

# absolute india

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## IIT-K develops device to turn ACs into air purifiers

- ▶ THIS NEW AIR FILTERS DEVELOPED AT IIT KANPUR HAS PROVEN TO RESTRICT THE MICROBIAL GROWTH AND IS CAPABLE OF CAPTURING PM 2.5, PM 10, DUST, POLLEN, ALLERGENS AND GERMS FROM THE AIR WHILE PURIFYING.
- ▶ IT HAS BEEN LAUNCHED IN THE FORM OF A PRODUCT AS 'CLEAN AIR MODULE' AND COMES AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE OF RS 2,000.
- ▶ ONE 'CLEAN AIR MODULE' IS CLAIMED TO BE AS EFFECTIVE AS 10 NORMAL AC FILTERS.
- ▶ THIS TECHNOLOGY COMES AS A SIMPLISTIC HANDY TOOL, WHICH CAN BE EASILY MOUNTED ATOP REGULAR ACS AND UTILISED BY SWITCHING ON 'FAN MODE'.

**KANPUR | Agencies**

A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, has developed a novel technology to turn ACs into affordable air purifiers. The one-of-a-kind technology is conceptualised and developed with the infrastructural as well as R&D support from IIT Kanpur, as the team of researchers found a way to turn regular ACs into air purifiers, during the winter season. The innovation comes in line



with IIT Kanpur's relentless work in the domain of air quality assessment and monitoring. The air filters are equipped with the "Anti-Microbial Air Purification Technology" developed at IIT Kanpur, in collaboration with researchers from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. It has been tested at NABL Accredited Lab and has proven to be able to successfully deactivate SARS-CoV-2 (delta variant) with an efficiency of 99.24 per cent. The existing air filters in the

market work on a particle capture mechanism; however, over continuous use, the filter itself becomes a breeding ground for germs, like a petri dish. The minimum cost of such air purifiers in the market is around Rs 10,000 which usually comes with a fan and an air filter to clean the air. The innovation has been licensed to AiRTH, a startup incubated at the Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, IIT Kanpur, for marketing. The product is now available for purchase through AiRTH's website and other e-commerce sites.

## RAHUL GANDHI DARES GOVT TO STOP BHARAT JODO YATRA

Team Absolute | Akola (Maharashtra)

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Thursday challenged the government to stop the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) "which is conveying the message of love - not hate - among the people of India". Referring to certain Balasahebchandra Shiv Sena (BSS) leaders questioning the need for the BJY, he said that it is intended to "connect" the country, "hear" the voices of the masses, and spread the message of love through the march. "If the government still feels they want to stop it, then let them do it... No problems. I have decided to continue it from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and hoist the tricolour in Srinagar," declared Gandhi, in a media interaction here this afternoon. Touching upon the statements by certain Bharatiya Janata Party leaders that "when the country is not divided then where's the need to unite it" through the BJY, Gandhi said that the country's atmosphere has completely changed in the past 8 years, with hatred seen all around. He said that the BJY is countering the ideology of those who spread "hate" with the idea of "love" by those who work to unite the country as hatred makes the nation weak while love strengthens it. "Lakhs of people are joining the BJY... Farmers, workers, youth, shopkeepers, women, speak of



their issues, problems, pains and suffering during the march, I am learning a lot. We are getting a tremendous response and we are being showered with love," said Gandhi. Referring to V.D. Savarkar issue, Gandhi waved and read out a letter written by the revolutionary to the British government, saying he (Savarkar) wanted to be a servant of the colonial rulers. "What wrong have I said? I have only presented the historical truth. Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patil and others were also jailed by the British for years but they did not secure their release by writing (such) letters to the colonial rulers," Gandhi pointed out. "Whenever we, the Congress and other Opposition parties attempt to raise the concerns of the masses like demonetisation, economy, GST inflation, China, in the parliament, the

**BJP TRYING TO FINISH OPPOSITION WITH MONEY POWER: RAHUL GANDHI**

*"The Shiv Sena (UBT) MLAs were given Rs 50 crore and taken away by the rival camp. Corrupt people are going there and efforts are on to decimate the Opposition parties. But there's no dearth of good and honest people in the country."*

mikes are switched off, there is pressure on the institutions and the judicial system from the ruling party," Gandhi said. Through the BJY, he is highlighting all these questions, and learning how the people are living under the shadow of fear, hatred and violence, he said. Slamming the BJP, Gandhi said

### PROTESTS ERUPT OVER COMMENTS ON SAVARKAR

Mumbai: Hours after Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's comments on V.D. Savarkar, Maharashtra's ruling Balasahebchandra Shiv Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party activists staged huge protests all over the state condemning his remarks. Simultaneously, Savarkar's grandson Ranjit Savarkar lodged a complaint with Shivaji Park Police demanding action against Gandhi for allegedly "insulting" the revolutionary Hindu ideology, and booking state Congress chief Nana Patole. Maha Vikas Aghadi constituent, Shiv Sena-UBT President Uddhav Thackeray washed his hands off Gandhi's comments saying he was not in agreement with the Congress leader, but also called upon the BJP not to politicise the issue. The Mumbai police said that they are probing the matter further before registering a first information report in the matter. During the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi has targeted Savarkar accusing him of not only helping the British rulers but also signing a mercy petition "out of fear" for his release. that all out attempts are being made to end the Opposition parties in the country with the lure of money power, citing the Maharashtra example.

### MAHA DOUBLES PENSION TO RS 20K PER MONTH FOR ALL FREEDOM-FIGHTERS

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government on Thursday decided to hike and double the pension entitlement of all freedom fighters in the state, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said. The decision to double the pension -- from Rs 10,000 given from 2014 to Rs 20,000 per month now -- was taken at a cabinet meeting presided over by Shinde. This will benefit around 6,229 surviving patriots across Maharashtra who had taken part in India's freedom struggle (1947), the Marathwada Liberation struggle (1948) and the Goa Liberation movement (1961). The largesse will entail an additional annual burden of Rs 74.75 crore on the state exchequer, for the pension scheme launched way back in 1965. It was intended to recognise the contributions of all those who took part in several of these historical and nationalistic movements in the past which finally led to the integration of the country.

### Mehrauli murder accused confesses to chopping victim's body in 10 hrs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Aftab Ameen Poonawalla has confessed to investigators that it took him 10 hours to chop his live-in partner's body into 35 different pieces and that he had burnt her face until it was unrecognisable, informed sources said. AS the investigation is still underway, police teams have visited and conducted searches to recover more remains of the 27-year-old victim, Shraddha Walkar, at the Mehrauli forest. The South district police teams have also contacted their counterparts for in east district's Pandav Nagar police station to help out in a DNA test after some remains, including a head, were recovered in Trilokpuri area in June. The samples collected from the Mehrauli area have been sent for a DNA test. The police will match both the DNA reports. Following the lack of evidence, the police teams on Wednesday had also visited the rented house in Chattarpur which the accused and the victim shared. The weapon of offence, which has been missing since Aftab's arrest on November 12, was also looked for, said the sources. Meanwhile, the investigators are in a tizzy as Aftab is not cooperating with them.



### MAN STRANGLES GIRLFRIEND AFTER HEATED ARGUMENT OVER RS 5,000

New Delhi: The Delhi police have arrested a man who strangled his girlfriend in the Madanpur Khadar area of Delhi. The police have also recovered two mobile phones of the woman from the possession of the accused. The accused has been identified as Rahul, a resident of Madanpur Khadar. The police said that he is married and was having an extra-marital affair with the victim. As per the autopsy at AIIMS, the woman was strangled to death. The accused suspected that she was having an affair with another man. "His statements are frequently changing. He first told the investigators that he had thrown away the mobile phone of the victim in Maharashtra but now he claims that he had dropped the phone somewhere in Delhi," said the sources.

## I-T raid at Bihar minister's house, office in Patna



Patna | Agencies

The Income Tax department conducted simultaneous raids in the premises of Bihar industry minister Samir Mahaseth on Thursday. Besides him, the department has also raided his business partner Ravi Bhushan and brother-in-law Jitendra Kumar. Sources said that they are facing charges of not paying taxes on their income before the department. Samir Mahaseth is a business partner in a construction company named Sakar construction Ltd having an office in Sone Bhawan at R-block roundabout. "I am waiting for the allegations Income tax officials levelled on us. They have not given any details about the raids. Once their statements will come out in public, then I will make the statement," he said.

### ED ARRESTS TMC LEADER ANUBRATA MONDAL

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday arrested Trinamool Congress strongman and the party's Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal in connection with the multi-crore cattle smuggling case, after questioning him for over five hours. An ED source said it would soon initiate the legal process for taking Mondal to Delhi and question him at the agency's headquarters in the national capital. The Central Bureau of Investigation which is conducting a parallel probe in the case, had first arrested Mondal on August 11 this year. Since then, he had been in judicial custody at the Asansol Special Correctional Home. Meanwhile, it was learned that ED officials will move to a special court in Asansol and seek Mondal's custody in the matter.

Meanwhile, Tejashwi Yadav, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, said: "BJP is afraid of the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Hence, it is conducting raids on opposition leaders. They are realising that their government will be gone in 2024. Such raids will continue till 2024."

### TWO DOZEN WOMEN STERILIZED WITHOUT ANAESTHESIA IN BIHAR'S KHAGARIA

Patna: The negligence of the Bihar health department was in full view in Khagaria district on Wednesday when around two dozen women were sterilized without anaesthesia.

The women went to the Alauli and Parbatta health centres in the districts for a family planning operation on Wednesday. The medical staff pinned them down on the bed, held their hands and legs tightly, put cotton in the mouth and performed the operation without anaesthesia. The victims suffered unbearable pain during and after the surgery. Amarnath Jha, the civil surgeon of Khagaria said: "We have initiated an inquiry into the matter and asked for an explanation from the NGO responsible for the inhuman act." The health department has given the contract for family planning operations to the NGO named Global Development Initiative. "We have sought clarification from the NGO and also initiated the process of blacklisting it. Preliminary investigation reveals that the NGO was involved in an inhuman act," Jha said. The NGO is using a process called "tubectomy" to make the patients unconscious. The official said that it has not worked on the patients at the time of an operation. The state government is paying Rs 2100 for every tubectomy. The official said that this act of the NGO is a criminal offence as they have risked the life of patients.

## Gehlot govt to issue cards for non-resident Rajasthanis

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Non-resident Rajasthanis (NRR) could soon get NRR cards that would serve as a unique identity document for them and provide some special privileges. The proposal to issue NRR cards is part of the NRR policy, released recently by Rajasthan Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot, a separate policy especially for the Rajasthanian diaspora. The policy has been formulated on the 'five-C concept' of Connect, Culture, Community, Care and Contribution. It aims to connect with a wider base of NRRs across geographies and segments, bringing over 1,00,000 NRRs under the umbrella of Rajasthan Foundation in next five years. The policy also aims to create social and economic impact with increased involvement of NRRs through their knowledge, capital and skills in areas such as tourism, investment, trade, entrepreneurship, philanthropy, among others, catalysing over Rs 1,000 crore in next five years. There are slew of initiatives



planned for NRRs under the policy. 'Mhari Dani' will be the flagship scheme of the government in which the NRRs will be able to voluntarily contribute to basic development works in their towns and villages. The State government will also identify and felicitate outstanding NRRs every year in an annual event organised for the pravasi. The other plans include: bringing all the organisations and associations of

Rajasthanis en bloc on a platform to build bonds with the community, Jaane Apna Rajasthan program, Ambassador Program, among others. The policy envisages setting up a Pravasi Rajasthan Kendra in Jaipur while NRR cells will be formed in the districts. There is also a proposal for Rajasthanian Pravasi Bhawans in select cities of the country and abroad. Various schemes/programmes/guidelines related to each of the initiatives shall be



# K'TAKA CONGRESS ALLEGES VOTER ID SCAM BY BJP, DEMANDS CM'S RESIGNATION

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

The Congress unit in Karnataka on Thursday alleged voter ID scam by the state's ruling BJP and demanded Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's resignation, as well as a probe into the scam by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka. In a joint press conference at the KPCC headquarters in Bengaluru, the state's party in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, opposition leader Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar said that they would lodge a criminal complaint regarding the matter.



given, he said, adding that the BJP workers are going door to door and mapping the voters. "They are marking empty houses, studying voters' political affiliations and coming up with a voters' list to win elections." Article 324, 325, 326 of the Indian Constitution and Section 28 of Representation of People's Act specify that only the government officers can carry out the task of handling issues related to voters list, Shivakumar said and added that the rules have been violated by ruling BJP and bureaucracy. Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah claimed that all this is being done on the behest of the Chief Minister. "He (Bommai) should be arrested. He should resign as he has no moral right to continue as he is at

"The government is stealing the data of voters. The ruling BJP is indulging in election fraud through a private agency. Bommai, in-charge minister, BBMP Special Commissioner Tushar Girinath and the Election Commission are operating as one team to steal voters' data," Surjewala stated. Shivakumar charged that thousands of BJP workers in the state have been roped in to manipulate electoral rolls. "The BJP workers have been hired on contract basis by a private agency, given identity cards by the authorities to carry out the process of voter ID renewal," he charged. In Bengaluru alone, about 17,000 to 18,000 such identity cards are

## WHAT CONGRESS DID EARLIER, BJP IS DOING NOW: JD(S)

**Bengaluru:** Reacting to the alleged data stealing scam by ruling BJP on the pretext of revising voters' list, JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Thursday said that ruling BJP is doing something that the Congress has done previously. Speaking to the media, Kumaraswamy stated, BJP has given contract to a private company to commit fraud in the elections. The company belongs to an influential minister and is located in Malleshwaram. If Congress comes to power, they will continue with similar activities. As long as there are Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) there is no problem for BJP. The saffron party is attempting to return to power through fraudulent ways. The people should be careful about both national parties, Kumaraswamy stated, referring to BJP and Congress.

## BJP SET TO TRANSFER BBMP SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

**Bengaluru:** Ruling BJP, which is under attack over the alleged voters' data theft scam, has switched to damage control mode. As a first step, the government is all set to transfer Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath, according to sources.

Though Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is trying to put a brave face by announcing a probe and dismissing Congress charges as ridiculous, insiders confide that party leaders are worried and concerned about the development. Sources explain that Tushar Girinath had already been called to the Vidhana Soudha following an emergency press meet by Congress leaders in Bengaluru over the scam.

the helm of affairs. This kind of conspiracy, theft never happened by the Chief Minister himself in the history of Karnataka," he said. KPCC Campaign Committee Chairman and MLA, M.B. Patil said that initially it was done in Mahadevapura constituency in Bengaluru.

## Centre seeks review of SC order releasing Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convicts



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre has sought a review of the Supreme Court order releasing all six convicts in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In the review petition, the Centre said it was not made a party to the hearing and its stance was not heard and consequently, several glaring errors on record were not brought to the notice of the court. The apex court on November 11 passed an order allowing premature release of six convicts: S. Nalini, R.P. Ravichandran, Sriharan, Santhan, Murugan, and Robert Payas. A bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna had passed the order after noting that convicts' conduct was satisfactory in the prison and they were imprisoned for a very long period. All the six convicts in the case were sentenced to life

and they had spent over two decades in prison. The Congress had strongly criticised the release of convicts. However, several Tamil parties, including the state's ruling DMK, which is an ally of the Congress, had long rallied for the release of the convicts. On May 18, the Supreme Court had invoked its extraordinary powers to do complete justice under Article 142 of the Constitution, as it ordered the release of A.G. Perarivalan, sentenced to life in the assassination of the former Prime Minister. Nalini and Ravichandran had then moved the Madras High Court citing Perarivalan's case for their own release, but the high court refused to entertain their plea. They then moved the apex court challenging the high court order. Later, the remaining four convicts also filed similar pleas before the top court.

## Telangana MLAs' poaching case: SIT summons two for questioning

Hyderabad | Agencies

Intensifying its investigation into the Telangana MLAs' poaching case, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has issued notices to two individuals.

A lawyer from Telangana's Karimnagar district and a relative of the state President of a national party have been reportedly summoned for questioning. The SIT has directed them to appear before SIT at Police Command and Control Room in Hyderabad on November 21.

They have also been asked to come with their mobile phones. The SIT also warned them not to tamper with the evidence or leave for abroad. One of the two men had allegedly arranged flight tickets for Simhayaji, one of the three accused arrested in the case last month. The SIT had also reportedly summoned Tushar of Kerala. The accused, during their meeting with four MLAs of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), spoke to Tushar over phone. Tushar had contested Lok Sabha election against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from Wayanad on the ticket of a national party. Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish



Sharma, Simhayaji and Aand Nandakumar were arrested by the Cyberabad police from a farmhouse at Moinabad near Hyderabad on the night of October 26 when they were allegedly trying to lure four MLAs of TRS with offers of huge money. Cyberabad police conducted the raid on a tip-off by Pilot Rohit Reddy, one of the MLAs. He alleged that the accused offered Rs 100 crore to him and Rs 50 crore each to three others. The accused were booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Prevention of Corruption Act.

## Fake arms license racket busted in Hyderabad, weapons seized

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Hyderabad police have busted a fake arms license racket with the arrest of a seven-member gang including the mastermind from Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. Real weapons were being procured by using fake licenses prepared by the accused.

The commissioner's task force seized 30 single bore weapons, 3 double bore weapons, 1 revolver, 140 rounds, 34 fake weapon license books, 29 unused weapons license books, 9 weapon licences which were affixed with fake stamps, 6 rubber stamps and 1 unsigned NOC. Police Commissioner C. V. Anand said the accused used fake seals of licence issuing officials and forged the signatures to prepare the fake arms licences and procured real weapons. This posed a great danger to the security of the city as illegal weapons are in circulation and being used for various purposes by dubious means, he told a



news conference.

The mastermind of the racket Altaf Hussain is a resident of Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. He came to the city in 2013 to earn a livelihood and joined Grace Management Security Service. Later he was deployed as a gunman in SIS cash service, west Marredpally. Prior to his employment in the city, he purchased a double bore gun using a fake arms licence in

Rajouri which he had obtained by bribing the local magistrate office. Altaf later started issuing fake arms licences and trapped the unemployed youth residing in J&K who tried to make a living as security guards in private security firms. Using the fake All India Licenses (Rajouri based), weapons were procured from other states by these gullible youths for Rs 40,000 to Rs 60,000.

## GADKARI FALLS ILL IN SILIGURI, CONDITION STABLE NOW

**Kolkata:** Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari fell ill on Thursday afternoon after an official function in West Bengal's Siliguri district, but is said to be stable now.

Gadkari complained of not feeling well as he came to down from the stage after laying the foundation stone of a proposed road connecting Siliguri with Sevak Cantonment.

He was first taken to a nearby cottage and three doctors were rushed from the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMCH) via a green corridor. The doctors started the initial treatment at the cottage only after keeping him under saline support.

It is learnt that the Union Minister felt sick after his blood sugar level came down. Fluctuating blood pressure levels also added to the complication. Later he was taken to a local hotel for complete rest. His other programmes for the day have been cancelled.

## Woman drugged, gang raped in UP

Firozabad | Agencies

A woman in Uttar Pradesh was allegedly gang raped by four men in a hotel after she was given water laced with sedatives.

The matter came to light when the victim approached Tundla police station to file a complaint against the accused.

In her complaint, she alleged that Deepak Yadav, who was already known to her, called her near Tundla station on November 7 and took her towards Agra in a car.

While on the way, Deepak made her drink the water laced with sedatives due to which she fell unconscious after 10 minutes.

The victim said that she was taken to a hotel near Agra Basai Chowki in an uncon-



scious state where the four accused, Abhay Pandit, Deepak, Sagar and Sourav, gang raped her. The victim said that the accused also made an obscene video of her and took Rs 20,000 for deleting the video from his phone.

However, the next day, Abhay again called the victim and threatened to leak the

video on social media if she disclosed the matter to anyone. He raped her again after blackmailing her.

Pradeep Kumar, in-charge of Tundla police station said: "A case of gang rape has been registered. The victim's statement is being recorded and she is being taken for medical examination."

## 7 killed, 6 injured in separate road accidents in Assam

Guwahati | Agencies

At least seven people were killed, and six others injured in road accidents in four districts of Assam on Thursday, officials said.

Four people were killed and four others injured when their vehicle rammied into the railing of a bridge in Banekuchi area of Nalbari district early in the morning.

According to police, the vehicle was coming towards Guwahati from the Howly area in Barpeta district. The passengers were employees at a private hospital in Guwahati.

A police officer said that the accident might have happened due to low visibility caused by thick fog on the highway. Also, the vehicle was running at a higher speed than the permissi-

ble limit.

The driver and three others were killed in the accident.

Among the four injured, the condition of one passenger is serious and he was admitted to the Gauhati Medical College and hospital.

In another accident in Nalbari's Ghograpar area, a vehicle carrying three people hit the railing of a bridge, leaving one man dead on the spot, while two others were injured, a police officer said.

Meanwhile, in Lakhimpur district's Naoboicha area, a youth was killed when a vehicle ran over his motorcycle. In a similar accident in Roha area of Nagaon district, a woman, out on a morning walk, was killed after she was hit by a speeding car. Police said that she died on the spot.

## Mining scam: Jharkhand CM appears before ED

Ranchi | Agencies

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren is being questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a case of alleged money laundering through illegal mining. Before leaving for the ED office, Soren said that the probe is a part of a larger conspiracy by the BJP to destabilise his government.

Security at the ED's regional office in Ranchi has been beefed up. Barricades have been set up on all roads leading to the interrogation venue.

The Central Reserve Police Force and other central security forces have been deployed outside the office. Thousands of Jharkhand Mukti



Morcha workers from different parts of the state have arrived in Ranchi to express their solidarity with the CM, raising slogans against the ED's action.

The district administration has made arrangements to prevent the protesters from reaching the office. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 have been clamped from Hinoo Chowk to the airport area.

Soren reached the agency's regional office on Ranchi's Airport Road on Thursday morning, following the summons.

While addressing a press conference ahead of appearing before the ED, Soren claimed that the allegations levelled at him of illegal mining were baseless.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I Rakhi Keswani, resident H.No. 72, Prince Colony, Idgah Hills, Teh. Huzur, Bhopal, my Daughter's old name was Shrishti Manoj Chhatani, correct name is Shrishti Keswani my daughter is known by this name, name in all documents is Shrishti Keswani. My daughter's passport correct name Shrishti Keswani To be marked

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I Rakhi Keshwani Resident H.No.72 Prince Colony, Idgah Hills, Teh.Huzur, Bhopal, My daughter's old name was Sirat Chhatani, correct name is Sirat Keswani, she is known by this name. The correct name in all the documents is Sirat Keswani. The correct name Sirat Keswani has to be mentioned in the passport.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I Rakhi Keshwani Resident H.No.72 Prince Colony, Idgah Hills, Teh.Huzur, Bhopal, earlier name was Chhatani Ronak, correct name is Rakhi Keswani, I am known by this name. My correct name in all documents is Rakhi Keswani. I want to mention the correct name Rakhi Keswani in my passport.



# 89 YEARS AFTER GANDHIJI, RAHUL VISITS AKOLA, SAYS IT'S A 'HAPPY COINCIDENCE'

Akola | Agencies

Exactly 89 years after Mahatma Gandhi visited a village in Maharashtra's Akola in 1933, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi reached the district on the same day - today, as part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra - and the latter termed it as a 'happy coincidence', here on Thursday.

When asked by mediapersons whether the visit today (November 17), was planned or otherwise, Gandhi smiled and said it was

sheer chance that brought him there on the same day as Gandhiji after 89 years.

"No, it was nothing planned, it's a coincidence and I am happy... Gandhiji was a great figure who gave direction to the whole country, but I am a nobody... Please don't resort to any comparisons, it would be very wrong," Gandhi appealed. The Congress leader was addressing a press conference - his sixth during the Bharat Jodo Yatra so far - here in the afternoon and took a wide variety of questions from the large contingent of regional and national media.

# Rahul Gandhi 'shamelessly lying' about Savarkar, says Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his comments against V D Savarkar, saying he has been "shamelessly lying" about the freedom fighter. Speaking at an event in Mumbai, Fadnavis said the people of Maharashtra will give a proper response to people insulting the Hindutva ideology.

"Rahul Gandhi, like other Congress leaders, has been lying daily about the late V D Savarkar. The people of Maharashtra will give them a proper response at right time," said the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader. 'I want to know how many Congress leaders went through suffering like Savarkar for 11 years. Despite such prolonged torture, he sang song of freedom,' said Fadnavis, reacting to Gandhi's critical comments on the freedom fighter during his Bharat Jodo Yatra. Gandhi does not know anything



about Savarkar, he said. 'Rahul Gandhi reads out what someone gives him in writing. These fools do not even know how many years he spent in jail...in what condition he lived,' Fadnavis said. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde also targeted the Congress leader over his comments on Savarkar and said the people of the state will not tolerate any insult directed at him. Addressing a rally in Washim district

on Tuesday organised as part of his yatra, Gandhi had said Savarkar is a symbol of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). 'He was jailed in Andaman for two-three years. He started writing mercy petitions,' the Congress MP had said. The former Congress president had claimed Savarkar wrote a book on himself with a different name and highlighted how brave he was. 'He used to take pension from the British, work for them, and work against the Congress,' Gandhi had said. Speaking at a symposium on Hindutva held at Savarkar Memorial here, Shinde, in an apparent reference to his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray, said while the freedom fighter, a revered figure in Maharashtra, was insulted, there were those who took a soft stand on the issue. At the same event, Lok Sabha MP Rahul Shewale, who is affiliated to the Shiv Sena (Balasaheb), the faction led by Shinde, demanded that the Bharat Jodo Yatra be stopped in the state for insulting the late freedom fighter.

# Removal of unauthorized construction begins at Union minister Narayan Rane's Juhu bungalow

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The removal of unauthorized construction at Union minister Narayan Rane's bungalow in Mumbai's Juhu area started on Thursday, a civic official confirmed. The Supreme Court had in September dismissed a plea challenging the Bombay High Court verdict that directed the Mumbai civic body to demolish the unauthorized construction at Rane's bungalow 'Adhish', noting there was a violation of the Floor Space Index and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules.

The floor space index (FSI) is the maximum permissible floor area that can be built on a particular plot or piece of land.

The plea against the high court judgment was filed in the apex court by Kaalkaa Real Estates Pvt Ltd, a company owned by Rane's family. Talking to a reporter on Thursday, a senior Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation official said, The Supreme Court has directed Rane to remove the illegal construction at his bungalow in two months. If he fails to do so,



the BMC will act. Activist Santosh Daundkar, who had filed complaints against Rane's bungalow, welcomed the development but said his complaint about the CRZ rules violation was still pending.

"I suspect the BMC's action is only about illegal construction in the bungalow, but no action is being taken on the CRZ rules violations. Such an action is more severe than what is currently taking place at Rane's bungalow," he said.

# NCB seizes large quantity of drugs worth Rs 1 crore; 4 held

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Narcotics Control Bureau has seized drugs, including some concealed in photo frames which were to be smuggled to Doha, worth Rs one crore in different operations here in a week and arrested four people, an NCB official said.

The seized drugs include 19 kilograms of ganja, 1.15 kg of hydroponic weed, 13,500 Nitrazepam tablets and 3,840 Tramadol tablets and some international drug syndicates have been identified following the arrests, he said.

The NCB had got inputs about an international drug trafficking syndicate preparing to smuggle out high grade Bud (commonly known as hydroponic weed) to Doha in Qatar through the courier parcel mode.

Details of the parcel, which was on the verge of an international shipment upload, were gathered and it was immediately held back for inspection on Monday, the official said.

The parcel contained 10 photo frames with religious scriptures but upon close examination, 1.15 kg of high quality hydroponic weed was found concealed inside the frames, the official said.

The NCB had also received inputs about an interstate trafficking of Nitrazepam tablets to be carried out shortly. On Tuesday, the NCB mounted a surveillance and nabbed a key associate of the syndicate with a parcel containing the tablets and its receiver, who was to distribute them in Mumbai, the official said.

The two arrested accused,



hailing from Mumbai, were in contact with many traffickers in other states also, he said.

The NCB also got to know about international syndicate planning to carry out illicit trafficking of Tramadol tablets through a courier parcel from Mumbai to the US.

Based on this information, the NCB sleuths went to courier office here last Thursday and found a parcel

alighted from a bus here last Friday, the NCB sleuths nabbed them and recovered 19 kg of high quality ganja from them, the official said. The contraband was sourced from the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha region, he said.

All the arrested persons are seasoned traffickers and into the illicit drug business for past five to seven years, the official said.

These back-to-back operations by the NCB-Mumbai has tactically snapped a supply chain wherein the international as well as the interstate syndicates were trying to enhance drug trafficking in the region, he said. A wider investigation has been initiated to identify the offshore-based kingpins, associates and their important India-based contacts, the official added.

This led to the identification of "two carriers" and their bus route, the official said. As the two persons

# I DON'T APPROVE OF RAHUL GANDHI'S REMARKS ON SAVARKAR: THACKERAY

Mumbai: Former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, who heads a faction of the Shiv Sena, on Thursday said his party has immense respect for V D Savarkar and he does not approve of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the freedom fighter.

Talking to reporters here, Thackeray also asked why the Centre has not conferred the Bharat Ratna on Savarkar.

The Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction has an alliance with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party, as part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi. During a rally in Washim district on Tuesday organised as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi said Savarkar is a symbol of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

"He was jailed in Andaman for two-three years. He started writing mercy petitions," the Congress MP had said. The former Congress president had claimed Savarkar wrote a book on himself with a different name and highlighted how brave he was. 'He used to take pension from the British, work for them, and work against the Congress,' Gandhi had said.

Thackeray on Thursday said, "We do not approve of Rahul Gandhi's remarks on Savarkar. We have immense respect and faith for Swatantra Veer Savarkar and it cannot be erased.

# AHEAD OF BMC POLLS, SHINDE AND FADNAVIS VISITS MEMORIALS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Wednesday turned out to be a day of memorial politics for the heads of the government, ahead of the upcoming local body polls, including election to the Mumbai's municipal corporation. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis visited various memorials in the city, including the under-construction memorial to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar at Indu Mill and the makeshift memorial to the late Balasaheb Thackeray at Shivaji Park, in Dadar.

"The work is 50 per cent complete and we plan to open the first phase of it for public before March 2023," said Shinde, after reviewing the progress of Dr Ambedkar memorial. Later in the day, they attended a public program at Savarkar memorial. Shinde also visited Dr Ambedkar's residence in Hindu Colony, which is now a museum. Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) president Prakash Ambedkar hosted the chief minister at his residential quarters on the



upper floor. The meeting holds significance amid talks that the VBA will join hands with the Maha Vikas Aghadi for the next polls. Prakash denied that it was a political meeting and made it clear that he will never form a pact with the BJP. The followers of Dr Ambedkar are crucial in the BMC polls, so are the Shiv Sena workers who support Shinde. Both the BJP and the Shinde Sena need additional votes, with many others, including the Thackeray Sena, staking claim to Hindu and Muslim votes.

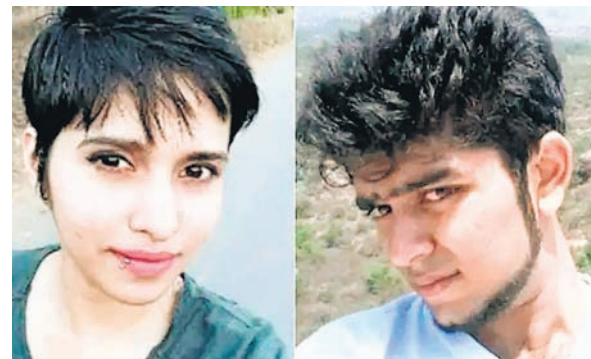
# SHRADDHA WALKAR MURDER

# Digital footprints most important to nail Aftab in court, say cyber crime expert

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As chilling details unravel in the grisly murder of Shraddha Walkar, a Mumbai-based cyber crime investigator believes that the digital evidence in the case could help police to understand the complete sequence of crime in a broader way.

Ritesh Bhatia, Cyber Crime Investigator said, "There are multiple angles involved in the crime and the police must look into each aspect of the incident to have a broader idea of the grisly crime. The digital evi-



dence would be most important in Shraddha's murder to nail Aftab (Poonawala)." While investigating a missing person complaint by



Shraddha's father, the police had reportedly come across a Rs 52,000 online transaction after her death, an evidence that was enough to

detain Aftab for questioning. Bhatia said, "Today, everyone is digitally advanced, people use UPI transactions, Google. These are the digital footprints the cops need to follow carefully and it will play an important role in collecting digital evidence for prosecution."

Aftab had met Shraddha through a dating app. He killed Shraddha, a Vasai resident in May and chopped her body into 35 pieces. He then kept her body in a 300-litre fridge at his rented house in Chhatrapur. Aftab dumped her body parts in a nearby forest over 18 days,

the Delhi Police reportedly said. It is reportedly said that, he searched on google, the ways to dispose of a body.

Bhatia added, "The cyber aspect of evidence collection should also be looked into. Using Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) such as Google my activity, search history, financial transactions, social media activities and others, a lot of crucial pieces of digital evidence that would play a very important role in the case should be retrieved by the cyber crime police which can be used for further court proceedings."

# EX-OFFICIAL ARRESTED FOR POKETING OVER RS 1CRORE MEANT FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A retired project officer, who was attached to the Tribal Development Authority in Borivli East, was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly embezzling over Rs 1 crore, which was meant for the upliftment of underprivileged tribal students.

The FIR was registered against the accused, Mahadeo Vadu, by his successor, Harshvardhan Yadav, at the Kasturba Marg police station in 2020. An officer said that a writ petition had been filed in the Bombay High Court, in 2012, after individual sensed irregularities to the tune of Rs 1.06 crore. "A five-member committee headed by a retired high court judge was later formed. After conducting a thorough enquiry, the committee submitted a detailed report to the Tribal Development Authority's office," said a police officer.

"Based on the report, senior officials instructed Yadav to register an FIR," the officer added. The source added that the amount was disbursed by the Tribal

Development Authority between 2004 and 2009 to provide scholarships to tribal students.

"The Authority had come up with the scholarship scheme to enhance the quality of education provided to tribal students. As per the scheme, educational institutions where tribal students study were apprised of the scholarships and funds were allocated to them," said the officer.

"The list of tribal students and their respective educational institutions were mentioned in the department's records, but there were no acknowledgement receipts to prove that these establishments had received funds from the department," said the officer.

"When we asked Vadu who was the project officer at that time to clarify, he did not reply satisfactorily and subsequently an FIR was filed. The accused was finally arrested on Tuesday from Talasari in Palghar district, where he was living his retired life," he added. The officer added that more people are suspected to be involved in the scam.



EDITOR'S SPECS

## Elder's blessings

In a fresh sign of rapprochement, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and his wife Dimple Yadav went across to Shivpal Yadav's residence in Saifai to meet him. Dimple Yadav is contesting the Lok Sabha bypoll to Mainpuri seat and Shivpal's support is crucial for her win. Akhilesh tweeted a photograph of the meeting and said that he was taking the blessings of elders in the family. Shivpal's son Aditya Yadav, the state president of Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia, (PSPL) was also present at the meeting. Relations between the uncle and the nephew have been strained since 2016 and this is the second time that Akhilesh has visited his uncle. Last year, he had visited Shivpal's residence in Lucknow to discuss the alliance for 2022 assembly polls. Meanwhile, Shivpal has asked his party cadres and supporters to work for the victory of Dimple Yadav. His son Aditya will muster support for Dimple from the Jaswantnagar assembly seat that is held by his father. Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat fell vacant after the death of Mulayam Singh Yadav. The by-election for the Lok Sabha constituency is scheduled on December 5 and the result will be declared on December 8. Meanwhile, The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Uttar Pradesh is pulling out all stops to ensure its victory in the upcoming by-election to Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat, Rampur and Khatauli Assembly seats. The BJP has prepared a layered plan under which two groups of ministers which camp in the three seats where by-elections are being held. Union minister will also campaign in the by-elections and their programmes is being finalised. Besides, the BJP MLAs are also being deployed in these constituencies for the by-elections. The special focus of the party is on Mainpuri and Rampur since both the seats belong to Samajwadi Party.

# PM Modi, PoJK/GB needs your attention

Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza

Imagine you have to live under conditions where there is no electricity for days and in order to keep your family warm during the winter season you are forced to burn the wooden furniture that you inherited as your wife's dowry. Imagine there is no running water for months and you and your women and children have to fetch water from the polluted river day in and day out. Imagine you are not being paid your salary and the local shop keeper refuses to give you food essentials on credit unless you clear the existing debt. Imagine you have been given the sack without prior notice and the school your children go to refuses to let them sit in the class room due to on-payment of tuition fees. Imagine you are an old pensioner and the post office refuses to pay your pension due to lack of funds. Imagine you send your daughter to a college to be educated and her own professor kidnaps and then rapes her. Imagine scores of your female students are forcefully sent to visit Pakistan military personnel stationed at the Line of Control satisfy their lust for male gaze. Imagine you are a school teacher and you have to observe sit-ins at government offices and beg for a pay rise from those who you once taught in your class room. And imagine you are unable to charge your mobile phone because you live in a city does not have power and electricity for 22 hours' day. This is what my people are forced to live like for the past seven decades. In Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan (PoJK and PoGB) people are suffering from malnutrition, disease, mental health issues, unemployment, drug abuse, sexual exploitation and harassment that leaves them with little choice but to end their lives. From 2018 to 2022 at least 219 suicides have been reported in PoGB alone. Some 1.5 million young and middle aged men from PoJK out of a total population of 4 million have been forced to migrate to the Middle Eastern countries, Europe and North America to perform underpaid and unskilled or low skilled jobs for various companies. The jobs my people perform in the above mentioned parts of the world include fork lifting, driving taxis, working as cooks and kitchen porters, waiters, security guards and as toilet cleaners at airports and shopping malls.



Our land is rich in natural resources including minerals, precious stones, forests and fresh water rivers which if properly managed could generate a combined revenue of more than \$10 billion a year. This amount of money can easily pay for free education and electricity, hospitals, pensions as well as in developing the most modern industrial, and social infrastructure that could match any city that belongs to today's advanced capitalist world. The reason my people are poor is because our lands have been under the illegal occupation of the state and army of Pakistan. On October 22, 1947 Pakistan army attacked our state of Jammu and Kashmir and began massacring non-Muslim religious minorities in the name of 'purifying' Jammu and Kashmir of infidels. This resulted in the worst kind of genocide

of the Hindu and Sikh communities since the Holocaust. More than 100,000 Hindus and Sikhs were beheaded, shot or hacked to death between 22 October 1947 and March 1948. It was on October 26, 1947 that our king, Maharaja Hari Singh, signed an instrument of accession with the Republic of India opening way for Indian troops to land in the capital city of Srinagar and push back the invaders. However, a ceasefire brokered by the then United Nations Security Council brought the war to an abrupt halt leaving the unliberated territories of Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the hands of the Pakistan government. To this day my people await the time they would be liberated and set free from the illegal occupation of Pakistan. According to the instrument

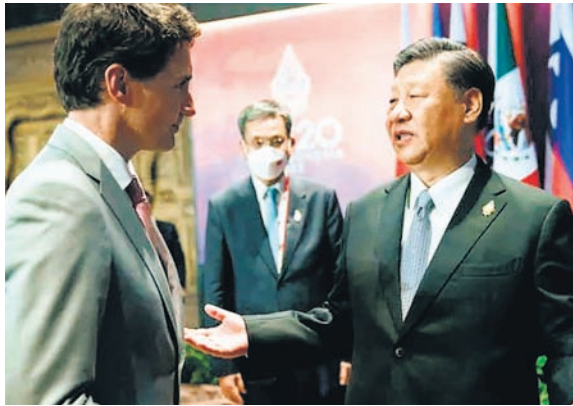
of Accession, signed between Maharaja Hari Singh and Lord Mount Batten, territories that are under the occupation of Pakistan are also part of that agreement thus making both territories (PoJK/GB) and integral part of India. Therefore, myself and my people are Indian citizens by default. And above all Narendra Modi is also our Prime Minister. Is it not time that our prime minister should unwaveringly raise the issue of our subjugation and suffering with the world community and help to set us free and rejoin our motherland? (Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza is an author and a human rights activist from Mirpur in PoJK. He currently lives in exile in the UK.)

## international

# XI ANGRILY REBUKES TRUDEAU AT G20 SUMMIT

Bali | Agencies

Chinese President Xi Jinping has angrily rebuked Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau after officials in the latter's country shared details of a previous meeting, highlighting the frosty relationship between the two leaders. In a clip recorded by the media pool at the now-concluded G20 summit in Bali, a visibly frustrated Xi pulls the Canadian Prime Minister aside and says it was "not appropriate" for details about a previous conversation between the two leaders to have been shared with media, suggesting Trudeau lacked "sincerity" in his approach, the Guardian reported. "Everything we discuss has been leaked to the paper, that's not appropriate," Xi says to Trudeau through a translator. "And that's not the way the conversation was conducted," he added. The testy exchange came a day after government sources briefed that during a previous conversation on the margins of the summit, Trudeau had



raised "serious concerns" with Xi over China's increasingly aggressive "interference activities". Xi's irritation on Wednesday was a rare break with his normally carefully scripted public appearances. "In Canada, we believe in free and open and frank dia-

logue and that is what we will continue to have," Trudeau said, interrupting Xi's translation. "We will continue to look to work constructively together but there will be things we will disagree on." Gesturing with his hands, Xi told Trudeau the two must "create the conditions first", the Guardian reported. The pair ended their conversation by shaking hands and leaving in opposite directions, with the Canadian Prime Minister looking chastened from the encounter. The uncomfortable exchange, and the previous conversation, followed repeated warnings from Trudeau and other officials that China had attempted to undermine Canada's democracy, said the Guardian report.

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## Making oceans critical to climate action: TERI

Sharm el-Sheikh | Agencies

Highlighting the growing consensus on oceans being critical to climate negotiations, a new policy brief from The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) was launched at an UN Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) official side event at COP27 here, put forth the need for definite goals and indicators, along with institutional and enforcement mechanisms to steer ocean-climate action. The policy brief 'Oceans-Climate Interface: Implications for Global Commons based Climate Action' was launched on Wednesday at a session on a Climate Action through Innovation, Implementation and Inclusive Multi-level Governance', organized by TERI and TERI School of Advanced Studies in collaboration with New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization, Japan, and Indigenous Information Network,

Kenya. The knowledge document was produced as part of the COP27 Compass component of the Act4Earth initiative launched at the World Sustainable Development Summit in 2022. During the launch at Sharm el-Sheikh, Shaillly Kedia, Senior Fellow, TERI, gave a presentation on the Act4Earth policy briefs on COP27 negotiations, internationalizing lifestyles for environment, inclusive energy transitions and ocean-climate interface. Oceans, which are the largest known carbon sink in the world, were largely omitted from the climate change negotiations until COP21 held in 2015. The policy brief focuses on the global commons of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and climate action, and examines the interface between climate and ocean governance. "The oceans have long been neglected in the climate change negotiations, even though the UNFCCC clearly identified its role as the globe's most important carbon sink.

## FINLAND NEEDS 50,000 IMMIGRANTS PER YEAR BY 2050

Helsinki | Agencies

Finland needs over 50,000 immigrants a year for the next 28 years to fill job vacancies arising due to an ageing population, according to the country's tech industry. Technology Finland said on Wednesday that the industry alone, the most significant export sector in Finland, will need 130,000 new experts in the next 10 years, reports Xinhua news agency. Only half of these will replace retirees, meaning there will be tens of thousands of job vacancies in the export industry in the next ten years. "Finland is getting older and more indebted, and our economical maintenance relationship is turning upside down," said Jaakko Eskola, chairman of Technology Finland, an association of around 1,800 tech industry companies. If Finland does not have enough working-age people, the welfare state will not be maintained, Eskola said. Therefore, he added, the only option is to significantly increase immigration. Finland must therefore build a successful long-term immigration policy. However, immigration alone will not solve all Finland's challenges, Eskola said.

## POLAND PROBABLY HIT BY UKRAINIAN MISSILE: NATO CHIEF

London | Agencies

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that it was probably a Ukrainian missile that hit Poland earlier this week resulting in the deaths of two civilians. Speaking to the BBC on Wednesday night, the NATO chief said: "Most likely this is a Ukrainian air defence missile." His remark comes as investigations continue into the blast on Tuesday night on a farm in Przewodow, 6 km from Poland's border with Ukraine. Earlier on Tuesday, Ukrainian air defence systems were activated after Russia launched what is believed to be its biggest wave of missile strikes in the nine months since the invasion on February 24. Stoltenberg said NATO had pledged in response to supply a "more advanced air defence system" to Ukraine which is not a member of the alliance but receives extensive military aid.

## North Korea fires 1 short-range ballistic missile

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea fired one short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) into the East Sea on Thursday, its first missile provocation in a little over a week, according to the South Korean military. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launch from the Wonsan area in Kangwon Province at 10.48 a.m., reports Yonhap News Agency. It did not provide other details. "While strengthening our monitoring and vigilance, our military is maintaining a full readiness posture in close cooperation with the US," the JCS said in a statement. The launch came shortly after North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui warned the North will take



"firmer" military actions if the US sticks to a move to strengthen its "extended deterrence" commitment to regional allies. Extended deterrence refers to Washington's pledge to use a full range of its military capabilities, both nuclear and conventional, to defend its allies. US President Joe Biden

reaffirmed that pledge during a trilateral summit with South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of annual regional gatherings in Phnom Penh on Sunday. The North previously fired a short-range ballistic missile into the East Sea on November 9.

## 15 people shot dead in Iran



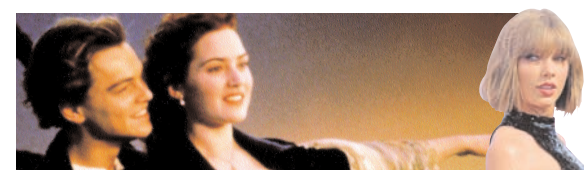
Tehran | Agencies

As many as 15 people have been shot dead in Iran, including members of the security forces and a nine-year-old boy, in separate incidents as the country experienced one of its most serious and widespread nights of protests of the past nine weeks. On the anniversary of the 2019 uprising on Wednesday, state news agencies blamed terrorists on two motor-cycles for the killing of seven people in a shopping centre in the southern city of

Izeh Khuzesta, te Guardian reported. However, protesters said members of the Basij militia force ran amok, killing among others a nine-year-old boy sitting in a car with his father. State news agencies said two volunteer Basij patrolmen were among the dead, and 10 were injured, the Guardian reported. A further five people were killed in the Isfahan area, including security forces, in a separate shooting. Reports of further deaths in Kurdistan took the night's total death toll to 15.

Internal Iranian news agencies followed the government line that unknown anti-government forces or Islamic State terrorists were responsible, but witnesses claimed unarmed civilians were shot. The total number of deaths during the latest protests has spiralled to 348, according to Harana, a human rights agency, though the figures are impossible to verify. In at least three cities, seminars were set alight, the Guardian reported. Government news agencies said the killings might be a sign that the protests were turning into an armed insurrection. An investigation of the bullets in the bodies of those shot dead is to be held and there is now likely to be a massive propaganda battle in which the government will argue the protests are the seedbed for the "Syrianisation" of Iran, and a collapse of public order. Videos posted on social media showed shops closed in Tehran's Grand Bazaar as protesters chanted anti-government slogans. However, the state claims there is no enthusiasm for these strikes and that organised gangs were harassing hard pressed business owners into pulling down their shutters.





## Paris Hilton revealed she isn't "struggling" to get pregnant

Los Angeles | Agencies

American socialite and entertainer Paris Hilton has shared that she isn't "struggling" to start a family as opposed to what her mother Kathy earlier stated. The socialite's mom, Kathy Hilton, recently declared it "breaks her heart" seeing her daughter and her husband, Carter Reum, be so "desperate" to have a baby of their own, but the 'Stars Are Blind' hitmaker insisted they don't feel like that at all, reports.

She told: "I don't know where she got that. It's never been a struggle at

all." According to the reports, Paris explained that she and Carter, are "stocking up" and have "tons of embryos that have all just been waiting" as part of their IVF treatment.

The 'Cooking With Paris' star's clarification came hours after Kathy told how she had been urging her daughter to "relax" and stop worrying about getting pregnant.

The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills' star told: "It breaks my heart because I know she is trying and trying and I always say, 'Just relax'. So many people struggle and it doesn't just happen like that."

Reports further states that Kathy explained that Paris and Carter are very happy together and marked their anniversary at a carnival.

She said: "They are so happy. They had their one-year anniversary at the carnival and they want to do that annually. They were like two kids, it was really sweet."

Paris previously hailed Carter as her "Prince Charming" and insisted she'd never met anyone like him before.

Asked how it felt to have his support, she said: "You're going to make me cry asking a question like that. I've never met a man like this in my life."



### JASON MOMOA'S SERIES "CHIEF OF WAR" CASTS LUCIANE BUCHANAN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jason Momoa's upcoming historical epic limited series "Chief of War" at Apple has cast Luciane Buchanan, according to reports. Buchanan will now star in the nine-episode series opposite Momoa and Temuera Morrison. It was first reported as being in the works at Apple in April. Per the official logline, the series "follows the epic and unprecedented telling of the unification and colonization of Hawaii from an indigenous point of view."

Buchanan will play Ka'ahumanu, described as "intelligent and progressive in thought. Ka'ahumanu is curious about the larger world beyond her home islands."

Buchanan was born in New Zealand and is of Tongan descent. She is not entirely new to Apple audiences, as she previously appeared in the series "Mr. Corman" opposite Joseph Gordon-Levitt. She is known for her roles in shows like "The New Legends of Monkey," "Filthy Rich," "The Blue Rose," and the Netflix series "Sweet Tooth."

She is repped by Gail Cowan Management and Entertainment 360.



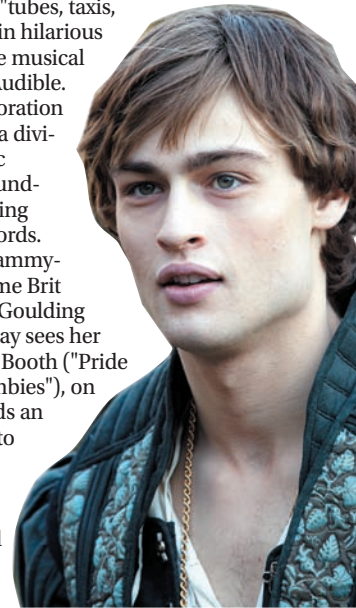
### ELLIE GOULDING, DOUGLAS BOOTH STAR IN AUDIBLE'S 'CRUSH HOUR'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Amazon's Audible is releasing original audio drama "Crush Hour," a Christmas musical podcast series headlined by Ellie Goulding and Douglas Booth. The podcast, available starting Nov. 17 exclusively on Audible worldwide, follows the stories of unknowingly connected strangers in London as they navigate love during rush hour. Various chance encounters on "tubes, taxis, trains and bikes result in hilarious outcomes in this festive musical drama," according to Audible.

"Crush Hour" is collaboration with Mercury Studios, a division of Universal Music Group, with the full soundtrack to the podcast being released by Decca Records.

In "Crush Hour," Grammy-nominated and two-time Brit award-winning singer Goulding plays Ash, who every day sees her dream man, played by Booth ("Pride and Prejudice and Zombies"), on the train. After she reads an anonymous reference to "the girl with the green coat" in the newspaper's Crush Hour feature, she is determined to see if he's written it about her.



### BRENDAN FRASER WON'T ATTEND 80TH 2023 GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

Los Angeles | Agencies

As the anticipation around the 2023 Golden Globes nominations builds up, Hollywood actor Brendan Fraser, who is gearing up for his upcoming movie "The Whale," is already signalling his intention to boycott the ceremony. Brendan Fraser, who's receiving career-best reviews for his dramatic turn in Darren Aronofsky's "The Whale," told GQ for its cover story that he will not attend the Golden Globes ceremony in January if he is nominated, as he is widely expected to be, according to the reports. "I have more history with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association than I have respect for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association," he said bluntly. "No, I will not participate." His reasoning, for those who have followed the former heartthrob's rollercoaster career, is obvious: "It's because of the history that I have with them," he explained. "And my mother didn't raise a hypocrite. You can call me a lot of things, but not that." "I knew they would close ranks," Fraser said. "I knew they would kick the can down the road. I knew they would get ahead of the story. I knew that I certainly had no future with that system as it was."



### RALPH FIENNES WAS ONCE USED AS A "DECOY"

Los Angeles | Agencies

English actor Ralph Fiennes, who is known for his iconic portrayal of Lord Voldemort in the 'Harry Potter', has claimed that he was used as a "decoy" to distract attention away from Jennifer Lopez's relationship with Ben Affleck in the early 2000s.

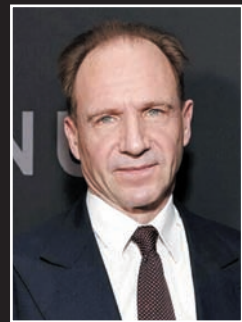
The actor said that he was "set up" as he recalled going out for dinner with his 'Maid In Manhattan' co-star while shooting the movie in June 2002, reports.

This was the time when the 'On the Floor' hitmaker was in the process of divorcing Cris Judd and secretly dating Ben - and having their chaste goodbye kiss captured by a paparazzo. Asked if he was a decoy for the pair's relationship on 'Watch What Happens Live', Ralph told host Andy Cohen, "I was, I was. Yeah, yeah, I was set up. I was asked out to dinner with J Lo and her manager and her agent. We had a nice dinner, chatty chatty. (Afterward) I think I was walking home, but (we gave each other a) peck on the cheek goodnight."

According to the reports, but as they were saying goodbye, "a paparazzi - just one - pops out" and took a photo of Ralph and Jennifer. He continued: "But somehow, the pictures were angled so that as she's walking away, [it looks like] I'm walking after her. And I think it said the next day [in the New York] Post, 'It's Ralph!'"

The 'Harry Potter' actor doesn't have a grudge towards the couple - who married this summer after rekindling their romance in 2021, 17 years after they split - and was happy when they reconciled.

He said: "My reaction (when I learned they got back together) was, 'Good luck to them.'"



### Henry is such a wonderful Superman so I'm very excited for him: Amy Adams

Los Angeles | Agencies

Amy Adams is weighing in on Henry Cavill's surprise return as Superman. "Isn't it exciting?" Adams, who played Lois Lane to the British actor's Man of Steel, said Wednesday at the premiere of "Disenchanted" in Hollywood when I asked about Cavill reprising his superhero role.

Adams said her husband, artist Darren Le Gallo, told her the news that Cavill appeared as Superman at the end of "Black Adam," Dwayne Johnson's adaptation of the DC comic. "I'm thrilled for [Cavill]," Adams said. "He's such a wonderful Superman so I'm very excited for him."

Adams insists she doesn't know if she's going to be back as Lois. "They haven't spoken to me about it," she said. "If it's me, great. If it's somebody else, the role of Lois has been filled by so many wonderful actresses in the past so I'll support whatever direction they go." Cavill confirmed in an Oct. 24 social media post that he is returning as Superman in a new Warner Bros.-DC movie, following his "Black Adam" cameo.

"There is so much in the way of conversations to be had. Obviously, I have a very close connection to the character," Cavill said in a recent interview. "There is something extraordinarily special about him; extraordinarily special about his capacity to give and to love. I don't mean romantically; I mean his love for Earth and for the people who live here, and to make people feel powerful - to make people feel like Superman themselves."

After Cavill's Superman return was confirmed, source reported that the studio is currently soliciting pitches from writers.



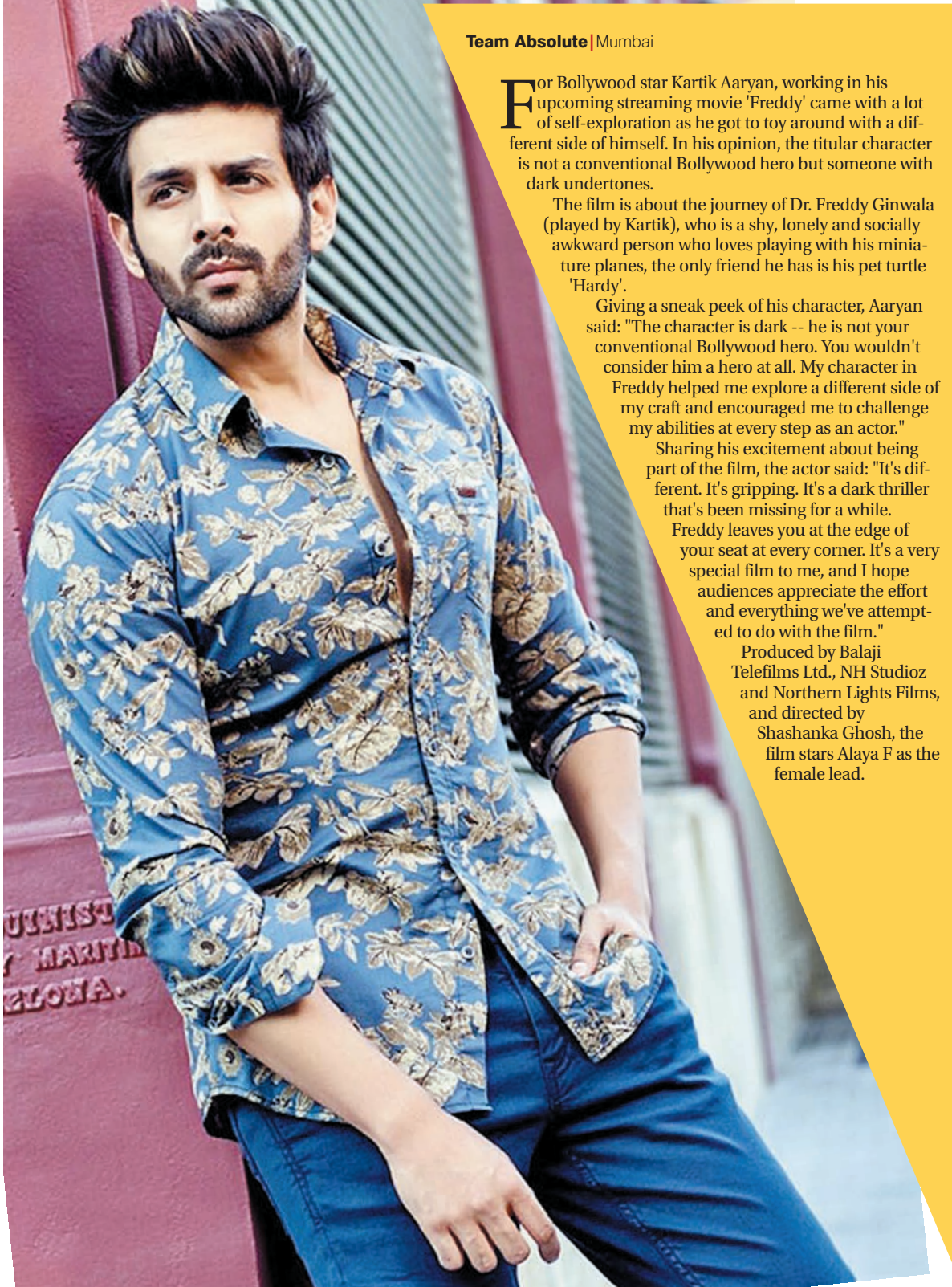
### ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Nathalie Emmanuel



# Character is dark, he is not your conventional Bollywood hero: Kartik Aaryan



Team Absolute | Mumbai

For Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan, working in his upcoming streaming movie 'Freddy' came with a lot of self-exploration as he got to toy around with a different side of himself. In his opinion, the titular character is not a conventional Bollywood hero but someone with dark undertones.

The film is about the journey of Dr. Freddy Ginwala (played by Kartik), who is a shy, lonely and socially awkward person who loves playing with his miniature planes, the only friend he has is his pet turtle 'Hardy'.

Giving a sneak peek of his character, Aaryan said: "The character is dark -- he is not your conventional Bollywood hero. You wouldn't consider him a hero at all. My character in 'Freddy' helped me explore a different side of my craft and encouraged me to challenge my abilities at every step as an actor."

Sharing his excitement about being part of the film, the actor said: "It's different. It's gripping. It's a dark thriller that's been missing for a while. Freddy leaves you at the edge of your seat at every corner. It's a very special film to me, and I hope audiences appreciate the effort and everything we've attempted to do with the film."

Produced by Balaji Telefilms Ltd., NH Studioz and Northern Lights Films, and directed by Shashanka Ghosh, the film stars Alaya F as the female lead.

## RASIKA DUGAL RECENTLY SHARED HER JOURNEY OF BECOMING BEENA IN 'MIRZAPUR'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rasika Dugal, who is known for her work in OTT shows 'Delhi Crime' and 'Mirzapur', recently, shared her journey of becoming Beena in 'Mirzapur' as the crime drama show clocked four years since the release of its first season. Walking down the memory lane, the actress spoke about her first day on set: "On my first day of being Beena I was, of course, excited but nervous too - I had never done a role as sassy as this one. It turned out to be easier than I had imagined though. The directors were always encouraging and we have a powerhouse cast which gets only better with every season." Expressing her gratitude to the director and the casting director, Rasika further mentioned: "I am so thankful that the directors and the casting directors at Casting Bay thought out of the box and imagined me in a role so different from whom I am and so different from the other roles I had played till then." Rasika recently wrapped the shoot for the third season of 'Mirzapur'. Her other upcoming projects include 'Spike', 'Adhura', 'Fairy Folk' and 'Lord Curzon Ki Haveli'.



## I had been with an animal flow teacher for around 6 months: Varun Dhawan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan, who is busy in promoting his upcoming movie 'Bhediya', recently opened up about his preparation to play a wolf in the film in an episode of 'The Kapil Sharma Show'.

Varun spoke about his transformation from a person to a Bhediya (Wolf) and how much time the process of make-up consumed.

He said: "For this role, I had been with an animal flow teacher for around 6 months. Too much hard work has gone into getting the physique right as the director (Amar Kaushik) didn't want my body to be tight and asked to cut down on the muscles. He had asked for a flexible body."

Recalling the shooting of the film, he added: "For a scene, I had to dash through a wall again and again as I was performing it with full energy and was going through the wall. We did around 16 takes for this scene



and at the end, the team had to put padding and fix it. Then when I performed the shot with the same energy I bounced back. That shot was the most challenging scene of

my entire career." Furthermore, Kriti goes on to praise and share how before the film started Varun was instructed to grow hair on his entire body and one

can see his hard work in the film. Varun added jokingly: "People usually apply sprays on their head when they have a hair fall but I was applying it on my ear to grow hair."

## GULKI JOSHI UNVEILS THE UPCOMING SEQUENCE IN THE TV SITCOM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Gulki Joshi, who is known for her work in the television sitcom 'Maddam Sir', has opened up about the upcoming track in the popular sitcom which highlights the lives of four female officers in Lucknow's Mahila Police Thana. As the show addresses social issues through four women police officers, it is titled, 'Maddam Sir'. Apart from it, there is a Chingaari Gang in the show which is run by a bunch of women, who use violence for justice. In the show, Shivani (played by Rachana Parulkar), who is the leader of the Chingaari gang, promises the SHO of Mahila Police Thana, Haseena (Gulki Joshi) to stop the black-marketing of liquor, but she cannot keep her promise. Haseena asks Karishma (played by Yukti Kapoor) to accompany her to get the evidence against Shivani, but when Karishma and Haseena reach the location, Haseena goes missing. On the other hand, because of the tiff between Haseena and Shivani, Karishma thinks Shivani must have kidnapped Haseena and arrested her. Gulki, who essays the role of SHO Haseena Malik, said: "Haseena and Shivani are frequently at odds with one another. It is apparent that everyone believes Shivani could be responsible when Haseena disappears." "But the question of 'What happened to Haseena?' emerges when Karishma Singh realises that Shivani is not guilty and that she filed a wrongful complaint. I am sure the audience is going to be eager to watch the interesting turn of events," she added.



## I JUST WANT TO BE AN ACTOR: SAKSHI DWIVEDI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sakshi Dwivedi, who has a formidable following on social media, says she was at first hesitant to join the dating reality show 'Splitsvilla X4', but now she is glad she did it and what she really wants to do now is appear on 'Bigg Boss'.

"The 'Splitsvilla' team had been approaching me for a very long time," Sakshi said. "I wasn't looking forward to it, though, because I was not sure of what would happen there. I think I'm not really good at fights. I never thought about getting into 'Splitsvilla' or any sort of reality show because of this. I also didn't want to get stereotyped as someone who just does reality shows. I just want to be an actor. Times have changed, however, and I would love to take such risks." "It was just like staying in a hostel. It was difficult but I love taking risks and experimenting with everything." Going forward, Sakshi is looking forward to being a part of more reality shows. "I have started to watch all reality shows now and as I have already done one, definitely I would love to do 'Bigg Boss'.

Everyone watches 'Bigg Boss'. I see my grandmother cooking and watching 'Bigg Boss'. The audience of the show is huge and I would definitely love to be a part of it."



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shalini Pandey