

# absolute india

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## WOMAN'S BODY CUT INTO 35 PIECES, DUMPED AT VARIOUS PLACES; ACCUSED NABBED

# THE REAL LIFE DEXTER

Shradha, 29, was murdered by her boyfriend and live-in partner, who then chopped her body into some 35 pieces, stuffed them into a fridge and then scattered them across the national capital over 18 days to avoid detection. To avoid any suspicion, he used to leave the house with a body part in a polybag at 2 a.m.

### FRIEND FIRST ALERTED KIN SHE WAS 'MISSING'

**Palghar (Maharashtra):** According to Inspector Sampatrao Patil of Manikpur Police Station in Vasai town (Maharashtra), the woman was in a friendship and affair with the accused since 2019. The series of events started after they had reportedly met through a friendship app, and finally culminating in her brutal killing that has shaken the Vasai town. "Shradha Walker was working in a BPO (call centre) in Malad where she came in contact with Poonawala. They became friends and also had an affair," said Patil. Later, the woman - who lived in Evershine City in Vasai East - sought her family's permission to get married to Poonawala - who lived in Diwanman Complex in Vasai west. However, there was strong objection from her family and Shradha walked out of her home to go and live with Poonawala in a place in the Naigaon suburban area nearby. Everything seemed to be normal and though estranged, she came and lived with her family for a fortnight when her mother died some time ago, and returned to Poonawala. However, it was only in September 2022, when Laxman Nadar - Shradha's childhood friend - told her brother that she had gone incommunicado for over a couple of months. On learning this, her father, Vikas Walker called Nadar to his home for full details when he revealed that she had been in touch with him but for the past two-three months, her phone was off and she had shifted with Poonawala to New Delhi.



### ACCUSED BOUGHT REFRIGERATOR TO STORE BODY PARTS

**New Delhi:** The police said that after shopping his girlfriend, Shradha Walker, into pieces on May 18, the accused, Aftab Ameen Poonawala, bought a brand new refrigerator with large storage capacity the next day and stored the body pieces in it. To counter the stench, he lit incense sticks at his home.

Aftab was reportedly inspired by the American crime show 'Dexter', which tells the story of a man with homicidal tendencies who lives a double life.

Being a trained chef, Aftab was adept at using the knife, said sources. However, the knife used in the crime is yet to be recovered.

Aftab was taken to the Mehrauli forest area by the police on Monday to collect the body parts which he had disposed of there.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A childhood friend of Shradha Walker, who was killed by her boyfriend and hacked to pieces in New Delhi, had first alerted her family in Maharashtra's Palghar of her "missing" status in September and that kickstarted the investigations into the sensational murder, a top police official said here on Monday.

"The matter came to light on November 8, when the missing woman's father approached Delhi Police after she stopped responding to calls," said police.

The Delhi Police have finally cracked what turned out to be an 8-month-old macabre "missing-cum-murder" case of a love affair gone sour by nabbing the accused, Aftab Poonawala.

Shradha worked with a call centre for a multinational company in Mumbai where she met Poonawala. The two started dating and moved in together. However, her family did not approve of their relationship following which the

### DCW ISSUES NOTICE TO POLICE SEEKING CASE DETAILS

**New Delhi:** Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has issued a notice to Delhi Police seeking copy of the FIR and details of the accused person arrested in connection with the murder of 26 year-old Shradha Madan, whose body was chopped into 35 pieces by her lover in South Delhi's Mehrauli area. The DCW said that it has taken suo-moto cognizance of the gruesome murder of the girl.

In its notice, DCW has asked police whether the boy, live-in partner of the girl, was operating alone or did he take someone's help.

"If any complaint was submitted by the deceased girl in connection with harassment, domestic violence, sexual abuse or any other crime against the accused, please provide a copy of the complaint and action taken on the same till date," it stated in its notice. It has also asked police to submit a detailed report to the Commission till November 18.

couple eloped and came to Delhi.

A senior police official said that Poonawala was arrested on Saturday and on interrogation he had revealed that the duo used to fight frequently and she wanted to marry him.

Poonawala admitted to the police here that he and Shradha were live-in partners for the past few years. The duo's relationship apparently went sour some months ago after she demanded that they get married, enraging Poonawala who ultimately killed her.

## Superpower 90 explosive was used to carry out blast on Udaipur Railway line



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is all set to take over the Udaipur-Ahmedabad Railway Line blast case, has found that emulsion named Superpower 90 was used to execute the blast.

The sources in the NIA have suggested that gelatin powder was used in the blast. The source said that emulsion was made using explosive substances, it is called Superpower 90 explosive.

"This is a commercial explosive which is used in mining. One has to take permission from the authorities concerned," the source said.

Apart from terror links, the agencies are also probing the matter from other angle such as local issues.

"Fuse wire was also used in the commission of crime. We have collected a number of things used in the blast from the site. We have come to know that these were made by some Solar Industries firm. The accused didn't want to commit theft. The accused have not been identified as of now," the source said.

The agency is also probing the role of ISI behind the incident. The probe

### THE MATTER:

Newly launched Asarwa-Udaipur Express train from Ahmedabad was all set to pass from Railway line when a blast took place over there on Saturday evening. The blast site was 35 KM away from Udaipur city. Soon after the blast took place, three team of different agencies, i.e Railway Police, Rajasthan Police and National Investigation Agency (NIA) were sent over there.

agency suspects that ISI might have used local network to execute the blast. Before this, ISI's role had cropped up in a number of blast cases that took place on Railway Lines.

"In 2014, an explosion took place in a goods train. In Darbhanga, train was set on fire. A train blast had also taken place in Gujarat. In all these, it was found that ISI used their local network," the source said.

## CBI arrests an MD of pvt firm in Rs 512.67cr loan fraud case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested the Managing Director cum Promoter of a private company based in the national capital in an on-going investigation of a case related to bank fraud of Rs 512.67 crore.

The accused has been identified as Avinash Jain, the MD of Arise India Limited.

During investigation of the case, the CBI had examined several persons including witnesses, officials of the private company and bank officials.

However, Jain was found to be evasive in his replies after which he was placed under arrest.

The CBI lodged a case on November 19, 2020 against Avinash Jain, Arise India Limited and others on the allegations of causing loss to banks to the tune of Rs 512.67 crore.

The complainant, State Bank of India in its



complaint had alleged that the accused cheated the consortium of six banks, led by the SBI, causing fraud of Rs 512.67 crore.

The accused had allegedly diverted bank loans to its related parties and deliberately cheated the banks by inflating the debtors of the company. Arise India Limited is into the business of manufacturing and trading of monoblock pump, submersible pump, batteries, inverters and electrical

goods and its units are at Sonipat (Haryana) and Kala Amb (Himachal Pradesh). The accounts of said the company was declared NPA in 2017.

The CBI had earlier conducted searches at the premises of the accused which led to the recovery of several incriminating documents including books of accounts of the borrower company, purchase, sales details, etc.

The arrested individual will be presented tomorrow (on Tuesday) at a court here, officials said.

## Credit of taking India to international level goes to Nehru: Bommai

Bengaluru: The

credit of taking India to international level goes to the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said here on Monday. Speaking after garlanding the statue of Pandit Nehru on his birth anniversary in Vidhana Soudha here, the chief minister said Nehru loved children and his birth anniversary is celebrated as the children's day.

Pandit Nehru had worked very closely with the 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi. He supported Gandhiji during the country's freedom struggle to the hilt and strove hard for the country to bloom. As the first Prime Minister of the independent country, he laid the foundation for development. He worked in commendable manner at the international level for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) with General Tito, Chief Minister Bommai said.

India is still playing a major role in NAM, CM Bommai stated. His birthday is celebrated as Children's day. Minister Halappa Achar and Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma and others were present.



## F-16 'buzzes' around Kolkata suburbs on Monday afternoon

Kolkata | Agencies

A fighter aircraft buzzed around parts of the northern suburbs of Kolkata on Monday afternoon, resulting in speculation and a bit of concern regarding the pilot's welfare.

Unlike other cities in the north or western parts of the country, Kolkata and its suburbs aren't used to fighter aircraft flying overhead. People are accustomed to Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters though, as the Air Force Station in Barrackpore is located in the city's northern suburbs itself.

"At around 3 p.m., I heard the noise and realised that it was a fighter aircraft flying low. By the time I got out of the house, it was gone. I just hope that everything is fine with the aircraft and the pilot. It brought back memories of my days with the IAF," said Animesh Das, who served the IAF as an airman before retiring

and setting up his own motor garage.

The nearest airbase to Kolkata is the Air Force Station in Kalaikunda (in East Midnapore district). A Joint Military Training (JMT) is now underway there between the IAF and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF). While the RSAF has sent its F-16s for this exercise, the IAF is flying Sukhoi Su-30 MKIs, Jaguars, Mig-29s and LCA Tejas. AFS Kalaikunda also has two squadrons of Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers of its own.

An official at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport confirmed that the aircraft was an F-16 of the RSAF that made a low flight over the suburbs before flying back to AFS Kalaikunda.

The bilateral stage of the JMT between the IAF and RSAF is now underway where both air forces are engaged in advanced air combat simulations. This is

that stage when aircraft from both sides are part of a Red Team or a Blue Team. The Red Team is the attacker while the Blue Team is the defender.

Aircraft do not carry live munitions but the scoring simulated shots by pilots are recorded and replayed during the debriefing. This helps in improving skills in air-to-air combat. This is also the most gruelling stage where every pilot tries his best to outwit the adversary in a dog-fight in the skies.

According to a senior IAF official, this is also the stage where pilots push their aircraft to the limit. There is every possibility of a technical glitch at this stage and a pilot may fly back to the closest airfield. The Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata is the diversion airport during such exercises and a pilot in distress may have turned towards it, causing a flutter on the ground.

## Delhi residents enjoyed lowest inflation, Telangana people suffered from the highest

Chennai | Agencies

People living in Delhi enjoyed the lowest year-on-year inflation rate in the country at 2.99 per cent in October while those in Telangana suffered the highest at 8.82 per cent, as per the government inflation figures. While Andhra Pradesh comes second in the high inflation pecking order at 7.93 per cent, the third spot is taken by Haryana with an inflation rate of 7.79 per cent.

The people of Himachal Pradesh enjoyed the second lowest inflation rate in the country last month at 4.42 per cent and Punjab comes next with 4.52 per cent. According to the Central government, the retail inflation or consumer price index (CPI) inflation came down to 6.77 per cent in October 2022 from 7.41 per cent in September 2022. Nonetheless, there is a need to closely monitor the impact of volatility in food inflation and impact of exchange rate on imported inflation.

### RETAIL INFLATION SLIDES TO 6.77 PER CENT IN OCTOBER

**New Delhi:** Retail inflation in October eased to 6.77 per cent, compared to 7.41 per cent in September, yet remained above the RBI's tolerance band of 6 per cent for the 10th straight month, mainly due to high prices of food items. Though food inflation in October fell to 7.01 per cent from 8.6 per cent in the previous month, prices of meat and egg, milk, vegetables, and cereals rose. Retail inflation in October though was at a three-month low from a five-month high of 7.41 per cent in September.



## Biden meets Xi for the first time after taking charge

**Washington:** US President Joe Biden told his China counterpart Xi Jinping on Monday that he is committed to keeping lines of communication open with the latter.

The meeting took place in Bali, a day before the G-20 summit is due to kick off. It was the first physical meeting between Biden and Xi since the former took charge as US President. Xi spoke about charting a "flight course" for the relationship between the two superpowers, which is important not only for the two countries, but also for the whole world.

The meeting came a time when ties between the two countries are at a historic low over China's position on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and a visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan, which was cited by Beijing to shut down military-to-military and other lines of communication.





## GADKARI INAUGURATES TWO NH PROJECTS IN BIHAR WORTH RS 3,390CR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Monday inaugurated two National Highway projects worth Rs 3,390 crore in Bihar's Buxar in the presence of Union Minister of State Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Bihar BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal and other officials.

Gadkari said with the 44 km 4-lane Koilwar to Bhojpur section on NH-922 constructed at a cost of Rs 1,662 crore and 48 km 4-lane Bhojpur to Buxar section on NH-922 constructed at a cost of Rs 1,728 crore connectivity with Purvanchal Expressway will be easy.

This will make it easy to reach Delhi from Bihar via Lucknow. The time taken to reach Delhi will be reduced from 15 hours to 10 hours, he added.

The Minister said this road will relieve the residents of the traffic jam in Ara. Agricultural produce will have easy access to the



new market. He said with the construction of Ganga bridge, the traffic between north and south Bihar will be convenient. Gadkari also inaugurated a 1.5 km long 2-lane elevated RCC bridge near Panduka on Son River in Rohtas, Bihar at a cost of Rs 210 crore.

Gadkari said with the construction of this bridge, NH-19 and NH-39 will be directly connected, which will facilitate traffic between Bihar, Jharkhand,

Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

He said at present, a distance of 150 km has to be covered to reach Srinagar from Panduka in Rohtas district and Garhwa district of Jharkhand, with the construction of this bridge, four hours will be saved in this journey. The traffic pressure on Dehri bridge will also reduce and Aurangabad, Sasaram cities will be able to get rid of the problem of jam, he added.

## SC NOTICE TO HCS ON PLEA FOR SETTING UP OF 'GRAM NYAYALAYAS'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought reply from all high courts on a plea for Centre and all states to take steps to set up 'Gram Nyayalayas' under the supervision of the apex court.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the petitioner, NGO National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice and others, submitted before a bench headed by Justice S.A. Nazeer that despite a direction from the top court in 2020, many states have yet not taken any action.

He added that these 'Gram Nyayalayas' should be such that people may be able to articulate their grievances without requiring a lawyer.

In 2008, the Parliament passed an Act for setting up of 'Gram Nyayalayas' at the grassroots level for providing access to justice to citizens at the doorstep.

The bench, also comprising Justice V. Ramasubramanian, said the high courts should be made party in the matter as they are the supervisory authority. After hearing arguments, the bench issued notice to the Registrar General of all high courts and made them parties in the case, and scheduled the matter for further hearing on December 5.

## 'May affect security of nation', SC asks Centre on steps taken to deal with forced religious conversions

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday said the issue of forced religious conversion is "very serious" and may affect the security of the nation and as well as freedom of citizens and asked the Centre to make its stand clear on what steps can be taken to curb forced conversions.

The top court said there is freedom of religion, but no freedom on forced conversion.

A bench headed by Justice M.R. Shah and comprising Justice Hima Kohli was hearing a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay against fraudulent religious conversion and religious conversion by intimidation, threatening, deceivingly luring through gifts and monetary benefits, as it offends Articles 14, 21, and 25.

Justice Shah told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, this is such a serious matter and Mehta, where is your stand by way of counter? Very serious and sincere efforts are to be made.

Mehta submitted that there were two acts by MP and Orissa on forcible religious conversion and pointed out that people are lured by giving rice and wheat, which is a ground for conversion. "It is rampant in tribal areas",



said Mehta, adding that he will file a reply by Monday.

Justice Shah said there may be a freedom of religion, but no freedom on forced conversion and asked Mehta, what steps have been taken by the Centre, "otherwise very difficult... Make your stand very clear, what action you propose to take." The bench told Mehta that Centre must step in to stop such forcible conversion before the situation becomes difficult and asked the government to make its stand clear on forced religious conversions.

The top court said the issue with alleged conversion of religion, if it is found to be true, affects the security of the nation as well as the freedom of

citizen, therefore it is better that Union of India make its stand clear and file a counter on what steps can be taken to curb forced conversions by force, allurements or fraudulent means. After hearing arguments, the bench scheduled the matter for further hearing on November 28 and asked the Centre to file its response before November 22.

On September 23, the Supreme Court issued notice on a plea against fraudulent religious conversion and religious conversion by intimidation, threatening, deceivingly luring through gifts and monetary benefits, as it offends Articles 14, 21, and 25. The plea claimed that if such conversions were not checked, Hindus would soon become a minority in India.

## Odisha labourer sells wife to man in Delhi, conducts their marriage; arrested

Team Absolute | Bhubaneswar

In a shocking incident, a labourer from Odisha's Kalahandi district sold his wife to a Delhi-based man and returned home after conducting their marriage. Later, police arrested the youth.

According to sources, Kheera Beruk, a native of Muskaguda village of Narla block in the Kalahandi district had married Purnami, daughter of Kulamani Bhoi nearly a year back.

Kheera, along with his wife Purnami, left for New Delhi to work as daily labourer on October 30. But, Kheera alone returned home



after a few days.

On November 5, Purnami called her father Kulamani and informed him about the

incident. She also shared a video footage of the marriage ceremony conducted in Delhi to her father.

Speaking to the media, Kulamani alleged that Kheera sold Purnami to the Delhi man for money. Following this, Kulamani lodged a complaint before Narla police. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case and arrested Kheera Beruk.

Kulamani said he was not aware of the address of the man whom Purnami was sold to. He urged police to immediately rescue his daughter and bring her back.

"We have arrested and forwarded the accused Kheera Beruk. We are yet to rescue the victim," said Gangadhar Mehere, IIC of Narla police station.

## DELHI POLICE BUST PAN-INDIA OLA ELECTRIC SCOOTY SCAM, 20 ARRESTED

New Delhi: Delhi Police have busted a pan-India Ola electric scooter scam and arrested 20 persons in connection.

According to a senior police official, the Outer-North district's Cyber Crime police team arrested the 20 accused during a combination of raids in Bengaluru, Gurugram and Patna. The accused had duped more than 1,000 victims to the tune of crores on the pretext of Ola electric scooty bookings as well as dealership, the official added.

## UP student bleeds to death after being raped repeatedly

Unnao | Agencies

A college student in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao died due to excessive bleeding after she was raped repeatedly by a 25-year-old man.

The accused, who has now been arrested, had taken a performance enhancing pill before the act.

According to the police, the man, Raj Gautam, raped her when she was alone at home.

Despite the victim's protest, he continued to rape her till she fainted and started bleeding from her private parts, police said.

Seeing this, Gautam got



scared and fled leaving the victim bleeding profusely.

Later, her younger sister returned home to find the victim unconscious on the bed. She was taken to the hospital where doctors declared her dead, police said. The post-mortem confirmed rape and stated that excessive bleeding owing to

serious injury to her private parts caused her death. Superintendent of Police Siddhartha Shankar said: "Gautam confessed that after knowing that the victim was alone, he went to her house and raped her which caused severe bleeding from her private parts. On seeing this, he fled the spot."

## Militants attack army convoy in Assam, no casualty



Guwahati | Agencies

Unidentified militants attacked an army convoy in Assam's Tinsukia district on Monday, officials said.

The defence PRO in Guwahati, Lt. Col Mahendra Rawat informed that an army area domination party was moving in the Digboi-Pengri area and at around 9.20 a.m.,

shots were fired at their vehicle from a nearby forest.

"After firing a single burst and swift retaliation from our troops, terrorists ran away from the adjoining areas," he added. There was no casualty.

Rawat further said that the militant group behind the incident was yet to be identified, adding that the army has launched an operation.

## 3 PEOPLE KILLED IN J&K ROAD ACCIDENT

Jammu: Three people, including a PWD executive engineer, were killed on Monday in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, police said. A vehicle carrying four persons went out of the driver's control near Asrar village and plunged into the Chenab River.

The two others victims were an assistant executive engineer and the driver of the vehicle. A superintending engineer was also injured in the accident. He has been shifted to a government hospital in Doda town where attending doctors described his condition as critical, the police said. Roads in Doda district have earned notoriety for being unsafe.

## RCP Singh attacks Nitish, asks him to lift liquor ban in Bihar

Patna | Agencies

Lashing out at Nitish Kumar, former Union Minister RCP Singh on Monday said that the Chief Minister should leave his obstinacy and lift liquor ban in Bihar.

"Due to the liquor ban, the Bihar government is losing a big chunk of revenue and it is directly affecting the common people. The developments of public welfare works are not taking place in Bihar. The roads of rural areas are having pathetic shapes. Hence, Nitish Kumar should leave his obstinacy on liquor ban. He should lift the ban to improve excise tax collection in state exchequer," Singh said.

"The current Nitish Kumar government is distributing joining letters every day. I want to point out how this government would give the



salary to them. The Bihar government does not have enough funds to deal with it. The Nitish Kumar government has stopped revenue generation through banning liquor in the state," he said.

According to an official, the state

government may lose a big chunk of revenue through liquor ban but at the same time the prices of the products like fuel, electricity and other are having higher prices compared to other states.

One liter petrol price is around Rs

107.24 in Patna while it is Rs 96.36 in Lucknow and Rs 96.72 in Delhi. That means the State GST is higher here in Bihar. Similarly, electricity tariffs are also high compared to other states.

Reacting to it, former MLA of JD-U Manjit Singh said: "Those who are demanding to lift liquor ban are actually liquor consumers. The decision of liquor ban has been taken for the noble cause. Our chief minister has taken the decision in the interest of large sections of society and it will continue till Nitish Kumar is the chief minister of state."

"The law related to it is taking its own course. Those who are caught in a drunken state are in jail. The operators are in jail, vehicles are being seized. Still, those who are demanding to lift the liquor ban law, are definitely a regular drinkers of it," Manjit Singh said.

## 15 FEARED DEAD IN MIZORAM STONE QUARRY COLLAPSE

Aizawl: At least 15 people were feared dead when a large portion of a stone quarry collapsed and fell on them at Maudarh in Mizoram's Hnahthial district on Monday, officials said. An official of Mizoram Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department said a huge portion of a stone quarry of a private company suddenly collapsed when the workers were working in the stone pit.

According to some villagers of the area, the mishap had happened after the workers returned from their lunch break.

The Disaster Management official said that they are yet to get a detailed report from the Deputy Commissioner of the Hnahthial district but he was told that five excavators and other drilling machines have been buried under the quarry.

Another official said that the labourers are mostly from Bihar. The stone quarry has been operational for two and a half years. Disaster management, district administration, police and volunteers from Leite village and Hnahthial town immediately reached the spot and launched a rescue operation.

State Disaster Response Force, Border Security Force and Assam Rifles troopers have been called to assist in the search and rescue operation.

## K'TAKA BJP LEADER ARRESTED BRIEFLY OVER 'READY TO SHOOT YOU' REMARK

Kalaburagi (Karnataka) | Agencies

Karnataka police on Monday briefly arrested BJP leader Manikanth Rathod on the charge of issuing threats to Congress MLA Priyank Kharge. He was released on station bail with a warning, police sources said.

An FIR was registered against Rathod for issuing a statement which read "we are ready to shoot you" to the Congress MLA in Kalaburagi.

Bramhapura police in Kalaburagi district, who had taken up the investigation, arrested the accused BJP leader in Hyderabad. He was brought to the Bramhapura police station and given station bail, sources said.

The Congress has warned of disrupting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's programmes in Kalaburagi, if legal action is not taken against the accused.

Manikanth Rathod had issued the statement in response to Priyank Kharge, who is in-charge of social media in KPCC. MLA Kharge had stated that Congress party is very much alive in Kalaburagi and that no BJP leader is able to move anywhere in the constituency.

Earlier, BJP had taken up "MLA is missing" poster campaign against Kharge in Chittapur assembly constituency, which he represents.



Manikanth Rathod had responded, "We are ready to die if you (Priyank Kharge) shoot us with an AK-47 gun and ready to shoot you down as well."

"We are standing behind all communities like an Army. We are ready to die. You can shoot us at your will by an AK-47 gun or country made gun," he had stated.

The Congress workers staged a protest against BJP and laid siege to the office of the Superintendent of Police of Kalaburagi demanding action against the BJP leader.

Bramhapura police had filed an FIR in this regard and booked a case against BJP leader Manikanth Rathod under IPC Section 506 for issuing life threat.

Priyank Kharge is the son of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. The family holds great influence over the masses in the Kalaburagi district. However, the BJP managed to give a jolt to them by defeating Mallikarjun Kharge in the last parliamentary elections. Later, Kharge was elected to the Rajya Sabha.

The ruling BJP is also equally influential in the district as the party enjoys the support of powerful Lingayats. The district is all set to witness a political high drama in the upcoming assembly elections.



MOLESTATION CASE: DR AWHAD THREATENS TO QUIT AS MLA, NCP DISSUADES HIM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Piqued by an alleged 'molestation' case slapped against him, Nationalist Congress Party's ex-minister Dr Jitendra Awhad threatened to quit as MLA, citing 'murder of democracy in Maharashtra', here on Monday.

Maha Vikas Aghadi allies Congress; Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP leaders slammed the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for the case against Dr Awhad, while hundreds of political workers staged a sit-in protest outside the Mumbai Police Station condemning the police move.

Dr Awhad's wife, Ruta Awhad leading the demonstration in Mumbai, questioned the credentials of the complainant, Bharatiya Janata Party Mahila Morcha vice-president Rida Asghar Rashid, and lodged a counter-complaint against the latter.

Perturbed over Dr Awhad's threats in a tweet, senior NCP leaders tried to dissuade him from quitting his legislator's seat, with Leader of Opposition, NCP's Ajit Pawar making



a personal appeal to him.

NCP women's leader Vidya Chavan said that her party would move the court against the alleged

case against Dr Awhad and carry out protests all over Maharashtra.

Ruta Awhad accused the complainant of 'deliberately' coming in

front of her husband, then lodging a complaint to 'defame' him, and warned that if her allegations were proved wrong, she would also sue the police.

Simultaneously, an all-party delegation of senior women leaders led by Rajya Sabha MP Fauzia Hassan met Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and submitted a memorandum demanding counseling of ministers in the government who use derogatory language against the women.

Khan, Bachchan and Vidya Chavan said if the Governor does not heed to their plea, they would meet President Droupadi Murmu in the matter.

On her part, Rashid called on the CM today and demanded justice in the matter with strict action against Dr Awhad.

BJP Mumbai President Ashish Shelar supported the government move on Dr Awhad and slammed the MVA for creating hurdles in the police discharging its duties, while Maharashtra Navnirman Sena has not yet commented on the issue.

Bharat Jodo Yatra resumes in Maha, Cong to distribute 600 copies of Nehru's book on his birth anniversary

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi entered its 68th day as it resumed from Kalamnuri in Hingoli district of Maharashtra on Monday after a one-day break. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said 600 copies of Jawaharlal Nehru's book 'Discovery of India' will be distributed to the yatra participants on Monday, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of India's first prime minister.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra took a one-day break in Maharashtra on Sunday. It proceeded from Kalamnuri in Hingoli to Washim on Monday. "Today is 68th day of #BharatJodoYatra & also 133rd birth anniversary of Nehru. We are in Hingoli district & coincidentally a fine book on him in Marathi has just come out in addition to one in English & Hindi," Ramesh said in a tweet.



"(Mo)Distorians will continue to distort, defame and denigrate but Nehru continues to inspire & his relevance has only increased after 2014. 600 copies of Nehru's iconic, The Discovery of India, will be distributed to Yatris today. It was brought by a volunteer who drove all the way from Delhi for 23 hours straight at a very short notice," he added. The Bharat Jodo Yatra, which started from

Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, has so far covered 28 districts in six states. The Congress's mass contact initiative will cover a distance of 382 km across five districts of Maharashtra before entering Madhya Pradesh on November 20. It will pass through 12 states before culminating in Jammu and Kashmir after spanning a distance of 3,570 km over nearly 150 days.

SREI Equipment Finance auditor reports Rs 13,110cr fraudulent transactions

Team Absolute | Mumbai

SREI Equipment Finance Ltd has reported alleged fraudulent transactions amounting to Rs 13,110 crore, during the erstwhile management of the company, run by Hemant Kanoria and Sunil Kanoria.

In the unaudited financial results of the company for the quarter ending September 30, the transaction auditor has pegged the alleged value of the fraudulent transactions at Rs 13,110 crore. Before this, the company had reported fraudulent transactions of around Rs 5,100 crore, through two separate disclosures in the stock exchange. The administrator of the bankruptcy company, which is going through NCLT driven resolution process, has appointed BDO India LLP as the transaction auditor.

In the latest disclosure, the company has said that, "transaction auditor has indicated that there are transactions amounting to Rs 13,110 crore



which are fraudulent in nature under section 66 of the IBC, including transactions amounting to Rs 1,283 crore determined as undervalued transactions".

The administrator has filed applications before the Kolkata bench of the NCLT for adjudication.

In another disclosure, the company has informed that the Committee of Creditors has extended the last date for the submission of resolution plan by the prospective resolution applicants to November 25, from November 15. Last week, NCLT had

approved the extension of deadline for the completion of the resolution process to January 5, 2023.

Insolvency bound Srei Equipment Finance Ltd., along with its promoter Srei Infrastructure Finance, are being run by an administrator, which is looking into the day-to-day affairs of the companies since October 2021. After DHFL, SREI was the second financial services group that was referred by the RBI for NCLT driven resolution process, by superseding the boards of two Srei companies in October 2021.

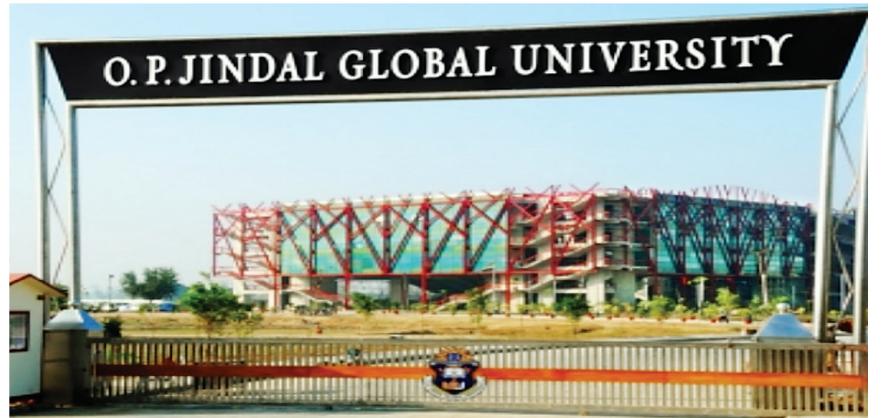
FTII PUNE SIGNS MOU WITH O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

Team Absolute | Pune/Sonipat

The O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, for academic and practice collaborations. "The partnership with JGU will enhance FTII's outreach to a relatively younger group of students," said Mr. Sayyid Rabeeshahmi, (IIS), Registrar, FTII.

"We will soon launch elective courses at JGU and design regular academic programs in film and television productions."

The JGU's 6th school, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication (JSJC), India's leading interdisciplinary global journalism school, established in 2017, launched an undergraduate program in Film and New Media this year. "Cinema is the art of sharing stories that can spark the imagination of its viewers, act as a medium of positive change and serve as a source of joy and entertainment. The Jindal School of Journalism and Communication is at the forefront in bringing to India a one-of-a-kind undergraduate degree programme on 'Film and New Media'. The MoU



between JGU and FTII, India's gold standard in film making is a fascinating opportunity for the youth to pursue their aspirations in contemporary film making that is at par with global standards of cinematic excellence," said Professor (Dr) C. Raj Kumar, Founding Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University. The FTII team that visited JGU's campus in Sonipat included Professor Sandeep Shahare, Dean

Television, Professor Jijoy P.R., Dean Films and Sayyid Rabeeshahmi, the institute's Registrar.

They visited JSJC's cutting-edge studios for film, television, radio, as well as sound and video editing and interacted with the faculty and students on a range of issues.

This agreement is significant for JSJC's Film and New Media programme and has exciting possibilities. It will allow students to get

access to FTII's pedagogy and practice and open opportunities for both institutions to imagine a different approach to film education in the digital era.

"We want to offer the best available resources to enhance JSJC's reputation as a training ground for a new generation of storytellers who use moving images and sound to capture the world around us", said Professor Kishalay Bhattacharjee, Dean JSJC.

If MLAs can abandon Uddhav, why can't industrial projects go out of Maha, taunts state BJP Chief

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Maharashtra unit president Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Sunday took a dig at former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, saying that if the MLAs of his own party can abandon him, then why industrial projects cannot move out of the state. Bawankule, who was on a tour of Sangli district where he met party office-bearers and local leaders, was speaking to reporters. His remarks come in the wake of the Eknath Shinde-led state government coming under the Opposition's fire for losing big-ticket projects to BJP-ruled Gujarat, including Rs 1.5 lakh crore Foxconn-Vedanta semiconductor manufacturing project and Rs 22,000 crore aircraft manufacturing project where the Tata Group has tied up with Airbus. Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) govern-



ment, in which the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress shared power with the Shiv Sena, collapsed on June 29 following an intra-party revolt by Eknath Shinde and 39 other MLAs of the Sena. Shinde took oath as the chief minister on June 30 after the group of

rebel MLAs led by him formed a government by joining hands with the BJP. Bawankule said, "If Uddhav Thackeray's MLAs can abandon him, then why industries cannot move out of Maharashtra. But the blame of such decisions is put on the new government headed by Eknath Shinde and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis."

Thackeray spent his entire tenure as the chief minister to manage the NCP and the Congress. He was not concerned whether any industry comes to Maharashtra or not, he alleged. "If you want to bring in large-scale industrial investment into the state, then the chief minister needs to be available. The previous CM (Thackeray) did not even visit the Mantralaya (state secretariat in Mumbai) for 18 months and senior officials had to wait for his appointment," Bawankule, a former state minister, said.

ONE DEAD, FOUR INJURED AS GROUPS CLASH OVER OLD ENMITY IN NAVI MUMBAI; TWO HELD

Maharashtra: A 30-year-old man was killed and four others injured after a clash broke out between two rival groups in Navi Mumbai, police said on Sunday. The incident took place around 7.30 pm on Saturday at Ghansoli, they said.

"Members of the two groups attacked each other with sticks, iron rods and other weapons over previous enmity," senior inspector Ajay Bhosale of Koparkhairne police station said. "One person, identified as Nazir Shaikh, was killed and two each from both the sides were injured. They were hospitalised. Both the groups lodged complaints against each other, based on which the police registered cases against them for rioting, murder, attempt to murder and others," he said.

Police have arrested one person each from both the groups, Bhosale said, adding that investigation into the case is on.

Man pays Rs 12 lakh more after repaying Rs 1 lakh loan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mobile phone loan app sharks continue to harass people, even after they have paid more than the amount they had taken. The Mira Road police registered an FIR on November 11 after a local resident approached them regarding harassment and threats from loan app sharks. However, there has been no arrest. The complainant, a 43-year-old customer service manager of a well-known developer was in urgent need of money, and found about the instant loan app Pocket Credit.

As per the statement given to the police, he downloaded the app and applied for the loan after completing all documentation formalities in the month of June and a loan of Rs 3,000 was approved and he received Rs 1,938 in his bank account.

He later repaid the loan amount in the given period to the app, and applied again and got a loan of Rs 10,000. But when the return period was over he started receiving

threatening messages, and later paid the due amount by taking a loan from another loan app. As per the victim, he took a loan of about Rs 1 lakh again from Pocket Credit and repaid it the same month, but the loan app credited more amount to his bank account. When he did not pay this back, they started sending him abusive messages and his morphed photos. "To pay the dues of Pocket Credit he took loans from two other loan apps, Small Credit and Sefty credit. Between June 2022 and August 22 he had repaid about Rs 12 lakh after repaying the Rs 1 lakh loan and the extra money. He was trying hard to pay the money the goons kept asking for, but as he was not able to repay it on time, the amount kept increasing and loan apps kept threatening him by calling and messaging him. He was scared and approached the cyber police last Friday. We registered his complaint against unknown accused and are investigating. We have registered the case under Sections 384 and 420 of IPC also IT Act Sections 66c and 66d," a police officer said.

Govt orders change in writing style of two Marathi letters

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government has ordered that letters 'La' and 'Sha' in the Marathi language, that have "Hindi influence" currently, will be written in a certain way in the Devanagari script, an official said on Sunday.

The changes will be applicable in all government communication as well as text-books recommended by the state education board, he said. "The letters 'La' and 'Sha' are written in a different way currently. This style has influence of Hindi. The state government has now decided through an order that it will be written in the Devanagari script," he explained. The state government appointed committee



for language has also recommended the usage of a 'chandrabindu', one of various linguistic symbols called diacritics, to indicate the nasal pronunciation of a vowel, the

official added. There are 36 consonants and 16 initial vowels in Marathi in the Devanagari script, a writing system used by more than 120 languages.

FIVE HELD FOR KIDNAPPING 12-YEAR-OLD FROM DOMBIVLI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Manpada police on Saturday arrested three men and two women from Surat for kidnapping a 12-year-old boy from Dombivli.

The accused had kidnapped the boy on November 9 and had demanded Rs 1.5 crore ransom from his father, a well-known businessman. The arrested accused were produced before the court on Sunday and have been remanded in police custody till November 18.

The incident took place on November 9 when the boy left for a class around 8 am. He generally used to return home by 10 am, but as he did not return that day, his family members started to look for him.

Later that day, the victim's father received a call from an unknown number. The caller said, "Your son is with me. If you want your son alive, then arrange Rs 1 crore and give it to me or I will kill him." The father



immediately approached the Manpada police.

Cops registered a case and formed 20 teams of cops and started a search operation. A senior police officer told mid-day, "The kidnapers had first demanded Rs 1 crore. But a day after, they again called to ask for Rs 1.5 crore." The police found that the second call was made from Nashik and

with the help of the local police there, traced the accused. The accused then travelled to Jawhar, where the police intercepted him, but he managed to escape.

Meanwhile police got a tip-off about the main accused, Farahshah Firozshah Rafai, in Surat, Gujarat. Three teams rushed there and with the help of the local police rescued

the boy. They arrested Rafai along with Prince Kumar Singh, Sahin Mahetar, Farhind Singh, Nazia Rafai. All five accused are history sheeters with several past cases.

Additional CP Dattatraya Shinde of Thane police said, "We took help from other state's police and formed 20 teams to trace the boy. We arrested the accused from Surat."



## EDITOR'S SPECS

## Crucial time for Akhilesh

The Samajwadi Party is losing friends at a time when it needs them most. Though the Mainpuri seat is considered relatively safe for Samajwadi Party, in view of the prevailing political situation in the state, the SP will need all its resources to retain the seat from where Dimple Yadav is contesting. The seat has been a SP stronghold and Mulayam Singh had never lost any election from here. It is important for the SP to win the seat and retain Mulayam's legacy. The BJP is yet to announce its candidate, but former SP allies are already predicting the SP's defeat in Mainpuri. Former SP ally -- the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) chief Om Prakash Rajbhar -- has not only fielded its candidate in Mainpuri but is also predicting the defeat of Dimple Yadav. The SBSP has fielded Ramakant Kashyap from Mainpuri with an eye on Kashyap votes. He plans to make a dent in the SP's OBC vote base. On the other hand, another former SP ally, the Mahaan Dal, has also slammed Akhilesh for fielding Dimple Yadav and not giving a chance to 'ordinary party workers'. Shivpal Yadav, president of the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSPL), has maintained a studied silence on his support to Dimple's candidature. Shivpal Yadav represents the Jaswantnagar seat, which is a part of the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat and his support would be extremely crucial for the SP's victory because of the influence he wields in the region. The Congress, which had traditionally not been fielding its candidate against Mulayam Singh Yadav, has decided not to contest any by-election this year, it has not asked its cadres to support the SP. The SP leaders meanwhile said that though Mainpuri would remain in the Yadav family fold, it is also important not to become complacent.

## AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AT PERIL?

Asad Mirza

It seems as if the biggest bastion of democracy in the world will continue to be marred by unpredictable changes. The latest in the series could stem from the setback suffered by the Joe Biden administration in the November 8 midterm elections in the US.

Usually in a democratic system, every ruling party suffers from the incumbency factor in mid-term elections it faces. However, in President Joe Biden's case, the election results suggested that added to the incumbency, voters also punished him for the steepest inflation in 40 years.

The silver lining for the Democrats was the defeat at a much lower level as anticipated earlier. The results also suggested that voters voted against Republican efforts to ban abortion and to cast doubt on the nation's vote-counting process.

## Moving Ahead

President Biden had framed the election as a test of US democracy at a time when hundreds of Republican candidates embraced former President Donald Trump's false claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

The slim majority in the House would allow Republicans to impair the rest of Biden's term, blocking priorities such as abortion rights and launching investigations into his administration and family.

Biden, acknowledging the reality has said he is prepared to work with Republicans. He spoke with Republican House leader Kevin McCarthy, who has announced his intention to run for Speaker of the House if Republicans control the chamber. Biden said that the American people have made clear, that they expect Republicans to be prepared to work with me as well.

As the next House speaker, McCarthy may find it perplexing to hold the testy Republican caucus, with a hard-right wing that has little interest in compromise. Republicans may demand spending



cuts in exchange for raising the nation's borrowing limit next year, a showdown that could spook financial markets.

Democrats have been able to retain control of the Senate, thus giving a breather to the Biden administration. A number of "election deniers", those who supported Trump's false claim that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him, won on November 8 but many who sought positions to oversee elections at the state level were defeated.

## Model of American Diversity

A significant number of Muslims, including many Arab Americans, had a much stronger presence in the midterms. A total of 145 Muslim Americans competed in election contests throughout the US and a record 89 have won. Currently 29 American Muslims serve as state legislators in 18 states. Five Arab Americans have been elected to the nation's highest legislative office, as Senators. Six Arab and Middle East Americans continue to serve in the US House of Representatives

As from an Indian angle, a record five Indian-American lawmakers from the ruling Democrat Party, including Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal, Shri Thanedar and Ami Bera were elected to the House of Representatives, while several others were elected in state legislatures, in one of the most polarised midterm elections in the country.

Indian-Americans who have made it to various state legislatures include Arvind Venkat, Tarik Khan in Pennsylvania; Salman Bhojani and Suleman Lalani in Texas; Sam Singh and Ranjeev Puri in Michigan; Nabeela Syed, Megan Srinivas and Kavin Olickal in Illinois; Nabillah Islam and Farooq Mughal in Georgia; Kumar Bharve in Maryland, and Anita Samani in Ohio. Nabeela syed became the youngest ever member of any state legislature, by winning a seat for Illinois's General Assembly.

Surprisingly, prior to the elections, both the Democrats and the Republicans reached out to the Indian Americans in a big way. This was due to the fact that they were seen as a deciding factor in many key constituencies.

Impact on Ties with India, China, Ukraine and Iran

India stands at no risk with the changed Congress. US-India bilateral ties have wide bipartisan support among both Democrats and Republicans alike. For the moment, New Delhi can rest easy no matter who is in at the helm.

An aggressive American policy on China was shaped during the Trump era, focusing more on the economic side of the relations. President Biden has kept in place most of the measures initiated by Trump, and taken a more sweeping approach to confront China. This includes human rights, industrial policy, democracy-versus-autocracy debate, and supportive declarations for Taiwan. But overall the optics may include Republicans trying to be seen as pushing back on China across the board.

As far as Ukraine is concerned, the White House has showed an unwavering support for Ukraine, but Republicans' control of Congress could complicate matters for the war-torn country. Different camps within the

Republicans could influence this. Future Speaker McCarthy had said last month that Republicans will not write a "blank check" for Ukraine if they win back the majority. McCarthy's comments are reflective of his party's growing scepticism about financial support for Kiev as a growing number of Republicans, particularly those aligned with Trump's "America First" approach, question the need for federal spending abroad at a time of record-high inflation at home.

Meanwhile, Republican control of Congress could prove the death knell for the revival of nuclear talks with Iran, which the Biden administration has been desperately trying to restore. President Biden has been criticised by many Republicans for not doing more to support protesters who have been demonstrating for weeks against the country's clerical regime.

Using a legislation passed in 2015, the Republicans in the House and Senate can vote to express disapproval of a nuclear agreement with Tehran and block the President's power to lift sanctions on Iran's economy previously imposed by Congress.

The results have also shown the maturity of the American public, which has shown Trump that they will not tolerate his vitriolic brand of politics, unlike some other countries which are still under the spell of such type of politicians.

Overall, the coming two years doesn't bode an easy time for President Biden. His policies -- both foreign and internal -- will be challenged at every stage. This may result in the administration getting bogged down over trivial matters and losing perspective to craft a more ambitious and proactive approach on other demanding issues at hand.

The next two years may also prove to be a litmus test for the American democracy in a changed scenario of power sharing by the two political foes.

## international

## WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, INDONESIA LAUNCH INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

Bali | Agencies

The government of Indonesia, together with the World Economic Forum, on Monday launched Ocean 20 (O20), an innovative public-private initiative to ensure the long-term sustainability of the ocean economy.

Kicked off in Bali during a series of high-level dialogues ahead of the G20 Heads of State and Government Summit, O20 is being proposed as an official Engagement Group of the G20.

Indonesia currently holds the G20 Presidency before handing it off to India on December 1.

As the G20 represent 45 per cent of the world's coastlines, 80 per cent of global carbon emissions and 75 per cent of global trade, restoring the ocean's value and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the ocean economy represents a critical opportunity to address many of the priorities set out in the G20 agenda, including stimulating economic growth, jobs



and innovation.

A new World Economic Forum study, 'What Ocean Sustainability Means for Business', published in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group, highlights the positive change and growth that are possible if businesses and the G20 aid in accelerating ocean sustainability.

It outlines both the challenges faced and the areas where business

can make a transformative contribution to ocean health, which in turn feeds back to their own long-term viability and prosperity.

"For a truly thriving ocean that serves and safeguards people in all communities and is strong in its role of buffering us against the worst effects of the climate crisis, we need all stakeholders coming together to tackle the greatest challenges facing

the ocean today," said Klaus Schwab, founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.

One key challenge brought to light in the study is that ineffective governance represents a paralyzing block to the advancement of a truly sustainable ocean economy.

It acknowledges that addressing this challenge urgently requires an integrated and holistic approach to ocean management in order to stop and reverse the current decline in ocean health.

Ocean 20 is being created to help, among others, bridge this gap.

The O20 will engage leaders in dedicated working groups to translate ambition to commitment and action for a healthy ocean.

It will continue with its focus on key areas of sustainable ocean economy growth, from blue carbon and blue food to fast-tracking finance into ocean health, addressing the problems of plastic pollution, and climate change and embracing the opportunities of the energy transition.

## 4 corridors being added to CPEC: Chinese diplomat

Lahore | Agencies

Zhao Shiren, the Chinese Consul General in Lahore, said that four corridors were being added to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as both Islamabad and Beijing agreed to it during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to the country.

Speaking at an event here, he termed Sharif's maiden visit to China as the Prime Minister "unprecedentedly constructive and successful" as both sides agreed to adding four new corridors -- digital, industrial, green and health -- to the CPEC project, reports Dawn news.

Replying to questions about the "slowed down" pace of work on the CPEC in the recent past, the diplomat said he would not blame anyone, in China or Pakistan, for it, but could assure (Pakistanis) that from now on things would speed up.

He said the project would benefit both China and Pakistan, but it would be more beneficial for the latter, Dawn reported.

He urged Pakistanis that being on the driving seat, they should take ownership of the project, while Chinese could only facilitate them in this regard.



Foreign affairs expert Muhammad Mahdi lamented that the first phase of the CPEC could not be completed because of "ineptness" of the previous (PTI) government.

He said all political parties needed to make a commitment with the CPEC in their respective manifestos for the next elections so that the project could not be halted again, Dawn news reported.

About the anti-CPEC propaganda, he said the Western world is also being taken on board on the project, while Sharif made it clear during a reception hosted by the US ambassador that Islamabad would go with the country that would come forward and help Pakistan at this critical time.

## 6.1-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS JAPAN

Tokyo: An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck off the southeast coast of Japan's Mie prefecture, the weather agency said on Monday.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the tremor, which occurred at 5.09 p.m. (local time), was located at a latitude of 33.6 degrees north and longitude of 137.5 degrees east.

The quake occurred at a depth of 350 km. Xinhua news agency quoted the JMA as saying.

The earthquake, felt as far north as Aomori prefecture and as far south as Shizuoka, logged 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale which peaks at 7, in Fukushima and Ibaraki prefectures, the JMA said.

It also logged 3 on the seismic scale in multiple regions, including Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Tochigi, Kanagawa, the weather agency said.

## LAWYER LINKED TO MELANIA TRUMP ELECTED SLOVENIA'S 1ST FEMALE PRESIDENT

Ljubljana | Agencies

Natasa Pirc Musar, a Slovenian lawyer who was hired by former US Melania Trump in 2016 for a case, has been elected as the country's first-ever female President.

Musar will take office on December 23 when the second mandate of the incumbent President Borut Pahor expires, reports Xinhua news agency. According to preliminary results after about 98 per cent of the votes were counted on Sunday, Musar received 54 per cent of the ballots against 46 per cent going to her rival Anze Logar, who is a former Foreign Minister and a member of the opposition center-right Slovenian Democratic Party.

In the first round of the presidential election last month, Logar received the most votes among seven candidates with Musar clinching second place. Musar, 54, is a lawyer, a former



journalist and a former national Information Commissioner who oversees the security of personal data and general access to public information in the country.

She ran as an independent candidate but was in the second round supported by Prime Minister Robert Golob's centre-left Freedom Movement and one of its coalition partners, the Social Democrats. In 2016, Musar and her client filed a lawsuit against Suzy magazine in Slovenia for suggesting Melania Trump, who was born in the Central European nation, had worked as a high-end escort while pursuing her international modelling career.

An out-of-court settlement was reached. Although the role is mainly ceremonial, the President is the head of the Slovenian army and has the right to nominate many high officials.

Most of the nominations have to be confirmed by Parliament.

## Six killed after two WWII planes collide in midair at US air show



Houston | Agencies

Six people were killed after two WWII aircraft collided in midair on Saturday during an air show in the US city of Dallas, authorities said on Sunday.

"According to our Dallas County Medical Examiner, there are a total of 6 fatalities from Saturday's Wings over Dallas air show incident," Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins tweeted.

Videos on Twitter showed that following

the collision, the two planes rapidly crashed to the ground, causing a large fire and plumes of black smoke, Xinhua news agency reported.

Jenkins said authorities are continuing to work to identify the victims.

"A Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and a Bell P-63 Kingcobra collided and crashed at the Wings Over Dallas Airshow at Dallas Executive Airport in Texas around 1:20 p.m. local time Saturday," said a Federal Aviation Administration statement after the crash.

Hank Coates, president of the Commemorative Air Force, which owned the planes and put on the airshow, told local reporters that a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber typically has a crew of four to five people, and a P-63 Kingcobra fighter plane has a single pilot. Coates said no paying customers were on the aircraft, adding that highly trained volunteers fly their planes, often retired pilots.

Federal aviation authorities are currently leading the investigation.



## RELIEF AMOUNT OF RS 8LAKH WILL BE GIVEN ON DEATH DUE TO ATTACK BY WILD ANIMALS: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that in case of death in attack of wild animals, the relief amount per person is being hiked from Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 8 lakh. CM Chouhan said this during discussion with media representatives at Bandhavgarh National Park.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the public has made sacrifices for the protection of wild animals. I am grateful to the local residents for their cooperation extended by them in keeping the forests and wildlife safe. There are also tiger reserves



in Shahdol division and Vindhya region, conservation of wildlife is necessary to maintain balance in nature. In some unfortunate incidents, sometimes due to

the attack of wild animals, some brothers and sisters sacrifice their lives. It will be our endeavour that such unfortunate incidents do not happen.

## President Murmu on two-day visit on November 15-16

Team Absolute | Bhopal

**PRESIDENT DRAUPADI MURMU WILL BE ON A TWO-DAY VISIT TO MADHYA PRADESH ON NOVEMBER 15-16. SHE WILL ATTEND THE TRIBAL PRIDE DAY STATE-LEVEL PROGRAMME AT SHAHDOL ON NOVEMBER 15 AND WILL LAY THE VIRTUAL FOUNDATION OF TWO PROJECTS FROM BHOPAL. PRESIDENT MURMU WILL ATTEND THE WOMEN'S SELF-HELP GROUP CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 16 AT MOTILAL NEHRU STADIUM, BHOPAL.**

As per the schedule, President Murmu will reach Jabalpur on November 15 at 11.30 am and will reach Shahdol at 12.25 pm. She will participate in the Tribal Pride Day celebrations in Shahdol from 1.45 pm. The President will leave Shahdol at 3 pm and will reach Jabalpur at 3.55 pm and then Bhopal at 5.25 pm.

President Murmu will virtually lay the foundation of the Ratapani, Obaidullaganj-Itarsi Four lane Project (NH-46) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Maximum Microbial Containment Laboratory (BSL-4) at the Defence Research and Development Institute, Gwalior, of the Ministry of Defence from Raj Bhavan at 6.30 pm.



President Murmu will attend the Women's Self-Help Group Conference on November 16 at 11.30 am at Motilal Nehru Stadium. She will leave for Delhi by plane from Bhopal at 12.55 pm.

Tribal Pride Day President Murmu will attend the state level programme of Tribal Pride Day at Lalpur, Shahdol on Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jayanti. President will officially enforce the PESA act in Madhya Pradesh at this occasion. Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda, Union Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister for Tribal Affairs and Scheduled Castes Welfare Meena Singh Mandve, Forest Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bisahul Singh, Animal Husbandry and Social Justice Minister Prem Singh Patel will be present.

## BJP MLAs in touch with Congress: Kamal Nath



Team Absolute | Chhindwara

Congress's Madhya Pradesh unit president and former CM Kamal Nath has made a big claim and said that some BJP MLAs are in touch with him, but he will give tickets to the leaders associated with his organization in the assembly elections. When reporters questioned Kamal Nath, who arrived in Chhindwara, that some BJP MLAs are being

claimed to be in contact with the Congress, he said that some BJP MLAs are in touch with him, they will stay because those who will not get tickets but only the leaders associated with their organization will be given tickets in the assembly elections.

After this statement of Kamal Nath, the discussions in the political circles have started gaining momentum. It has been continuously claimed by the Congress that the eyes of the BJP MLAs are on the Congress. Now Kamal Nath has also stamped on it.

It is to be known that the Congress government had fallen only because the Congress MLAs left the Congress under the leadership of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and joined the BJP.



AIIMS Bhopal released educational material on the occasion of World diabetes day

## NCPCR ALLEGES RELIGIOUS CONVERSION OF 3 CHILDREN IN RAISEN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The issue of religious conversion has once again come to the fore in Madhya Pradesh as the national child rights body has claimed that at least three children, who are inmates of a state-aided care centre, have been converted. The incident was reported from Raisen district, around 50 km from Bhopal.

The revelation was made on Sunday by the chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Priyanka Kanoongo. He claimed that the district administration has been directed to register a case against the manager of the care centre for allegedly converting three children and altering their documents supporting their new names and religion.

Kanoongo claimed that during inspection of the child care centre in Raisen on Saturday, it came to light that the manager has changed the religion of three children.

"In the documents too, their names have been changed. The issue of conversion is a serious matter. The district administration has been directed to register a case against Hasene Parvez, the manager," Kanoongo tweeted. However, the police said that registering an FIR would be overstepping as the power lies with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), which has been constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

"NCPCR should come forward and lodge a complaint with us against the centre's manager," said a police officer in Raisen district.

## Political struggle in Madhya Pradesh over fertilizer

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Farmers in Madhya Pradesh are engaged in farming these days and they are in need of manure for this. In many places, cases of farmers not getting fertilizer easily are coming to the fore. Now the political battle between the government and the opposition has intensified over this. There are many parts of the state from where such pictures are coming that farmers are constantly worried about fertilizers and long lines are also visible at the distribution centers. Farmers are also saying that they are not getting fertilizer easily. Recently, during the visit of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to Panna, there was a complaint regarding the distribution of fertilizers. After that, he called a meeting of the officers and instructed them to improve the distribution system. Chief Minister Chouhan said in a meeting of officials that farmers should get fertilizer easily. Tents, meeting arrangements and drinking water should be arranged near the distribution center. Despite the availability, the farmer should not face any problem due to any lack of distribution



system. The collectors should monitor the entire system so that the farmer does not have to line up, so that his time and energy is not wasted.

Chief Minister Chouhan told that there is no shortage of manure in the state, nor will there be any shortage in the coming time. He is in regular touch with Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya. He has always done the work of providing manure to Madhya Pradesh as per the requirement.

Now gradually this issue of fertilizers has started taking a political color and there are counter-attacks between the power and the opposition. Accusing some people of spreading confusion, Chief Minister Chouhan said, we have

enough manure and I am assuring you that we will not allow any shortage of it. So don't worry at all. Some people are spreading confusion, strict action will be taken against such people.

After the Chief Minister's statement about availability of fertilizers and spreading the names of some people, Leader of Opposition Dr. Govind Singh has not only lodged an objection but also retaliated and while objecting to the statement of the Chief Minister, said, all the people, women and children are using fertilizer urea. Are you waiting in line from morning till evening, are you deliberately making false statements? Last week I was in Bhand, there were lines. Farmers need manure and they are forced to bring it from Uttar Pradesh.

On the statement of the Chief Minister, Congress State President Kamal Nath also spoke and said that today the farmer is wandering for fertilizer in the district. The Chief Minister is saying that there is no shortage of manure, from this it is clear that what information does the Chief Minister have about the common people and farmers of Madhya Pradesh?

## WOMAN JUMPS INTO WATER TANK WITH DAUGHTER, BOTH DIE, HER PARENTS BLAME HUSBAND

INDORE: A 25-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping into a water tank along with her two-year-old daughter in Indore in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said on Monday.

The bodies of Rani Rajput (25) and daughter Riya were found in a water tank on Sunday and prima facie it appears to be a case of suicide, a sub-inspector of Vijay Nagar police station said.

"The woman's parents have alleged the victim's husband used to taunt her for not being able to give birth to a son. The couple has two daughters. Further action would be taken after all angles are probed. Post mortem was conducted on Monday," he said.

## CM Chouhan plants sapling in Bandhavgarh National Park area



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with the sisters of Self-Help Group planted Arjun sapling in Tala area of

Bandhavgarh Tiger National Park in Umaria district. Along with the Chief Minister, Collector Umaria Shri Krishna Dev Tripathi, Director National Park Rajiv Mishra, Superintendent of

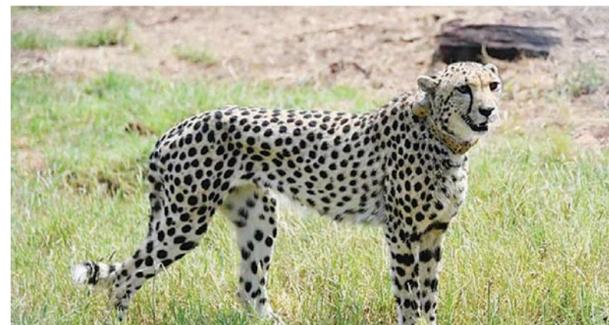
Police Pramod Sinha, Divisional Forest Officer and other officers also planted saplings of Arjun, Amla, Tamarind (Imli), Ashok, Jamun, Sitaphal, Gulmohar.

## 3.2 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HITS MADHYA PRADESH'S SINGRAULI

Singrauli: A mild earthquake of magnitude 3.2 on the Richter scale shook the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh. The National Center for Seismology (NCS) said an earthquake of magnitude 3.2 occurred in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli, around 2.35 pm on Monday. "The depth of the earthquake was 10 km below the ground," it said.

Earlier in the day, an earthquake of magnitude 4.1 rattled Punjab's Amritsar, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) informed. The tremors were experienced around 3:42 am, it added. On November 12, Saturday, tremors from an earthquake in Nepal were experienced across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), around 8pm. The tremor in the neighbouring country was measured at over 5 on the Richter scale. Earlier, on November 9, an earthquake of magnitude 6.3 had rocked Nepal, leaving at least six persons dead, including children. The NCS had said the earthquake occurred around 1.57 am and at a depth of 10 kms in Nepal. Tremors from that quake were also felt in the national capital and its surrounding areas.

## Concerns about the safety of cheetahs in Kuno



Team Absolute | Sheopur

The safety of Namibian cheetahs brought to the Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district has become a cause of concern for the forest department as a leopard has been spotted roaming around the enclosures where the cheetahs are kept. These days a video is going viral on social media which is being told of Kuno Sanctuary. Eight cheetahs have been

brought here from Namibia, out of which two cheetahs have been released in large enclosures while six are still in quarantine. The process of bringing these cheetahs from Namibia to Kuno was done on September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister himself was present here on this occasion. It has been told that a team of the Forest Department was passing through that area, when a leopard was seen

and this leopard was moving in front of the vehicle of the Forest Department officials, since then the concerns of the Forest Department have increased and from Namibia. The security of the cheetahs brought in has been increased. The cheetahs released in the enclosure have also started hunting and their activities have increased more than before. Along with this, their every move is also being monitored.

## PICU complex, Pediatric Hematology Oncology day care inauguration done at AIIMS Bhopal on Children's day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Fourteenth November is celebrated as Children's Day nationwide. Department of Pediatrics, AIIMS Bhopal also celebrated its first foundation day on the same day to present its achievements, felicitate stars in the department and plan for better performance in the future. The department carried out drawing and painting competition by patients, and distributed toys, gifts, fruits and sweets among the kids in pediatric medicine and surgery wards.

The occasion was graced by the Executive Director Prof (Dr) Ajai Singh, Dean Academics Prof (Dr) Rajesh Malik, Col. (Dr) Ajit Kumar and Medical Superintendent Dr. Manisha Shrivastava. The dignitaries congratulated the department for extension of services with special care and love to the kids. Head of the department Prof (Dr) Shikha Malik thanked the director for his constant support and appreciated team work by the faculties, residents and staff in the department.

On the same day, new pediatric and neonatal intensive care complex and a 5 bedded pediatric hematology and oncology day care were inaugurated by the director and other dignitaries. The daycare facility will make administration of chemotherapy for children with



cancer easier and cheaper. Also, children with thalassemia, sickle cell anemia and hemophilia will receive blood transfusions and other treatments without admission as inpatients.

The department of pediatrics celebrated world diabetes day in collaboration with Department of Medicine. An education gallery to spread mass awareness about diabetes in adults as well children was inaugurated by the direc-

tor Prof (Dr) Ajai Singh. In addition, a post graduate quiz and a symposium on diabetes was conducted by Prof. (Dr) Mahesh Maheshwari, and Prof (Dr) V. N. Mishra. The sessions were chaired by Dr Rekha Singh, Endocrinologist.

To screen diabetes, a point of care testing was done on the spot. Dr Tarini Prasad, Dr Manish M Yadav, and Dr Charan GV were the winners of PG Quiz for diabetes.



# Taylor Swift, the big winner at the 2022 MTV EMAs

Los Angeles | Agencies

Taylor Swift was the big winner at the 2022 MTV EMAs, which were held at PSD Bank Dome in Düsseldorf, Germany on Sunday. The "Anti-Hero" singer took home four awards - best artist, best video, best pop and best long form video for "All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version)."

Despite the fact that she's won numerous EMAs in the past, Swift had not been to the awards ceremony since 2012, when she closed out the ceremony with a circus-themed performance of "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together." During her acceptance speech for best video, Swift told her German fans that she "can't wait" to see them on her upcoming tour, which so far has only announced dates in the U.S. "Sometimes I think about all the way in which this short film and this moment almost never happened," she said. "The fans willed this to happen."



# Jungkook to perform at the World Cup in Qatar

Los Angeles | Agencies

South Korean K-pop superband BTS member Jungkook is to perform at the World Cup in Qatar. The decision to host the football tournament in the Gulf state has caused deep controversy due to Qatar's stance on homosexuality, which is illegal in the country, but the K-Pop singer will be amongst the name that take to the stage during the football tournament, says reports.

A tweet from the boyband's official account read: "Proud to announce that Jungkook is part of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Soundtrack will perform at the World Cup opening ceremony. Stay tuned!"

She said: "There is currently a lot of speculation that I will be performing at the opening ceremony of the world cup in Qatar."

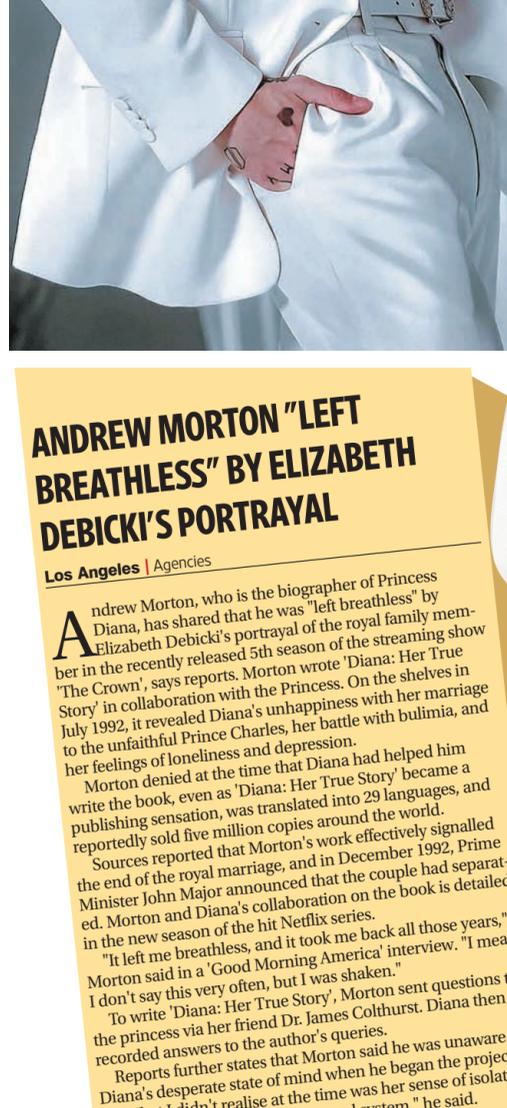
"I will not be performing and nor have I ever been involved in any negotiation to perform. will be cheering England on from afar and I look forward to visiting

Qatar when it has fulfilled all the human rights pledges it made when it won the right to host the World Cup."

He said: "We have always spoken about issues we think should be talked about, particularly the ones we feel we can affect. Contrary to one or two observations in the last few weeks, we have spoken in the same way other nations have spoken about this tournament, the human rights challenges. We've been very clear on our standpoint on that."

He continued: "So, look I think we would like to focus primarily on the football. For every player, every coach and everybody travelling to a World Cup, this is a carnival of football. So regarding the LGBT community, we stand for inclusivity and we are very, very strong on that. We think that is important in terms of all our supporters."

"We understand the challenges this tournament brings. If it wasn't for the strength of that community, we wouldn't be women's European champions. So it's very, very important to us."



# ANDREW MORTON "LEFT BREATHLESS" BY ELIZABETH DEBICKI'S PORTRAYAL

Los Angeles | Agencies

Andrew Morton, who is the biographer of Princess Diana, has shared that he was "left breathless" by Elizabeth Debicki's portrayal of the royal family member in the recently released 5th season of the streaming show "The Crown", says reports. Morton wrote "Diana: Her True Story" in collaboration with the Princess. On the shelves in July 1992, it revealed Diana's unhappiness with her marriage to the unfaithful Prince Charles, her battle with bulimia, and her feelings of loneliness and depression.

Morton denied at the time that Diana had helped him write the book, even as "Diana: Her True Story" became a publishing sensation, was translated into 29 languages, and reportedly sold five million copies around the world.

Sources reported that Morton's work effectively signalled the end of the royal marriage, and in December 1992, Prime Minister John Major announced that the couple had separated. Morton and Diana's collaboration on the book is detailed in the new season of the hit Netflix series.

"It left me breathless, and it took me back all those years," Morton said in a "Good Morning America" interview. "I mean, I don't say this very often, but I was shaken."

To write "Diana: Her True Story", Morton sent questions to the princess via her friend Dr. James Colthurst. Diana then recorded answers to the author's queries.

Reports further states that Morton said he was unaware of Diana's desperate state of mind when he began the project. "What I didn't realise at the time was her sense of isolation, her sense of despair inside the royal system," he said.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Nope star Keke Palmer will host the next episode of Saturday Night Live with singer SZA as musical guest. SNL is taking a couple of weeks off after the recent episode with host Dave Chappelle and will return on December 3 with the pair, according to the reports. Palmer also hosts the NBC game show Password'. Pop star SZA, who appeared on the Black Panther' soundtrack, recently released her new single 'Shirt' and teased a new project titled PSA'. According to the reports, the NBC show launched its 48th season on October 1 and aired three consecutive episodes through October 15, before taking a week off and running through another three consecutive episodes. The news came during its sixth episode -- the first since the midterm elections -- hosted by Chappelle. It echoes a similar pattern to last season, which launched with four consecutive episodes, a week off before three more episodes, before taking two weeks off before returning on December 11 for two final shows of the year.

Keke Palmer to host the next episode of Saturday Night Live



# Singer Harry Styles lent a pregnant fan a helping hand

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Harry Styles lent a pregnant fan a helping hand to do a gender reveal at his concert. On Friday, November 11, the pop megastar was headlining a gig at the Kia Forum in Los Angeles and revealed to the 17,000-seat arena that mother-to-be Sidney will soon be giving birth to a baby girl, according to the reports. "She's about to do the single hardest thing in the world there is to do. I'm sure it's gonna be fine. The most beautiful thing there is to do in the world. And it does gonna...Los Angeles, this is a Friday night you will never forget. Here we go. May I please get some tense gender-reveal music? I know something you don't know! This is called edging. It's a...girl," he spoke live on stage in a video posted to TikTok. Early this month, Harry had been forced to pull out of his Los Angeles concert just hours before he was due on stage because of illness, having already postponed the gig scheduled for the night before.

He revealed on his Instagram story: "Towards the end of the show on Wednesday I started feeling ill and I've been in bed with the flu ever since. I've been doing everything I can to be able to sing tonight, but I'm leaving the doctor now and I'm devastated that it's just not possible."

"I'm sorry this news is coming so close to show time, but it was my sincerest hope to be able to play for you tonight. I know several of you have planned trips to LA to see the show, and it means the absolute world to me."

In June this year, the "As It Was" hitmaker helped an Italian fan come out as gay at his Wembley Stadium concert. The fan, named Matteo, was holding a sign that read, "From Ono to Wembley, Help me come out," during Harry's two-night stint at the London venue and the former One Direction star declared Matteo "officially gay my boy" as he raised a Pride flag above his head. He said: "Congratulations Matteo, you are a free man."



# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jessica Chastain



## I FEEL 'BETRAYED', HAVE 'NO RESPECT' FOR MANCHESTER UNITED COACH: CRISTIANO RONALDO

Los Angeles | Agencies

Manchester United star footballer Cristiano Ronaldo said that he feels "betrayed" by the club for trying to force him out of the team. The Portuguese star said that he has "no respect" for Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag because he "doesn't show respect for me".

Ronaldo, who re-joined United in August 2021 and finished as their top scorer in all competitions last season with 24 goals said, "I don't have respect for him because he doesn't show respect for me. If you don't have respect for me, I'm never gonna have respect for you."

In an interview with Piers Morgan, Ronaldo also claimed there has been "zero progress" at the club since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in the summer of 2013.

When asked if United's hierarchy



was trying to force him out of the club, Ronaldo was quoted as saying, "Yes. Not only the coach but the other

two or three guys around the club. I felt betrayed." "Honestly, I don't know. I don't

care. People should hear the truth. Yes, I feel betrayed. Some people don't want me here not only this year but last year too. I don't know what's going on. Since Sir Alex Ferguson left I have seen no evolution in the club. The progress is zero," Ronaldo said.

"For example, an interesting point is how a club like Manchester United sacked Ole (Gunnar Solskjaer), they bring in a sporting director Ralf Rangnick which is something nobody understands. This guy is not even a coach! A big club like Manchester United bringing in a sporting director surprised not only me but the entire world," he said.

Ronaldo was also critical of former United teammate Wayne Rooney.

"I don't know why he criticises me so badly...probably because he finished his career and I'm still playing at a high level. I'm not going to say that I'm looking better than him. Which is true...?"

## Virat Kohli and Surya kumar Yadav, the ICC's 'Most Valuable Team of the Tournament'

Melbourne | Agencies

Charismatic India cricketers Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav have made it to the ICC's 'Most Valuable Team of the Tournament', which has been announced after England's victory over Pakistan in the T20 World Cup final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. Allrounder Hardik Pandya has been included as the 12th man.

Four England players -- Alex Hales, skipper Jos Buttler, Sam Curran and Mark Wood -- have also made it to the side, though all-rounder and Test skipper Ben Stokes, who played a pivotal role in England's win on Sunday hasn't found a place in the select XI.

Kohli had turned on the heat in the show-piece tournament, finishing as the highest run-scorer with 296 runs to his name at a sensational average of 98.66. He smashed four fifties, including a superb unbeaten 82 against Pakistan in the Super 12. Middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav had an equally incredible outing as Kohli. Suryakumar entertained everyone with his aggressive batting style throughout the course of the tournament, amassing 239 runs at an



incredible strike rate of 189.68. Pandya had a superb tournament, taking eight wickets in six matches and finished as his team's third-highest scorer despite coming in down the order. Were it not for his 33-ball 63, India would have never even threatened to reach a competitive total in the semi-final against England.

Most Valuable XI: Glenn Phillips (New Zealand), Shadab Khan (Pakistan), Sam Curran (England), Anrich Nortje (South Africa), Mark Wood (England), Alex Hales (England), Jos Buttler (England), Virat Kohli (India), Suryakumar Yadav (India), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Pakistan), Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe), Hardik Pandya 12th man (India).

## Social media has appreciated the gesture of the Jos Buttler-led England team

Melbourne | Agencies

The social media has appreciated the gesture of the Jos Buttler-led England team, which waited for team-mates Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid to step aside before uncorking the bubbly in celebration of the ICC T20 World Cup triumph over Pakistan in Melbourne on Sunday.

England clinched their second T20 World Cup title defeating Babar Azam's Pakistan by five wickets with an over to spare at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, with all-rounder Ben Stokes scoring an unbeaten 49-ball 52 as they raced to the victory target of 138 in 19 overs.

As is customary, the teams uncorked the champagne bottle but not before Moeen and Rashid were asked to step aside. The due respect given to the religious sentiments of the two cricketers has been widely appreciated.

Respecting the faith of his teammates, England skipper Jos Buttler first clicked pictures with the whole team before reminding the two players that the champagne celebrations were about to take place and they should step aside.

The video has since gone viral, with a fan tweeting, "Respect for religious diversity is an essential element of any peaceful society."



Here England captain Jos Buttler asked Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali to leave before they celebrated with champagne. Following Australia's Ashes triumph at home earlier this year, their Test skipper and pace bowler Pat Cummins had shown a similar gesture towards Usman Khawaja, as he stopped others from opening the champagne bottle and called Khawaja on to the stage to complete the celebrations.

## LIONEL MESSI BREAK WITH A 5-0 WIN AGAINST AUXERRE

Paris | Agencies

They are expected to be the big stars at Qatar 2022 and French star Kylian Mbappe, Argentine Lionel Messi and Brazilian Neymar Jr. finished their engagements for Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) before the FIFA World Cup break with a 5-0 win against Auxerre here on Sunday.

Coach Christophe Galtier opted to start with his magic trio of Mbappe, Neymar Jr. and Messi for his side's final outing before the World Cup in a Parc des Princes basking in the sunshine, where the supporters of the club from the capital had turned out in their numbers for the lunchtime kick-off.

An incredible piece of link-up saw Mbappe played in by Nuno Mendes, and the Frenchman scored his 19th goal of the season with his first effort of the afternoon in the 11th minute.

With an Auxerre side determined to keep things tight across the field, PSG were able to alternate between long periods of possession and lightning changes of pace. Despite that, the score remained 1-1 until the break, before PSG really came into their own as they came back out from the dress-



After another move down the left, it was Carlos Soler who turned the ball home, with a smart header across the goal in the 50th minute.

On a roll, the Spaniard turned provider just 10 minutes later, when he set Achraf Hakimi on his way on the counter-attack. The Moroccan ran like

the wind and beat Benot Costil with a well-placed finish in the 57th minute. The fourth goal could have come soon with a gem from Neymar Jr. finding Messi before his effort was denied by the post. Coach Christophe Galtier's changes made a difference too, with Ekitike and Renato Sanches both coming on, the former found the latter for

the fourth goal in the 81st minute. The cherry on the cake was when Ekitike opened his account for the club after pressing high up the pitch, before finishing into the back of the net to make it 5-0 in the 84th minute. PSG thus finished at the top of the table before the break, as they moved to 41 points from 15 games.

## Australian Open

## ALL EYES ON SAMEER VARMA, MITHUN MANJUNATH

Sydney (Australia) | Agencies

With top stars Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth pulling out, World No. 33 Sameer Verma and No. 45 ranked Mithun Manjunath will be the only Indian players in action in men's singles section of the Australian Open 2022.

Saina Nehwal has also withdrawn from the year's last event before the BWF Tour Finals, which starts here on November 15.

The Australian Open is the last stop to punch tickets to the BWF World Tour Finals in December, and several Indian players sent their initial entries. The BWF World Tour Super 300 Australian Open, with a prize fund of USD 180,000, is scheduled to end on November 20.

In men's singles, Sameer Verma will start off against Nathan Tang of Australia and has a clear path to the quarterfinals where he is likely to face Malaysia's Commonwealth Games



men's singles silver medallist Tze Yong Ng.

Manjunath will run into former World Champion Loh Kean Yew of

Singapore, the second seed, in the first round.

With Malavika Bansod too pulling out, Anvesha Gowda and Tanya Hemant are the two Indians in the fray in the women's singles. Anvesha will start against Pitchaya Elysis Viravong of Australia. Tanya Hemant will open her campaign against Malaysia's Goh Jim Wei.

In women's doubles, Simran Singh and Ritika Thaker of India will take on the Indonesian combination of Meilysa Trias Pusputa Sari and Rachel Allesya Rose while Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda will take on the Chinese Taipei combination of Lee Chia Hsin and Teng Chun Hsun in the opening round.

In men's doubles, Hariharan Amsakarunan of Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi have a tough task in the opening round as they face China's seventh seed Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang.

## INDIAN RACING LEAGUE

Chennai | Agencies

The Madras International Circuit (MIC) -- the first permanent racing circuit in the country -- will host Indian Racing League's races on the weekend of November 25 and December 2 here, the organisers announced on Monday.

Madras International Circuit on Monday also hosted the season's Pre-testing to gear up to maiden Indian Racing League.

The motorsport league, organised by Racing Promotions Pvt Ltd (RPPL), is bringing 24 prominent foreign and Indian drivers to the country for a unique spectacle for racing enthusiasts with four consecutive weekends starting November 19.

MIC in Chennai will host six city-based teams including its own Chennai Turbo

## Chennai to host races at Madras International Circuit



Riders and others including Speed Demons Delhi, Bangalore Speedsters, Hyderabad Blackbirds, GodSpeed Kochi and Goa Aces. The Chennai Turbo Riders includes the city's very own driver Vishnu Prasad, a 13 times Indian national champion with extensive experience in motorsports.

"The Indian Racing league is the ultimate push to bring the Indian motorsports segment to a global stage and provide young racers a plat-

form to compete with international motorsports drivers. Chennai has always been a prominent hub for motorsport talent in India and plays a pivotal role in Indian motorsports history," said Akhilesh Reddy, Director MEIL and Chairman, RPPL.

"With state-of-the-art infrastructure for motorsports and racing enthusiasts, Indian Racing League will be a game-changer for how motorsports in perceived in our nation," he added.

## GEORGE RUSSELL TOOK HIS MAIDEN GRAND PRIX VICTORY IN STYLE

Sao Paulo (Brazil) Mercedes Formula One driver George Russell took his maiden Grand Prix victory in style at Sao Paulo, with the British racer also helping his team take its first win and one-two of the season with Lewis Hamilton finishing second over Ferrari's Carlos Sainz.



Courtesy of their 'Sprint' result and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz's five-place grid penalty, Russell led Hamilton away at the start, with the Safety Car quickly deployed for a collision between McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo and Haas's Kevin Magnussen that sent both cars out at Turn 8, bringing out the Safety Car. The Lap 7 resumption saw Red Bull driver and 2022 world champion Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton collide at Turn 2 before Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was sent into the Turn 7 barriers by McLaren's Lando Norris. None of the four cars retired but Verstappen and Norris both took five-second penalties for their incidents.

Hamilton recovered soon after his scrap with Verstappen and the seven-time champion ran second behind Russell when a stoppage for Norris, on Lap 52, brought out a VSC-turned Safety Car, according to the reports.

Under immense pressure, Russell retained his lead over Hamilton on the Lap 60 restart and delivered his first win by a margin of 1.5 seconds over the seven-time champion.

Carlos Sainz was made to work for the final podium spot as, despite being on medium compounds, Perez defended his podium spot for a number of laps after the Safety Car restart.

## PKL 9 Bengaluru Bulls survive late surge from Thalaivas to win 40-34

Pune | Agencies

Neeraj Narwal and Saurabh Nandal came up with some superb defense as Bengaluru Bulls survived two late surges by the Tamil Thalaivas to register a 40-34 victory in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi here on Sunday.

Raider Bharat (14 points) was exceptional for the Bulls, but it was the defending by Neeraj Narwal and Saurabh Nandal in the final minutes of the game that made the real difference.

The Bulls, riding on consecutive Super Raids by Bharat inflicted the first All-Out on the Thalaivas within the first five minutes of the game. At that time, it seemed



like the Bulls would dominate the entire game.

However, the Thalaivas rallied together, their constant pressure and Narendar's constant raiding success kept them in the game. In the final five minutes of the half though, not just wiped out

the Bulls' lead but also surged into one of their own. They went into halftime leading 19-18. The capitulation stung the Bulls hard, and their second-half performance was a reaction to that more than anything else. In a repeat of the first half, they

inflicted a second All-Out on the Thalaivas early on, retaking a 28-25 lead. And yet again, the Thalaivas rallied.

The last five minutes were a blur of action. Much like the first half, Thalaivas again applied all the pressure, as the Bulls fell apart.

## Sam Billings has pulled out of participating in IPL 2023

Team Absolute | New Delhi

England wicketkeeper-batter Sam Billings has pulled out of participating in IPL 2023. Billings, who was a member of the Kolkata Knight Riders squad in IPL 2022, said his focus is on the longer format of the game and will turn out for his county side Kent in the County Championship.

"Have taken the tough decision that I won't be taking part in the next IPL. Looking to focus on longer format cricket at the start of the English summer with kenter cricket. Thank you so much for the opportunity kriders! Loved every minute of it. An amazing franchise with some brilliant people. Hopefully see you again in the future," wrote Billings in two tweets from his official account on Monday.

Billings, 31, was picked up by Kolkata for INR 2 crores in the mega auction ahead of



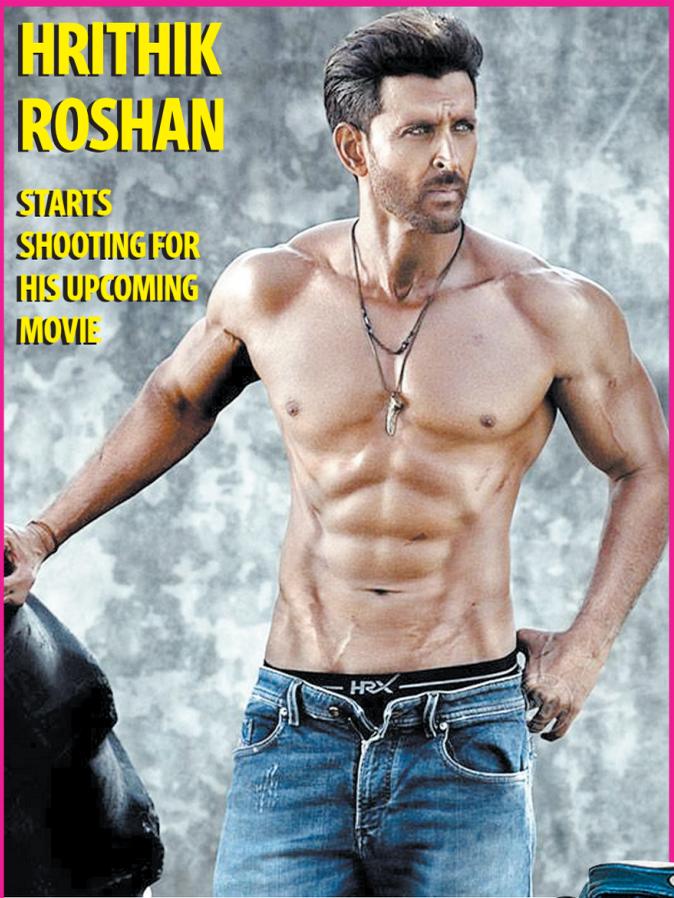
the 2022 IPL season. He played eight matches, as the two-time champions rotated between him, Sheldon Jackson and Baba Indrajith for the wicket-keeper's slot in the playing eleven.

In IPL 2022, Billings scored 169 runs in eight innings at a strike rate of 122.46 and average of 24.14. His best knock was 36 off 24 balls which came in the final match of the season against Lucknow Super Giants, where Kolkata fell short by just two runs in a gigantic chase of 211.



## HRITHIK ROSHAN

**STARTS SHOOTING FOR HIS UPCOMING MOVIE**



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan has finally started the shoot of his next movie 'Fighter' in which he will share the screen with Deepika Padukone. Hrithik Roshan was most recently seen in 'Vikram Vedha'. The movie, which will be directed by Hrithik's 'War' director, Siddharth Anand, will also star Anil Kapoor in the lead. Taking to social media, Marflix Productions, the banner producing 'Fighter', shared a picture of Hrithik Roshan along with director Siddharth Anand flying off for the shoot. In the caption, they wrote "And it begins". FIGHTER (sic). "Fighter", which is an aerial action film, marks the first ever on-screen collaboration of Deepika Padukone and Hrithik Roshan and the actor's third collaboration with director Siddharth Anand after 'Bang Bang' and 'War'. The makers of the film are eyeing for the January 25, 2024 release of the film in theatres.

Earlier, Hrithik had taken to his Instagram, to share a new poster which he captioned: "25th January 2024 - see you at the theatres! Fighter." Deepika, on the other hand, captioned the post, "Fasten your seat-belts! FIGHTER, India's first aerial action film, releases on 25th January 2024 (sic)."

## Aahana Kumra shares her experience of playing a journalist

Team Absolute | New Delhi

TV and film actress Aahana Kumra shares her experience of playing a journalist for the first time and how it was to work with Kajol in Revathi's directorial film 'Salaam Venky'. The actress, who has been part of projects like 'Lipstick Under My Burkha', 'Khuda Haafiz' and many more, opened up about her role, saying: "I have never played a journalist in my career so far and it's interesting to be able to play the part and also be a part of such a great ensemble where you have the opportunity to work with such incredible crew of actors, director, cinematographer and producer. So it's a great collaboration. Also, the tone of the film is very different and I have never done such a feel good, slice-of-life-film." Sharing about her experience working with Kajol and Revathi, she told media: "My experience was phenomenal, although I didn't have too many scenes with Kajol. We just had one scene together and watching her perform her sequence was an experience in itself. It's incredible to learn from such an actor who is a stalwart in her space and has been working so long in the industry. The way she switches on and off during her performance was commendable. Her energy on the set was incredible." Aahana recalls how it was to shoot under the direction of Revathi and she praises her for her working style. "I don't think I have ever met anybody as kind as Revathi. She is one of the most incredible, intelligent, inspiring and down to earth people I have ever met."



## ARMAAN MALIK FETED WITH THE 2022 MTV EUROPE MUSIC AWARD

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Playback singer Armaan Malik, who is known for songs such as "Bol Do Na Zara", "Jab Tak" and "Cale Aana", has been feted with the 2022 MTV Europe Music Award for "Best India Act" for his English single "You". The singer has won the award for the second time after his debut single, "Control", won him the MTV EMA in the same category in 2020. Armaan attended the awards ceremony in Germany's Dusseldorf, where he was bestowed with the accolade. Reacting to his win, Armaan said in a statement, "I'm humbled and overjoyed to win my second EMA! 'You' is a very special record for me and for it to receive a nod at such a prestigious global platform is extremely heartwarming." The singer expressed his gratitude towards his fans and well-wishers, who voted for him in overwhelming numbers. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the fans and well-wishers who voted for me. The amount of love and support I have received from Armaanians all over the world is truly unprecedented and fills me with gratitude. This one's for them, my family and my country."



## I'M OVERWHELMED WITH GRATITUDE: RANVEER SINGH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Ranveer Singh, who is honoured at the 2022 Marrakech International Film Festival, where he represented Indian cinema on global platform, is elated to receive so much love and recognition in Morocco. He took to Instagram and shared a string of pictures on receiving the award dressed in an embellished maroon sherwani. Ranveer shared pictures on receiving the Etoile d'Or Award and captioned it: "Cinema is a unifying force! I feel immensely honoured that my work has transcended cultural and geographical boundaries, and has earned me such love and recognition in beautiful Morocco. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude!" "Thank you to the Marrakech International Film Festival for bestowing me with the prestigious Etoile d'Or Award! Proud to be an ambassador for my culture and represent Indian Cinema on the world stage! Marrakech film festival." Marrakech has a long history of celebrating Indian cinema. The festival previously honored Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan and in 2012, it ran a special sidebar to mark 100 years of Indian cinema. After his appearance at the official opening ceremony, Ranveer high-tailed it to Marrakech's famous Jemaa El Fna Square to introduce an open-air screening of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 2015 multi-award-winning 18th costume drama Bajirao Mastani, in which the actor had one of his breakout roles.



## Disha Parmar talks about her new look in the show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2' actress Disha Parmar talks about her new look in the show. While she is mostly seen in Indian wear, she will now be in formal attire.

Currently, both Ram (Nakuul Mehta) and Priya (Disha) met with an accident due to which Ram lost his memory and he no longer remembers that Priya is his wife. Now, to be with him always and take proper care of Ram, Priya will apply for the post of his PA in his office as Lovely.

Talking about the new look in the show, Disha said: "Priya is just trying to figure out a way to appear in front of Ram because, as everyone knows, he has forgotten about her

and Pihu. She is worried since the doctors said that if he suddenly sees Priya in front of him, he would have effects. She has now found a way to go in front of Ram disguised as his PA." Disha added more about her experience of getting into this new look and how much she relates to it. "I'm quite liking it. It feels like a breath of fresh air whenever you try something different as an actor. The main difference between Priya and Lovely would be that Lovely would be seen wearing shoes, which Priya doesn't do but Disha adores them in her personal life." "I'm definitely looking forward to trying something new since and I'm sure it's going to be fun. I'm hoping the fans continue to shower their love as they have always done," she concluded.



**I HAVE NEVER DONE THIS KIND OF ROLE BEFORE:**

**Subuhii Joshii**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Subuhii Joshii is currently seen in the reality show 'Bigg Buzz' that features actor Krushna Abhishek and Kashmera Shah. The actress talked about her part in the show who is a housemaid Bimla from Bihar and spoke about donning a completely desi look for the first time by wearing a sari with her head covered and a red bindi.

She said: "I am in love with Bimla who is actually the househelp of Krushna Abhishek in the show. I have never done this kind of role before, and, in this show, whenever we are introducing a new character we decide that quite fast. Thus, I only got one night to prepare and saw lots of youtube videos to understand the Bhojpuri dialect."

The actress, who was last seen in 'Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai' shared about preparing for her role and how she got into the skin of her character.

"I also took help from one of my friends who are from Bihar. It was pretty nerve-wracking as I was rehearsing in my head until right before the final shot, but I am happy that everything went well. I have also got a lot of praise from the cast-crew. I even surprised myself by being able to pull off this kind of performance."



**INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY**



Isabelle Kaif