioning him... he's the man!" said Curran in the post-match presentation ceremony.

Curran was also named the Player of the Tournament for picking 13 wickets in six matches at an economy rate of 6.5, including 5/10 in England's Super 12 opener against Afghanistan at Perth.

He had missed last year's T20 World Cup in the UAE due to a lower-back stress fracture and was roped in by Sky Sports as a pundit, standing at the pitch side when Australia won the trophy in Dubai. A year later, he got his way back into the England T20I side and produced simply sensational performances to be the clutch player for Jos Buttler & Co. in winning the T20 World Cup for the second time.

"To be honest, I am little bit lost for words, it has been a great tournament. First time for me in a World Cup and we have won it. Amazing crowd. I wanted to be adaptable coming into the tournament. "I haven't bowled much at the death before and that is one area I want to keep improving. I want to improve my batting though it is tough to get to bat in this line-up. How good is it to be a World Champ," concluded Curran.



Asian Airgun Championship Indian shooters win the men's air rifle team gold medal



Daegu (South Korea) | Agencies

Indian shooters Arjun Babuta, Kiran Ankush Jadhav and Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil combined to win the men's air rifle team gold medal at the Asian Airgun Championship 2022 while the trio of Mehuli Ghosh, Elavenil Valarivan and Meghana Sajjanar also emerged victorious in the women's event.

Apart from men's and women's teams, India also took the top podium in two junior events on the day.

Tokyo Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar, Sri Karthik Sabari Raj Ravishankar and Vidit Jain won the junior men's air rifle team gold medal while Tilottama Sen, Ramita and Nancy teamed up to lay claim to the junior women's air rifle team crown. Arjun Babuta, Kiran Ankush Jadhav and

Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil beat the Kazakhstan team comprising Ilya Fedin, Konstantin Malinovsky and Islam Usseinov 17-11 in the final to claim their gold.

On the other hand, Mehuli Ghosh, Elavenil Valarivan and Meghana Sajjanar got the better of South Korea's Jiyeon Keum, Eunyoung Cho and Eunseo Lee 16-10 to claim top podium.

Tilottama Sen, Ramita and Nancy hammered the junior Korean side, featuring Jeongin Jang, Eunseo Jo, Eunji Kwon by a commanding 16-2 margin in the junior women's team final.

The Korean men's team of Seojoon Bae, Daehan Choe and Seungho Bang put up a slightly tougher fight but eventually went down 10-16 to Divyansh Singh Panwar, Sri Karthik Sabari Raj Ravishankar and Vidit Jain.

INDIA'S MEHULI GHOSH WINS 10M AIR RIFLE GOLD MEDAL

Daegu (South Korea) | India's

Mehuli Ghosh beat South Korean shooter Eunyoung Cho to clinch the Women's 10m Air Rifle gold medal at the Asian Airgun Championship 2022, here on Saturday. Mehuli, a 2018 Youth Olympics silver medal winner, finished behind Cho in the ranking round with a score of 261.1 as the South Korean topped the table with 262.5. However, in the gold medal match, the Indian shooter came out on top by a 16-12 scoreline. Meanwhile, former world No.1 and Tokyo Olympian Elavenil Valarivan had a disappointing outing and finished sixth in the ranking round. In the Junior Women's 10m Air Rifle event, Tilottama Sen and Nancy handed India a 1-2 finish. Nancy (261.4) topped the ranking round with Tilottama (260.4) coming in second to set up an all-Indian gold medal clash. In the gold medal match, Tilottama beat Nancy 17-11 to claim the gold. Nancy had to settle for the silver medal.



WE CAN ACHIEVE IF WE REACH OUR OBJECTIVE: MESSI

Buenos Aires | Agencies

I feel a lot of similarities between this group and the one at the 2014 World Cup," Messi told Argentine newspaper Ole. "It is a group that always, whatever the match, plays with the same intensity and concentration and I think that is very important. And we know that we are going to fight for [the title] but we are not thinking that we are going to be champions from the outset as

Argentines think."

"Beyond the fact that it is a nice statistic and a record that we can achieve if we reach our objective, it's not something that we are thinking about," Messi said. "I'm sure the bad [games] are going to come at some point, and we are going to get through them. This group is prepared for that. Hopefully (the difficult games) won't be so bad and we'll advance."

Messi, who will be playing in his

fifth and likely last World Cup, added that he and his teammates would try to avoid the hype surrounding the team as the tournament approaches.

"In terms of pressure, I think we have to isolate ourselves from everything that people are experiencing," the Paris Saint-Germain player said. "Although we have great hope, we are also realistic... We have to know that it is a World Cup, that it is very difficult and every single detail is important."



Brentford surprise 2-1 wins away to Manchester City

London | Agencies

Brentford striker Ivan Toney made his point after he scored both goals in his side's surprise 2-1 win away to Manchester City.

Toney was on hand to finish off the winner by the visitors in the 98th minute of the game, with an easy finish on the six-yard line.

He had put Brentford ahead in the 19th minute with a trademark powerful header, although Phil Foden's left-foot shot on the stroke of halftime levelled the score, reports Xinhua.

Brentford then resisted possession football, with the home side having 74 per



cent of the ball, but despite plenty of shots, City was unable to get the ball past David Raya, who will travel to the World Cup with Spain after a very solid display.

Manchester City's defeat allowed Arsenal to open up a five-point lead at the top of the league thanks to a 2-0 win away to Wolverhampton. New Wolves coach Julen Lopetegui was in the stands to watch as two goals from

Martin Odegaard in the 55th and 75th minute of the game gave Arsenal a win their 65 per cent possession deserved.

One worry for Arsenal and the Swiss national team was the sight of Granit Xhaka leaving the pitch after 16 minutes, although it seemed to be more for illness than any muscle problem.

Newcastle United strengthened their place in third with a 1-0 win at home to Chelsea, thanks to Joe Willock's second half goal after good work from Miguel Almiron.

Tottenham came back from 2-1 and 3-2 down at home to Leeds United to claim a thrilling 4-3 win.

IPL 2023 LOCKIE FERGUSON, RAHMANULLAH GURBAZ TRADED FROM GT TO KKR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

New Zealand's right-arm fast bowler Lockie Ferguson and Afghanistan wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz were traded from Gujarat Titans to Kolkata Knight Riders ahead of IPL 2023.

The trade marks the reunion of Ferguson with Kolkata after being part of the franchise from 2019-21. While Ferguson was acquired by Gujarat for INR 10 crores in the IPL 2022 mega auction, Gurbaz was included in their squad as a replacement for England opener Jason Roy.

Ferguson, whose first experience with the IPL was with now-defunct Rising Pune Supergiant in 2017, played 13 matches for Gujarat Titans in their run to the IPL 2022 trophy and picked 12 wickets at an economy of 8.95, with the best figures being a four-wicket haul against the Delhi



Capitals. Gurbaz, on the other hand, did not get to play any game last sea-



son. "As Lockie and Gurbaz get set to

start a new journey at the Kolkata Knight Riders, we wish them the very best. Both players leave behind unforgettable memories. Lockie's four-wicket haul against Delhi Capitals is a performance we will always remember. While Gurbaz did not play a game, his promise and talent was evident right through," said Vikram Solanki, Director of Cricket, Gujarat Titans, in an official statement from the franchise.

Earlier, on Saturday, Australia's left-arm fast bowler Jason Behrendorff was traded from Royal Challengers Bangalore to Mumbai Indians. He was acquired by Bangalore in the 2022 IPL Auction for his base price of INR 75 lakhs, but did not feature in a single game throughout the competition.

A mini-auction for the 2023 IPL season could take place in Kochi in the month of December.

PKL 9 Haryana Steelers will launch a bid to end their four-game winless streak

Pune | Agencies

Manpreet's Haryana Steelers will launch a bid to end their four-game winless streak as the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 9 continues on Monday, when they face off against Gujarat Giants at the Shree Shivchhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi, here on Monday.

The previous encounter against U.P. Yoddhas saw Steelers go down fighting after heroics from Manjeet. But the JSW Sports-owned franchise fell short and could not earn their fifth win of the season.

Ahead of their next encounter against Giants, Manjeet opened up on the lessons learned over the past



three games and explained how the team will look to bounce back on Monday.

"We did well against U.P. Yoddhas to ensure they remain on their toes till the final whistle, even though they had taken a big lead early on. It is really important for us to win the

next game against Gujarat Giants, so we have taken lessons from our previous outing and we have worked on fixing those areas in training. It is important to maintain momentum in a match and we will look to do the same," Manjeet said. Despite being a raider, Manjeet

has also been making clear tackles in the past few games. On being asked about the same, he confirmed that it is something he has been working on in the training sessions.

"We all want to be useful to the team in any which way we can. I have been working on my defending as well to try and earn some useful points for the team if needed," he said. "We have spoken about their raiding trio which has been performing well despite a couple of injuries. Our defenders know what they have to do and our coach has also told us that we need to ensure we keep them away from the mat as much as possible. It will be a good contest and we are confident our defenders will do well," he said.

Mukesh Ambani has entered the race to bid Liverpool FC

London | Agencies

Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani has shown interest in buying football club Liverpool FC, according to a report published.

Reports exclusively revealed that the Liverpool have been approached by the eighth-richest man in the world, with the club's FSG owners open to selling up.

They are understood to be willing to sell for 4 billion and that would not be an issue for Ambani, who has a net worth of around 90bn, although he is likely to face huge competition. It is not the first time Ambani has been linked with Liverpool though, after eyeing a takeover bid in 2010 before



Fenway Sports Group (FSG) purchased the Premier League side. This is not the first time that Ambani has been linked to buy Liverpool. In 2010 Subrata Roy and Ambani were lining up a bid to purchase 51 per cent of the

club's stake from former owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett. Ambani currently owns IPL cricket giants Mumbai Indians and also played a key role in setting up the Super League in his home country.



Shraddha Srinath falls in love with Ranthambhore Park

Team Absolute | Chennai

Shraddha Srinath, an actress who has been in a number of critically praised movies, including "Nerkonda Paarvai," which stars Ajith Kumar, has just published a post on her first safari in the Ranthambore National Park. Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a video shot during her safari at the National park. She wrote: "It was my very first safari. I didn't understand it at first, but I sensed something exciting was about to transpire as our driver sped up several notches and hit a curve on the dirt track with an intensity that only a good old gypsy and a forest veteran can handle." "And there she was, around the curve, minding her own business, impervious to the human gaze - tigress Riddhi. I thought I would experience fear, or awe. But I felt invisible. Like I didn't exist in the eyes of this beautiful beast. Felt ignored. Maybe that's how cats are right? They make you clamour for attention? Gosh." "And the safari drivers. They slow down while they cross other vehicles and exchange bits of information about sightings. 'Go this way' or 'we didn't see anything but I hope you do' or '121 was spotted here this morning' or a simple but effective 'good luck'. They live and breathe it. The forest is enormous but they know it at the back of their hands. How do they even know which tiger is which? Fascinating stuff."

"Oh and the next morning, we saw a group of deer fleeing for their lives. Soon enough, there was a tiger following in their path. The tiger looked tired and hungry. Wonder if it's still hungry." "Three safaris at Ranthambore and multiple sightings. Maybe it's beginners luck but I'm going to try it everywhere now. With blessings from hon. Varun Aditya and very warm hospitality extended by Ravindra, my trip to Sawai Madhopur/ Ranthambore national park was just how I wished it would be."

Arjun Bijlani is nervous and excited about hosting a reality show

Team Absolute | New Delhi



Popular actor Arjun Bijlani will be seen as a host and mentor along with Sunny Leone on the reality show 'MTV Splitsvilla X4'. Arjun has been hosting shows and award ceremonies in the past.

While sharing about the whole experience of shooting for the show in Goa for more than a month, Arjun said: "It is very close to my heart. I had a great time hosting. This is the first time I am hosting Splitsvilla. It's a big responsibility to host 'Splitsvilla'. I am nervous and excited." He added: "I'm also the mentor to the contestants, and making connections with them was a huge responsibility. 'Splitsvilla' is a place where connections happen, and new relationships bloom, and as a host, and mentor I would say it was a delightful time for me to experience all of that."

"There would be a lot of drama, fun, games, and tasks which will entertain the audience. I have also interacted with the contestants on a personal level to understand them better."

Speaking about his co-host Sunny Leone, Arjun said: "She is very warm and a great co-host. There is a saying that to know someone better you need to travel with someone. And after spending time with Sunny for a month I can surely say she is a beautiful person in and out. Being a mother of three beautiful children, she is always on her toes. I am sure the audience is going to like our chemistry a lot."



"I met my husband through Ajay Devgn": Ishita Dutta

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Ishita Dutta, who is currently seen in the movie 'Drishyam 2' talked about her co-star Ajay Devgn and said that because of him, she and her husband Vatsal Sheth met and got married.

The actress is known for her work in a number of films and TV shows. She made her Telugu film debut with 'Chanakyudu', and her entry into Kannada cinema with 'Yenidu Manasali'.

Ishita's serious foray into Bollywood started in 2015 with 'Drishyam', and now she is a part of the 'Drishyam 2' cast.

Kapil asked Ishita how she and her husband Vatsal Sheth met. The actress had tied the knot with her boyfriend, who was known for his appearance in 'Taarzan: The Wonder Car' in 2017. She revealed that Ajay attended her marriage from the groom's side. "I met my husband through Ajay Sir. I am very happy that he was our matchmaker," the actress said.

Ishita came on the sets of 'The Kapil Sharma Show' to promote 'Drishyam 2' along with Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Shriya Saran, and Mrunal Jadhav. Welcoming Tabu on the show, the host sang her popular song 'Chhai Chappa Chhai'. This left her visibly awestruck and she expressed her happiness.



Cape Town would be my favourite city: Gurmeet

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Gurmeet Choudhary recently visited South Africa, where he explored different places and tried out some of the famous local delicacies. He also got groovy with his fans on hit Bollywood numbers, including 'Mehndi Laga Ke Rakhna', 'Abhi Toh Party Shuru Hui Hai', and many more.

Gurmeet said: "I visited Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. If I have to name one, Cape Town would be my favourite city. I say Cape Town simply because of its scenic beauty. Whenever I visit Cape Town, whether for shows or vacation, I make sure to stay there for a few days since I love exploring the city and enjoying its lovely atmosphere."

Talking about some of the locations he enjoyed the most, the actor said: "I visit-

ed several places, like the township of Soweto, which is the birthplace of Nelson Mandela, and Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape Province. In Durban, I visited the Botanical Garden." Gurmeet also loved the local cuisine and has some recommendations for those visiting the country: "The food is delicious in South Africa. If you are visiting Durban, I recommend Bunny Chow, a South African fast food made with a loaf of bread filled with curry and salad, Bombay Crush (refreshing drink), and various other African and Zulu dishes." Recalling the memories from his visits to South Africa, he said: "I have a lot of memories there. But if you ask for the best ones, it will always be shooting there for my first film 'Khamoshiyan'. The title track of 'Khamoshiyan' always makes me nostalgic about the location's scenic beauty."



SAMYUKTHA HEGDE ANNOUNCE HER RECOVERY WITH DANCE VIDEO

Team Absolute | Chennai

Popular actress Samyuktha Hegde, who had to undergo a surgery after sustaining a ligament tear while shooting for a stunt sequence for the Kannada film 'Kreem', has recovered from the injury.

The actress, who had been undergoing physiotherapy after the surgery, chose to announce her recovery with her dance video which she posted on Instagram.

She wrote: "All the attraction, the tension. Don't you see, baby, this is perfection? First dance video in three months, super happy with my progress, physiotherapy has been tiring and painful but the hard part is over! Thank you universe! Onwards and upwards from here on!"

"My fellow ac'l'ers don't skip physiotherapy. Do it every day like a ritual but most important eat well, the sadness will get to you. So, break through that and achieve your best."

"And thank you so much for all the love showered during this time. These three months were mentally, physically and emotionally very difficult and you guys made that so much better with all the love and support."



'I LOVE YOU, MAMU', GORI NAGORI SAID TO SALMAN KHAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Bigg Boss 16' contestant Gori Nagori said that she loved the host and called him 'mamu' during her interview. Gori, who recently got evicted from the show, talked about the host Salman Khan and expressed her admiration for him.

She said: "I love you" - and she laughed and added: "mamu".

Later, she also revealed three names with whom she would want to keep in touch even after coming out of the Bigg Boss house: "Abdu (Rozik), Soundarya (Sharma), and Archana (Gautam)."

Gori also said that after coming out of Bigg Boss' house, she is not missing anyone: "I want to forget everyone," she said, and added: "Will talk to Soundarya."

During the Weekend Ka Vaar, the host tricked the housemates and all the contestants thought that Priyanka Chahar Choudhary will exit the house but later he revealed that Gori is evicted because of less number of votes from the audience. Salman also called her 'Haryana ki Shakira'.



Manushi Chhillar