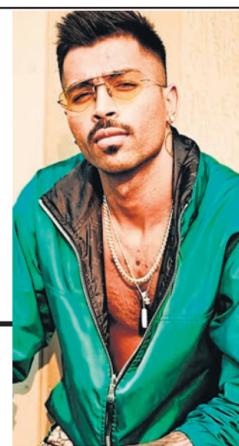


# absolute india



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## COUNTRIES' CLIMATE PLEDGES PUT UNREALISTIC DEMANDS FOR LAND: REPORT

▶ THIS STUDY REVEALS THAT COUNTRIES' CLIMATE PLEDGES ARE DANGEROUSLY OVER RELIANT ON INEQUITABLE AND UNSUSTAINABLE LAND-BASED MEASURES TO CAPTURE AND STORE CARBON. CLEARLY, COUNTRIES ARE LOADING UP ON LAND PLEDGES TO AVOID THE HARD WORK OF STEEPLY REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM FOSSIL FUELS, DECARBONIZING FOOD SYSTEMS AND STOPPING THE DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS.



### Climate financing, crypto assets to be main agenda points for India in G20: Sitharaman

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that climate financing, funding energy transition, developing urban infrastructure and regulating crypto assets would be some of the major agenda items for India as G20 President.

India will be assuming presidency of G20 on December 1, which will continue till November 20, 2023.

Addressing the ICRIER's 14th annual G20 conference, Sitharaman said that global spillovers and global taxation are also areas of priority and it would be India's endeavour to build consensus on it among the member nations.

She said that debt distress will be an issue India would like to discuss during its presidency tenure.

MELBOURNE | Agencies

A new study is the first to calculate that countries collectively need a total of 1.2 billion hectares of land to fulfill the promises laid out in their official climate plans, part of global efforts to meet Paris Agreement goals.

The study, involving more than 20 researchers from around the world and released on Tuesday by Melbourne Climate Futures, the University of Melbourne's interdisciplinary climate research initiative, determines that countries intend to use 633 million hectares of the total land area for carbon capture tactics like tree planting, which would gobble up land desperately needed for food production and nature protection. Only 551 million hectares

accounted for in pledges would restore degraded lands and primary forests, which store carbon, regulate rainfall and local temperatures, shelter plants and animals, purify water

and air and in some cases belong to Indigenous Peoples, whose land rights are found to be critical to reducing climate change due to their stewardship of forests. Researchers

“Faced with a global land squeeze, we must think carefully about how we use each and every plot of land. Yet countries treat land like a limitless resource in their climate plans. Using a land area equivalent to half of current global croplands for tree planting simply won't work, particularly when the evidence in front of us shows the fragility of tree planting to worsening climate impacts like fires and droughts.”

Kate Dooley, the lead author of The Land Gap Report, University of Melbourne

examined official climate plans and public statements, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which countries submitted to the United Nations as part of the Paris Agreement, to calculate the total land area set aside for carbon removals. The report says that these land changes would encroach on land safeguarded by Indigenous Peoples or used by local communities and smallholder farmers to feed themselves.

## Confusion prevails over announcement of Mangarh Dham as National Monument

The PIB had tweeted when the programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in progress. However, as the programme ended, there was no mention of the declaration of Mangarh Dham as National Monument and the tweet was deleted further.

Jaipur | Agencies

Confusion prevailed on Tuesday over declaration of Mangarh Dham as National Monument, after the government withdrew its statement regarding the same from Twitter. Earlier in the morning, Press Information Bureau (PIB) wrote on Twitter, "PM @narendramodi declares Mangarh Dham as National Monument, #Rajasthan."

The PIB had tweeted when the programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in progress. However, as the programme ended, there was no mention of the declaration of Mangarh Dham as National Monument and the tweet was deleted further.

It needs to be mentioned here that Modi on Tuesday reached Mangarh Dham, which is known as the martyrdom site of about 1500 tribals.

All eyes were set on whether he would announce Mangarh as National Monument or not as opposition in Rajasthan was pitching for the same ever since Modi's visit was planned here.

Speaking on the occasion, Modi said that before the freedom struggle of 1857, the tribal society had sounded the bugle of Independence. "We are indebted to the contributions of tribal society. It is the tribal society that saves the character of India."

However, he did not announce whether or not to make it a National Monument. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to the tribals by visiting the martyr memorial.



Modi said that it is everyone's desire to make Mangarh Dham grand. Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra should discuss among themselves and prepare a detailed plan and prepare a roadmap for the development of Mangarh Dham. Together, the four states and the Government of India will take it to new heights.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that the history of Mangarh Dham has been written in golden letters. We have appealed to the PM to make it a national monument. The tribal society was second to none in fighting the war of Independence. Gehlot said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gets respect in the world because of Mahatma Gandhi. Our appeal is to declare Mangarh as a National Monument.

However, there was no mention of Mangarh as a National Monument on Tuesday.

## 40 PISTOLS SEIZED IN MP AFTER CAR CHASE, SEARCH ON FOR ACCUSED



Indore: A cache of illegal weapons, including 40 pistols and 36 magazines, were seized from a car after a long chase by the police in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, an official said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police intercepted a Haryana-registered car on Agra-Mumbai National Highway in Indore's Rau area in the early hours of Monday, Police Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra told reporters.

In a bid to avoid the police, the driver increased the speed of the car and while fleeing, hit a police vehicle, he said.

Four people travelling in the car then reached Khalghat, about 90 km from Indore, where they again hit a police vehicle and the barrier, the official said.

After constant chase and police blockade, the accused of the inter-state gang left the car in Sanawad area of Khargone district and fled towards the dense forest, he said.

At least 40 pistols, 36 magazines and five cartridges were recovered from the vehicle, which had a Haryana registration number, the official said.

"These weapons are advanced imitations of foreign weapons. The magazines recovered from the car can be filled with 30 cartridges, whereas a normal magazine can only accommodate 10," he said.

A search has been launched for the accused and a probe has been initiated to trace the source of the weapons, the official said.

## WhatsApp bans 26 lakh bad accounts in India as amended IT rules take shape

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Meta-owned WhatsApp on Tuesday said it banned over 26 lakh accounts in India in the month of September in compliance with the new IT Rules, 2021, which are now being amended to put more responsibilities on social media platforms.

The messaging platform, which has nearly 500 million users (according to third-party data) in the country, received 666 complaint reports in September in India, and the records "actioned" were 23.

"In accordance with the IT Rules 2021, we've published our report for the month of September 2022. This user-safety report contains details of the user complaints received and the corresponding action taken by WhatsApp, as well as WhatsApp's own preventive actions to combat abuse on our platform," a company spokesperson said in a statement.

The platform banned over 23 lakh bad accounts in India in August.

Under the upgraded IT Rules 2021, major digital and social media platforms, with in excess of five million users, have to publish monthly compliance reports.

Meanwhile, in a major push towards an



open, safe, trusted and accountable Internet, the Ministry of Electronics and IT has notified some amendments aimed at protecting the rights of "Digital Nagriks".

Currently, social media intermediaries are only required to inform users about not uploading certain categories of harmful/unlawful content.

The amendments impose a legal obligation on intermediaries to take reasonable efforts to prevent users from uploading such content.

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that protection of constitutional rights of the Indian citizens is a must.

## AIR QUALITY IN DELHI DIPS TO 'SEVERE' CATEGORY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The air quality of the national capital on Tuesday entered the "severe" category as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city crossed 400, according to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), and will remain the same on Wednesday also.

The Narela area recorded PM 2.5 level at 448 on Tuesday evening. With air quality dipping in the city, there is a rise in carbon monoxide (CO) levels in some areas across the city, posing a threat to children and senior citizens.

The severe category of air quality calls for health warnings of emergency conditions and even serious risk of respiratory effects in the general public.

The AQI between zero



New Delhi: A view of Kartavya Path seen covered in thick layer of smog

and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe". In Pusa, the AQI

was recorded at 426 "severe" category while PM 10 was reported at 341 under "very poor" category. According to the forecast from SAFAR, the air quality of the city will

deteriorate further under "severe" category with PM 2.5 reaching 412 and PM 10 concentration at 426 also under "severe" category on Wednesday.

## Heavy rains in Chennai leave 2 dead, SDRF on standby

Team Absolute | Chennai

With two persons losing their lives in rain-related incidents in Chennai, which recorded

heavy to very heavy showers on Tuesday while various Tamil Nadu districts saw heavy rains in wake of the northeast monsoon hitting the state on October 29, the State Disaster Response Force has been kept on standby. In a tragic incident on Tuesday morning, 47-year-old Shanthi died after a portion of the wall from the balcony of her house fell on her. The incident occurred at Prakash Rao Colony in Pulianthope area of the city. Police have commenced an investigation and according to initial reports, it was an old house that had collapsed due to the heavy rains since Monday. In another incident, autorickshaw driver, Devendran was electrocuted to death after he came into contact with a live wire in Vyasarpadi. The auto driver, according to onlookers, was in an inebriated state and was walking in knee-deep



Chennai: Passengers come out of a bus with the help of the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue team in flooded-water following incessant rain on Tuesday.

water, when he got in contact with a pole in direct contact with a live wire.

Heavy rain leading to the closure of schools and massive traffic jams in several parts of the state, including Chennai. The districts where schools were ordered to close are Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu,

Tiruvalur, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Nagapattinam.

The weatherman has predicted heavy rain in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry till Friday.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has called an urgent meeting of top officials of the state at the secretariat.

## Truss texted US secretary of state after Nord Stream attack saying 'it's done': Russia

LONDON | Agencies

Russia has accused Britain of coordinating attacks on the Nord Stream gas pipes, media reported.

Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesman, said on Monday that Kremlin intelligence agents "have data indicating British military specialists were directing and coordinating the attack" which destroyed two gas lines running from Russia to Germany in September, Daily Mail reported.

It comes after Kim Dotcom, who ran site Megaupload before he was convicted of fraud, began circulating a conspiracy theory that Liz Truss had texted US Secretary of State Antony Blinken immediately after the attack saying "it's done."

Kim claimed to have learned of the message from Truss's iCloud, after it was revealed that Russia hacked her phone while she was



foreign secretary. Neither Kim nor Peskov have released the evidence they claim to have seen.

Western leaders have stopped short of publicly blaming Russia for the attack - which blew two holes in each pipeline and may have permanently disabled them - but have been privately briefing their suspicions that Putin was behind it.



# DELHI SHOCKER: FIRED FROM JOB, EX-EMPLOYEE HACKS COUPLE TO DEATH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 38-year-old man, his wife and their domestic help were killed by their former employee and his five to six associates at the couple's residence in West Delhi's Hari Nagar area. The incident occurred on Tuesday morning.

The accused even ransacked the house and took the couple's belongings, including the CCTV camera's DVR to divert police and show it as a robbery bid. The entire conspiracy was unearthed after police nabbed two accused within six hours of the incident.

Meanwhile, a manhunt has been initiated to nab the remaining accused and the main culprit, who wanted to take revenge after being fired from the saloon owned by the couple.

The deceased have been identified as Sameer Ahuja, his wife Shalu and their domestic help Sapna.

According to Ghanshyam Bansal, Deputy Commissioner of Police (west), a call was received at Hari Nagar police station at about 9.15 a.m. regarding an incident of burglary in a house at Ashok Nagar area following which Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched for the spot.

"When police team reached the spot, the bodies of Sameer, Shalu and their maid Sapna were found.



Both Shalu and Sapna were found lying dead on the ground floor in a saloon owned by the couple, while Sameer was found lying in a pool of blood on the first floor of the building," said the DCP.

"Throat of both Shalu and Sapna had been slit with sharp-edged weapon and Sameer had multiple injuries on face and head. However, the couple's minor daughter was found alive on the first floor in the hall," said the DCP. "During investigation, it was revealed that the couple's driver came at around 9 a.m. who found the house ransacked, so he made the PCR call. The inspection of the spot revealed that it was a

friendly entry," said the official. "Keeping in view the sensational crime, multiple teams were formed and CCTV footage of the area scanned. The strategic efforts showed the result when the alleged people were found captured in a CCTV installed nearby. They came on two bikes around 8 a.m.," said the official. "The accused were also seen rushing in a hurry after committing the crime around 9 a.m. Though they had taken the DVR of the CCTV, the technical analysis of the event established that the main conspirator of the incident visited the house around 10 minutes prior to the visit of the maid Sapna," said the DCP.

"Based on CCTV footage, the police team managed to nab Sachin (19), a resident of Najafgarh and Sujet (21), a resident of Uttam Nagar in connection with the incident," said the official adding that the main conspirator is still on the run and a manhunt has been initiated to nab him.

Police said that so far, the investigation has revealed that the main accused and his girlfriend were working with Shalu in the saloon and around 10 days ago, due to their unprofessional attitude, they both were sacked.

"Sameer also verbally thrashed them. The main conspirator felt humiliated and planned to take revenge and discussed it with Sujit and Sachin. The accused then roped in other three persons and they all on Tuesday morning came prepared and executed the plan," said the DCP.

"As maid reached the couple's house around 8 a.m., the accused also slit her throat. They took away the laptop, cash and other articles lying in the house," said a police official. "The Iphone-13 (Pro-Max) of Shalu, weapon of offence and blood-stained towel had been recovered at the instance of the accused persons. Efforts are being made to recover remaining case properties," said the DCP, adding that further investigation is underway.

# No violation of programme code, Malayalam news channel tells SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Malayalam news channel 'MediaOne' on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that there is not a single instance when the channel violated the programme code and security clearance from the Centre is not needed for renewal of broadcast licence.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, representing the news channel, contended before a bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Hima Kohli that government does not have omnibus discretion to impose any new condition and emphasised on the aspect of freedom of press.

Dave said the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 does not contemplate any requirement of security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs for the renewal of broadcast licence. He said the Act itself provides certain conditions which need to be fulfilled like interest of sovereignty, and security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, incitement of offence, decency and morality, and contempt of court. "There is not a single instance when we



violated the programme code," he said. He vehemently argued that the government cannot put any new conditions, and the channel is not eligible for registration and renewal of license if the conditions in Act are not fulfilled.

The top court was informed that the Act provides that renewal will be considered after a period of 10 years, subject to the condition that the channel should not have been found violating programme code on five occasions.

The bench noted that renewal is like grant of license at the initial level, which gives it uplinking rights for a fresh period of 10 years.

Dave said the renewal position has general terms and conditions which does

not say anything about the need for security clearances and added the government does not have omnibus discretion in imposing any new condition. The top court will continue to hear the matter on Wednesday.

The top court is hearing a plea by the news channel challenging the Kerala High Court's order upholding the Centre's decision to ban its telecast on security grounds.

On March 15 this year, the Supreme Court stayed the Centre's ban on the Malayalam TV news channel. The Central government had acted national security grounds to justify the ban. Media One had moved the top court after the Kerala High Court upheld the ban imposed on it by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

# Two dead in Narela factory fire

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two people died while 18 were rescued after a fire broke out at a footwear factory in Delhi's Narela industrial area on Tuesday, fire officials said.

The deceased have been identified as Sonu Thakur (24), a resident of Bihar, and Akhil Kumar (20), a resident of Narela.

Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg said that a call regarding the fire at a building in the area was received at around 9.35 a.m. following which 12 fire tenders were pressed into service.

"The fire was doused by 3 p.m.," said a fire official, adding that around 50 fire personnel were pressed into action as the fire was on the



second floor of the building.

According to police, a total of 20 people were rescued from the slipper manufacturing unit. "Two were declared brought dead while eight people were treated at Ram Manohar Lohia hospital and

10 were referred to Safdarjung hospital for the treatment," said the official.

A case has been registered under sections 287 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code and further investigation has been launched, said a senior police official.

Police said that the owner of the factory, Sahil Garg (30), a resident of Pitampura, is absconding and a manhunt has been launched to nab him. Meanwhile, police have detained Sahil's father, Krishan Garg, the owner of the property.

## CHHATTISGARH CELEBRATES 23RD FOUNDATION DAY

Raipur: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the third National Tribal Dance Festival to mark State Foundation Day on Tuesday by playing the tribal musical instrument, Nagada in Raipur. Artists from 28 states of India and 10 countries of the world participated in this festival.

Raipur is hosting the festival to celebrate Chhattisgarh's 23rd Foundation Day (Chhattisgarh Rajyotsava) from November 1-3 at Science College Ground.

In the programme, artists from 28 states, seven Union Territories of India and, 10 foreign countries - Mozambique, Togo, Egypt, Mongolia, Indonesia, Russia, New Zealand, Serbia, Rwanda and Maldives - mesmerised the audience by their performances.

# Vigilance Bureau arrests its own inspector for accepting bribe

Amritsar | Agencies

The Vigilance Bureau (VB) arrested an inspector of its own department, Amolak Singh, posted at Bureau range office Amritsar for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000.

Disclosing this here on Tuesday, a spokesperson of the Bureau, in a statement said that the accused inspector had been arrested on the complaint of Prabhmesh Mohan, a resident of New Mohindra Colony, Amritsar.

He further informed that the complainant had uploaded a video while filing online complaint. The complainant said that he and his wife, who was an employee in MC Amritsar, were arrested by the Bureau in a corruption case in 2021 and court had granted bail to them.

The complainant further alleged that Amolak Singh, being investigating officer of this case, was demanding Rs 5,000 as a bribe from him to record his voice as a sample in their case. To keep it as evi-



dence, the complainant had recorded this conversation on his phone and handed it over to the Vigilance Bureau, the statement said. After verification of the facts in the complaint and the material evidence, the Bureau had arrested the inspector for accepting bribe of Rs

5,000 from the complainant, read the statement. A case under Prevention of Corruption Act had been registered against the accused official at Vigilance Bureau flying squad-1 Punjab, police station SAS Nagar and further investigation was under progress, said the statement.

# MANY FAINT IN LUDHIANA DUE TO GAS LEAK

Chandigarh: Many people fainted in Punjab's industrial town Ludhiana on Tuesday due to a gas leak in an oxygen manufacturing factory in Giaspura area, police said.

Most of the people who fainted were employees of the factory. Five people have been admitted to civil hospital for treatment. The leak occurred when gas was being transferred from the tanker truck to the factory tanker.

# 3 LeT terrorists killed in Pulwama encounter, one terrorist in Anantnag

Srinagar | Agencies

Three LeT terrorists, including a commander, were killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday, as they were on their way to attack a security force camp, police said.

"Three terrorists killed in Awantipora encounter. Identification being ascertained. As per our source, one is Foreign Terrorist and one local terrorist of LeT namely Mukhtiyar Bhat, involved in several terror crimes including killing of one ASI of CRPF and two RPF personnel. A big success for us," tweeted Jammu and Kashmir



Police, quoting Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar. In another tweet, the police said that as per sources, Bhat, along with a foreign terrorist, was going for fideyen attack on a security forces camp. An

AK-74 rifle, an AK-56 rifle, and one pistol was recovered from the spot.

"Awantipora police and Army averted a major terror incident," it quoted Vijay Kumar as saying.

The firefight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area. After security forces cordoned off the area, terrorists hiding there started firing drawing retaliation by the security forces. This is the second encounter in Kashmir on a single day. Earlier on Tuesday, an encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces at Semthan Bijbehara area of Anantnag district in which one terrorist was killed.

# Petition filed at Delhi Lokayukta against Satyendar Jain

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A Delhi-based lawyer has filed a petition at Delhi Lokayukta, seeking enquiry into the claims of multimillionaire conman Suresh Chandrashekhar against jailed AAP leader and Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain of allegedly taking protection money.

Vineet Jindal, an advocate said in the petition that Chandrashekhar, who was arrested by Delhi Police in the Rs 200 crore extortion case, had confessed in a letter to Delhi Lt. Governor that he was forced to pay Rs 10



crore to Jain as "protection money".

"The letter added that a total amount of Rs 50 crore was paid to the AAP as he was promised an important party position in south India," stated Jindal.

"He specifically says that 'After my arrest in 2017, I was lodged in Tihar Jail and was visited multiple times by Satyendar Jain, who held the portfolio of jail minister. In 2019 again, I was visited by Jain, whose secretary asked me to pay Rs 2 crore every month as protection money and to get basic facilities inside the jail," stated the petition. In his letter, Chandrashekhar also stated that he told a CBI investigative team last month about payments made to Satyendar Jain, the Aam Aadmi Party, and D-G Prisons.

## Bharat Jodo Yatra

# Rahul Gandhi hoists national flag at Charminar

Hyderabad | Agencies

As part of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday hoisted the national flag at Charminar, the monument which symbolises Hyderabad.

Accompanied by party leaders and hundreds of party workers and supporters, he paid tributes to his late father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and unfurled the national flag.

The event was organised in commemoration of Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Charminar on October 19, 1990 to launch Sadbhavna Yatra for communal peace and harmony in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

As soon as Rahul Gandhi reached the monument from Laad Bazar road, he stopped



for a few moments to take a look at the edifice and captured its beauty in his camera before moving forward.

Hundreds of Congress workers converged around Charminar to welcome the party leader and raised slogans of 'Jodo Jodo, Bharat Jodo' and 'Rajiv Gandhi Amar Rahe' when Rahul Gandhi was offering floral tributes at the portrait of his late father.

# Girl abducted in UP, video goes viral but no arrests

Agra | Agencies

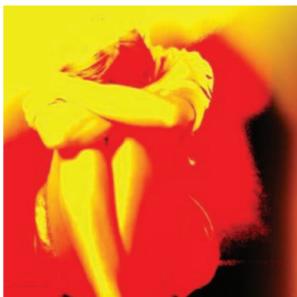
A 17-year-old girl was kidnapped from her home by a group of men in broad daylight.

The incident took place in the Tajganj area and a video clip of the incident has gone viral on social media. In the clip, some men can be seen climbing the wall of the girl's house even as others watch. Next, they attack her family with sticks and knives and walk away with her in front of neighbours and locals.

According to police, the crime took place on October 26 and the girl was rescued the next day, after which an FIR was registered against 10 people.

A complaint filed by the girl's father said that a local resident, Arun Lala, had been regularly misbehaving with his daughter.

The complainant, who is a daily wage earner, said, "Arun and his associates barged into my house. After beating us,



they forcefully took away my daughter." A large crowd witnessed the crime. No one came forward to help us. My family is living in constant fear now. We went to the police station but an FIR was not lodged, despite there being video evidence," the father added. The FIR was registered later on the

intervention of Senior Superintendent of Police Prabhakar Chaudhary.

The main accused Arun and nine others, identified by the complainant, along with 5-6 unidentified persons were booked under IPC sections 147 (rioting), 452 (house-trespass), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 363 (kidnapping), 504 (intentional insult) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Archana Singh, DSP said, "The girl has been kept at Asha Jyoti Kendra, a shelter for women victims of crime, as a routine procedure. The accused men are absconding and will be nabbed soon."

Bhupendra Baliyan, SHO of Tajganj, said, "We need to record the girl's statement under CrPc section 164 in the court. We are collecting all the evidence from the neighbourhood and investigating the case in detail. Action will be taken accordingly."

# ATM dispenses extra cash in Goa town

Panaji | Agencies

An ATM of a bank in South Goa's Baina in port town of Vasco reportedly dispensed two to three times extra currency notes on Monday night.

However, bank officials later switched off the machine. The locals said that the ATM delivered two to three times extra money without deducting it from their accounts. As news spread in the vicinity, many gathered at the ATM and withdrew their money. Later one person contacted the police, and after their intervention the ATM was closed. "I got to know from my friend that many people had gathered at this ATM, which was delivering extra cash. Then I contacted the police and they arrived on the spot and the bank officials were sum-



moned at the site, who later closed the ATM," a local person told reporters.

**नाम परिवर्तन**  
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पूर्व में मेरा नाम SUNIL KUMAR था। जो कि परिवर्तित होकर SUNIL KUMAR TRIPATHI हो गया है। अतः अब मुझे मेरे नए नाम SUNIL KUMAR TRIPATHI S/O RAMAUTAR TRIPATHI से जाना व पहचाना जाए।  
पता : म.नं. 95, वेदवती बीड़ीए कालोनी, नियर इलैक्ट्रिक सबस्टेशन, यलो कलर हाऊस, अजयपुरी, भोपाल (म.प्र.) - 462022



# GOVT PLANS DETAILED REPORT AFTER LOSING MEGA PROJECTS TO GUJARAT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government will issue a white paper in the next 30 days on some mega projects going out of the state and if any steps were taken by the previous MVA government to retain them, Industries Minister Uday Samant said. The Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government is under fire from the Opposition which has accused the ruling dispensation of failing to retain big-ticket Vedanta-Foxconn and Tata-Airbus projects in the state. Both projects chose Gujarat over Maharashtra to set up their units. The state government had alleged that the projects went out of Maharashtra due to inaction by the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi government. "The Maharashtra industries department will bring out a white paper in the next 30 days which will focus on why mega investment projects like Vedanta-Foxconn, Tata-Airbus among others went to other states. What steps were taken by the previous government to keep these projects in Maharashtra?" Samant told reporters. He



said the white paper will throw light on all the facts. "Some people are deliberately spreading

lies about these projects. It will be clear once and for all after the white paper will be issued," he said.

A white paper is an informational document that highlights the features of a solution, product, or service. Amid a row over the projects, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had said that officials of the Tata-Airbus consortium had last year rued the "lack of conducive" atmosphere in the state, a claim refuted by former minister Aadiya Thackeray who hinted at the Centre's hand in Gujarat landing the project. Aadiya had claimed officials of Tata-Airbus had told the then MVA government that they will have to set up the aircraft manufacturing plant wherever the Union government asks them to. The Shiv Sena MLA had also refuted Fadnavis' claims that the previous MVA government did nothing to keep the Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor plant in the state which eventually shifted to Gujarat. He said several meetings had taken place between Vedanta officials and the previous government early this year. Fadnavis had also said that the Opposition was creating a false narrative over the projects going to Gujarat.

## CM supporter Kadu forgives Rana, but says won't forget

Team Absolute | Amravati

Prahar Janshakti Party President and ex-Minister Bachchu Kadu showed off his strength with a massive procession and rally in Maharashtra's Amravati district on Tuesday as he came to settle the row with his local political rival Yuva Swabhimani Party MLA Ravi Rana.



Amidst cries to make him a minister again, Kadu discussed the recent spat with Rana with his core team late on Monday night and then finally decided to agree to a conditional truce. "This is the first time... That's why we are forgiving you. But next time, if you cross our paths, we will not spare you," Kadu warned amidst loud cheers and clapping by his supporters. After warning, Kadu also dared his opponents, saying that his party is not of cowards, but is a party of tough fighters who will go their independent way when the occasion arises. "Since this is your first mistake, we forgive you. But if you strike again, we shall hit back with full force. I respect Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, but I have Bhagat Singh in my thoughts, so you should choose your words carefully," Kadu warned his opponents. He also issues veiled threats that while he and his group are supporting the government (of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis), if they are not wanted they could leave anytime as they believe in the ideology and not any political party.

The spat between the legislators Kadu and Rana - both hailing from Amravati - had reached a point where the former threatened to withdraw support to the Shinde regime if the latter did not retract certain allegations, prompting the Shinde-Fadnavis duo to mediate. Rana had publicly accused Kadu of allegedly taking '50 Khokhas' (slang for Rs 50 crore) to switch allegiance with the rebel Shinde group in June after he engineered a split in the erstwhile Shiv Sena and topped the Maha Vikas Aghadi government. A red-faced Kadu challenged Rana to prove his allegations by November 1 and even served an ultimatum to Shinde-Fadnavis to clarify if the contentions were true or there could be dire consequences for the government. While Shinde walked the tight-rope saying since both hail from the same district, there were local issues which needed to be sorted out, and he met both Kadu and Rana separately, and they also met Fadnavis later in Mumbai last weekend. After the meeting on Monday, Rana emerged and said: "I withdraw my statement. Even Kadu should do the same," while Kadu remained non-committal till he convinced his supporters.

## Officials of Tata-Airbus said union had picked location for Tata-Airbus project: Aadiya

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena leader and former Maharashtra minister Aadiya Thackeray on Monday claimed officials of Tata-Airbus had told MVA government that they will have to set up the aircraft manufacturing plant wherever the Union government asks them to. He also refuted Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis' claims that the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government did nothing to keep the Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor plant in the state. He said several meetings had taken place between Vedanta officials and the previous government early this year. A fresh war of words has broken out between the ruling Eknath Shinde dispensation and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)-led opposition over the Rs 22,000 crore project moving from Maharashtra to Vadodara in Gujarat. Amid a row over Tata-Airbus picking Gujarat to set up the aircraft project, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister



Devendra Fadnavis said officials of the consortium had last year rued the "lack of conducive" atmosphere in the state. Aadiya Thackeray dared Fadnavis to reveal the names of Tata-Airbus officials who had allegedly told him, when he was opposition leader, that environment in Maharashtra was not investment friendly. Aadiya Thackeray said "It is his fail-

ure that in three years, he could not take any concrete steps to bring the Tata-Airbus Defence plant to Nagpur". He also asked "If that aircraft manufacturing plant was finalised in Gujarat, why did Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari write a letter to that company appealing to them to set up their project in Nagpur?" He listed the timeline of various meetings held with officials of Vedanta Foxconn and MVA government officials. He said Foxconn officials had visited Talegaon near Pune, where the plant was supposed to be set up. "Foxconn chairman had visited the Talegaon site along with officials of MVA government on June 24 where the proposed Rs 1.49 lakh crore semi-conductor plant was supposed to come. Vedanta-Foxconn officials have already stated that the Talegaon site is ideal for such a mega project," he said. If as per the claims of Fadnavis, the Vedanta-Foxconn had already decided to set up the plant in Gujarat, then why would they waste time with us, he asked. Aadiya Thackeray alleged that Devendra Fadnavis gave wrong information.

## Personalized Diwali Video messages by Maha CM to 4 crore people

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a demonstration of how technology can be used to achieve a wider reach, the Maharashtra state government recently sent out personalized Diwali video messages to over 4 crore people. Over 4 crore people of the state received personalized Diwali greetings from chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. Included in these messages were a total of 42,000 messages that were addressed to unique names. So, Chitanya, Manish, Kokila and Champabai were among the 4 crore people who received personalized video messages in Marathi from

Shinde and Fadnavis this Diwali. This feat was made possible with the help of an Artificial Intelligence-generated digital mimicry that was developed using blockchain technology by a Delhi-based company Message byte. A blockchain is a distributed ledger that duplicates and distributes transactions across the network of computers participating in the blockchain. The personalized video messages found huge traction among its target audience and were sent by using SMS and Whatsapp services. Each personalised clip displayed both Shinde and Fadnavis taking the name of the individual to whom the greeting was addressed to.

## SC TO HEAR PLEAS BY SHIV SENA FACTIONS ON NOVEMBER 29

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Supreme Court on Tuesday posted for November 29 a batch of petitions filed by both factions of Shiv Sena, led by Uddhav Thackeray and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, respectively, in relation to the Maharashtra political crisis. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud asked lawyers to complete the compilation of the case and formulate the salient issues for consideration within four weeks. Earlier, the top court had allowed the Election Commission of India to decide which faction between Uddhav Thackeray and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde be recognized as the 'real' Shiv Sena party and for allotment of the bow and arrow symbol. The top court has received several petitions filed by rival groups of Shiv Sena in relation to the Maharashtra political crisis. Earlier, the Supreme Court three-judge bench had said that some of the issues



involved in the crisis may require a larger Constitutional bench for consideration. It had also asked the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Rahul Narwekar not to take any action on the new disqualification notices issued against the members of Shiv Sena. The Thackeray-led faction had approached the top court challenging the Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's decision to invite Eknath Shinde to form the government and also the Speaker's election and floor test.

Later they challenged Shinde group approaching the poll panel claiming they are 'real' Shiv Sena. They had also challenged the newly appointed Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's action recognizing the whip of the Eknath Shinde group as the whip of Shiv Sena. The plea said the newly appointed Speaker has no jurisdiction to recognize whips nominated by Shinde as Uddhav Thackeray is still the head of the Shiv Sena official party. Thackeray camp's Sunil Prabhu had filed a plea seeking suspension from the Maharashtra Assembly of new Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and 15 rebel MLAs against whom disqualification pleas are pending. Shinde group's challenged the disqualification notices issued by the Deputy Speaker to 16 rebel MLAs as well as the appointment of Ajay Choudhary as Shiv Sena Legislature Party leader, is also pending before the top court. After the top court's order, Uddhav Thackeray announced his resignation and Eknath Shinde was later sworn in as the chief minister.

## SALMAN KHAN, ANUPAM KHER AND AKSHAY'S SECURITY INCREASED

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government has decided that Mumbai Police will now provide Y+ grade of security cover to actor Salman Khan an upgrade by two levels in light of recent threats to him allegedly by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. This means commandos will now be among the 12 armed cops he was given under 'X' security. Actors Akshay Kumar and Anupam Kher have been given 'X' category security. The threat to Salman Khan came in July, two months after men allegedly backed by Lawrence Bishnoi, who is in jail, killed Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala near his village in Punjab's Mansa district. Salman Khan's father, writer Salim Khan, found the threat on a paper chit that someone left on a bench where he sat after his regular morning walk. "Salim Khan Salman Khan bahut jald apka Moose Wala hoga," it said, threatening to "do what we did to Moose Wala". It had two sets of initials GB and LB interpreted as Lawrence Bishnoi and his Canada-based associate Goldy Brar. Delhi Police last month claimed that gangsters tried to befriend some of the staff at the actor's farmhouse to get details about his schedule. Lawrence Bishnoi denies any role in this "threat chit", but he had some years earlier threatened to kill Salman Khan. Speaking to reporters when appearing for a court hearing in Jodhpur, Lawrence Bishnoi had said Salman Khan had hurt the sentiments of the Bishnois, a sect that has love for animals among its tenets, by hunting a blackbuck a charge that the actor was eventually acquitted of.



## MASSIVE FIRE BREAKS OUT AT RESTAURANT IN PUNE

Team Absolute | Pune

A massive fire broke out at a restaurant in Maharashtra's Pune on Tuesday morning. The blaze erupted at the top floor of the Marvel Vista building located at the city's Lulla Nagar Chowk at around 8.45 am, the official said. The blaze has now been doused, he added. Videos from the spot show the top floor of the building engulfed in flames as fire tenders reach the spot and attempt to control the fire. In one of the videos, the roof



and windows of the building can be seen collapsing with debris falling to the ground as the flames grow bigger. Another clip, which appears to be captured from inside the burning top floor, shows fire officials spraying water at the raging flames from outside a melted and charred door. Six fire tenders were rushed to the spot to extinguish the massive blaze. According to the police, the area was not crowded when the fire started. No casualties or injuries have been reported so far. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

## Bus goes up in flames in Pune, passengers manage to escape in time

Team Absolute | Pune

Forty two passengers of a state transport bus had a narrow escape after it caught fire in Maharashtra's Pune city on November 1, officials said. The incident took place at around 11.30 am at Shastri Chowk in Yerawada area when the bus was on way to Pune from Yavatmal, a fire official said. The bus driver and conductor saw smoke billowing from the vehicle, following which all the passengers



quickly alighted, he said. After the passengers got down, the bus went up in flames, the official said. "No one was injured in the incident. Efforts are on to put out the fire," he said. The cause of the blaze was not yet known.

## Trans Harbour Link gets its longest Orthotropic Steel Deck

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming Mumbai Trans Harbour Link achieved a significant milestone after the longest Orthotropic Steel Deck (OSD) was launched on it, officials said here on Tuesday. The teams at Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) successfully and carefully launched the longest OSD 4S, which is 180 metres long and weighs 2400 MT - or the weight of almost half-a-dozen Boeing aircraft. The first OSD was launched on April 1, 2022 and the second one was launched and placed on Monday evening. The OSD is a steel Deck Superstructure (strengthened or stiffened both transversely and longitudinally) which will carry the



vehicular load on it more efficiently. It will also improve the load-carrying capacity of the bridge as compared to the Concrete Superstructure for a similar span. The OSD Steel Deck Superstructure has lesser self-weight than concrete or composite. MMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner S.V.R Srinivas IAS, said, "The OSD launch marks a significant milestone that the MMRDA has reached in MTHL. "The teams are now moving in sync with our catchup plan towards commissioning the MTHL project by the end of 2023," said Srinivas. Among the total 32 OSDs to be erected within the MTHL project the OSD launched on Monday was the 14th and the longest, as per the MMRDA





EDITOR'S SPECS

SORROW AND TEARS ENGULF IN MORBI

The collapse of a cable bridge on the Machhu river in Gujarat's Morbi on Sunday evening left at least 141 dead - including a few children left orphaned, while some have lost their entire next generation. When the bodies of the victims reached villages and towns, it left behind families and people in tears and pain. Four-year-old Shivam of Rajkot, had gone to Morbi with his father Bhupat Parmar, mother Sangitaben and brother Viraj. Only Shivam only has returned alive, and other three's dead bodies were brought back, said his grandfather Chagan Parmar. In Morbi town's graveyard, diggers have been busy since Sunday night as the town has lost 36 members of the community including children. It takes five hours to dig one grave. With the recovery of more bodies, the death toll increased to 141. The Morbi government hospital has released a list of 99 deceased, but has not mentioned the age of the victims. Congress on Monday demanded an inquiry headed by a retired High Court or Supreme Court judge into the Morbi bridge collapse incident. The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear a plea on November 14 seeking the constitution of a judicial commission to investigate the bridge collapse. The plea said the incident showed the negligence and utter failure of the government authorities. It further added that in the past decade various incidents have taken place in the country due to the mismanagement, lapse in duty, and negligent maintenance activities. BJP's senior leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel has raised questions over the renovation contract given to Oreva group's Ajanta Manufacturing Company Ltd. Patel has, however, given a clean chit to the state government and claimed that the government has no role to play in giving the renovation contract to the company.

# US PRIORITISES TIES WITH INDIA

Asad Mirza

US President Joe Biden's administration unveiled the US National Defence Strategy 2022 on October 27. It lists plans to boost its defence ties with India to deter Chinese aggression in the region. The latest Defence Strategy states that China presents the most consequential and systemic challenge, while Russia poses acute threats to vital US national interests abroad and to the homeland. "The world is changing. We're at a significant inflection point in world history. And our country and the world, the US has always been able to chart the future in times of great change. We've been able to constantly renew ourselves. And time and again, we've proven there's not a single thing we cannot do as a nation when we do it together, and I mean that - not a single solitary thing," President Biden stated in the introductory note to the strategy. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin highlighted the different challenges posed by China and Russia as he unveiled the strategy. According to him the dangers are both conventional -- Moscow's aggression toward its neighbours and Beijing's efforts to gain control of Taiwan -- and nuclear, with Russia possessing an extensive arsenal and China's stocks of atomic weapons growing fast. The strategy likewise places the primary emphasis on China. It further asserts that Beijing is seeking to "refashion the Indo-Pacific region and the international system to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences", describing this dynamic as "the most comprehensive and serious challenge to US national security". The strategy says Chinese rhetoric about and "coercive activity" towards Taiwan, which Beijing has vowed to take control of, by force if necessary, is a destabilising factor that risks miscalculation and threatens peace in the area. As for Russia, it says the "acute threat" posed by Moscow has been most recently demonstrated by its invasion of Ukraine. Though the strategy tries to portray the US ties in the Indo-Pacific as the most important one, yet India as a whole is mentioned in the strategy only five times and that too in the context of the Indo-Pacific, and there too it refers to China's campaigns to establish control over the East China Sea, Taiwan Strait, South China Sea, and disputed land borders such as with India. It proclaims to promote a free and open



Indo-Pacific, which could only be achieved if the US builds collective capacity with other countries, like India. It further asserts that no region will be of more significance to the world and to everyday Americans than the Indo-Pacific, yet it fails to demonstrate India's importance to achieve this goal as a partner. The document lists out the US Vision, Washington's role in the global arena, and an overview of its strategic approach to different regional issues. Focussing on Middle East, the strategy talks about tweaking its policy in the Middle East and North Africa by eschewing grand designs in favour of more practical steps that can advance US interests and help regional partners lay the foundation for greater stability, prosperity, and opportunity for the people of the Middle East and for the American people. The strategy sets forth a new framework for US policy in the region based on America's unparalleled comparative advantage in building partnerships, coalitions, and alliances to strengthen deterrence, while using diplomacy to de-escalate tensions, reduce risks of new conflicts, and set a long-term foundation for

stability. However, it clearly states that the United States will not allow foreign or regional powers to jeopardise freedom of navigation through the Middle East's waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al Mandab, nor tolerate efforts by any country to dominate another, or the region, through military build-ups, incursions, or threats. But if we scrutinise the strategy in a little more detail then we realise the emerging contradictions present in the strategy. When the strategy declares the U.S. commitment to support countries "that subscribe to the rules-based international order", will it include those OPEC countries which recently snubbed the U.S. demands for increased oil production? When it talks about "military build-ups" then does it really mean that the US will halt its longstanding efforts to advance its partners' "military build-ups" in the face of the threat from Iran? Further how could the US achieve the Israeli "dominance" of the Hamas and Hezbollah?

Further the strategy lays stress on U.S. diplomacy to reduce tensions "wherever possible", will it translate into normalising ties with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, or meeting with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah? All this double talk on various regional and global issues and inherent contradictions of the strategy leads on to surmise that it is more of a document to placate the American public and not aimed at really achieving or changing substantially the US policies on these issues. Overall the National Security Strategy 2022 comes out as a bit of disappointment though perhaps packaged coherently for the first time. (Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. He can be contacted on www.asadmirza.in)

international

# NEW VARIANTS DRIVE UP COVID CASES IN US: CDC

Washington | Agencies

Covid-19 cases caused by new variants are growing fast in the US, according to data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). According to the latest CDC data published on Monday, two new variants, BQ.1 and BQ.1.1, have been growing especially fast, reports Xinhua news agency. At the beginning of October, each one accounted for about 1 per cent of new infections in the US, but they have been roughly doubling in prevalence each week, the health body said. The data further revealed that BQ.1 led to about 14 per cent of new infections in the country in the week ending October 29, while BQ.1.1 caused 13.1 per cent of the fresh cases. Together, the two variants accounted for more than one in four new infections nationwide, CDC data showed. BA.5, which has dominated



Covid-19 infections in the US since July, now accounted for 49.6 per cent of new cases in the country. A host of new sublineages -- offshoots of BA.2, BA.4 and BA.5 -- are now responsible for the majority of new cases. These variants are slightly different

from each other, but they all carry some of the same key mutations that help them skirt immunity from vaccines and past infections. This makes them more likely to lead to breakthrough infections and reinfections, according to experts. "BQ is actually a BA.5 variant," Dr.

Andrew Pekosz, a virologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, recently told Health. "Here in the US, all the variants that are circling -- BQ.1.1, I guess, is the biggest or the most talked about one now -- they're all derived from either the BA.5 or the BA.4 variants. They've picked up a few mutations that help them evade some of the infection or vaccine-induced immunity. Another variant, XBB, is also a variant of Omicron and has been dubbed the "nightmare variant" in Singapore. It is extremely immune evasive and has also shown that it might be immune to current vaccines. The World Health Organization (WHO) SARS-CoV-2 virus evolution advisory group said last week that XBB and BQ.1 do not currently diverge sufficiently from each other or from other Omicron lineages that have extra immune escape mutations to warrant a variant of concern designation or a new label.

# N.KOREA WARNS OF 'MORE POWERFUL' ACTIONS AGAINST S.KOREA-US AIR DRILLS

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea on Tuesday warned that it could stage "more powerful follow-up measures" if the US continues "military provocations", citing its large-scale combined air exercise with South Korea. A spokesman at the North's Foreign Ministry denounced the ongoing combined air drills by the allies, called Vigilant Storm, as "ceaseless and reckless" military provocations, reports Yonhap News Agency. The exercise is "a war drill for aggression mainly aimed at striking the strategic targets of the DPRK in case of contingency in the Korean Peninsula", the spokesman said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). DPRK is the acronym of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The allies on Monday kicked off their first massive joint air drills in nearly five years, with more than 240



aircraft, including stealth jets, mobilised, over the skies of the peninsula amid growing speculation that Pyongyang may conduct a nuclear test soon. The exercise is to run through Friday. The North's official warned that Pyongyang is "ready to take all necessary measures for defending its sovereignty, people's security and territorial integrity from outside military threats".

"If the US continuously persists in the grave military provocations, the DPRK will take into account more powerful follow-up measures," the spokesman said. North Korea has long denounced joint military drills between Seoul and Washington as a rehearsal for invasion, calling on Washington to end its "hostile" policy.

# Iran sanctions 10 US officials, 4 institutions for 'inciting violence, interference'

Tehran | Agencies

Iranian Foreign Ministry has announced that Tehran has imposed sanctions against 10 US individuals and four institutions for violating human rights, interfering in Iran's internal affairs, and inciting violence and riots in Iran. In a statement published on its website, the Foreign Ministry on Monday said the sanctions have been imposed based on a law adopted by the Iranian authorities to counter US human rights violations as well as its "adventurist and terrorist moves in the region". The US individuals on the list include Commander of the US Central Command



(CENTCOM) Michael Kurilla, CENTCOM's Deputy Commander Gregory Guillot, US Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo, and others. The list of the sanctioned institutions comprises an advocacy organisation United Against Nuclear Iran, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Ninth Air Force, and the National Guard of the US, Xinhua news agency reported.

# Criminal trial against Trump Organisation on tax fraud starts in New York

New York | Agencies

The jury in the criminal trial against the Trump Organisation started to hear opening statements on a 15-year tax fraud scheme from the plaintiff and the defendant in the Supreme Court of the northeastern US state of New York. The Trump Corporation and Trump Payroll Corp., two entities under the Trump Organisation, offered \$1.76 million of perks to Allen H. Weisselberg, former Chief Financial Officer of the Trump Organisation, without paying taxes, according to the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. While prosecutors tried to convict the Trump Organisation on its conspiracy role in the case, lawyers from the Trump Organisation said that Weisselberg was the man to be blamed but not his then



employer, the Trump Organisation. The trial is expected to last over a

month and the Trump Organisation could be penalised if it's found guilty, Xinhua news agency reported. The former Chief Financial Officer of Trump Organisation received a rent-free apartment, expensive cars, private school tuition for his grandchildren and new furniture from 2005 to 2018 while avoiding paying taxes, said an earlier statement from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. In August, Weisselberg himself pleaded guilty to all 15 charges in the tax fraud and agreed to testify in the trial against the Trump Organisation. He would receive a sentence of five months in jail and five years' probation if he testifies truthfully in the trial against the Trump Organisation. Former US President Donald J. Trump was not indicted in the trial, and he is not expected to testify.

# Death toll in Seoul halloween stampede reaches 156

Seoul | Agencies

One more fatality was confirmed from the Halloween stampede in Seoul's Itaewon district, raising the death toll from the tragedy to 156, officials said on Tuesday. A 20-year-old Korean woman was pronounced dead on Tuesday morning while under treatment in serious condition, according to the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters. A total of 29 people are still in serious condition, while 122 others had sustained minor injuries, Yonhap News Agency quoted the officials as saying. Of those killed, 101 were female, and victims in their 20s numbered 104, followed by 31 victims in



their 30s. There were also 26 foreign victims including five from Iran, four each from China and Russia, two from the US, two from Japan, and one each from France, Australia, Norway, Austria, Vietnam, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Sri Lanka. The tragedy took place on Saturday night when a massive crowd of Halloween partygoers packed a narrow 3.2-metre-wide alley in Seoul's entertainment district of Itaewon.



# MADHYA PRADESH CELEBRATES 67TH FOUNDATION DAY



Team Absolute | Bhopal

A week-long celebration has been organised by the state government to mark the occasion of 67th foundation day of Madhya Pradesh, which came into existence on November 1, 1956.

Although the history of the Madhya Pradesh legislature can be traced back to 1913 when the Central Provinces Legislative Council was formed, the present-day Madhya Pradesh came into existence on 1 November 1956 following the reorganisation of states. It was created by merging the erstwhile four states - Mahakaulash, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal.

Initially, the strength of the Madhya Pradesh's Vidhan Sabha was 288, which was later enhanced to 321, including one nominated member, which later in 2000 (after separation of

Chhattisgarh) reduced to 230 seats. Besides 230 members directly elected by the people of the state, there used to be a nominated member, however, the system of nominated members was abolished in 2003.

"Till 2003, the strength of Madhya Pradesh Assembly was 231 as besides 230 elected members, there used to be a

nominated member also in the parliamentary system. However, the process of nominating a member, which used to be the representative of the government, was stopped," said state Assembly speaker Girish Gautam. Since the formation of Madhya Pradesh, the state has been ruled by 18 Chief Ministers, some of them twice,

Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the longest serving Chief Minister. Out of over 17 years, the BJP ruled after 2003, the current Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held the post for over 15 years.

The Congress won the last elections in 2018. However, it collapsed within 18 months after Jyotiraditya Scindia along with 20 other MLAs joined the BJP and saffron party romped back in power in 2020.

Speaker Girish Gautam further said that the separation of the state had become the need of hour as being a huge state, the people in the remote areas were deprived of government schemes. "The demand for formation of Chhattisgarh was much before 2000, and it was a good decision of the Centre. Because of it, both the states have witnessed tremendous growth since then," he added.

## SHANKAR-EHSAAN-LOY PERFORMED AT MP FOUNDATION DAY

**Bhopal** The trio of famous musician and composer Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy performed in the program of 67th Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day organised at Lal Parade Ground. They sung some of their hit songs from films in which they have given the music.

Shankar Mahadevan said that it is special occasion for him that he had been invited by Madhya Pradesh Government in state's 67 Foundation Day program. He said he will be singing some super hit songs of film Bunt aur Babli, Taare Zameen Par, Dil Chahta Hein, Razi etc. He also praised the greenery of Bhopal.

He supported the idea to have a film city in Madhya Pradesh as so many films are being filmed in the state.

## A WEEK LONG CELEBRATION

- November 2, Ladli Laxmi Yojana program
- November 3 there will be cleanliness, decoration, rangoli, cleaning of historical monuments and statues of great men, lighting of lamps etc. Sports competitions will be held from 3rd to 6th November.
- November 4, Employment Day will be organized in which one district-one product related activity will be prominent.
- On November 5, there will be drama, folk-dance and Jan-Nayak competitions centered on the pride of Madhya Pradesh.
- November 6, there will be wildlife protection, awareness, energy-environment-water conservation, seminars, lectures, painting competitions.
- November 7, in all the districts, sanction letters and benefits will be distributed to the beneficiaries in the cases approved in the Chief Minister's public service campaign. There will also be a state level prize distribution ceremony that day.

## 4-yr-old girl raped in Khandwa; accused held

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a shocking incident, a four-year-old girl was allegedly raped and abandoned in sugarcane field in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district, the police said on Tuesday. It was the fourth incident of rape reported in the past one week in the state.

According to the police, the incident was reported on Monday and the victim is recuperating at a government hospital. A 25-year-old youth has been arrested in connection with the case.

The incident came to light after the girl was reported missing from her relative's house in Jaswadi village on Monday morning.

After receiving a missing complaint, the local police launched a search operation during which they found the child lying unconscious in a sugarcane field.

She was rushed to a nearby hospital from where she was referred to another hospital in Indore, said Superintendent of Police (SP), Vivek Singh.

The police had initially registered a case under Section 363 (kidnapping) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Later, they added Section 376 (rape) and relevant provisions of the Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Singh said. The police said that during interrogation, the accused youth admitted to have taken the girl to a sugarcane field where he raped her. The man had allegedly approached the victim's family on Sunday night to borrow a cot, the officer said.

**CM Chouhan has said that the mischievous elements who harm the honor of daughters should be punished severely. Criminals involved in such incidents do not deserve pardon. Such elements should not be spared at all. CM today directed the Commissioner Indore and IG Indore at Indore airport to take strict action against the culprits of the incident with a girl child in Khandwa. He also gave instructions for better treatment of the girl child.**



- On October 29, a 15-year-old girl was allegedly held hostage and gang-raped by five persons in Guna district. The accused later dumped the victim at an abandoned place.
- On October 25, a 23-year-old woman was gang-raped by five men, including a minor. The victim was later dumped near an under-construction building in Tikamgarh district.
- On October 19, a 17-year-old girl was raped and strangled to death in Bhind district.
- On Monday, a woman was found in an unconscious state on the roadside in a posh area in Bhopal. In her statement to the police, the woman alleged that while she was on her way to her home, two men tried to overpower her. She resisted and fought against them during which she lost consciousness.

## 4.3-magnitude earthquake hits Madhya Pradesh

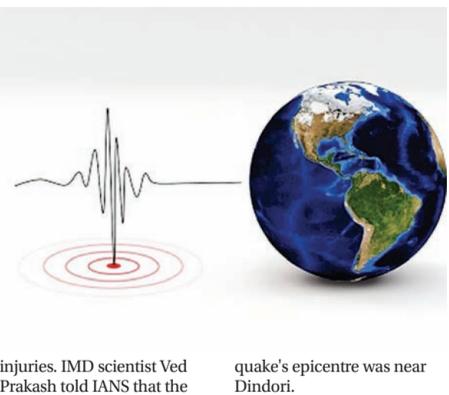
Team Absolute | Bhopal

A moderate earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale struck Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday.

According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) regional office in Bhopal, the earthquake was recorded at a depth of 10 km.

The tremor that occurred at 8.43 a.m. was felt in Jabalpur, Dindori, Madla, Anuppur, Umaria and Balaghat districts, according to IMD officials.

However, there was no report of any infrastructure damages, casualties or injuries. IMD scientist Ved Prakash told IANS that the quake's epicentre was near Dindori.



## Businessmen who deposit highest tax will be honoured with Bhamashah Award

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The state government has started a unique initiative to honour the highest tax-paying businessmen under the GST law in the state. In this, the businessmen who deposited the highest tax in the last year 2020-21 and 2021-22 will be honoured with the Bhamashah Award.

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan will felicitate the businessmen in a ceremony to be organised at Ravindra Bhavan on November 3. The purpose of establishment of Bhamashah Award is to encourage the suppliers who deposited the highest tax amount from IGST settlement under the provisions of the Goods and Services Tax Act in Madhya Pradesh.

**Awards will be given in five categories**

- Such suppliers whose turnover in the concerned financial year is less than one-and-half crore rupees.



- First Category: First taxpayer will be awarded with one lakh rupees and certificate and second taxpayer with 50 thousand rupees and certificate.
- Such suppliers whose turnover in the concerned financial year is more than Rs 1.50 crore but less than Rs 50 crore.

- Second Category: Rs 5 lakh and certificate will be given to the first taxpayer and Rs 3 lakh and certificate to the second taxpayer.
- Such suppliers whose turnover in the concerned financial year is more than 50 crores but less than 500 crores.
- Third Category: Rs 7 lakh and certificate will be given to the first taxpayer and Rs 5 lakh and certificate to the second taxpayer.
- Such suppliers whose turnover in the concerned financial year is more than Rs.500 crores.
- Fourth Category: First taxpayer will get Rs 10 lakh and certificate and second taxpayer Rs 7 lakh and certificate.
- The fifth category is that of government departments and public undertakings.
- Fifth Category: Rs 3 lakh and certificate will be given to the first taxpayer and Rs 2 lakh and certificate to the second taxpayer.

## PESA Act to be implemented in state from birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that PM Narendra Modi has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda on November 15 as Tribal Pride Day. On this occasion in Madhya Pradesh, PESA Act is going to be implemented for the welfare of tribal brothers and sisters. Many development activities and welfare schemes are being run for the tribal brothers and sisters so that they may live with self-respect. PM Modi has done effective work to honour the tribal heroes of Mangarh and to enable the masses learn about them. The decision to build a memorial at the sacrifice site of the heroes is a real tribute to the martyrs. The tradition of worshipping martyrs has been restarted PM Modi. On the soil of Madhya Pradesh also, work has been done to build a memorial in



the memory of tribal heroes like Bhima Nayak, Tanya Mama, Raghunath Shah-Shankar Shah. CM was addressing the Gaurav Gatha programme of Mangarh Dham organised in the chief guestship of Prime Minister Modi at Mangarh Hill in Banswara, Rajasthan. Governor of Madhya

Pradesh Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel and Union Ministers were present. CM Chouhan said that there were many martyrs of the freedom struggle, whose sacrifice could not come to the fore. In Mangarh, Govind Guru accepted the challenge of the British to protect his religion and culture and more than 1500 heroes made sacrifices. Prime Minister Modi's decision to build a memorial at the place of sacrifice is commendable. A large number of tribal brothers and sisters from Madhya Pradesh have also come to pay obeisance to Mangarh Dham. These people should do tilak on their forehead from the soil of Mangarh Dham and take this sacrificial soil to their village also. Mangarh Dham is the land of sacrifice. Those who laid down their lives for the country will always be remembered and worshipped.

## Special court sentences man to seven-year imprisonment in Vyapam scam case

Team Absolute | Indore

A special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court in Madhya Pradesh's Indore on Monday sentenced a man to seven years of imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 in a case related to Vyapam scam.

The court of additional sessions judge (CBI) Sanjay Kumar Gupta convicted solver Vinay Kumar Mehta, a resident of Bihar, under sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471 of the IPC for fraud and forgery of documents and sections

3(D)(1)(2)/4 of MPRE Act. Mehta appeared for Shishupal Yadav in the pre-medical test (PMT)-2004 examination organised by Vyapam, which is now known as MP Employees Selection Board (MPESB), the prosecution said.

Khandwa police arrested Mehta along with Yadav and middleman Ajit Singh in relation to the crime. The accused were tried in Khandwa court, wherein in 2015, court acquitted middleman Ajit Singh and sentenced Shishupal Yadav. Mehta was on bail and was

later absconding. Later in 2015, the case was transferred to the CBI and Mehta was arrested.

"The court found Vinay Kumar Mehta guilty and sentenced him to maximum imprisonment of seven years along with a fine of Rs 10,000. He is sentenced to imprisonment for different periods under different sections of the IPC," said special prosecutor Ranjan Sharma.

At least 17 witnesses were examined before the court along with other evidence in the special court during trial, Sharma added.

## CM CHOUHAN PAYS HOMAGE TO SANT KANWAR RAM ON HIS DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

**Bhopal** CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Sant Kanwar Ram on his death anniversary. CM paid floral tribute by garlanding his picture in the auditorium at his residence office. Sant Kanwar Ram was born on April 13, 1885 in Jarwal village of Sukkur district in Sindh province of undivided India. Sant Kanwar propagated moral and human values and communal harmony with devotion to God from village to village through the traditional 'Bhagat' programme prevalent in the Sindh region. He did not let the discrimination of religion and caste come near him and always spread social harmony, unity and brotherhood. Patriot Sant Kanwar Ram also worked to awaken the spirit of freedom among the people after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.



## People swarm dam site in Panna looking for diamonds

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Hundreds of people, including those from neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, have been digging the soil near an under-construction dam at Vishramganj in Panna district after videos and messages went viral on social media claiming a contractor found diamond gravel there.

The construction of the dam over an eight-kilometre area over the Runjh river to irrigate 12,000-hectare farmland started this year. Officials said the land belongs to the water resources department and anybody can dig out a pit up to 2.5 feet.

HT in August last year reported that 77.72-carat diamond was found in Panna since January 2021, the lowest over the last five years. The resumption of mining at the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)'s mine at Majhganwa in Panna was expected to boost the diamond business. The



NMDC mine was closed after 60 years as its environmental clearance ended on December 31, 2020. There are shallow mines in the region that are leased out. The state mining department and NMDC organise auctions of diamonds in Panna. Police said that thousands of people have come with digging equipment and created law and order problems, prompting them to act. Sub-divisional police officer Kalyani

Verkade said they have seized over 100 motorcycles in a fortnight. "Everyday police visit the area to check the law and order situation but people are not ready to give up. Now, they are coming by foot." Rajkumar Banda, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Banda, said he came to know a labourer found diamond worth crores. "The land is going to be submerged and we are just trying our luck before the construction of the dam." Residents demanded action against outsiders. "Vishramganj is my native village. We saved nature for years but now the outsiders are exploiting it. They are uprooting trees...The administration should take action against them and make arrangements to stop them," said Vishu Gond, a local resident. Panna diamond officer Ravi Patel said the land has been allotted to the water resources department for the construction of the dam and they cannot take any action until a complaint is received. "We are discussing the matter with the collector.



# I'm trying to write a love letter to my wife": Bono on his memoir

Los Angeles | Agencies

**I**rish singer-songwriter and the frontman of the rock band 'U2', Paul David Hewson popularly known as 'Bono', published his memoir on Tuesday.

The book, titled 'Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story', doesn't just tell the story of 40 songs of 'U2' but also touches upon his love story with his wife Ali Hewson.

Bono, who married Ali in 1982 and counts her as one of his closest friends, told a Magazine, "I also wrote the book to explain to my family what I was doing with their life because it was they who permission me to be away with U2 or lob-

bying Congress".

For him, the book is not just a memoir but beyond that, "Ali gave me the chance and covered for me at home. So I'm not writing a rock'n'roll memoir, (or) an activist's memoir, I'm not just writing a sojourner's memoir, I'm trying to write a love letter to my wife".

to me, by the way. She's a mystery to her daughters, to her sons," he said. "I mean, we're all trying to get to know her. She's endlessly fascinating. She's... full of mischief", he further mentioned.

However, not that it's all been a bed of roses. According to Bono, the couple has weathered some tough times. "It's not like our love was absent of any dark undercurrents or briny water, [but] we got each other through those bits where it was hard to see where we were," he said.

"Ali calls it 'the work of love'. I wish she wouldn't use the word 'work' because I have a feeling there's an adjective, 'hard', that's inferred", he concluded.

Bono calls the woman he shares four children with, "incredible." "She's not just a mystery

## TAYLOR SWIFT IS FIRST ARTIST WITH ENTIRE TOP 10 ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

Los Angeles | Agencies

**S**inger Taylor Swift has made history as she scored 10 out of 10 to become the first artist in history to claim the Top 10 slots on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in the US.

Billboard reported on Monday that Swift has surpassed Drake, who had held the previous record with nine of the Top 10 songs for a week in September 2021.

"10 out of 10 of the Hot 100??? On my 10th album??? I AM IN SHAMBLES," the 32-year-old pop star tweeted. The new album came out on 21 October with both a 13-track standard release and a deluxe version with seven bonus tracks. It has had one of the biggest album launches in nearly seven years.

According to Billboard Swift, now ties with Barbra Streisand for the female artist with the most No 1 albums.

The No 1 spot on the Billboard chart is given to 'Anti-Hero'. The other Top 10 songs include 'Lavender Haze', 'Maroon', 'Snow on the Beach', 'Midnight Rain', 'Bejeweled' and 'Question ...?'

Swift has set a number of new records with Midnights: it had the biggest first week of sales of any album this year, almost doubling the numbers of the previous title-holder, Harry's House, the third solo album by Harry Styles. Midnights also had the highest first-week streams of the year: 72.5m, again beating Styles' figures of 53.9m.

Swift has also overtaken Madonna to set a new all-time UK chart record for the fastest succession of nine UK No 1 albums of any female artist - although Madonna still has the record for the most UK No 1 albums of any solo female artist, with 12 overall. Swift is now second in that list, pushing Kylie Minogue into third place.



# Emilia Clarke to play Constance Lloyd

Los Angeles | Agencies

**T**he 'Game of Thrones' star, Emilia Clarke, is set to portray the Irish author Constance Lloyd, who was married to Oscar Wilde, in the film 'An Ideal Wife' that is being directed by 'Good Luck to You, Leo Grande' helmer Sophie Hyde.

The project will be presented at this week's American Film Market, which is set to begin on Tuesday.

The film will tell the story of Lloyd -- an author and feminist activist who took part in the dress reform movement which campaigned to allow women to dress in comfortable clothing rather than the stifling outfits of the era.

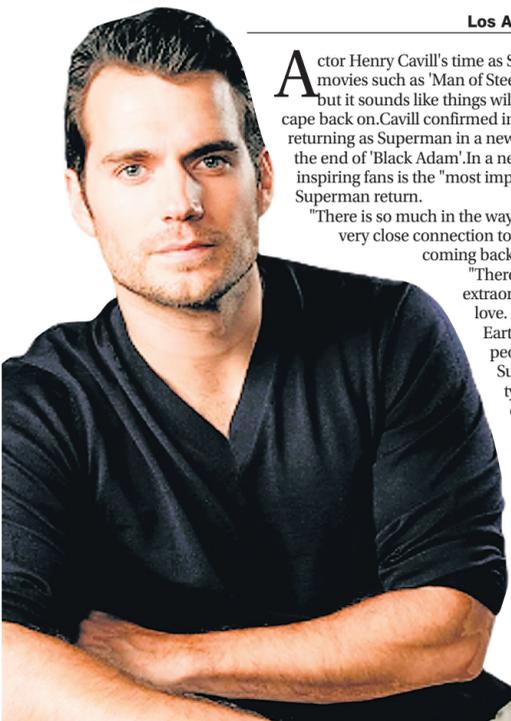
Lloyd married Wilde in 1884 and the pair had two sons. However, she moved to Switzerland with the children after the writer received a two-year prison sentence for homosexuality.

'An Ideal Wife' is being produced by Olivier Delbosc at Curiosa Films, Chris Curling at Zephyr Films and Matthew Gledhill at Wheelhouse Productions. It further states that Emilia is set to star in a new biopic about the US politician Joseph McCarthy.

Hollywood actor Michael Shannon has been cast in the lead role for the movie, which will chart the rise and fall of the notorious and powerful senator and his enablers, a group that features his politically ambitious wife Jean Kerr (played by Clarke), the ruthless young lawyer Roy Cohn (DeHaan) and his trusted friend Ray Kiermas (McNairy). The movie - directed by Vaclav Marhoul - will tell the story of how McCarthy rose to prominence in US politics during the 1940s and 1950s on a wave of anti-communist hysteria.

## Want to tell a story of joyful Superman': Henry Cavill

Los Angeles | Agencies



**A**ctor Henry Cavill's time as Superman has largely been defined by brooding movies such as 'Man of Steel' and 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice', but it sounds like things will be somewhat different when the actor puts the cape back on. Cavill confirmed in an October 24 social media post that he is returning as Superman in a new Warner Bros.-DC movie, following his cameo at the end of 'Black Adam'. In a new interview with ScreenRant, the actor said inspiring fans is the "most important" factor behind his long-awaited Superman return.

"There is so much in the way of conversations to be had. Obviously, I have a very close connection to the character," Cavill said when asked about coming back as the superhero.

"There is something extraordinarily special about him; extraordinarily special about his capacity to give and to love. I don't mean romantically; I mean his love for Earth and for the people who live here, and to make people feel powerful -- to make people feel like Superman themselves." Cavill added, "I have plenty of desires for this, of course, which will be discussed more in time. But the most important thing, which I will be aiming for, is for the audience to leave the cinema and to feel like they can fly, to feel like they can protect, and to feel like they want to give to everyone else. That would be my goal." During a live recording of the "Happy Sad Confused" podcast last week, Cavill said there is "a bright future ahead for the character" and added, "I'm so excited to tell a story with an enormously joyful Superman." Fans interpreted Cavill's "enormously joyful" tease as a hint that whenever Superman does return to the big screen, he will have a different look and feel compared to Cavill's last Zack Snyder-directed Superman outings.

## KIT CONNOR SAYS HE'S BEEN 'FORCED' TO COME OUT' AS BISEXUAL

Los Angeles | Agencies



**'H**earstopper' star Kit Connor came out as bisexual amid accusations of queer baiting and slammed his critics for "forcing an 18 year old to out himself" in response to the hurtful allegations. On October 31, the star called out social media users who had been accusing him of queer baiting, a term used to describe people who lean into suspicion that they may be queer in hopes of attracting attention and publicity, reports online.com. In a tweet, Connor slammed the allegations and wrote: "I'm bi. congrats for forcing an 18 year old to out himself." The British actor, who plays Nick Nelson, a teen coming to terms with his sexuality, on 'Heartstopper', also noted, "I think some of you missed the point of the show. bye."

Connor's tweet comes five months after he confronted the allegations online. "Twitter is so funny man," he tweeted on May 2. "Apparently some people on here know my sexuality better than I do." Later that month, 'His Dark Materials' alum called the queer baiting accusations "mean" and defended his choice to keep his sexuality private. "I'm perfectly confident and comfortable in my sexuality, but... I'm not too big on labels and things like that," he shared on the Reign with Josh Smith podcast. "I don't feel like I need to label myself, especially not publicly."

Connor also said that it was "strange" for people to make speculations about him and his Heartstopper co-star Joe Locke, who also plays a queer character. "To start speculating about our sexualities and pressuring us to come out when maybe we're not ready," he continued, "I feel like that's very interesting, slightly problematic assumption to make."

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Nina Dobrev



## T-20 WORLD CUP

# ENGLAND BEAT NEW ZEALAND BY 20 RUNS



Brisbane | Agencies

England rode on fifties from Jos Buttler and Alex Hales, and a superb bowling effort by Sam Curran to register a clinical 20-run win over New Zealand in their Super 12 encounter of the T20 World

Cup at on Tuesday.

As of now, table-toppers New Zealand, second-placed England and third-ranked Australia are now tied on five points each. All three teams have one match left to play in Group 1 with only net run rate separating the trio. No one from Group 1 is confirmed as qualified for the semi-

### AFGHANISTAN LOST TO SRI LANKA BY 6 WICKETS

Brisbane: Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga took three wickets for 13 runs.

Hasaranga had emerged the leading wicket-taker at last year's T20 World Cup and the Sri Lanka all-rounder is on track to match that feat in the ongoing edition of the tournament. He was also adjudged 'Player of the Match' at The Gabba. The star bowler grabbed the key wicket of Usman Ghani (27) early and then returned at the back end to dismiss fellow spinners Rashid Khan (9) and Mujeeb Ur Rahman (1). Ghani and Rahmanullah Gurbaz

(28) had given Afghanistan a strong start by putting on 42 for the opening wicket, until Hasaranga's timely intervention following the batting Powerplay, according to ICC. Hasaranga finished with match-winning figures of 3/13 and even chipped in with an excellent catch in the outfield to help dismiss the dangerous Najibullah Zadran (18). The Afghanistan veteran tried in vain to recover safely but was caught short.

Afghanistan, meanwhile, are out of contention for a semifinal spot and meet Australia on Friday.

finals.

New Zealand ahead in the race Group 1 toppers New Zealand have the edge over other qualification rivals, thanks to their excellent net run rate of +2.233, which was set up by that 89-run hammering of Australia in their opening game at Sydney Cricket Ground.

That net run rate is almost as good as a point for the Black Caps, meaning it is very much an advantage for them in the qualification race. The Kiwis would need to lose to Ireland in their final match at Adelaide Oval and by a significant margin to give Australia and England the opportunity to deny them a top-two finish.

### ILT20 League

## Registration process opens for UAE-based players

Dubai | Agencies

International T20 League announced that the UAE based players' registration is now open for those interested in putting their names forward for consideration to participate in the inaugural league on Tuesday.

"Players who are based, and are currently playing in the UAE are invited to register their interest by visiting the League's newly launched website. Through the registration portal, interested players are strongly encouraged to review the selection criteria which strictly adheres to Emirates Cricket playing and ICC residency guidelines," the organisers said in a release on Tuesday.

In following one of the League's unpinning values, and commitment to nurturing the talents of UAE-domiciled players, Mubashshir Usmani, General Secretary Emirates Cricket Board said; "League management are extremely pleased to



open the registration portal, which can be found on the now-live ILT20 website, to our expansive UAE-player-pool, and we welcome their interest to compete in the inaugural edition of the League."

"In exposing UAE's players to high-level, international matches ratified by the ICC, of which the ILT20 has received a multi-year approval, bodes well for not only UAE Cricket's player development but also for the development of Associate Cricket, where Franchise teams have already signed-on players from various Associate nations, as we strive for sustainability and innovative opportunities to grow our players and raise the bar on their competitive edge."

## T20 WC shown us you can't take any team lightly; Dravid on India's next match

Adelaide | Agencies

If this Men's T20 World Cup has proved anything, then it is that no team can be taken lightly, feels India head coach Rahul Dravid.

"I think the fact that it is already such a short format. 20 overs is such a short format of the game. The margins of victory and defeat sometimes even if they're 12 runs, 15 runs, it's actually just two hits. It's two hits one way or the other, and actually that's the game," said Dravid in the pre-match press conference. "People are getting out. It's really been a fantastic tournament from that perspective. Apart from the weather, I think it's been a terrific tournament in terms of just the nature of the games. No, we certainly don't take Bangladesh lightly. Our preparation, our planning will be as meticulous as it was against South Africa at Perth. No different," added Dravid. "In this format, every wicket is different. That's one of the things, again, this tournament has shown playing in different parts of Australia. The grounds are so different. Certainly playing in Perth the other night where the boundaries were 80 yards. We come here, and it's certainly different."



"The kind of shots you'll play here will be very different to the kind of shots you'll play at Perth. You'll have to bowl different kind of balls, which I think is a unique nature of playing this tournament in this country, that almost game-to-game you're having to adapt your tactics, your strategies to different

conditions. I think that's the uniqueness of that," observed Dravid. "If the conditions so dictate that the ball is nipping around doing a bit, then we can afford our batsmen to maybe be a little bit more conservative, keep wickets in hand and then target. I think it's about adapting and being smart. I don't think there's just one way to play T20 cricket on all conditions." "Yes, there is a general template in which we understand T20 you have to be positive; you have to take the game on. That would be 80 per cent of most T20 games, but there is another 20 per cent, and that can come in big tournaments like this, wherein you've got to have the players, and we discussed that in our dressing room, who have to be able to adapt and understand and read a situation," stated Dravid.

## PATNA PIRATES' SACHIN: WE PLAYED AN ATTACKING GAME AGAINST GUJRAT GIANTS

Bengaluru: Patna Pirates registered back-to-back victories after defeating Gujarat Giants 34-28 in the vivo Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 at the Shree Shivchhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi, Pune on Monday.

Speaking about their victory, star raider Sachin said, "I am really happy with our performance. Our raiders and defenders have been playing very well. It feels great to be winning. Our coach had told us to play an attacking game against Gujarat Giants and we were successful in doing so."

The U.P. Yoddhas bounced back into form after defeating Telugu Titans 43-24 in the second match on Monday. When asked about their victory, U.P. Yoddhas Captain Nitesh Kumar said, "We looked to attack every raider during the game as a defense unit. Our raiders Pardeep Narwal and Surender Gill played well and even our defenders performed well. Hopefully, our defenders continue to put up similar performances in our upcoming matches."



## 'Turn it Up'

As the 100-day countdown begins, Mandhana, Wolvaardt, and Healy intend to inspire the Women's T20 World Cup in 2023

Johannesburg | Agencies

Smriti Mandhana, Laura Wolvaardt, and Alyssa Healy, three international players in women's cricket, are prepared to "Turn it Up" for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, which will take place in South Africa in February 2023. A new campaign called "Turn it Up" was launched on Tuesday to celebrate there being 100 days till the event and to generate excitement across the country. Smriti, the India vice-captain and left-handed opener, affirmed India are motivated to improve on their runners-up performance in the 2020 edition of the tournament, which saw them lose to hosts Australia in the final attended by a record-breaking crowd of 86,174 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

"The Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa promises to be a spectacular event, we are looking forward to heading there and competing against the best teams



in the world. We came up short against Australia in the final in 2020 so we are really motivated to go one further in 2023. South Africa is a beautiful country to tour, the people love their cricket and always know how to turn it up, it's going to be an amazing experience," she said in an official tournament release.

"It will also be the first time I play for South Africa at Newlands, I have only played one

or two provincial games but never for South Africa. It is one of the most beautiful grounds in the world so to be there for a World Cup game will be incredible. I hope people come to watch, the atmosphere will be incredible, there is nothing better than being a supporter at Newlands; sitting in the stands and soaking it all in. It will be a special experience, I can't wait to get going and to turn it up for the fans."

## FanClash is now Official Fantasy Partner of Revenant Esports

New Delhi | Agencies

Revenant Esports has announced FanClash as its Official Fantasy Partner. "FanClash is now an aspirational name in the world of esports and we are thrilled to have them associated with us as our fantasy gaming partner. We at Revenant Esports believe that the popularity of our esports roster and content creators are secure in times to come. Our association is a step taken towards revolutionising Esports fandom in the country," said founder and CEO of Revenant Esports, Rohit Jagasia. FanClash is an Esports startup for gamers to compete, access curated content and get their daily dose of thrill by playing fantasy leagues on popular Esports from across the globe.

Commenting on the association, Archana Sangaran, marketing head, FanClash said, "Esports as an industry has been gaining greater popularity

alongside receiving traction at a national and worldwide scale. Valorant has also been gaining a great fan following from the esports community. Therefore, the company has been aggressively exploring opportunities for increasing fan engagement along with creating excitement and anticipation. Our endeavour has always been to bring accessibility through compelling associations for gamers. We will be announcing many more developments in the upcoming months."

According to the industry reports, the number of Esports players doubled from 300,000 in 2020 to 600,000 in 2021, Esports revenue grew by 29 per cent from INR 7.5 billion in 2020 to INR 9.7 billion in 2021, Esports teams also grew by over 50 per cent from 60,000 in 2020 to 100,000 in 2021. The total prize money in 2021 crossed INR 200 million and there is also a meteoric rise in viewership, from 600,000 hours in 2020 to 2 million hours in 2021.

## ASIAN ELITE BOXING 2022 Sparsh Kumar is off to a fast start

New Delhi | Agencies

Boxer Sparsh Kumar gave India a victorious start on Tuesday at the ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan, where 267 boxers from 27 of the world's best boxing countries are competing.

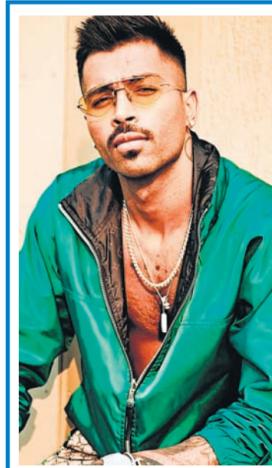
Sparsh (51kg) was up against Kyrgyzstan's Dushhebaev Nurzhigit in the R32, the Punjab boxer displayed sharp foot movement and precise punches to notch a comfortable 5-0 win against his opponent. The southpaw dictated the pace of the bout right from the beginning and didn't allow him to settle.

Sparsh will face Olympic bronze medalist and reigning World Champion Saken Bibossinov in the



pre-quarterfinal tomorrow. Five-time Asian Medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) as well as seven other Indian male pugilists, Ananta (54kg), Hussamuddin (57kg), Etash Khan (60kg), Amit Kumar (67kg), Sachin (71kg), Lakshya (80kg) and Kapil (86kg) will begin their campaign in the pre-quarter finals. Govind Sahani (48kg), Sumit (75kg), Naveen (92kg) and Narender (92+kg) will be starting off from quarter-finals after receiving first round byes.

2018 World Championships bronze medalist Simranjit Kaur (60kg) who is making a comeback will be up against Asian Games gold medalist and two-time Asian gold medalist Yeonji Oh of Korea in the quarter-final on Sunday.



## Hardik Pandya signed as brand ambassador of Reliance Retail

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Reliance Retail has launched an athleisure brand, Xlerate, on its new commerce platform, AJIO Business and signed Hardik Pandya as its brand ambassador.

The brand caters to the unique requirements of sports and fitness enthusiasts who seek style and comfort in their fitness journey.

Commenting on his association with Xlerate, Hardik Pandya said, "I am pleased to associate with Xlerate. I think they have an extremely stylish and comfortable range of products.

Their brand ideology, 'Don't brake, Xlerate', resonates with my philosophy in life, to continue working hard with self-belief and intensity. I have always had a never-give-up attitude and it's exciting to see that today's youth also believes in the same outlook, which Xlerate also truly exemplifies. So, my message to the youth is - no matter what, don't stop. Don't brake, Xlerate."

Speaking on the Xlerate launch, Akhilesh Prasad, President and CEO - Fashion and Lifestyle, Reliance Retail, said, "Xlerate is sure to delight the value-conscious consumer with its

superior and affordable product offering. Our brand ambassador, Hardik Pandya, embodies its spirit of moving ahead in life undeterred by obstacles. The campaign "Don't Brake, Xlerate" reflects the passion and enthusiasm of the youth, who pursue their goals with a never-say-die attitude. The brand caters to their requirements across the categories of sports shoes, sandals and apparel." "The sports utilities offered by Xlerate includes sport shoes, athletic and lifestyle footwear, apparels such as track pants, t-shirts, shorts, and other accessories.

## India-New Zealand T20 World Cup final, predicts Mithali Raj

Mumbai | Agencies

Former India women's cricket team skipper Mithali Raj has predicted an India-New Zealand final in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. Mithali Raj, who made her commentary debut during the India-South Africa Super 12 match in the T20 World Cup after bringing the curtain down on an illustrious career spanning more than two decades, is the only Indian captain to have led the India women's team in two ODI World Cup finals.



"My predictions for semifinal spot, that is four spots will be India and South Africa from Group 2. From Group 1, it will be New Zealand and a toss-up between England and Australia. And the finalists, there is no doubt, India

has to be there, and New Zealand," said Mithali, speaking on Star Sports, the official broadcaster of the tournament.

South Africa, after defeating India in their third Super 12 game are leading Group 2 with five points, while India, after enjoying the pole position in the pool, slipped to fourth following the defeat in Perth. India and Bangladesh are on four points each, but Rohit Sharma's boys, by virtue of a better net run rate (NRR) are ahead of third-placed Bangladesh.



## Katrina, Siddhant celebrates Ishaan Khatter's birthday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As Ishaan Khatter turned 27 on Tuesday, Katrina Kaif and Siddhant Chaturvedi made it memorable for him.

The three were seen celebrating Ishaan's birthday in a restaurant in Mumbai. The two even smeared some chocolate cake on Ishaan's face. Katrina looked like a Barbie as she chose a bubble gum pink ensemble. Siddhant wore a white hoodie paired with jeans and the birthday boy looked every

inch dapper as he wore a casual burnt orange shirt paired with black jeans.

Right behind the actors, posters of their film 'Phone Bhoot', which is all set to hit the screen on November 4, can be seen.

'Phone Bhoot' is a horror comedy film directed by Gurmmeet Singh and produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani under their own production house Excel Entertainment. It also stars Jackie Shroff and Sheeba Chaddha playing supporting roles.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Janhvi Kapoor says just like her character in the upcoming movie, she too is a fighter and has shown perseverance in her own life many a times.

'Mili' her upcoming movie, directed by Mathukutty Xavier and produced by Boney Kapoor. The film stars Janhvi, Sunny Kaushal and Manoj Pahwa. A remake of the director's own 2019 Malayalam film 'Helen', it follows a woman stuck in a freezer fighting to stay alive. The 25-year-old shot for the movie for straight 20 days inside a freezer in minus 15 degree temperature.

Asked if she feels she too is a fighter like her character Mili, pat came a reply from jaanvi: "Yeah, I think so. Maybe not on the face I don't think I am aggressive but I think that I have shown perseverance in my own life many times."

Janhvi started her journey in Hindi cinema in 2018 with 'Dhadak'. She was later seen in films as different as chalk and cheese such as 'Ghost Stories', 'Roohi', 'Gunjan Saxena' and 'Good Luck Jerry'.

At 25, how does she pick her films?

"I think for me that is what the excit-

I get to learn about different people, cultures and stories: Janhvi Kapoor



ing part about doing what I do is. I get to live so many lives and characters, which are different from my world. I get that much more excited to do it because I get to learn about different people, different cultures and stories."

"Through my films I have learnt to ride a chopper, I've been to locations like Bateswar. I am learning cricket, I have shot in a freezer and learnt how to speak in a Bihari dialect. I love the different colours it adds to my life."

Also featuring Manoj Pahwa and Sunny Kaushal, 'Mili' is produced by Zee Studios and Boney Kapoor.

## Badshah bottoms up for rapper Nazz over his energetic performance

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular rapper Badshah was totally amazed looking at the performance of Nihar Hodawadekar, known as Nazz. He said that he had evolved and improved a lot in his rapping style and creativity.

"Nazz, there was a time when you almost lost in one of the battles, and what we have seen afterwards... Nazz is something else only. What I love about you and also hate about you is that you make it look easy, when it's not."

Badshah, who is seen judging the rappers on 'Hustle 2.0' enjoyed the competition between Vikalp Dwivedi known by his stage name Wicked Sunny and Nazz. Both the performances that happened one after another grabbed the attention of the judge and the audience.

But later, Nazz proved his mettle with his rap composition 'Kisi Ka Haath Apne Sar Pe Na' and turned out to be the winner. He made everyone groove with his rapping style and lyrics.

He added: "At what level you are thinking is beyond my understanding but this was a great battle. I think this is one of the most interesting battles Indian hip-hop has ever seen."



## Satramm Ramani Asked Sonakshi, Huma to put on 15 kgs

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Director Satramm Ramani revealed how he asked the lead actresses Sonakshi Sinha and Huma Qureshi to gain weight of about 15 kg. It is often seen that the actors mostly go on a strict diet schedule for their role but Sonakshi and Huma have to do just the opposite. Satramm, who is known for his movies such as 'Bodyguard', 'Helmer' and 'Ready' says: "We have always heard of instances when makers ask their heroines to limit their diet, but the philosophy of 'Double XL' is that dreams don't need to be put in any size, thus it provided me the liberty to explore and I wanted my actresses to look authentic."

He says that mostly actors are asked to shed their weight but the concept of the film was such that he needed both Huma and Sonakshi to look overweight. "Hence, I asked them to put on 13-15 kgs and would push them to eat more. Not just during the shoot in London, but even during our reading sessions, I made sure that they feel comfortable and relatable to their characters," he added.

'Double XL' also features Zaheer Iqbal and Mahat Raghavendra, and the film will release theatrically on November 4.



## Not the boycott trend, but the box office does affect me: Neena Gupta

Shachi Chaturvedi | Mumbai

Neena Gupta is a Hindi film and television actress and director. After receiving praise for her performance in Goodbye and Masaba Masaba, the actress is gearing up for her upcoming film Uunchai.

The film is about the value of friendship. Absolute India News caught up with an exclusive conversation with her.

### On her role and the idea of Film

While talking about what this film has to deliver the actress said, "It wasn't just friendship when Sooraj sir explained my role to me. It's a family movie, and Sooraj has dealt with all of these families. The plot revolves not only around the four friends but also around their families." She added "My role in this film is more than just flashbacks as was in Goodbye. I used to feel bad about having short scenes during Goodbye."

### On her closest friend and need of friendship

The actress shares how friendship is very important to her, "Friends are very important to me at my age; Masaba lives with her family, and I have no family in Mumbai. So what should I do? My husband is usually out of town and rarely visits, so I am constantly in need of friends. I occasionally go to a friend's house for dinner. I am constantly in need of the support of my friends. My closest friend is Masaba."

### On friendship of Gen Z v/s Millennial

The actress discussed how friendship and way of looking at it has changed throughout the generations, "I consider these things. We used to play in the streets when we were younger, we used to finish our homework and go out, but nowadays children do not. I have a lower back problem as a result of sitting and looking at my phone; this is going to be harmful to future generations"

### On opportunities OTT brought

While discussing how OTT has given a new space to talents the actress shares, "OTT has employed a large number of people, including not only actors but also technicians and others. We are no longer reliant on movies and television shows. We have these series where we don't have to spend four years on a single show."

### About ongoing trends and Box-Office

Neena does not believe in any of the current trends, such as Boycott Bollywood or the north-south debate, but that what bothers her is the box office. The actress discusses, "Not the boycott trend, but the box office does affect me. I don't believe the boycott trend is having an effect on the box office. If it's a good film, it should work. You act because you want more people to see it."



Kiara Advani

## MY BIGGEST DREAM IS TO ENTERTAIN THROUGH A DIVERSE ARRAY OF ROLES: VARUN DHAWAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Varun Dhawan, says his latest character in the upcoming creature comedy from 'Bhediya' is the wildest character he has ever played.

Varun says, "I agreed to do Bhediya after hearing just the one line idea. I've never wanted to let go of the film ever since, and was in constant touch with the producers. This is the wildest character I have played. While it may have been my first foray into the creature comedy genre, Amar had done Stree earlier and was very hands-on with the whole process."

"My biggest dream as an actor is to entertain through a diverse array of roles. 'Bhediya' is the most important addition to that endeavour".

Jio Studios and Dinesh Vijan present, 'Bhediya'.

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

