

# absolute india

VOL. 9, ISSUE 385, MUMBAI | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI



**NATION** >02  
'Jana Gana Mana' and 'Vande Mataram' stand on same ...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
Mariah Carey says she 'didn't fit in' with beauty standards ...



**SPORTS** > 07  
T20 World Cup: India seeks to qualify for semifinals against ...

## CLIMATE CHANGE DEADLIER THAN CANCER IN SOME AREAS: UNDP

# ENTERING IN RED ZONE

"Because of human action, the concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is reaching dangerous levels, driving earth's temperatures higher and amplifying the frequency of intensity of extreme events," says the newly launched Human Climate Horizons platform, adding that without concerted and urgent action, climate change will further exacerbate inequalities, and uneven development.

- ▶ According to the research, the earth's average temperature has risen by nearly 1.2 degrees Celsius since the late 19th century, changing the entire planet's surface.
- ▶ Higher temperatures and a warmer climate stress cardiovascular and respiratory systems around the world, but the effects will differ depending on how well communities are equipped to adapt.
- ▶ Increasingly frequent and severe temperature extremes also threaten livelihoods, affecting work intensity and duration as well as affecting the ability to perform tasks.
- ▶ Climate change impacts are not evenly distributed globally, which will result in an increase in inequalities.



UNITED STATES | Agencies

Climate change could be twice as deadly as cancer in some parts of the world if carbon emissions remain high, according to new data released by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Climate Impact Lab. Using Dhaka, Bangladesh, as an example, according to the data

released on Friday, additional deaths from climate change would be nearly twice the country's current all-cancer death rate and 10 times its road traffic death rate by 2100, reports Xinhua news agency. In addition to the analyses from the Human Development Reports of 2020, 2021, and 2022, the data shows how climate change impacts people's lives -- from mortality to livelihoods. According to the data, climate

change could lead to nearly 67 deaths per 100,000 population in Faisalabad, Pakistan -- more deaths than strokes, the third leading cause of death. Despite higher incomes in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the death rate is still higher than Alzheimer's disease, which is the sixth leading cause of death worldwide. Nevertheless, billions live in regions that have already experienced warmer temperatures than the global average. As an example, the platform points to Maracaibo, Venezuela, noting that in the 1990s it averaged 62 annual days with temperatures exceeding 35 degrees Celsius. However, by mid-century, that number will likely soar to 201 days. Electricity availability and fuels used to generate it to power air conditioners and heaters play a crucial role in our ability to cope with extreme temperatures, according to the UNDP. As individuals, communities, and businesses adapt to changing conditions, the effects of climate change on energy use will vary locally. In Jakarta, for example, electricity

## In a first, Indian-American teen sequences angelfish DNA

NEW YORK | Agencies

Indian-American student Indeveer Madireddy has become the first person to successfully sequence the genome of a freshwater angelfish after his pet fish Calvin died in earlier March this year. Madireddy, a 17 year-old student of BASIS Independent Silicon Valley, did the sequencing at BioCurious -- a community lab in Santa Clara that makes advanced equipment available to anyone for a small membership fee. "Although my fish was dead, I wanted to preserve it forever... So I decided to sequence the genome of the angelfish with the hope that I could contribute that information to the scientific community, while also paying a small tribute to my pet!" Madireddy told NewsScientist. In March this year, he lost Calvin, a specimen of angel fish (Pterophyllum scalare), a tropical freshwater fish from the cichlid family. Although angelfish behaviors have been well studied, very little is known about their genetics and their



genome has not been fully sequenced. In his research paper, Madireddy explained that the angelfish genomic DNA was extracted with the NEB Monarch genomic DNA purification kit. The sequencing was done in the course of two week-ends with a small sequencer made by Oxford Nanopore. These sequencers read off the sequence of DNA molecules as they pass through tiny pores. Nanopore sequencers can sequence much longer individual pieces of DNA than competing methods. This makes it easier for sequencing software to assemble the

genome by putting all these pieces back together, like a jigsaw puzzle with bigger and fewer pieces, NewsScientist reported. The sequencing cost around \$2000, says Madireddy, of which he managed to raise nearly \$1,000 by crowdfunding. The high school student has over 100 fish in his home's indoor aquariums and outdoor ponds. Some of his favourite include Senegal bichir and Benigoi koi. In his spare time, he shares his fishkeeping experience and gives advice to new enthusiasts. He also plays tabla and hand drums.

## NIC swiftly probes fake SMS, averts potential financial fraud

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Cyber Fraudsters have now started targeting common people with fake SMS offering jobs in the name of National Informatics Centre (NIC). The NIC received information about a fake SMS with a job offer, masquerading in the name of NIC being circulated amongst the general public. Upon receipt of information about the fake SMS, NIC Team carried out an immediate internal investigation and identified that the fake SMS was NOT sent from NIC's infrastructure, said officials. NIC Team swiftly coordinated with telecom service providers to investigate and identified that the fake SMS had been sent through a private SMS service provider's infrastructure. Considering the fact that the fake SMS was misusing NIC's name, was a cyber incident and could also involve a potential financial



fraud, NIC promptly reported the incident to CERT-In and also registered a complaint with Law enforcement agencies for identifying and prosecuting the perpetrators of this fake SMS, said officials. In order to prevent further misuse, Cert-In immediately coordinated with the concerned intermediary for the take down of the fraudulent URL. General Public is hereby advised to be cautious of

such fake SMS, and report such fraudulent SMS to incident@cert-in.org.in and <https://cybercrime.gov.in>, said Ministry of Communications in a statement. While police and other enforcement agencies keep taking action against such cyber fraudsters, it has been found that they come up with newer ways to target gullible people.

## Bengal: 600 students register in 3rd gender category for higher secondary course

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Around 600 students have enrolled in the third-gender category during registration for the higher secondary course in West Bengal, president of West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Examination (WBCHSE) Chiranjib Bhattacharya said on Friday. "The registration for the 11th standard for the current academic year had some first of its kind. This is the first time that the registration was done online. Secondly, in that online registration process, three gender options of male, female and third gender were introduced against the earlier two options of just male and female," Bhattacharya told reporter.



According to him, the enrolment in the third-gender category was mainly for the arts stream. "The enrollment for the arts stream under this gender category is roughly around 480 and the remaining are in the science and commerce category," he confirmed. He also said that although he is yet to get the exact break-up of the geographical locations of the applicants

on this count, his hunch is that majority of the applications were from Kolkata or its adjoining districts, since the awareness and sensitization levels on this count is higher in these areas compared to the remote districts. Speaking on the occasion, the WBCHSE president also complemented the gesture of the educational institutions through which registration enrolment

applications were forwarded. "This year, instead of direct enrolment by the students, the counsel introduced the system of registration through the educational institutions. So, when these educational institutions have forwarded these applications, it can be well assumed that they have necessary infrastructure like separate toilets for the third-gender people," he added.

## YOU CAN NOW CONTROL YOUR IPHONE WITH YOUR BRAIN

New Delhi: Synchron, a New York-based company, has created a device called "Synchron Switch" that allows patients to control an iPhone or iPad using their brain. According to Semafor, an array of sensors known as a "Stentrode" is inserted into the top of the brain via a blood vessel. It is controlled wirelessly using the Synchron Switch from the patient's chest. Rodney Gorham, a retired software salesman in Melbourne, has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, a nervous system disease that severely impacts physical functioning. Synchron has six patients using the Synchron Switch device and Gorham is the first ever to use it with an Apple product, according to a report. "We're excited about iOS and Apple products because they're so ubiquitous, and this would be the first brain switch input into the device," Tom Oxley, Synchron's co-founder and CEO was quoted as saying. With the Synchron Switch, Gorham's thoughts are turned into action on the iPad. The iPad registers Gorham's foot tapping as a finger tap when he thinks about tapping his foot. Using his Synchron Switch, Gorham is able to send single-word text messages from his iPad, reports Semafor.

## NASA PREPARES TO BID GOODBYE TO MARS INSIGHT LANDER

WASHINGTON | Agencies

NASA's Mars InSight lander is set to fall silent in the next few weeks, ending its history-making mission to reveal secrets of the Red Planet's interior. The spacecraft's power generation continues to decline as windblown dust on its solar panels thickens, so the team has taken steps to continue as long as possible with what power remains, the US space agency said in a statement late on Tuesday. The most important of the final steps with the InSight mission is storing its trove of data and making it accessible to researchers around the world. The lander data has yielded details about Mars' interior layers, its liquid core, the surprisingly variable remnants beneath the surface of its mostly extinct magnetic field, weather on this part of Mars, and lots of quake activity. InSight's seismometer has detected more than 1,300 marsquakes since the lander touched down in November 2018, the largest measuring a magnitude 5.



## Manya Narang, Salim-Sulaiman perform at FIFA World Cup Bollywood Musical fest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

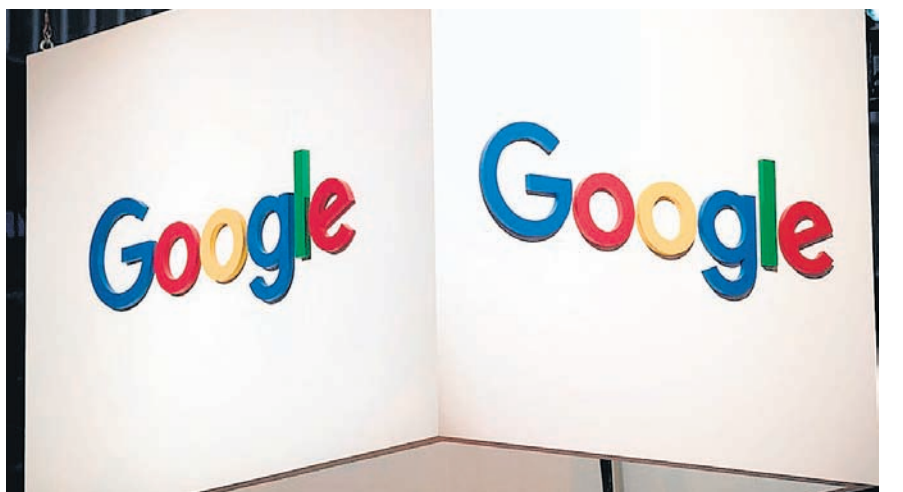
Singer Manya Narang, who was the first wildcard entry in Indian Idol Season 9 and was a finalist on the show, who joined the music composer duo Salim-Sulaiman at the Bollywood Musical festival in the FIFA World Cup 2022. The singer graced the grand event with a crowd of almost a million and is excited to hit the stage at the Lusail Stadium in Qatar. Talking about the event, Manya said in a statement: "This is my first time at a FIFA World Cup event and I am beyond excited.

I'm feeling honoured and blessed to have an opportunity to perform for such a prestigious event this early in my career." The singer, naturally is a bundle of nerves ahead of her performance, "I cannot wait to experience the magic and perform in front of a humongous audience of around a million, with people from across the globe, for one of the world's biggest and most awaited sports events. I am looking forward to having a great time." Manya Narang, who is also a Youtube sensation, is currently working on releasing her independent music.

## Google expands India-first flood tracking tool to more countries

SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

Google has expanded its AI flood forecasting services, first introduced in India back in 2018, to 18 additional countries across Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia. The company also launched "FloodHub", a platform that displays flood forecasts and shows when and where floods might occur, so that people directly at risk can get the information they need and authorities can assist them effectively. In 2018, the company began their flood forecasting initiative to help combat the catastrophic damage from floods. "In the first three years, we expanded our programme to cover much of India and Bangladesh, working in partnership with the Indian Central Water Commission and with the Bangladesh Water Development Board, covering an area with about



220 million people and sending out 40 million potentially life-saving alerts," said Google in a blogpost. "In 2021, our operational systems were further expanded to cover an area with over 360 million people. Thanks to better flood prediction technology, we sent out over 115 million alerts -- that's about triple the

amount we previously sent out," it added. The company has also extended its wildfire tracking program to a few more countries after piloting it in the US. Using new AI models based on satellite imagery, the company detect wildfire boundaries and show their real-time location in Search and Maps.

"Since July, we've covered more than 30 big wildfire events in the US and Canada, helping inform people and firefighting teams with over 7 million views in Search and Maps. Today, wildfire detection is now available in the US, Canada, Mexico and parts of Australia," said Google.



# 'JANA GANA MANA' AND 'VANDE MATARAM' STAND ON SAME LEVEL: CENTRE TO DELHI HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Responding to a plea for equal status to 'Vande Mataram' with 'Jana Gana Mana', the Centre has told the Delhi High Court that both stand on the same level and every citizen of the country should show equal respect to both.

"National song occupies a unique and special place in the emotions and psyche of the people of India," the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted.

The MHA, in its reply, also pointed out that on January 24, 1950, the President of the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the 'Jana Gana Mana' as the National Anthem of India.

The 'Orders relating to the National Anthem of India' were issued regarding the manner and the circumstances in which the National Anthem has to be played or sung.

In 1971, the action of preventing the singing of the National Anthem or



causing disturbances to any assembly engaged in such singing was made a punishable offence by the enactment of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

The Centre's response came on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) moved

by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking parity of treatment between the National Anthem and National Song and also to frame guidelines for the National Song 'Vande Mataram' giving it the same honour and status as par with

the National Anthem of India.

However, the Centre, clarified that similar penal provisions have not been made by the Government in the case of the National Song 'Vande Mataram' and no instructions have been issued laying down the circumstances in which it may be sung or played. The Centre also referred to the Supreme Court order in Upadhyay's similar earlier plea.

In its judgment dated January 17, 2017, the apex court observed that Article 51A (a) of the Constitution of India does not refer to 'National Song'. It only refers to National Flag and National Anthem.

"51A. Fundamental duties - It shall be the duty of every citizen of India - (a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, and National Anthem. Therefore, we do not intend to enter into any debate as far as the National Song is concerned," the earlier SC order read.

## ED arrests Abbas Ansari, son of UP don Mukhtar Ansari, in money laundering case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Abbas Ansari, the son of gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case, officials said on Saturday.

He was placed under arrest late on Friday night after nine hours of questioning.

According to the officials, the probe agency had enough crucial evidence based on which he was placed under arrest.

The ED had initiated investigation under PMLA, 2002 against Mukhtar Ansari (Ex MLA) and his aides on the bases of multiple FIRs lodged by Uttar Pradesh Police. During the probe, it learnt that two more FIRs were lodged against Vikas Constructions (a partnership firm) by Uttar Pradesh Police for constructing godowns on



public/government land after encroaching it. The godowns were constructed in Mau and Ghazipur district of UP.

The firm Vikas construction was being run by Afshan Ansari (wife of Mukhtar Ansari) and her two brothers Atif Raza and Anwar Shahzad and other two persons Ravindra Narayan Singh and Zakir Hussain.

UP Police had filed a

charge sheet in one of the FIRs registered at Mau District of UP in which all the partners of the firm Vikas construction have been made accused.

During the PMLA investigation, it was learnt that rent to the tune of Rs 15 crore was collected by Vikas Construction from Food Corporation of India by renting out the godowns illegally constructed by encroaching public/government land at Mau & Ghazipur district of UP. This rent was further used to purchase immovable properties in the name of Vikas Construction and Afshan Ansari.

After tracing out such immovable properties, the Directorate of Enforcement provisionally attached seven immovable properties worth Rs 1.48 crore.

The circle rate of attached properties at the time of registration was Rs 3.42 crore.

## Assam police seize drugs worth Rs 15cr, one held

Guwahati | Agencies

Assam police on Saturday seized drugs worth Rs 15 crore in Kamrup (M) district and arrested one person on charges of drug peddling, officials said.

The drugs were seized at a toll gate in the Sonapur area of the district. The arrested person has been identified as Mohammad Ajmal Khan, a resident of Thoubal district in Manipur. Based on a tip-off received by the police, a team led by the Joint Commissioner Partha Sarathi Mahanta intercepted a vehicle at the Nazirakhat toll gate near Sonapur. Mahanta said that while



searching the vehicle, the police found 60,000 Yaba tablets in hidden chambers. "The market value of the

seized narcotics is estimated to be around Rs 15 crore," he added.

## 7 WOMEN DEAD IN K'TAKA ROAD ACCIDENT

Bidar (Karnataka) | At least seven women were killed and 11 people injured in a road accident on Saturday in Karnataka's Bidar district, police said.

The accident took place in Bemalkhedra village when an auto carrying the victims collided with a truck. The deceased were identified as Parvathi (40), Prabhavathi (36), Gundamma (60), Yadamma (40), Jaggamma (34), Easwaramma (55) and Rukmini Bai (60).

While six women were killed on the spot, one succumbed to her injuries at the hospital. Police said of the 11 injured people, including the drivers of the two vehicles, four are in serious condition.

## K'taka police busts honey-trap gang, arrests 10

Bengaluru | Agencies

With the arrest of ten people, including two women, the Karnataka police on Saturday claimed to have busted a honey-trap gang operating in the state.

The police acted on the complaint filed by Jairam, a staff at the High Court.

According to police, Jairam got introduced to one Anuradha two years ago in the court. She again met him six months ago and took a hand loan of Rs 10,000. After returning the money, she again sought Rs 5,000 as loan from him in October. Jairam visited her resi-



dence and gave the money but while coming out of the

house, he was overpowered by four men who dragged

him back and demanded Rs 2 lakh.

One of the accused then called up Jairam's wife and children and told them that he had attempted to rape his wife. Later, Jairam lodged a case of robbery against the accused in Kamakshipalya police station.

The police, who took up the investigations, found that the accused from Davanagere city had formed a gang to mint money through honey-trapping. The gang was also involved in rowdy activities.

The police suspect that the gang had trapped many victims and are investigating the case.

## Efforts on to capture tiger, leopard that killed domestic animals in Ooty

Chennai | Agencies

Forest department officials in Tamil Nadu are on a mission mode to capture a tiger and a leopard that killed a cow and a dog in Ooty, a popular tourist destination in the southern state.

Forest department officials said that a tiger had on Thursday killed a cow after dragging it out of its shelter near the Nilgiris. While the forest officials have set up a camera trap to capture the tiger, its movement could not be traced since the incident on Thursday.

In another incident, a leopard climbed on to the second floor of a house and took away a pet dog from its kennel in Ooty. Forest officials have told the municipal administration to clear the shrubs and bushes



inside the Tamilnagam guest house that is located close to the residential area from where the dog was taken away.

The forest department has also set up a camera trap near the Madumalai Tiger Reserve, after a leopard killed a goat in a nearby village.

With a tiger and a leopard on the prowl in Ooty, tourism business may suffer as the incidents took place near tourist spots.

A tour operator in Ooty, Senthamarai Kannan, said, "After the unfortunate incidents, many people have cancelled their bookings as the news of a leopard scaling the second floor of a residential building and taking away a pet dog was extensively reported in the media."

Ooty is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Tamil Nadu.

## Gujarat: Police nab college student for blackmailing youth

Vadodara | Agencies

The Vadodara city cyber crime police have arrested a 19-year-old civil engineering student on charges of blackmailing and extorting money from another youth.

Cyber crime inspector B.N. Patel told the media that on Friday, a 20-year-old engineering student had lodged a complaint, claiming that a woman with the Instagram ID 'Drishti2809' had sent her a request for friendship, which he had accepted last month.

After this, she shared some nude photos and insisted that the complainant too share similar photos of himself. The complainant was initially reluctant, but later he shared the photos, and that's where the problem started.

Soon the complainant started receiving threats of making the photos public if he didn't pay money to the girl. Till the time he lodged the complaint, the complainant reportedly paid Rs 1,28,000 to the person with the Instagram ID 'Drishti2809'.

During probe, the police found that a col-



lege student named Aakash Soni was operating the account in the guise of a girl, and arrested him.

## FRAUDSTER NABBED IN RS 74 LAKH CHEATING CASE

Bhubaneswar | The crime branch of Odisha police has arrested one Prasant Dwivedi from Kolkata on Friday for his involvement in an online cheating case of Rs 74 lakh.

A team of the crime branch led by inspector Abantimani Nayak the arrested fraudster from Alipore, Kolkata and seized incriminating evidence like ATM card etc. from his possession, police officers said. He was arrested based on a complaint filed by a senior citizen Ramballav Rath (63 years) of Bhubaneswar, who was duped of Rs 74 lakhs by fraudsters.

As per the complaint, Rath, an advocate, deposited the money in several installments. The police said Rath had been receiving frequent calls from different mobile numbers since May 2018 identifying themselves as officials of various firms.

He was enticed to deposit processing amounts etc. to clear up his huge insurance benefits and in that process, he had deposited a sum of more than Rs 74 lakhs in installments to different given fraudulent accounts, they said.

The fraudsters had managed to siphon out the money sharing several fraud email IDs, fake official letters, etc. The crime branch has already arrested one Dharmendra Kumar (36) from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh last month.

He had created a fake domain IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) and created a fake email ID viz. 'IRDAL.org' with his own credentials and had sold the email ID and password to one Prasant of Lucknow, who was arrested from Kolkata on Friday.

## GURUGRAM: CHINTELS PARADISO'S TOWER D TO BE DEMOLISHED

Gurugram | Agencies

Gurugram's Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav on Saturday gave an order to demolish Tower-D having 50 flats of Chintels Paradiso condominium in Sector 109 of Gurugram, after a report by IIT-Delhi found structural deficiencies in the building.

On February 10, 2022, two persons lost their lives after a slab of sixth-floor apartment in Tower D collapsed partially during repair work. Following the incident, the state government formed a committee to probe the matter, and a structural audit of the building was also ordered.

A committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Vishram Kumar Meena who was probing the matter.

"The team from IIT-Delhi has found structural deficiencies in the construction of this tower, whose repair is not possible on technical and economic grounds. Therefore, this tower should be completely demolished," Yadav told reporters.

"An attempt was made to cover up the structural deficiencies found in Tower-D by painting the rusted bars due to low-quality construction material and chlorine in the water," Yadav said.

Apart from this, he said, reports of structural safety complaints from 16 different housing societies in the district will also come by November 15, after which a decision will be taken about them. "The investigation report of



IIT-Delhi has come in which it has been found that there were structural defects in the D Tower of Chintels Paradiso. Low-level concrete was used in the construction of the building, which is not possible to be repaired on technical and economic grounds. The committee found that the steelwork and reinforcement work in the building had been painted to hide

the rust," he stated.

"Along with this, the work of retrofitting a flat on the sixth floor of D-Tower was also not being done without monitoring and as per the prescribed norms. For this, the responsibility of Chintels Paradiso Company and Manish Switch Gear Pvt Ltd has been fixed," he added. He also informed that the team of IIT-Delhi

has also recommended that the process of demolition should be started by closing Tower-D. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner said that the detailed report of the Administrative Committee constituted under the chairmanship of ADC Meena is also expected to come by Monday. After that, the district administration will take further action in this matter.

He said that based on the investigation report of IIT-Delhi, orders will be given to the developer to settle the claim with the allottees of D-Tower. There will be three options before the allottees. The builder or the developer, in coordination with the allottees of D-Tower at their level, will settle the claim within the stipulated period and will give this information in writing to the district administration.

Under another option, for the convenience of the allottees, two independent evaluators would be engaged, who would assess the current prices of flats etc. and give their reports. Thereafter, it will be mandatory for the developer to accept the price decided by the evaluator and that amount will be given to the allottee. If the allottees are not satisfied even after this, then they can go to court and seek relief.

Apart from this, the Deputy Commissioner said that complaints were received from 70 different societies related to structural audit in the district, out of which 16 societies were selected for structural audit in the first phase. Apart from the agency, builder's representatives and members of RWAs have also been included for structural audit, so that fair investigation can be done.



# absolute india

VOL. 9, ISSUE 385, MUMBAI | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022 ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

## Delhi reels under thick smog blanket, air quality remains 'severe'



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A thick layer of smog continued to cover Delhi on Saturday as the air quality remained under the "severe" category for three consecutive days.

In a slight improvement, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 431 on Saturday morning, according to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). The AQI on Friday night deteriorated to 437 from Thursday's 418, said SAFAR. An AQI between zero 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". Meanwhile, the air quality in Delhi's adjoining cities of Noida and Gurugram was

recorded at 529 and 478, both under the "severe" category.

In the wake of the continued air pollution, Delhi announced the closure of primary schools across the city from Saturday onwards and also banned the entry of trucks, other than the ones carrying essentials, into the national capital.

The government has also constituted a six-member committee to monitor the trucks entering the city. "Only CNG, Petrol and Electric vehicles will be allowed to enter Delhi. There will also be a ban on medium and heavy vehicles of diesel registered in Delhi, which are not connected to essential services. Small vehicles with diesel engines which are not BS6 compliant will also be banned," Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai has announced on Friday.



### BHARAT JODO YATRA

## CONG LANDS IN COPYRIGHT SOUP OVER USE OF 'KGF CHAPTER 2' MUSIC IN PROMOS

Bengaluru | Agencies

Amid Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the Congress party has landed in legal trouble with a music label over copyright violations. MRT Music, owners of KGF2 music rights, on Friday filed a case here against the Indian National Congress (INC) for copyright infringement. Bangalore-based record label MRT Music stated on Friday that audio visual advertisements featuring Rahul Gandhi released by INC for their marketing campaign had used music from MRT Music without seeking any permissions.

M. Naveen Kumar, Partner, MRT Music, stated, "An entity such as the INC has to set an example for the Indian citizens, however in this scenario, it itself is violating the laws of the land and infringing our copyright and intellectual property rights, which we have acquired through huge investments. This act on the part of INC sends a completely wrong signal to the Indian public and is completely contrary to the efforts of safeguarding our copyrights. This grave infringement will be challenged by us to the fullest effort." MRT Music claims to hold music rights of over 20,000 tracks in Kannada, Hindi, Telugu and Tamil



and has invested huge sums of money to acquire classic old music to one of the biggest movies of the year 'KGF Chapter 2' in Hindi. The record label alleged that the Indian National Congress has picked up the songs from this movie and without seeking MRT Music's permission/license in any manner whatsoever has used these songs to create their marketing videos of their very latest "Bharat Jodo Yatra" campaign featur-

ing Rahul Gandhi. "The INC has created a video by unlawfully downloading and synchronising and broadcasting the songs pertaining to the movie KGF - Chapter 2 in Hindi and portraying it to be owned by the INC. They have also used a logo namely "Bharath Jodo Yatra" in the said video and have broadcasted the same on their official social media handles," counsel for the complainant noted. MRT Music's

counsel Narasimhan Sampath stated "The present complaint has been filed against the Indian National Congress represented by its General Secretary, Sri Jairam Ramesh, Smt. Supriya Shrinete, Sri Rahul Gandhi for infringement of copyrights owned by MRT Music." Based on the complaint submitted by MRT Music, the police have proceeded to register a FIR in Crime No. 362/2022 for offences punishable under sections 403, 465 and 120B r/w Section 34 of the IPC and under Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and under Section 63 of the Copyrights Act, 1957 as against the Indian National Congress and the aforementioned individuals who have been arrayed as Accused no. 1 to 3 respectively.

The complaint mainly pertains to the unlawful fraudulent and illegal actions of the members of the steering committee in so far as violating the copyrights owned by MRT Music. MRT Music has filed the present complaint only to enforce its statutory rights and has no intentions to tarnish the image of any political party, the counsel stated. As part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul Gandhi had traversed Karnataka over three weeks in October.

## First voter of independent India passes away in Himachal

Shimla | Agencies

Shyam Saran Negi, 106, the first voter of independent India who cast his 34th vote for the forthcoming Assembly polls three days ago, passed away at his native place Kalpa in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday, his family said.

He will be cremated with full state honours, says Deputy Commissioner Abid Hussain Sadiq.

Negi cast his vote on Wednesday in the Kinnaur Assembly constituency. As per official record, he had also participated in the 1951-52 general elections, the country's first.

"I have never missed an opportunity to cast my vote since India got its independence in 1947 and I am happy to vote this time too," Negi had said in Kalpa, some 275



km from the state capital, after exercising his franchise.

Last year also, he cast his vote for the Mandi parliamentary bypolls.

Election officials said on earlier occasions Negi went to the nearest polling station to cast the vote.

He flashed his wrinkled inked finger after voting.

Like on previous occasions, the centenarian had requested the young voters to actively participate in the democratic exercise to get their representatives at the

helm. A staunch believer in democracy, the centenarian never fails to cast his vote in any election, be it Lok Sabha, Assembly or panchayat.

In 1951, Negi, a retired school teacher, was on election duty and had exercised his franchise in Chini constituency, later renamed Kinnaur. Back then, voting in the snow-bound areas of the mountain state was held ahead of other places in the country.

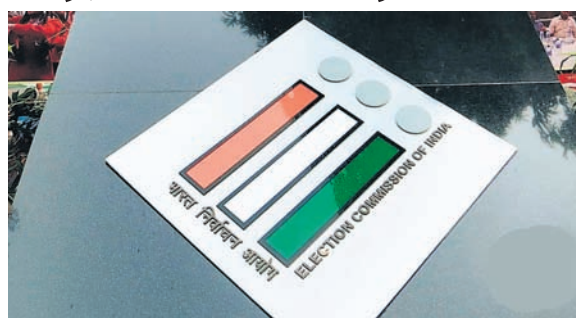
Negi, who hails from the tribal district of Kinnaur, exercised his right to franchise for the 34th time for the 14th Vidhan Sabha Elections through postal ballot at his home.

He cast his vote through a postal ballot for the first time. Born in July 1917, Negi voted for 16 times in Lok Sabha elections. He is also a state election icon since 2014.

## EC announces by-poll schedule for 1 Parliamentary, 5 Assembly seats

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Election Commission on Saturday announced the by-poll schedule for five Assembly constituencies in Odisha, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and one Parliamentary seat in Uttar Pradesh. As per the Commission's schedule, the by-polls will be held on December 5 and the results will be declared on December 8. The Assembly seats are Padampur (Odisha), Sardarshahar (Rajasthan), Kurhani (Bihar), Bhanupratappur (Chhattisgarh) and Rampur



(Uttar Pradesh). The Parliamentary seat is Mainpuri (Uttar Pradesh).

According to the poll panel, the last date of nominations for these byelections is November 17.

The nominations will be scrutinised on November 18.

while the last date of withdrawal is November 21.

Meanwhile, Gujarat will also hold the second phase of the Assembly polls on December 5, while the results for Gujarat as well as Himachal Pradesh will be out on December 8.

### CYRUS MISTRY DEATH

## Maha police book Anahita Pundole for 'negligence'

Palghar | Agencies

In a significant development, the Palghar police have booked Anahita Darius Pundole for 'negligence' in connection with the car accident that killed industrialist Cyrus P. Mistry of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group on September 4, an official said here on Saturday.

The Palghar police have filed a case against Anahita Pundole (55), who was said to be speeding the ill-fated Mercedes Benz on a bridge over Surya river on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai National Highway.

Besides Mistry, Jehangir Dinshaw Pundole was also killed in the crash while his brother Darius Dinshaw Pundole and sister-in-law Anahita received serious injuries.

After a thorough probe into the case and questioning of Anahita by police officer Prashant Pardeshi, the Kasa police station in Palghar has slapped the case against her by invoking IPC Section 304(A) pertaining to causing death of any person by rash or negligent act, along with relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

With the battle lines firmly drawn between Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the former showing no signs of backing down, Vijayan has now approached the best legal brains in the country including Fali S. Nariman for advice on if there is a legal solution to their tussle. Even as the state is passing through one of its worst-ever financial crisis, a sum of Rs 46.90 lakh has been sanctioned for Nariman and his team.

The Government Order, that has now found its way to the public domain, says this is the professional fee for providing written legal opinion with regards to Kerala legislative bills. Vijayan appears to be in the corner after veiled threats launched by him and his CPI-M leaders that "this is Kerala" and Khan should "behave", the Governor appears firm on his stand. The reason why Vijayan decided to approach Nariman is to see if there is a legal way out to see Khan signs on the dotted line on a few Bills he is sitting upon.

These include the tweaked Lok Ayukta Bill and also a Bill which amends the powers of



the Chancellor - a post held by the Kerala Governor for a while. Vijayan is seeking to find if there is any way in which the state can approach the judiciary to see Khan provides assent to these Bills, which are crucial for the chief Minister.

Khan, for a while, has not been quiet and recently was in threatening mode when he warned that if the Chief Minister's Office is involved in gold smuggling, he will intervene and it's after this that Vijayan seemed to have started to think on taking on Khan in the legal way.

## Take legal action against Imran's allegations: Army tells govt

Islamabad | Agencies

The Pakistan Army has reacted strongly to allegations made by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan against the institution and requested the federal government to initiate legal action against those responsible for defaming the institution and its officials without any evidence.

On Friday, Khan alleged that three people -- Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah and a senior officer of the Pakistan Army -- were involved in plotting his assassina-



tion bid on Thursday, The News reported.

A statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army's media wing,

said: "Keeping this in view, the government of Pakistan has been requested to investigate the matter and initiate legal action against those responsible for defamation and false accusations against the institution and its officials without any evidence whatsoever."

The statement said that no one would be allowed to defame the institution or its soldiers with impunity. "Baseless and irresponsible allegations by chairman PTI against the institution and particularly a senior army officer are absolutely unacceptable and uncalled-for," it added.

## Delhi BJP spokesman puts up poster comparing Kejriwal to Hitler

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In the wake of Delhi's worsening air quality condition, Delhi BJP spokesman Tajinder Bagga on Saturday put up a poster comparing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler. The poster outside the BJP office in the national capital, says: "Kejriwal is second... Ruler who converted his city into a gas chamber... Hitler was first..."

Speaking to reporter, Bagga said: "Delhi has become a gas chamber and this not my or the BJP's version, this is what the Supreme court has said. Delhi is choking and the Chief Minister is on an election tour. Hitler was the



first one who made gas chambers, similarly Kejriwal has left the people of Delhi to suffer from the poisonous air."

The party spokesman further

said that Kejriwal also failed to implement a bio-decomposer in Punjab which the latter claimed would convert all stubble into fertiliser in 15 days.

Attacking the AAP-led government in the national capital, Bagga said: "People are dying in Delhi and its Chief Minister is not in Punjab but the Chief Minister is not in his state. Instead they are taking election tours in Himachal and Gujarat. All they are interested in politics and nothing else."

Regarding the upcoming MCD polls, the spokesman said: "Kejriwal is questioning the BJP for doing nothing in the MCD, but I want to ask then what they have done in Delhi in the last seven years? Let Kejriwal say whatever he wants but we know we have done for Delhi... The people are with us and we will win again."



# AFTER HABIBGANJ, HOSHANGABAD; FEW MORE AREAS IN BHOPAL TO BE RENAMED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A year after the Madhya Pradesh government renamed Bhopal's Habibganj railway station as Rani Kamalapati, the process to rechristen other localities in the city has begun.

At least three localities, including a hill area - Lal Ghati where Bhopal's central jail is located, will be renamed.

Two other areas of the capital city which would go through the same process are Halalpur bus stand and Halal Pur colony. A proposal in this regard has been unanimously approved by Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Notably, the development came after Bhopal MP Pragna Thakur put the proposal before BMC's standing committee during a meeting on Friday.

According to the proposal, Lal



Ghati should be renamed after Narayan Das, a Hindu religious priest and ex-head of Gufa Mandir in Bhopal, whereas both Halalpur village and Halalpur bus stand to be addressed as Hanumangarhi. "Bhopal

is a beautiful place, a city of lakes with green cleanliness. It is our duty to keep it safe," Thakur said after her proposal was approved by BMC.

Last year, the state government had renamed the redeveloped Habibganj

railway station after Gond Queen 'Rani Kamalapati'. It was renamed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to Bhopal to attend a mega event "Janjatiya Divas" in November 2021.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government has also changed the name of Hoshangabad district last year, which is now known as Narmadapuram.

Addressing a gathering on the bank of Narmada river in then Hoshangabad, Chouhan had said that since the district is located on the bank of river Narmada, therefore, Hoshangabad has been renamed as Narmadapuram.

The voices for changing the name of Bhopal are being raised on different occasions by the BJP and the right wing groups. They have been demanding that Bhopal be named Bhojpal, the founding ruler of Bhopal Raja Bhojpal.

# MP Congress assigns duties to leaders before 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' enters state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) on Friday assigned responsibilities to party leaders in view of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', which is scheduled to reach the state on November 20.

As the state party unit has planned 17 sub-yatras in different parts of Madhya Pradesh, senior party leaders have been assigned specific roles. Former Cabinet minister Suresh Pachouri has been appointed as the convenor for the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh, while the leader of opposition in the state Assembly, Govind Singh, will be looking after administrative and security matters related to the Yatra.

Arun Yadav will welcome Rahul Gandhi's pan-India padayatra when it enters the



state in Burhanpur district. He will also be the convenor for Khargone and Khandwa districts. Former leader of opposition Ajay Singh (Rahul) has been appointed as the convenor for the sub-yatras, which will cover all the 230 Assembly constituencies in the state. Other party leaders who have been assigned duties for the Yatra include Ravi

Joshi, Jitu Patwari, Balmukund Gautam, Tarun Bhanot, Sandeep Dixit, Minakshi Natrajan, Ashok Singh, Jhuma Solanki, Vikrant Bhuria, Ramnarayan Singh Purni, Subhash Sojatiya, Nilay Daga, Pradeep Ahirwar, Mahendra Joshi, Sobha Okha, Sajjan Singh Verma, Mukesh Nayak and Sanjay Sharma, among others.

# CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan plants saplings in the country and state: CM Shri Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Ashoka, Sarika Indica and Amla saplings along with representatives of Umang Gauravdeep Welfare Society Bhopal in Smart City Garden. Bhopal's senior TV journalist RC Sahu (Bimb) planted saplings on his birthday. Members of Umang Gauravdeep Welfare Society also planted saplings. The representatives of the society invited CM Chouhan to the wheelchair cricket tournament for the Divyangjans to be held in Bhopal in December 2022.

The Society, in association with the Social Justice and Disabled Welfare Department, is working for the Divyangjans. Umang Special School, Aradhana Nagar Kotra Sultanabad is run by the institution in



Bhopal, where at present 103 students are studying. Among them are deaf, dumb, mentally and physically challenged and visually impaired students. In the school, along with the health, education, employ-

ment of the students, their skills are honed. The students of the school have been winners in many sports competitions with the Bal Shree Award. Many students of the institution are associated with employment in various institutions after gaining professional skills.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan views product 'Seoni Jumbo Sitaphal' under 'One District- One Product' program in Seoni. CM Chouhan appraised himself with the jumbo size, distinctive properties and taste of Sitaphal.

CM expressed happiness over the efforts being made by the district administration to popularize 'Seoni Jumbo Sitaphal'. He directed to ensure that the farmers of Seoni Jumbo Sitaphal and women of Aajeevika Mission, who make pulp and other products by processing it, should get better price for their produce. He also directed to make it popular in the country and the state through better marketing of the brand.

In Seoni district, more than 6500 metric tonnes of Sitaphal is produced in an area of 656 hectares. Since the weight of Sitaphal is 600 to 700 grams, it has been named 'Seoni Jumbo



Sitaphal'. Due to its distinctive shape and taste, it is in good demand in the country and the state. To give it a unique identity, a Sitaphal Pulp Unit

has been started with the participation of Women Self-Help Group of Aajeevika Mission and an FPO has been constituted.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and In-charge Minister Omprakash Sakhlecha, MP Dr. Dhal Singh Bisen, MLAs Dinesh Rai and

# Dozens of houses built under pm's scheme in MP go 'missing'

Team Absolute | Satna

Madhya Pradesh] Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over lakhs of houses to the poor as part of an ambitious government drive, at least 75 homes constructed under the same scheme have gone 'missing' in Satna.

The houses had been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana which hosted a virtual 'grih pravesh' ceremony led by PM Modi and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on the occasion of Dhanteras.

The only catch was, many of the 600 houses built by the programme in Satna's Rahikwara village since 2015 were allotted to the dead and some of

the living beneficiaries said they got nothing.

Lalman Chaudhary's family say they did not receive a house even though they were counted as beneficiaries. There are around 698 panchayats in the Satna district. NDTV visited one of them, in Rahikwara, where locals complained about the irregularities at a public hearing of administration officials.

One of the striking cases was of Lalman Chaudhary, who died in 2016 and yet money was "transferred" to his account between 2021-22. His wife can't hear properly, his son has disabilities, and his daughter-in-law is speech impaired.

Munnibai Gupta says she has not received a house or any money but is

listed as a beneficiary. A house under the Prime Minister's scheme was approved in his name, the house was also built - but only on paper. The family still lives in a shack and did not get a penny. Lalman's son Shiv Kumar Chaudhary said, "No money has come into our bank account. When we got this paper out, we came to know about it. Earlier we had no information. After this, we told the panchayat secretary, and he said 'I will make arrangements by 'jugaad' from somewhere'."

The state government, which spent crores on the event and newspaper ads to showcase the scheme on Dhanteras, with Prime Minister Modi tuning in from Delhi and Chief Minister Sivraj Singh Chauhan and

his ministers in Satna, says 10 teams have been formed to investigate these irregularities.

When contacted, District Collector Anurag Verma said he was in a meeting and Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister Mahendra Sisodia said he is at a puja, will respond after that. He is yet to do so.

Later, while talking to journalists in Satna, in a seven-second sound bite, the collector said, "The matter is being investigated, guilty will be punished." In the PM Awas Yojana scam, a police case was registered against the former sarpanch or village head Balvendra Pratap Singh, the brother of Surendra Pratap Singh, the former president of the BJP's Satna district unit for two consecutive

# Increase awareness about sickle cell anaemia among scheduled tribes and general public: Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has called for raising awareness about sickle cell anaemia among scheduled tribes and general public. Patel interacted with the public at the Sickle Cell Anaemia health camp at Punjabura in Dewas district to eradicate sickle cell anaemia, a genetic disease occurring in Scheduled Tribes. He planted saplings in the Girls Hostel in Punjabura, met children at Anganwadi Centre and had meal at the house of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana beneficiary Laxman Singh. He met the women of self-help group in village Barjhai.

Governor Patel said that every effort is being made to

make the general public aware about the prevention of sickle cell anaemia, a genetic disease occurring in scheduled tribes. He called upon the people of the tribe in Punjabura to be aware about the disease and the youths of other sections of the society to spread the necessary awareness among the tribals to help them get rid of this disease. Governor Patel said that awareness work is being done in 14 scheduled tribe dominated districts of the state. An amount of 2.5 lakh rupees each has been provided to the Red Cross Societies of the districts for treatment. He said that in order to get rid of the disease, it is necessary that the young men and the women should take the

initiative to prevent the spread of this genetic disease in the children by getting their blood tested before marriage and by not marrying if they find symptoms of the disease in both of them. Stay away from all kinds of intoxicants. Do your part in building a better future for children through education.

Governor Patel met the girls at the Girls Hostel in Punjabura. He asked the girls general questions related to the Prime Minister of the country, the Chief Minister and the Governor of the state. Gifts were given to the girls for giving correct answers. He planted a mango tree in the hostel premises and expected everyone to do the plantation.

# MPBSE Class 10, 12 Exams to begin from Feb 13



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Class 10, 12 exams will be conducted from February 13 by the Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE). The practical exams for grades 10 and 12 will take place from February 13 till 28, while the theory tests will take place from March 1-31, 2023. MPBSE class 10th and 12th examinations date was announced by Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar. As per the announcement made, the MP Board Exams for Classes 10th and 12th will begin from February 13, 2023. The Madhya Pradesh Board will conduct the Class 10, 12 exams in pen-and-paper

mode. "Board examinations of class 10th and 12th of Board of Secondary Education will start from February 13, 2023. The practical examinations will be held from 13th to 28th February 2023 and the theory examinations from 01st March to 31st March 2023," stated the Madhya Pradesh Education Minister. Annual practical examinations for Class 10th, Class 12th, Class 12th Vocational Stream will be held from February 13 to 28, 2023. The theory exams for Class 10 and 12 will begin from March 1, 2023 and will conclude on March 31, 2023. The detailed time table for the MPBSE 2023 Board Exams will be announced in due course of time.

# A decade after 172 deaths in Datia tragedy, no action taken by MP govt

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Last week, over a century-old suspension bridge collapsed in Gujarat's Morbi town, killing 135 people, sending shock waves across the country.

In a similar tragic incident in Madhya Pradesh's Datia district in October 2006, 57 people were washed away when Sindh river got suddenly flooded after officials opened the gates of the nearby Madikheda dam without giving prior information.

As per reports, thousands of people had gathered to pray at a temple in Datia when all of a sudden Sindh river got flooded, resulting in the collapse of a bridge built on it. As per the state government record, at least 57 people were washed away in that incident.

In an even more horrific incident at the same place in October 2013, as many as 115 people, including children and women, lost their lives in a stampede. Coincidentally, both the incidents occurred in October. The tragic incident in Morbi also took place in the month of October.

Notably, 12 years have passed since the first incident was reported in Datia in 2006, and nearly nine years have



passed since the 2013 stampede, but no action has been taken in any of the two cases despite the fact that much claims were made after the tragedies happened.

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government had appointed Justice Rakesh Saxena, a retired judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, to probe the circumstances that led to the stampede in 2013 and identify the erring officials. Nine years have passed since then but no further action has been taken in the matter," said Ajay Dube, a social activist

who has been raising these issues for years. Sources privy to the development said that the probe panel led by Justice Saxena had submitted its findings to the state government sometime in March-April 2014. However, neither it was made public, nor presented in the state Assembly.

Dube said that he had filed an RTI query for the copy of the said report, but he failed to get the report due to the "sustained pressure" of the state government, which succeeded in holding it back.

# Instagram saves minor's life by alerting Police about suicide attempt

Team Absolute | Satna

On asking the reason for her suicide, Satna SP Ashutosh Gupta said the girl told the officials that she only wanted to scare her boyfriend as he had not talked to her for five days. She was sent home after a session of counseling, he added.

Photo and video-sharing app Instagram helped save the life of a teen girl who was apparently on verge of attempting suicide. The 17-year-old girl Kishori from Satna district of Bhopal was making a live video of her suicide on Instagram. The minor cut her wrist and showed it on the social media platform. Instagram immediately sent an alert to the cyber cell of the Indore unit, which then shared it with the cyber headquarters. The IP address was quickly traced to Satna, and the local police were alerted.

Bhopal Cyber Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Srivastava said that they received an alert from Instagram through email that a girl in Madhya Pradesh is

trying to commit suicide by going live on her account. The alert said the girl had cut the vein in her hand. It was also said the girl was drinking something from the bottle and was writing a suicide note. Soon after receiving information about the suicide attempt, Srivastava said the team contacted Instagram and asked for the girl's IP address. The police traced the whereabouts of the girl through her IP address, from which they learned that she hails from Maihar in Satna district. After this, they immediately contacted Maihar police, and a team was sent to the girl's house. The police team caught the girl and saved her life. Srivastava added that users should keep in mind that someone is likely watching them from somewhere. The AI algorithms on this platform don't allow any graphic images of self-harm, and any non-graphic, self-harm-related content, such as scars or search words and hashtags, trigger alerts that are routed to agencies that can intervene and help.



# UDDHAV THACKERAY FORESEES MID-TERM ASSEMBLY POLLS IN MAHARASHTRA

► SHIV SENA (UBT) PRESIDENT UDDHAV THACKERAY ON SATURDAY ASKED ALL HIS CADRES TO PREPARE FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF A MID-TERM ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN MAHARASHTRA ANYTIME.

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Supreme Court decision comes, you know what will be the fate of this government." He added that with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore for the state, mid-term elections are on the cards, though the state Assembly's tenure is till

October 2024. "Similar to the packages announced for Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh to lure the voters, the PM's latest announcement is an indicator that even Maharashtra can have early polls," Sawant pointed out. Though there is no clarity on the

kind of projects that Maharashtra will get, the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis has been under fire for the series of big-ticket projects that have gone to Gujarat in the past few weeks.

They include the Vedanta-Foxconn deal and the Tata-Airbus venture which have gone to Gujarat, and the bulk drugs project, among others, which have gone to other states with the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi comprising Sena (UBT), Nationalist Congress Party and Congress crying foul.

However, senior BJP leader and MLC Pravin Darekar ridiculed Thackeray's contention, saying that ever since it came to power (June 30), the Shinde-Fadnavis government has been doing very well and taking a lot of people-oriented decisions.

"There is no talk of any such thing happening at the government or the party level. Thackeray is making such claims to keep his people from straying... There's no truth in the claims of midterm polls," Darekar said.

# Andheri by-election: 392 senior citizens cast vote from home

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Citizens above the age of 80, who wanted to vote in the Andheri East Assembly by-poll from the comfort of their home, were able to do so. Out of 430 senior voters, 392 exercised their franchise from home-which, according to officials, was unprecedented-ahead of the by-poll, which took place on Thursday.

As per the directives of the Election Commission of India, the Mumbai Suburban District's administrators have implemented the 'voting at home' initiative for octogenarians for the first time.

A special list of voters aged 80 years and above in the Andheri East constituency was prepared at the beginning of October. This list contains the information of approximately 7,000 voters, and every person on it was contacted directly and informed about the facility of voting



from home.

A team of seven officials visited their homes between October 30 and November 1 and temporary polling stations were set up at these residences.

The votes have been sealed and deposited as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India. "Out of the 430 senior

voters of the Andheri East constituency who had registered under the facility, 392 exercised their right to vote from home. This means that as many as 91.16 per cent of voters in the said category have enthusiastically participated in the voting process," said Election Officer Prashant Patil.

# Chaos as fire breaks out in Kolkata-Mumbai train coach

Nashik | Agencies

Panic reigned among passengers after a fire suddenly broke out in the parcel van of the 18030 Shalimar Kolkata-Mumbai LTT train at the Nashik Road station on Saturday, officials said here.

The blaze with a thick cloud of smoke was noticed emanating from the parcel van, next to the engine, soon after the train entered the platform No. 3 around 8.30 a.m. and halted.

Immediately all fire-fighting resources of the railways and outside were mobilised to battle the conflagration, said Central Railway Chief Spokesperson Shivaji Sutar.



"As a precaution, the engine was separated from the parcel van and the fire has been brought under control. There are no casualties in the incident," said Sutar.

Meanwhile, chaos was noticed for some time as passengers appeared to have

panicked on seeing the smoke and flames even as Athe railway police were present to prevent any eventuality.

According to Sutar, the train is expected to depart shortly for its destination, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai this afternoon.

# Land for new Bombay HC complex to be allotted in Bandra soon: CM Eknath Shinde

Mumbai | Agencies

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday assured that the state government would soon allot a tract of land in Mumbai's Bandra for a new complex of the Bombay High Court.

Shinde and Fadnavis were speaking at a felicitation programme for Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit at the Raj Bhavan here. The CJI is set to retire on November 8. Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Chief Justice of Bombay High Court Dipankar Datta were also present at the event.

"Our government is planning to bring transparency in the judiciary. We are taking decisions for the betterment of the judiciary. A tract of land at Bandra will soon be allotted for the new high court complex. It is a need of the state," Shinde said.

Speaking about the issue, Fadnavis said the land allotment for a new high court building was a long-



pending concern of Chief Justice Datta, and assured that the same would be resolved soon.

"Our government has decided to boost the court infrastructure. A long-pending concern of our HC

Chief Justice Dipankar Datta of allotting a plot for the new complex of the high court is almost resolved. All legal issues pertaining to the land in Bandra, Mumbai for the new complex (have been resolved). Soon a land parcel will be allotted," the deputy chief minister said. The present high court building in south Mumbai was very old, he said.

Calling CJI Lalit "Maharashtra's son", Shinde praised several important decisions he had taken during his tenure to bring transparency to court proceedings, such as live-streaming of constitutional courts.

Fadnavis also appreciated the CJI's efforts during his short tenure to bring transparency to the Supreme Court's roster and hear more cases.

During his tenure of less than three months, CJI Lalit began live streaming of cases heard by the Constitution bench and also said that the top court would soon develop its own platform to host live telecast of proceedings. CJI Lalit speaking at the event said he was proud to be a son of Maharashtra.

# BMC official booked for accepting Rs 50 lakh bribe

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 57-year-old employee of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) was allegedly caught accepting bribe of Rs 50 lakh to stop action against a company for illegal construction in the western suburb of Andheri here, an official said on Saturday.

A team from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) caught an executive engineer posted at the BMC's K-east ward while accepting the bribe amount at his office on Friday, he said.

The civic body had on October 13 issued a notice to the company for the illegal construction of a shed, the official said. The complainant, who is working with the company, had submitted a reply on October



19, but the accused official was not satisfied, following which the civic body initiated the action of removing the shed on October 28, he said.

The accused official called the complainant to his office and allegedly demanded Rs 50

lakh to stop the removal of the shed, the official said.

A case under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act has been registered against the accused official and further probe is underway, he added.

# YEAR ON, BMC IS YET TO FINISH SPECIAL AUDIT OF RS1,000-CR WORK

Mumbai: Nearly a year after the BMC's then standing committee ordered special scrutiny of 150 COVID-related projects, its chief auditor is yet to complete the audit. This comes at a time when the state government has asked national auditor CAG to probe civic proposals worth Rs 12,000 crore. "We are working on that. Audit work is going on," said Municipal Chief Auditor Sitaram Kale.

After opposition members raised questions over expenses in projects related to COVID, then standing committee chairman Yashwant Jadhav on December 23, 2021, had ordered the audit of proposals worth Rs 1,000 crore.

Sources said most of the purchases and tender work during the pandemic had been done by the BMC's central purchase department. "A 12-member team of the audit department is on the job. Work is underway to gather more information about all these proposals," said a source. Between April and December 2021, the BMC used its special powers to spend about Rs 2,500 crore to tackle COVID. In such cases, the administration doesn't need to take approval from the standing committee.

# Hoax call about terrorists visiting near Haji Ali dargah, cops trace caller

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A call warning of 'terrorists' visiting the area near the Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai turned out to be a hoax, police said on Friday. The man who made the threat call was found to be a mentally unstable man, said an official.

Police in neighbouring Thane city received a call on Thursday afternoon claiming that a group of terrorists was heading for Haji Ali Dargah, a famous landmark in south Mumbai.

Officials of the Tardeo police station rushed to the spot and conducted search around the Dargah with the help of Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad and sniffer dog squad. But nothing sus-



picious was found, the official said. The call was traced to a 36-year-old mentally unstable man from Ulhasnagar in Thane district. The man had suffered a brain

injury 14 years ago and was under treatment, the official said. In view of his mental condition, no criminal case was registered against him, the official added.

# 'Congress man took money for investment, but used it to fund son's studies'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Congress office-bearer has been booked by Dharavi police for allegedly duping a jeweller of Rs 17.5 lakh. The complainant alleged that Mohan Singh Saini, general secretary of Mumbai Congress, took the money from him with the promise of high returns but used it to fund his son's studies in Canada. Saini, however, claimed that he had taken the money for his son's studies and was ready to return the same, but the complainant demanded exorbitant interest. He further said that the case was filed to defame him and tarnish his image. The complainant, Jitendra Khaire, in his statement to the police said he knew Saini for the past 19 years. In 2019, Saini allegedly told him that one of his friends worked for a company which offers

good returns to investors and promised 6 per cent interest on investment.

Khaire said that he first paid Rs 3 lakh to Saini in February 2019. "After a few days Saini asked for Rs 7 lakh more. So, I borrowed money and gave him the amount from March to June 2019," he claimed. "In June, he also asked me to give him Rs 1.5 lakh to buy a bike for his son and promised to pay interest. I mortgaged some gold and gave him the money. When he did not return the money, I had to follow up with him constantly and got the money back. But he did not pay me the interest he had promised," said Khaire, adding, "Whenever I asked him to return my money, he would intimidate me citing his position in the party."

As per the FIR, Saini cheated Khaire of Rs 17.5 lakh, this includes Rs 10 lakh he had

invested, Rs 6.6 lakh interest Saini had promised along with Rs 1.35 lakh interest promised on the money he had lent Saini for the bike.

"We have filed an FIR against Mohan Singh Saini under Sections 420 (cheating), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 504 (insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC. The probe is on," said Vijay Kandalgaonkar, senior inspector, Dharavi police station. When contacted, Saini said, "I know Khaire personally and have taken money from him to fund my son's study. But when I tried to return the money, he asked for too much interest. He went to seniors of the party and even threatened to file a case against me. There has not been a single non-cognisable case filed against me in 40 years of my public life.

# Maha has 35K bridges and their upkeep poses nightmarish challenge

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra has a stupendous 35,000-plus big and small bridges on roads in village, towns, cities, state or national highways, posing mind-boggling challenges for their regular upkeep and maintenance, with multiple agencies involved, but recording barely 100 structures crashing since 2000, top officials said.

As per government data, under the state's Public Works Department (PWD) jurisdiction, there are 146 small, 105 big and five long bridges (total 256) from the pre-Independence era, some dating back to over 350 years and still functional.

In the post-Independence era, the state recorded massive development since 1957, with around 16,000 small, 2100 big and 100

long (total 18,200) bridges being constructed.

Besides, there are some 12,000, including 2,000 major bridges, on the national highways crisscrossing the state, an estimated 4,000 (total 16,000) in various civic bodies' jurisdictions, like some 450-odd in Mumbai, not counting another huge number of bridges on the railway networks.

Despite the huge numbers of bridges, in the past 22 years, barely around 100 medium or small have crashed - 75 percent of them comprising masonry design and the rest raft design - in different parts of the state.

The worst crash was the washout of 106-year-old British-era masonry bridge on the heavily-flooded Savitri River near Mahad in Ratnagiri on August 2, 2016, which swept away two ST buses and around 10 other pri-

ivate vehicles with the death toll touching 40. Prescribing a regular "good health check-up" for all bridges, especially the old ones, a senior Highway Department officer appreciated the Indian Railways for their "constant vigil and dedicated teams carrying out daily, weekly, monthly inspections or biannual surveys of all their bridges" to ensure safety of the hundreds of trains hurtling around the country with passengers and cargo.

Touching on the Savitri River bridge crash, a PWD officer said it was nicknamed a "green bridge" as its fade was completely covered with shrubs, bushes, creepers and small plants - but spelling a "red alert" from the safety aspect.

"Such overgrowth is rarely taken into account, another lurking danger is the dredging of sand

from the water-bed in the vicinity, blatantly violating norms which weaken the bridge foundations and make it prone to a crash, overloading during peak hours which hasten the wear-and-tear, allowing vehicles to ply even when the flood levels touch or cross the red level marks, as it happened in the Savitri River case," he said. Officers from the Highways Department, PWD, civic bodies and others ruled that "unless regular inspection and maintenance" is carried out for all bridges - majority are already over 40-50 years old - there can be repetitions of the recent Morbi (141 dead) or the 2003 Daman & Diu (26 dead) type tragedies, with more risks added as new bridges come up practically every month in the massive expansion of the roads and railways in the country.



# JOHNNY DEPP IS NO LONGER DATING JOELLE RICH

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Johnny Depp and Joelle Rich, a lawyer who represented him in his U.K. libel lawsuit, are no longer seeing each other. Back in September, a source confirmed that the actor, and the London lawyer were "dating, but it's not serious." Rich was on Depp's legal team during his libel case against The Sun, which he lost in November 2020. He sued the UK newspaper for calling him a "wife-beater," but the court upheld the outlet's claims as being "substantially true" and his ex-wife Amber Heard testified to back up the claims. In March 2021, his attempt to overturn the decision was overruled. Rich was not among his lawyers in this year's

defamation case against Heard, that was held in Fairfax County, Virginia. He won that case; a jury found that Heard defamed him in her 2018 op-ed about domestic violence, though she didn't mention him by name. Depp was awarded more than \$10 million in damages. Rich also hugged Depp's attorney Camille Vasquez inside the courtroom on May 16 and later was seen exiting the courthouse with Depp and his team on May 19. According to her bio, Rich "helps individuals and families in the public eye protect their privacy and reputations" and has "expertise in libel, privacy and copyright disputes." She "works to defend (clients') reputations against false and defamatory allegations in print, online and on social media."

After the June 1 verdict, Depp said the "best is yet to come" for him, and added that the jury "gave me my life back." He also thanked his "diligent and unwavering legal team who did an extraordinary job in helping me to share the truth." At the time, Heard called the verdict a setback for women: "I'm heartbroken that the mountain of evidence still was not enough to stand up to the disproportionate power, influence and sway of my ex-husband. I'm even more disappointed with what this verdict means for other women. It is a setback." "It sets back the clock to a time when a woman who spoke up and spoke out could be publicly shamed and humiliated. It sets back the idea that violence against women is to be taken seriously."

## BREAKING UP WITH JUSTIN BIEBER WAS THE "BEST THING" EVER HAPPENED TO ME: SELENA

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Selena Gomez said that breaking up with pop singer Justin Bieber was the "best thing" that ever happened to her. The singer, who split from Justin, in 2018, makes the declaration on her new Apple + documentary 'Selena Gomez: My Mind & Me', says reports. She said: "Everything was so public. I felt haunted by a past relationship that no one wanted to let go of. Then I just moved past it, and I wasn't afraid anymore. I feel like I had to go through the worst possible heartbreak ever and then just forgetting everything at the drop of a hat, it was really confusing. But I just think that needed to happen and ultimately it was the best thing that ever happened to me."

Gomez dated Bieber on-off for eight years and the split inspired her 2020 song 'Lose You to Love Me', which she said took her 45 minutes to write.

She added on the show: "It's about more than a lost love. It's me learning to choose myself, to choose life, but also hoping that people can find grace and peace in that too. The song about knows that you completely lost every part of who you are just to rediscover yourself again."

Bieber started dating his now-wife Hailey Baldwin, just after they split and the month after Justin married Hailey, Selena reportedly suffered a breakdown connected to her lupus and entered treatment for her mental health.

Selena recently told Rolling Stone magazine: "I grew up thinking I would be married at 25. It wrecked me that I was nowhere near that - couldn't be farther from it."

She recently threw herself a lavish wedding-themed 30th birthday and said about it being attended by celebrities including Cara Delevingne: "We had lovely drinks, and it was beautiful, and then my friend Cara comes in and brings strippers. So I would like to say it was a mixture of sophisticated and hysterical."

## Matthew Perry remembers letting Jennifer Aniston go of his feelings

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Matthew Perry has revealed that his romantic feelings towards 'Friends' co-star Jennifer Aniston "dissipated" when he realised she was interested in David Schwimmer. The actor, said that he "knew what was going on" between his co-stars while they were filming the sitcom, reports. He said on the Jess Cagle podcast on November 3, about his feelings for Jennifer: "But at first it was just like, she would walk in and I'd be like, 'Hey, good to see you!' and I'd go to my dressing room and I'd just go, 'Oh, I'll never be able to be with her.'" He added that he would eventually think about letting go of his feelings for the actress: "All right, that's enough. That's enough. It's been enough now."

Aniston, revealed on the 'Friends' reunion show that she had feelings for David, 56, when they were making 'Friends'. Perry added that when he got over Jennifer he developed feelings for his 'Friends' love interest Courteney Cox, as well as their other female co-star Lisa Kudrow. He told 'Good Morning America': "So I made it kind of difficult to go to work, because I had to pretend that I didn't have these crushes."

Perry made the admissions on the promotional trail for his new memoir, which details his extreme struggles with alcohol and drug addiction. He has told how he had his first drink at 14 and was drinking every day by 18, before he was taking 55 Vicodin a day. It led to him almost being killed when his colon burst from the drug abuse before 14 surgeries led to him surviving but left him with scars he says he looks at to remind himself to stay clean.



Los Angeles | Agencies

James Bond star Daniel Craig has opened up about his hatred of the spotlight, insisting that being famous is foreign to him.

The James Bond actor talked about life in the spotlight, saying that he was never comfortable in the public eye after being thrust into international stardom playing 007 in 2006's 'Casino Royale' and he still feels uneasy being a celebrity, says reports.

Daniel explained: "I used to hate it (the spotlight), but I think that was fame I didn't like. I had to get used to being famous which

He made the comments while taking part in a question-and-answer session with 'The Late Show' star Stephen Colbert at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center at the 2022 Montclair Film Festival and Daniel - who was named the festival's Tribute Honoree - also spoke about the public reaction to his appointment as Bond.

## I used to hate spotlight: Daniel Craig

The actor added: "Everybody f\*\*\*\*\* hated me." Daniel said of his replacement: "It's not my problem. It (Bond) will continue without me."

During the question-and-answer session, Daniel was asked what advice he would give to his younger self and he admitted that he probably wouldn't have listened no matter what was said. He joked: "I think about this quite a lot. I don't think I would've listened. I would've just told me to go f\*\*\* myself."



## Mariah Carey says she 'didn't fit in' with beauty standards

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Mariah Carey has recalled a moment when she felt she "didn't fit in" with beauty ideals. The singer said that her biracial heritage set her apart as "other" when she was growing up in a small town on New York's Long Island.

The 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' hitmaker said that her family, at that time, didn't have the money for her to spend on looking after her appearance.

She said: "That's when I learned I was definitely 'other.' It would've been great to actually be a chameleon, but I didn't have the tools for it, meaning we didn't have money."

"For people in the white neighbourhoods where we lived, it was clear that I was mixed with something. I wasn't, like, the little girl living next door, with the silky long hair and freckles," she shared.

Asked what she'd tell herself, she said: "Save up your money. Buy some conditioner and a comb, just wet your hair, keep the conditioner on it, and let it air-dry. You'll be okay." Oh, and I would've said, "Please don't shave your eyebrows. It's never gonna look good on you."

Mariah has channelled her childhood experiences into her new kids' book, "The Christmas Princess", with a positive message at the heart of the story.

She said: "It's a lot about surviving the bullies that are making the main character feel ashamed of whom she is. She survives and finds her destiny. Her music rescues her. It's not a Prince Charming who comes in. She saves her own day," she said.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kendall Jenner



## T20 World Cup

Melbourne | Agencies

The Rohit Sharma-led side will be back at the iconic venue to seal their semifinal berth in the final Group 2 match of Super 12s against a lively Zimbabwe on Sunday.

Though India have a 5-2 edge over Zimbabwe in T20Is with their last face-off happening in 2016, it will be the first time that these two teams will be meeting in a T20 World Cup game.

Though Rohit got a scratchy fifty against Netherlands and Rahul slammed a half-century against Bangladesh to end a string of low scores, India would like for the duo to have a good opening partnership before knockout arrive.

Virat Kohli has been explosive with the bat while Suryakumar Yadav has chipped in whenever India needed a move on in their momentum. India would also want for Hardik Pandya and Dinesh Karthik to make a sizeable contribution with lower-order power-hitting.

The bowling has been great for India barring when South Africa chased down 134 or Litton Das was putting up a show with the bat in

# India seeks to qualify for semifinals against Zimbabwe



power-play. Young left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh is admirably leading the charge with the new ball as well as in the death overs, with the other bowlers chipping in. After being sloppy in the field against the Proteas, India were excellent in this department in a rain-hit match against Bangladesh.

Zimbabwe, on the other hand, will be aiming to finish the tournament on a high which has been a memorable one for them. In all-rounder Sikandar Raza, they have a shining sensation who has been a force

behind them for sparking performances in the tournament.

They would like for captain Craig Ervine, Sean Williams, Wesley Madhevere and Ryan Burl to get big runs with the bat as well as look for improvements in fielding. In the bowling department, tall fast-bowler Blessing Muzarabani has been among the wickets with Raza, Tendai Chatara, Richard Ngarava and Luke Jongwe supporting him.

**Squads**  
India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav,

Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh and Mohammad Shami.

Zimbabwe: Craig Ervine (captain), Ryan Burl, Regis Chakabva, Tendai Chatara, Bradley Evans, Luke Jongwe, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Wellington Masakadza, Tony Munyonga, Blessing Muzarabani, Richard Ngarava, Sikandar Raza, Milton Shumba and Sean Williams.

# Stokes is a proper competitor, affects the game in all three facets: Jos Buttler

Sydney | Agencies

England skipper Jos Buttler is delighted for Ben Stokes, who found his form at the right time and led England to the semifinal of the Men's T20 World Cup 2022, saying that the all-rounder is a proper competitor and affects the game in all three facets.

After a dismal show in the T20 World Cup so far, Stokes on Saturday played a calm and composed knock and held his nerve to lead the 2010 World T20 winner England into the semifinals with a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka.

"These kinds of situations are what he's made for and I'm delighted for him. While he's at the crease, that gives you a sense of calm. He can play a lot of roles. He affects the game in all three facets. He's a proper competitor. Getting to this stage of the competition is where you just see him grow and grow," said Buttler at the



post-match presentation. "They got off to a really good start. Having lost the toss, we knew the wicket would probably slow up as the game went on being a used wicket. I thought it was a fantastic over from Adil Rashid at the back end of the Power-play to change the momentum. He's been someone we always turn to and I was really pleased

with his performance," he said. "A lot of people always look at the end column and maybe he hasn't picked up the wickets that he usually does. I don't think he bowled with much luck, to be honest. He's had a few chances missed but I think he's still bowling well. When you get him on surfaces like this, he's a really tough customer to face," he added.

## Asian Elite Boxing

# MINAKSHI ASSURES INDIA A MEDAL

Amman (Jordan) | Agencies

Woman boxer Minakshi assured India a medal by reaching the semifinals of the 2022 Asian Elite Boxing Championship here on Saturday while compatriot Sakshi crashed out of contention after losing her quarterfinal bout.

Minakshi defeated Philippines' Irish Magno 4-1 in a women's 52kg quarterfinals bout in Amman, Jordan on Saturday. That assured her a medal in the prestigious event as all semifinalists get a medal. Minakshi will now be hoping to win her last-four stage bout to capture a better colour medal.

Her compatriot Sakshi ran into a tougher opponent as she lost 0-5 to Chinese Taipei's Hsiao-Wen Huang in the quarterfinals bout in the 54kg weight category thus ending her hopes of winning a medal.

Also on Saturday, five more Indian women



boxers including Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain will compete in their quarterfinal bouts.

Lovlina, who has changed her weight category from 69kg, will be appearing in her first international tournament in the 75kg weight category as she takes to the ring against the 2016 World Champion, Valentina Khalzova of Kazakhstan.

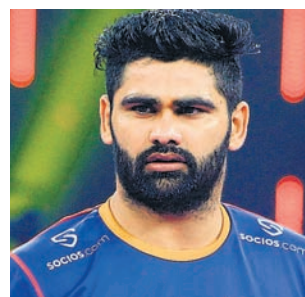
# PKL 9: Pardeep Narwal stepped down from captaincy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Star raider Pardeep Narwal has replaced Nitesh Kumar as the captain of UP Yoddhas for the rest of the season, the GMR-owned franchise announced on Saturday.

Nitesh has been the captain of UP Yoddhas for their two previous seasons and till their last game against Purner Paltans this season.

Pardeep, who is known as Dubki King, is the only raider to have earned over 1400 raid points in the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL). In the past, he has captained Patna Pirates and helped them win three back-to-back Pro Kabaddi League titles.



"Nitesh is one of our finest defenders and nothing changes that. This season has been testing and hence to concentrate on his game and performance Nitesh himself took the decision of giving up on captaincy. Once he expressed his desire, we knowing his worth, respected it

and after a long thorough analysis, we only found Pradeep as the best option, given his stature within the team and his past experience leading his past franchise, to take up the role as a captain for UP Yoddhas," said Jasvir Singh, head coach, UP Yoddhas.

Narwal has been one of the biggest icons of the Pro Kabaddi League as statistically there's nothing that he is left to achieve as a raider.

He is currently placed on top of each raiding stat table viz; Total Points, Raid Points, Successful Raids, Average Raid Points, Super Raids and Super 10s of overall seasons of Pro Kabaddi League.

# GURLEEN BAGS DOUBLE TITLE AT SAT SPORTS AITA CS7 TITLE; NAVIN CLAIMS BOYS' SINGLES CROWN

Bengaluru: Gurleen Kaur bagged a golden double in the Sat Sports Open AITA Championship Series 7 (CS7) U-14 championship while Navin Sundaram won the boys' singles title at the Sat Sports Academy here on Saturday. The 14-year-old Gurleen came back from a set down to beat Deepshikha V. 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 to win the singles title and later joined hands with Geethika Gaddham to bag the doubles crown. Meanwhile, Navin Sundaram won the boys' singles title after brushing aside the challenge of Shreyanth M 6-1, 6-0 in the final. In the boys' doubles, Shreyanth M. and Tarun H. won the title beating Siva Sampreeth and N. Mohit Reddy in the final.

**Results (all finals)**  
Boys' singles: Navin Sundaram bt Shreyanth M. 6-1, 6-0. Boys' doubles: Shreyanth M./Tarun H bt N. Mohit Reddy & Siva Sampreeth 6-2, 6-3. Girls' singles: Gurleen Kaur bt Deepshikha V 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. Girls' doubles: Gurleen Kaur/Geethika Gaddham bt Riya Pudiyyokkda/Yahana Arora 6-2, 3-6, 10-6.

# Experts confused why Starc was dropped in a crucial game against Afghanistan



Adelaide | Agencies

Several leading cricketers from across around the world have reacted to Australia pace spearhead Mitchell Starc being left out of the playing XI in the most crucial game of the ICC T20 World Cup against Afghanistan, with England quick Stuart Broad expressing shock on social media.

Kane Richardson was brought in to play his first game of the tournament and he ended up conceding 48 off his four overs. Defending champions Australia were looking to win by a big margin in order to leapfrog England on net run rate (NRR), but, while they defeated Afghanistan by just four runs in a thriller at the Adelaide Oval, the win didn't do their NRR any good. What has surprised the experts is that Starc wasn't injured. Australia made three changes to their eleven, with Aaron Finch and Tim David not recovering in time from their respective hamstring injuries and Starc being axed.

The experts are not quite sure what Australia assistant coach Dan Vettori meant when he said bringing

in Richardson was a tactical decision.

"It was a tactical decision (to leave out Starc)," Vettori said post-game. "We brought in Kane (Richardson) to play the role he executed tonight (Friday) at the back-end of the powerplay, looking at the death overs where Kane has been exceptional in the past. Richardson conceded 16 runs off his only death over." "We were looking to use Josh Hazlewood at the start and implement a plan around him and Pat (Cummins) being effective with the new ball and pushed Mitch (Marsh) into a role where he's competing with Kane Richardson, especially at the death where everyone thought Kane (Richardson) excels," explained Vettori.

"(Starc) has got to be injured. There's absolutely no way you can leave him out. If anyone's going to rip through Afghanistan's batting, it's Mitchell Starc. I don't get it," said Clarke.

Australian great Mark Waugh tweeted, "Starc should be playing. He is an aggressive wicket-taking bowler who could easily rip through Afghanistan. Richardson more of a holding type bowler."

# T20 World Cup: England beat Sri Lanka, booked semifinal berth



Sydney | Agencies

England held their nerves to beat Sri Lanka by four wickets and qualify for the semifinals of the Men's T20 World Cup 2022 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, on Saturday.

With this win, England also knocked out defending champions Australia from the tournament. On the other hand, Sri Lanka was

already out of the semifinals race before the game.

After winning the toss and opting to bat first, Sri Lanka scored 141 for 8 in 20 overs with the main contributions from Pathum Nissanka's 45-ball 67 and Bhanuka Rajapaksa's run-a-ball 22. For England, Mark Wood (3/26) claimed three wickets, while Ben Stokes (1-24), Chris Woakes (1-24), Sam Curran (1-27) and Adil Rashid (1-16) took one each.

In reply, Alex Hales (47 off 30) gave a flying but England suffered a collapse before Ben Stokes played a crucial unbeaten knock (42 not out off 36) and guided his team to victory with two balls to spare.

Wanindu Hasaranga (2-23), Dhananjaya de Silva (2-24), and Lahiru Kumara (2-24) were wicket-takers for Sri Lanka.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 141/8 in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 67; Mark Wood 3-26) lost to England 144/6 in 19.4 overs (Alex Hales 47, Ben Stokes 42; Wanindu Hasaranga 2-23, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-24) by 4 wickets.

## HYLO OPEN BADMINTON

# Srikanth, Treesa-Gayatri reach semis

Saarbrücken (Germany) | Agencies

Ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth reached the semifinal of the Hylo Open 2022 BWF Super 300 tournament, beating Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in the men's singles quarterfinals, Satwik-Chirag bow out.

The 29-year-old made a strong start against the seventh-ranked Indonesian by scoring nine of the last 11 points to win the first game. Jonatan, the 2018 Asian Games champion, made a late surge in the second game but the Indian shuttler managed to seal the match 21-13, 21-19 in 39 minutes.

World No.11 Srikanth will be up against fifth-seeded Anthony Ginting of Indonesia in the semifinals on Saturday. Ginting has won three of the five previous matches against Srikanth, the last time at the All-England Open in March. On the other hand, the young women's doubles pair Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand beat Chinese Taipei's Hsu Ya Ching and Lin Wan Ching in three games in the quarterfinals. After two close games, the Chinese Taipei teams were unable to main-



tain the pressure in the decider as Jolly and Gopichand won 21-17, 18-21, 21-8.

The Commonwealth Games 2022 bronze medal-winning Indian pair will face eighth-seeded Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard of Thailand on Saturday.

However, the in-form Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, currently world No.8, lost their men's doubles quarterfinal match against England's seventh-seeded pair of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy. The Indian doubles duo went down 17-21, 14-21 and crashed out of the tournament.

# West Indies U19 women's team tour India ahead of U19 T20 World Cup 2023

St John's (Antigua) | Agencies

Ashmini Munisar as a captain, while Trishan Holder will be her deputy in the 15-member West Indies women's U-19 squad for the T20 tour of India beginning in Visakhapatnam on November 13.

The tour will feature matches against India-A Women U19, India-B Women U19 and Sri Lanka Women U19 at the Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy International Stadium in Visakhapatnam. West Indies will then travel to Mumbai where they will play against New Zealand Women U19 at the DY Patil Stadium.

The team will be under the guidance of head coach Steve Liburd. Munisar is an all-rounder who led the team when West Indies U19 played against USA Women's U19 in



Fort Lauderdale in August. Vice-captain Holder is a top-order batter who was a member of the Barbados team at the Commonwealth Games playing matches against Pakistan, Australia and India. The players for the T20 matches were selected after trial matches in Trinidad.

"As part of the preparation for the tour the squad was

involved in some practice matches during a seven-day training camp in Trinidad. The final team selected contained some of the players who participated in the series in the USA and there are some new players who the panel would like to have a look at before a final team is selected for the World Cup," said lead selector, Ann

Browne-John. "The composition of the team is quite balanced with some strong batters and a good mix of spin and medium pacers. It will be their first experience against top international teams and these tour matches will give a better indication of where the team is at the moment," she added. This series in the sub-con-

continent will form a crucial part of the team's preparations for the inaugural ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023. The global event will feature 41 matches to be played from January 14-29 in South Africa.

The official warm-up matches will be from January 9-11. The 16 participating teams will play in four groups in the preliminary round. West Indies have been drawn in Group C alongside New Zealand, Ireland and Indonesia.

Full squad: Ashmini Munisar (captain), Trishan Holder, Asabi Callender, Kenika Cassar, Jahzara Claxton, Najjanni Cumberbatch, Jannillea Glasgow, Realeanna Grimmond, Zaida James, Djenaba Joseph, KD Jazz Mitchell, Shalini Samaroo, Shunelle Sawh, Lena Scott, Kate Wilmott.



## Cinema is a celebration, 'Uunchai' is hope': Anupam Kher

Team Absolute | Mumbai

"Cinema is a celebration. 'Uunchai' is hope," says veteran star Anupam Kher as he sets about combining the two, preparing for a grand premiere of his latest film with Sooraj Barjatya, 'Uunchai' in association with his acting school.

The acclaimed actor began his friendship with director Sooraj Barjatya when the latter handed over Anupam's script to him as the last AD of his first film 'Saaransh' 38 years ago at Rajshri office. Decades later, Anupam Kher returned the gesture by sportingly playing clapper boy to Sooraj Barjatya in 'Uunchai', celebrating his friendship with Sooraj. Taking it forward, Anupam has organised Rajshri's first ever independent premiere.

"Rajshri's 75 years of cinema is in

the same year as Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. They have contributed immensely and are yet very humble and Sooraj is synonymous with clean entertainment goodness."

He added: "I wanted the industry to also stand up and feel the hope and goodness that Sooraj has brought in post Covid. Apart from that, Actor Prepares is about tomorrow and what better than cinema students combining cinematic heritage!" Sooraj Barjatya checked if Anupam wanted a private screening of 'Uunchai' for friends and family. The actor warmly embraced the entire industry family that needed hope and happiness and celebrated the return of films to theatres. Mounted to be a visual spectacle with an unforgettable journey of friendship, helmed by Sooraj R. Barjatya, 'Uunchai' is slated to be released on November 11.

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress Laila has shared on social media a behind-the-scenes video from the film in which she gets killed. She made a comeback in cinema with director P. S. Mithran's recently released superhit film 'Sardar'.

Laila, who plays a character that gets killed in the film, posted the video of a man forcing her head into a tank full of water, with her hands tied behind her back.

Sharing the video on Instagram, she wrote: "Special behind the scenes of 'Sardar'. Film making is not a simple or easy job."

## Filmmaking not a simple job: Laila

Director P. S. Mithran does it with ease. Of course, director of photography George sets the mood with his lighting and special angles and effects. Stunt master Dhillip added the spice, but editor Ruban really made magic with his editing skills! Praveen Raja's costumes were just all underwater. This is a very raw footage. Enjoy the Behind the Camera!"

Director Mithran himself reacted to the video and wrote: "And this was your Day 1."

Laila responded with a laugh: "My sweetheart director insisted on doing this to me on Day 1 of the shoot."

The film, which has gone on to become a superhit, will now have a sequel with Karthi playing a spy in the second part as well.



## Aditi, Karanvir will be seen together in a TV serial

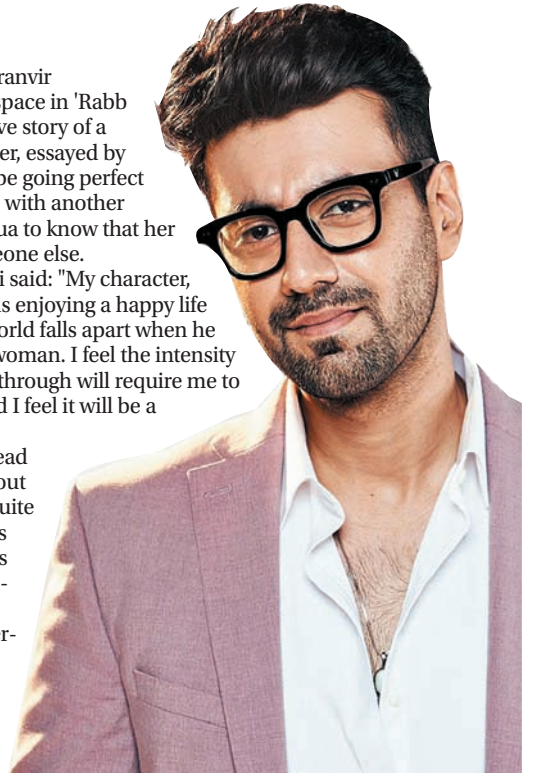
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Aditi Sharma and fame Karanvir Sharma is going to share screen space in 'Rabb Se Hai Dua'. It is an emotional love story of a couple, Dua, played by Aditi and Haider, essayed by Karanvir. Their married life seems to be going perfect until Haider told her that he is in love with another woman. It is a painful moment for Dua to know that her husband has fallen in love with someone else.

While briefing about her role, Aditi said: "My character, Dua, is a very kind-hearted girl who is enjoying a happy life with her husband Haider until her world falls apart when he expresses a desire to marry another woman. I feel the intensity of the character and what she will go through will require me to portray a whole range of emotions and I feel it will be a challenge for me as an artist."

Karanvir, who was seen playing the lead role in 'Mangalam Dhangam' shares about his character which according to him is quite different from what he has done before. His on-screen personality is quite serious, who is surrounded by complicated situation and relationship.

"My character in 'Rabb Se Hai Dua' is quite different from what I have played in the past. Haider is someone who takes his responsibilities very seriously and has been placing the needs of everyone ahead of his own ever since his father left his mother to marry another woman. However, the circumstances under which he wishes to marry a second time are quite unique," he added.



## Being in Pune for the shoot felt like a hit of nostalgia: Nimrat Kaur

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood King Shah Rukh Khan has shared the mantra he practices for the problems he has faced till now.

Shah Rukh, on Saturday afternoon, treated his fans with a question and answer session, where a fan asked him about what motivates him to overcome the problems he has faced so far. "One has to believe that good will always outweigh the bad."

One has to believe that good will always outweigh the bad: SRK

Another user asked him about "coming back on screen" after so long with 'Pathaan'. Shah Rukh replied: "It's like coming back home." 'Pathaan' presents the story of an Indian spy who can get into any system or circle given his stealth and chameleon abilities to merge with the world that he resides in.

The film is the first of SRK's three films after a hiatus of over four years for the actor. Earlier, he was seen in the 2018 movie 'Zero' which tanked badly at the box-office.

A fan later asked him about working with John in the film.

To which, SRK replied: "Known John for years, was a pleasure to work with him. One of the most mild and well-mannered person."

'Pathaan' presents the story of an Indian spy who can get into any system or circle given his stealth and chameleon abilities to merge with the world that he resides in.

The film is the first of SRK's three films after a hiatus of over four years. Earlier, he was seen in the 2018 movie 'Zero' which tanked badly at the box-office.

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan will be seen sharing screen space with John Abraham in his upcoming movie.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mithila Palkar