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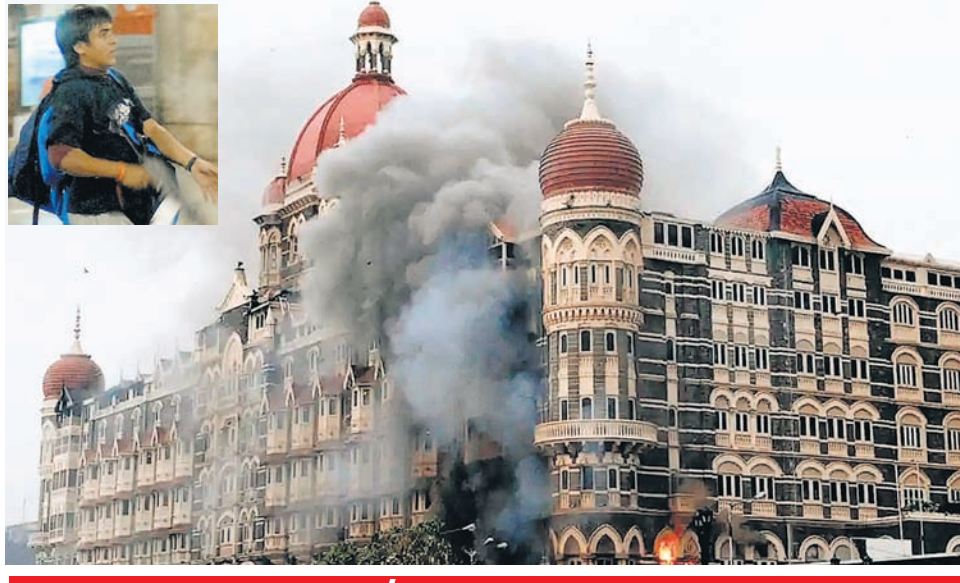
FOURTEEN YEARS OF MUMBAI TERROR ATTACK

26/11: A RECALL

► Ten terrorists from the Lashkar-e-Taiba arrive in Mumbai by speedboat from Karachi. First reports from the city start coming in late at night. Although the initial reports refer to a "gang war," it soon became evident that it is a terrorist attack.



► Two terrorists enter the Trident, two more enter the Taj, and four more enter the Nariman House. The other two, including Kasab, start shooting at the CSMT, leaving 58 people dead and more than 100 injured. Then Kasab and Ismail Khan make their way to the Cama Hospital. They attack six police officers en route, including Ashok Kamte, Vijay Salaskar, and the former head of the Mumbai Anti-Terror Squad (ATS), Hemant Karkare.



► The two then flee in the jeep driven by the officers, but the Mumbai Police catch them. Khan is killed in the ongoing firefight, and Kasab is taken into custody. Policeman Tukaram Ombale is killed in the line of duty.

PAK CONSIGNS 26/11 CASE TO THE BACKBURNER

Hamza Ameer | Islamabad

The 2008 Mumbai terror attack that brought arch rivals and neighbours India and Pakistan to the brink, continues to remain as a wall of distrust between the two countries. Fourteen years on, the Mumbai terror attack case remains on the backburner, at least in the Pakistani courts.



the umbrella of the Pakistani courts.

Pakistan has categorically rejected what it calls India's baseless propaganda against Islamabad and regretted that the Indian MEA chose to "misuse an important Committee of the United Nations Security Council to mislead the international community about Pakistan's role in countering global terrorism".

Referring to the Mumbai terror attack case, Pakistan has reiterated that India has been non-cooperative and has deliberately held back judicial

proceedings in the case. While the cross claims and accusations keep pouring in from both sides, the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case has slowly but surely been pushed onto the backburner. In Pakistan, there are no further proceedings happening in the case as Islamabad claims that India has not provided any further evidence in the matter, leaving nothing for the courts to see. Therefore, the case has become part of the formality of hearing with no forward movement whatsoever.

'Women look good even without clothes', says Ramdev

Team Absolute | Thane (Maharashtra)

In a potentially controversial development, Yoga expert Ramdev on Friday commented on women's attires, raising eyebrows in political and social circles.

Addressing a free Yoga training programme here, Ramdev said without batting an eyelid: "Women look good in saris, they look great in salwar suits, and in my view they look good even if they don't wear anything."

At that time, he was flanked by Thane's Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde, son of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and singer Amruta Fadnavis -- wife of Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and other prominent personalities.

Ramdev, 56, was speaking at a Yoga Science Camp & Women's Meeting organised by Patanjali Yoga Peeth and Mumbai Mahila Patanjali Yoga Samiti here.

He interacted with women who had brought their yoga attires and saris for the conclave and attended a training camp conducted by Ramdev.



Since the meeting started soon after the training camp, many women did not get time to change and attended it in their Yoga suits.

Observing this, Ramdev said that there was no problem if they had no time to switch to saris and they could do it after going home, and then made his remark -- termed as 'sexist' in some quarters.

He also urged the people to remain happy and smiling, similar to Amruta Fadnavis to live a long life.

RIOTERS TAUGHT LESSON IN 2002...PERMANENT PEACE IN GUJARAT: AMIT SHAH

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said anti-social elements earlier indulged in violence in Gujarat as the Congress supported them, but after the perpetrators were "taught a lesson" in 2002, they stopped such activities and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) established "permanent peace" in the state. Parts of Gujarat had witnessed large-scale violence in 2002 following the train burning incident at Godhra railway station in February that year.



Addressing a rally in Mahudha town of Kheda district in support of BJP candidates ahead of the next month's Assembly elections, Shah claimed that Gujarat

witnessed riots in 2002 because perpetrators became habitual of indulging in violence due to the prolonged support they received from the Congress.

"But after they were taught a lesson in 2002, these elements left that path (of vio-

lence). They refrained from indulging in violence from 2002 till 2022. BJP has established permanent peace in Gujarat by taking strict action against those who used to indulge in communal violence," the Union minister said.

Thieves dig tunnel, steal entire train engine brought for repair

Team Absolute | Muzaffarpur

An entire diesel engine was stolen part by part from a railway yard in Bihar's Begusarai district, police said on Friday. The thieves dug a tunnel to the yard and started stealing parts, slowly doing away with the entire engine that was brought there for repairs, they said.

"Last week, a case was registered at the Barauni police station for the theft of a diesel engine brought for repairs to the Garhara yard. In the course of the investigation, three people were arrested," said PS Dubey, the inspector of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Muzaffarpur. Based on the information given by them during interrogation, searches were conducted at a scrap godown in the Prabhat Nagar area of Muzaffarpur district and 13 sacks full of train parts were found, he said.

A search is on for the owner of the scrap godown, he added.

Recovered items include engine parts, wheels of vintage train engines, and railway parts made of heavy iron, he said. "They had dug a tunnel to the railway yard and through it, they used to carry the locomotive parts and other items in sacks," said Dubey.

The gang is also involved in unbolting steel bridges and stealing their parts, he said. Last year, a railway engineer of Samastipur Loco Diesel Shed was suspended after he allegedly sold off an old steam engine kept at the Purnea court premises.

The engineer had allegedly used a forged letter from the divisional mechanical engineer of Samastipur to sell the engine in connivance with other railway officials and security personnel.

AMITABH BACHCHAN'S NAME, VOICE AND IMAGE CAN'T BE USED WITHOUT PERMISSION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday passed an interim order in favour of veteran Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan, restraining various individuals and entities from infringing his personality and publicity rights. The actor had filed a suit against the people conducting fake 'Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)' lottery scam, mobile application developers misusing his name, image and voice, book publishers, T-shirts vendors, and various other businesses.



Justice Navin Chawla observed that the defendants appear to be using the celebrity status of the actor without his authorisation or permission. "It cannot seriously be dis-

puted that the plaintiff is a well-known personality and is also represented in various advertisements. The plaintiff is aggrieved by the defendants using his celebrity status to promote their own goods and services without his permission or authorisation. Having considered the plaint, I am of the opinion that a prima facie case is made out and balance of convenience also lies in his favour," Justice Chawla stated in his order. The judge also noted that Bachchan is likely to suffer irreparable loss and harm and that some of the activities may even bring him to disrepute if the order is not passed.

T'GANA MLAS POACHING CASE HC stays SIT notice to B.L. Santhosh

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

BJP national general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh whose name figures in the MLAs poaching case in Telangana, got relief on Friday after the High Court granted a stay on the notice issued by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the matter.

The High Court issued stay on notice issued to Santhosh till December 5.

The stay was issued after the senior BJP leader filed a petition challenging the 2nd 41 A CrPC notice dated November 23, issued to him

by the SIT of the police in the MLA poaching case.

The notice was stayed by the court on the grounds that it did not mention the evidence or grounds under which it was served, as required under Section 41-A. The counsel of B.L. Santhosh had submitted that the SIT had not mentioned any of these points in the notice served to the BJP leader.

Santhosh's name figured in the conversation between three alleged BJP agents arrested by the police last month while trying to lure four MLAs of TRS into the BJP fold with an offer of huge money.

MAN PRETENDED TO BE MUSLIM, JUSTIFIED SHRADDHA WALKAR MURDER, ARRESTED

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh police today arrested a man who pretended to be a Muslim and supported Aaftab Amin Poolawala, who brutally murdered his live-in girlfriend Shraddha Walkar (27) and chopped her body into 35 pieces.



Vikas Kumar, a resident of Sikandrabad in Bulandshahr district, pretended to be Rashid Khan while speaking to a reporter in Delhi on the sensational murder case. He justified Aaftab's actions, saying such things happen in rage, and not just 35, it could have been 36 pieces as well. On being asked if he could do it too, he said people do such things in anger, and it's not a big deal.

"Vikas has a criminal record, with cases registered against him in Bulandshahr and Noida relating to theft and carrying illegal arms," Bulandshahr Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar said.

► THE PIGGYBACKS INCLUDE SATELLITES FROM TWO INDIAN STARTUPS - SYZYGY SPACE TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD, COMMONLY KNOWN AS PIXEL (ANAND-16.51 KG), AND DHRUVASPACE'S TWO THYBOLT SATELLITES - 1.45 KG, SPACEFLIGHT USA'S ASTROSAT (FOUR NUMBERS 17.92 KG) AND ISRO'S INS-2B (18.28 KG).

► OTHER THAN EOS-6 AND INS-2B, ALL OTHER SATELLITES WILL BE CARRIED FOR A FEE. THE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION WAS STRUCTURED BY NEWSPACE INDIA LTD (NSIL), A SENIOR ISRO OFFICIAL TOLD CORRESPONDENT.

► THE INDIAN SPACE AGENCY WILL USE ITS XL VARIANT OF ITS FOUR STAGED PSLV ROCKET THAT STANDS 44.4 METRE TALL AND WEIGHS 321 TONNE. THE ROCKET WILL FLY AWAY FROM THE FIRST LAUNCH PAD IN THE SRIHARIKOTA ROCKET PORT IN ANDHRA PRADESH.

ISRO to orbit Indo-French satellite, eight others today

Venkatachari Jagannathan | Chennai

The Indian space agency is gearing up to orbit Earth Observation Satellite-6 (EOS-6) with a French payload, a third generation satellite in the Oceansat series, and eight other nano satellites on Saturday morning.

Out of the nine satellites that will be carried by the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54), EOS-6 will be the primary passenger while the others are piggybacks.

According to ISRO, the EOS-6/Oceansat will provide continuity services of Oceansat-2 spacecraft

with enhanced payload capabilities and application areas. The 1,117 kg EOS-6 payloads include Ocean Color Monitor (OCM-3), Sea Surface Temperature Monitor (SSTM), Ku-Band Scatterometer (SCAT-3) and ARGOS - a French payload. According to France, ARGOS will reinforce the existing fleet of Indo-French satellites working on weather surveillance that are already in orbit (MEGHATROPIQUES and SARAL-ALTIKA), thus enhancing contributions related to the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The ISRO said the satellite will ensure data continuity of ocean colour and wind vector data to sustain the operational applica-



tions. It will also improve the applications, some additional datasets such as Sea Surface Temperature and more bands in Optical region for fluorescence and in Infrared region for atmospheric corrections are accommodated. The satellite will also develop/improve related algo-

ritms and data products to serve in well established application areas and to enhance the mission utility.

The INS-2B is ISRO's second nano satellite for Bhutan with two payloads viz., NanoMx and APRS-Digipeater. According to ISRO, NanoMx is a multispectral optical imaging payload developed by its Space Applications Centre (SAC). The APRS-Digipeater payload is jointly developed by DITTBhutan and ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC). According to ISRO, the PSLV-C54 will orbit the EOS-6 and the eight small satellites in two different sun synchronous polar orbits (SSPO). The rocket is expected to lift off at 11.56 a.m. on Saturday.



TIME HAS COME TO IMBIBE REAL HISTORY OF BRAVERY AND PHILOSOPHY: PM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that for a very long time, history was being "distorted" but now the real history of the country needs to be told. He said this while addressing the closing ceremony of the year-long celebrations to mark the 400th birth anniversary of Ahom general Lachit Borphukan. "For a long time, even after Independence, we were taught distorted colonial history. However, ours is a history of bravery and philosophy, which now needs to be imbibed," the Prime Minister said. "Lachit Borphukan's life inspires us to live the mantra of 'Nation First'," Prime Minister Modi said. "The history of India is about emerging victorious, it is about the valour of countless greats.



Though many such greats fought the evil forces, but unfortunately their valour wasn't recognised," Modi said. "Today India has broken the shackles of colonialism and is moving forward, celebrating our heritage and remembering our heroes with pride. Today, India is not only celebrating its varied heritage, but also remembering its bravehearted unsung heroes," he pointed out. "India has the ability to give a

befitting reply to those who practice atrocities. Assam's history is a matter of great pride in India's journey. We believe in uniting the various thoughts, beliefs and cultures of India," the Prime Minister emphasised further. Lachit Borphukan had led the Ahom dynasty's Army against the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's forces in the battle of Saraighat and handed them a crushing defeat.

PM TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS AT SC

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the Constitution Day celebrations in the Supreme Court on Saturday, where he will launch various new initiatives under the e-court project. The project is an effort to provide services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary through ICT enablement of courts.

November 26 is celebrated as the Constitution Day since 2015, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. The initiatives to be launched by the prime minister include Virtual Justice Clock, JustIS mobile App 2.0, Digital court and S3WaaS Websites.

Virtual Justice Clock is an initiative to exhibit vital statistics of the justice delivery system at the court level giving the details of the cases instituted, cases disposed and pendency of cases on daily, weekly and monthly basis at the court level. The effort is to make the functioning of the courts accountable and transparent by sharing with the public the status of case disposals by the court. Public can access the Virtual Justice Clock of any court establishment on the district court's website.

Political slugfest erupts over HC judge's comments on Trinamool Congress

Kolkata | Agencies

A comment by Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay of the Calcutta High Court that he might ask the Election Commission of India (ECI) to derecognise Trinamool Congress as a political party and withdraw its logo has triggered a political slugfest in West Bengal.

While state Education Minister Bratya Basu refused to comment on the remark, Trinamool spokesman Kunal Ghosh launched a scathing attack on Justice Gangopadhyay without naming him.

"I have great regards for the judiciary and judges. But if anyone uses the court for his personal projection as a 'Phantom' for the people, it is unacceptable. If anyone tries to create grounds for entering politics using the court, it is not acceptable. If anyone threatens to cancel the recognition of my party sitting on the judge's chair, I will not treat him with sweets for sure. No one has the right to



misuse the judge's chair by expressing his political wish-list," Ghosh said.

Ghosh also said that he is ready to face any consequences for the comments he made on this matter.

Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee, who himself is a senior counsel, said that although a judge enjoys vast powers, those powers are never unbridled.

"A judge needs to remain controlled and within the legal parameters," he said.

Meanwhile, former CPI(M) MP Shamik Lahiri said that Justice Gangopadhyay's observation on illegal appointments were well within his rights.

"If an elected state government deliberately tries to justify an illegal act as legal, the judge concerned has every right to make his observations in the matter. The manner in which he is being attacked by Trinamool leaders for his observation proves that the ruling party does not have any respect for the Constitution or the judicial system," Lahiri said.

Senior BJP leader Rahul Sinha said that whenever any verdict or observation goes against Trinamool, the judge concerned becomes a target of attack for the party leaders. "In this case, Justice Gangopadhyay is facing the same attacks," he said.

Over 50 shops gutted in fire in Delhi's Bhagirath Palace market

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A massive fire that broke out in the Bhagirath Palace market in old Delhi has been brought under control, said the fire officials on Friday, adding that the cooling process was still underway.

According to Delhi Fire Service (DFS) Director Atul Garg, a call regarding fire at a shop was received around 9.20 p.m. on Thursday.

"The fire was in the shop no 1868, near Gurudwara, in the Bhagirath Palace Market. So far 40 fire tenders have been rushed to the site and no causality has been reported," he said. "Fire is under control and a cooling operation is going on. Now 22 fire tenders are working for cool-



ing operations," said Garg. The fire subsequently spread to other shops, and around 50 shops were caught in the blaze and fire personnel are trying to control the

fire from spreading further. The narrow lanes of the locality were causing hindrances to the fire trucks to reach the incident site, said the fire official.

Kolkata | Agencies

The leader of opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on Friday responded to a call for a courtesy meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, but avoided a one-to-one meeting with her.

Instead, Adhikari went to the Chief Minister's room in the state Assembly accompanied by three other BJP legislators.

During the question hour in the Assembly on Friday, Adhikari alleged that the state government is violating constitutional provisions by disallowing the opposition space. Soon after the debate, the Marshal of the Assembly informed Adhikari that the Chief Minister intends to have a meeting with him at her room.

However, instead of going alone,



Adhikari asked fellow BJP legislators

Manoj Tigga, Ashoke Lahiri and

Agnimitra Paul to accompany him.

Later, Adhikari told mediapersons, "Had I met the Chief Minister alone in her room, it could have led to a lot of political rumours and debates. So as soon as I was informed that the Chief Minister intended to have a meeting with me, I asked Manoj Tigga, Ashoke Lahiri and Agnimitra Paul to accompany me."

However, Adhikari did not elaborate as to what was discussed during the meeting, which did not last for long.

"It was a simple, courtesy meeting," he said.

The Chief Minister also did not make any comment on the matter.

Later, Banerjee chose to reply to the allegation levelled by Adhikari that the state government is violating constitutional provisions by disallowing the opposition space.

14-YEAR-OLD GIRL ELOPES WITH TUTOR IN BIHAR'S BEGUSARAI

Patna: A 14-year-old Hindu girl has eloped with her Muslim tutor in Bihar's Begusarai district, an official said. The girl's family expressed the apprehension that she might become a victim of Love Jihad. The girl's parents filed a complaint with the Phulwaria police station in the district. The girl went for tuition on November 21 but did not return. "She was taking tuition from Mohammad Aamir for the last 4 years. He misled my minor daughter to elope. The coaching centre is closed now. I fear that he might kill my daughter," said the girl's mother.

"I went to the house of Mohammad Aamir but his father misbehaved with me. He also levelled the allegation that my minor daughter took his son who is more than 20 years old, apart from Rs 1 lakh from the house," she said. "A large number of Hindu-Muslim cases are appearing before us. The life of my daughter is in danger. She might be killed like Shradha was killed in Delhi," she added. Navin Kumar, SHO of Phulwaria police station, said: "We have registered an FIR against Mohammad Aamir and an investigation is underway. His mobile phone is under surveillance. The accused will be arrested soon."

Woman found dead in mysterious condition in UP's Prayagraj

Team Absolute | Prayagraj

The body of a 35-year-old woman was found in an unclad and decomposed state in a flat in the Rambagh area of Prayagraj, the police said on Friday.

The body, found in mysterious conditions on Thursday evening, has been sent for autopsy and further investigations are underway into the case, said police. The matter was reported to the police by other residents of the building as the stench of the decomposed corpse emanated from the flat.

Subsequently, police reached the spot with a forensic team and broke open the door. The body of the victim, identified as Sangeeta, was found lying on the floor. According to prima facie evaluation, the woman was killed around 10 days ago.

The flat in question is owned by a private doctor. He told the police that the woman lived in the flat as a caretaker. The doctor further said that one of his



friends introduced the woman to him while adding that he is not aware of Sangeeta's family or native place.

Meanwhile, the police team recovered a mobile phone and some other documents from the spot.

Satyendra Kumar Tiwari, circle officer, Shahganj, said, "Samples from the flat have been collected by the forensic team. Exact circumstances of the woman's death can be ascertained only after receiving the post-mortem report."

AUSTRALIA BEACH MURDER

Delhi court sends nurse to five-day judicial custody

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Friday sent a 38-year-old Indian-origin nurse, who allegedly killed an Australian woman in Queensland in 2018, to five-day judicial custody till November 30. Rajwinder Singh, who fled Australia after the crime, was arrested by Delhi Police Special Cell earlier in the day.

Toyah Cordingley was walking her dog on Wangetti Beach, 40 km north of Cairns in Queensland, when Singh killed her.

Recently, the Australian police had declared a million dollar reward for any information leading to his arrest. Singh, who originally hails from Buttar Kalan in Punjab, used to work as a nurse in Innisfail, Queensland. "On November 4, via Twitter, the Australian High Commission had declared a reward of one million Australian dollars on the arrest of Singh, an Indian-origin



Australian citizen, who had committed the gruesome murder of an Australian woman on October 21, 2018 in Queensland and had been absconding ever since," said police.

According to a senior police official, Interpol had also issued Red Corner Notice (RCN), regarding the said accused and the CBI/Interpol, New Delhi had also issued a non-bailable warrant, under the

Extradition Act, against his name from the Patiala House Court on November 21, 2022.

"On November 25, at around 6 a.m., specific inputs were shared by CBI/Interpol and Australian counterparts following which in an intelligence-based operation, the accused was apprehended by the team of Special Cell from near GT Karnal Road," said the official.

'WE DON'T NEED SACHIN PILOT': BJP REACTS TO GEHLOT'S ALLEGATIONS

Team Absolute | Jaipur

BJP's Rajasthan unit president Satish Poonia on Thursday said his party "cannot be held guilty" for the tussle between Congress party colleagues Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot after the Rajasthan Chief Minister alleged the saffron party had sent Rs 10 crore to each MLA of Pilot camp to topple the Congress-led state government. "Sachin Pilot has nothing to do with BJP. This is an internal quarrel within the Congress. How can we be guilty of the ongoing feud? There is no substance in Gehlot's allegations. We never met or talked to Pilot. We never needed Pilot before, and we don't need him even now," he said.

"It never happens that a party has to sack its Deputy CM and Pradesh Congress Committee chief. We did not ask anyone to go and topple the government. This was their own issue. An attempt has been made to make BJP a reason while the quarrel was their own. Even the fault was their own. Gehlot has made the BJP a medium of allegation for his own defence," he added. Poonia further said that the people of Rajasthan have been suffering for 4 years. On the allegations of sending money from



the BJP headquarters to "pro-Pilot MLAs", Poonia said: "These are allegations... that's why nothing comes out of them. This is poor defence and face saving by Ashok Gehlot.

Responding to a question if the BJP leaders met Pilot and MLAs, Poonia said: "Why would we meet, what is the reason? He was not our MLA. He was the PCC chief. We didn't send them... what to do if someone wants to break away from his party?"

Gehlot always makes such allegations which have no basis and logic, he said while answering to allegations that cash was sent out from BJP headquarters.

BHIMA KOREGAON CASE

SC dismisses NIA plea against bail granted to Anand Teltumbde

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea filed by NIA seeking cancellation of bail granted to activist Anand Teltumbde, accused in Bhima Koregaon case.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justice Hima Kohli refused to interfere with the Bombay High Court, which granted bail to Teltumbde and dismissed the plea filed by NIA. However, the top court said the observation of the high court shall not be treated as conclusive final findings at the trial.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Teltumbde, contended before the bench that the high court has already dealt with the matter and they showed to it that there is no evidence against him. He added that the high court



applied its mind and granted him bail and added that "until and unless there is something perverse your lordships do not interfere with bail". Sibal said his client was not even at the Elgar Parishad event and the NIA has not shown anything to show that he was there, and added that the high

court says there is no document to connect him with terrorist activity. Sibal said they are referring to "my younger brother" and "I have been estranged from my younger brother for 30 years".

The bench asked the NIA's counsel, what is the role attributable to him?

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the NIA, said under UAPA, it is not necessary that the terrorist act is to be carried out and there is preparatory act carried out for proscribed organisation.

The Chief Justice said for example, in the IIT Madras event it has been alleged he is mobilising Dalits. Is Dalit mobilisation preparatory act to proscribed activity? Bhati replied, "no, that is not what I was meaning to say", and he is a professor and he can say whatever he wants to say.

She further added that the court should look at the larger canvas of how CPI(M) works and they can show that he is connected to the organisation - in propagation of ideology, organising, fund transfer, etc.

After hearing detailed arguments, the bench said it is dismissing the NIA's plea.



8-YEAR-OLD WHO NAILED KASAB NOW A YOUNG WOMAN WAITING FOR GOVT TO KEEP ITS WORD

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

The brave 8-year-old Mumbai girl Devika Rotawan -- who survived a terrorist bullet during the 26/11 terror strikes -- has now bloomed into a chirpy young woman, but a tad crestfallen at the 'unkept' promise of getting her own house from the government.

It was Devika's critical evidence as the star witness which crumbled the cocky Kasab's chameleonic web of lies and fibs in the trial watched by the world.

Kasab, along with nine other heavily armed Pakistani terrorists, unleashed unprecedented and bloody mayhem in the country's commercial capital for nearly 60 hours as people globally watched in horror.

A total of 166 people were killed, plus nine attackers in the 60-hour concentrated assault within barely a five-sq.km. radius in south Mumbai.

Another 300 persons were injured, among them the little Devika, who took a bullet in the leg as Kasab and his associate lurking there, sprayed bullets indiscriminately at the crowd inside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus building that dark night.

Now 23, Devika remembers clearly how she waited with her father Natwarlal Rotawan to board a train



for Pune to visit her brother, Bharat, 35, and his family.

"Just then, we heard several gunshots and deafening booming sounds, people shrieking, crying, running helter-skelter. We were caught in the middle of the chaos and melee," Devika told correspondent, recounting that horrible living nightmare.

Attempting to escape like the others, she stumbled, felt a numbing pain and saw blood gushing from her right leg -- she had been shot.

Amid the confusion, she was somehow rushed to the nearby Sir J. J. Hospital and then underwent a major surgery the next day to extricate the AK-47 bullet lodged in her right leg.

Admitting that those three years were nightmarish for the entire family,

Devika shifted to her native Sumerpur village in Pali district (Rajasthan), where the whole clan took good care of her.

But soon, the family was summoned to Mumbai to attend the court proceedings against Kasab.

It was finally Devika's "clinging evidence" and the witness statements of Natwarlal in June 2009 that hammered the proverbial final nail into Kasab's coffin, and after expending all legal escape routes, he finally got the noose.

While the Kasab story ended forever on the gallows, for Devika -- who turns 24 in December -- life has not exactly been a bed of roses and remains laborious on multiple fronts. Nevertheless, she managed to

complete her schooling from IES New English High School, Bandra East, then did her HSC from Siddharth College, Churchgate, and is now pursuing her Final Year Bachelor of Arts from Chetana College in Bandra, hoping to graduate in the summer of 2023 and get a proper job.

The Rotawans said that initially the family got around Rs 3.5 lakh as compensation, besides Rs 10 lakh as medical aid.

"We have been promised a house under the EWS quota, but it has not yet been allotted to us for the past 14 years," they rued.

Leaving no stone unturned, they have knocked at the doors of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, successive Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and are also seeking legal remedies.

They are ever-grateful to the Mumbai Police for their care and help, and on many occasions, the police even carried the mischievous little Devika in their arms for the court hearings.

Natwarlal acknowledges that the police could feel Devika's pain as they had also lost so many of their valorous colleagues, but the political apathy has left the family embittered.

Despite the depressing lows for 14 years, Devika has set her ambitions high in life - she wants to crack the UPSC exams and become an IPS officer who would ruthlessly target terror and gun down terrorists.

AMRUTA FADNAVIS JUMPS IN TO SAVE GOVERNOR AMID CLAMOUR FOR HIS OUSTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid a shrill clamour to sack besieged Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, singer Amruta Fadnavis - wife of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis rushed to his aid, here on Friday. She said that Koshyari is a 'Marathi manoos' (Marathi man) at heart whose recent utterances on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj were misinterpreted.

Amruta said she knows the Governor personally and he genuinely loves the Marathis in the state. "I have experienced this myself... Though it has happened many a times that he has said something that has been wrongly interpreted" claimed Amruta, speaking to the media. Her defence of Koshyari - who kicked up a huge row on November 19 with his statements on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj - came a day after the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance declared that the Governor has "crossed all limits". Barring the ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party, all political parties - Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena, and the Opposition Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena (UBT) - have slammed the Governor and demanded his immediate removal from the august post.

Sena (UBT) President and ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray said that the Governor has insulted Maharashtra's ideals and icons like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Savitri Phule and also the people of the state.

"After the 'Munde' government (referring to Shinde) came to power in the state, it is being continuously insulted and abused, the Governor is slighting 'Shivraya'. The Centre should recall him immediately. People who have no place even in old-age homes are being appointed as Governors," said Thackeray sharply.



NCP President Sharad Pawar said on Thursday that Koshyari has "now crossed all limits" and urged the President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take a call on him.

"The post of Governor represents an institution... To maintain its dignity, we did not speak against the Governor earlier, but now he has crossed all limits. Such people don't deserve crucial posts like Governor" said Pawar sternly. The state Congress President Nana Patole and other party leaders have also demanded the removal of the Governor for his slur against Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

The direct descendants of the legendary Maratha warrior king, Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhosale and Chhatrapati Sambhaji have come down heavily on the Governor for his statements on their illustrious ancestor. Bhosale called Koshyari 'third-class' and has shot off letters to the President, PM and Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding his removal while warning that he would launch an agitation in the state.

However, the Governor sought to make amends by praising Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at a function a couple of days ago, but the state leaders are not convinced and are firm on his ouster.

Amitabh Bachchan's Jhund Co-Star arrested for theft

Nagpur | Agencies

Priyanshu Kshatriya, who played a prominent role in the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Jhund, has been arrested for alleged theft, Nagpur city police said on Thursday.

Pradeep Mondawe, 64, a resident of Mankapur area, had filed a complaint about theft of jewellery and cash worth Rs 5 lakh from his house, said a police official.

The police apprehended a minor suspect who disclosed Kshatriya's alleged involvement in the crime and the latter was arrested on Tuesday, the official said.

He was produced before a court which remanded him in police custody till November 25.

The stolen items were recovered from a pigeon box in Gaddigodam area, the official said.

The area, incidentally, features in



Nagraj Manjule-directed Jhund.

The critically acclaimed Hindi-language film is inspired by the life of Vijay Barse, a former sports teacher who introduced slum children to football in order to keep them away from crime and addictions.

Kshatriya had been earlier arrested for allegedly stealing mobile phones of train passengers, the police official said.

People of Bihar will not forget Shiv Sena's insults: Sushil Modi

Patna: A day after Shiv Sena-UBT leader Aditya Thackeray visited Patna and met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi asked the two on what moral grounds will they go to Mumbai for the civic polls campaign.

"The Bihar people living in Mumbai and Maharashtra have not forgotten the abuse and insult by the Shiv Sena of Uddhav Thackeray. They insulted the people of north India. On what grounds will Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav would go to Mumbai and campaign for Shiv Sena of Uddhav Thackeray" he asked.

"Aditya Thackeray came to Patna to secure Bihar vote bank in the BMC election but his party would not get advantage of it. The 'real' Shiv Sena, which is working on the ideology of Bala Saheb Thackeray (the Shinde faction) is with the BJP and running the government. The people are with him," he claimed.

Maharashtra CM, team to visit Assam on Saturday



Team Absolute | Guwahati

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, along with his ministers and party MLAs, is set to visit Guwahati on Saturday to pay obeisance to Goddess Kamakhya and seek her blessings.

According to sources, a special flight will bring a 200-member delegation from Mumbai to Guwahati. Probability of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis forming a part of the team is high, they said.

The visit is being seen as a "thanksgiving tour" following the successful forma-

tion of the Shinde-Fadnavis government in Maharashtra. The team will also have a meeting with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Shinde and his colleagues are likely to return to Mumbai on Sunday.

Just before uprooting the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction from power, Eknath Shinde and rebel MLAs stayed at Guwahati for more than a week in June this year.

A total of 39 MLAs from the Shinde faction and 10 independent MLAs camped at a plush hotel in flood-hit Assam. The MLAs had visited and prayed at the Kamakhya Temple before leaving the state.

However, their camping at Guwahati drew sharp criticism from the Thackeray camp with Aditya Thackeray accusing the rebels of having enjoyed themselves while the people of Assam were reeling under the floods.

Before leaving Guwahati, Shinde and the MLAs donated Rs 51 lakh to the flood-affected people of the state.

VILLAGE NAMED AFTER PARAMILITARY KILLED IN 26/11 TERROR ATTACKS

Mumbai:

Sultanpur, a village in Maharashtra with a population of around 1,000 and 600 houses, will now be known as 'Rahul Nagar' as the local residents have changed its name in memory of its native, who laid down his life while fighting terrorists during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008.

Rahul Shinde, a constable of the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) was killed during the terror attacks 14 years ago. Shinde, who hailed from Sultanpur in Madha tehsil of Solapur district, was amongst the first police personnel to enter the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in south Mumbai after reports of firing by terrorists. Shinde was hit with a bullet in his stomach by terrorists, in which he died.



UDDHAV THACKERAY'S "COURAGE" JAB AT EKNATH SHINDE OVER BORDER ROW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid rising political heat over the border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka, Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray has said Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has no courage to speak against his Karnataka counterpart.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's claim that several border villages in Maharashtra once sought to be become part of his state has triggered a row.

"Have we lost our courage as Karnataka chief minister is easily making claims on Maharashtra villages?" Mr Thackeray said on Thursday, taking a swipe at Shinde.

"Is Karnataka CM having any blessings from Delhi? Does the Centre also want the same thing?" Thackeray, a former chief minister who heads the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), asked while speaking to reporters.



"Diversion": Raut on BJP raising Maharashtra-Karnataka border row

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday claimed that the issue of Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute has been raked up to divert people's attention from Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's "insult" to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Last week, Koshyari had said during an event in Aurangabad that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was an icon of "olden days". His statement had drawn flak from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction.

Talking to reporters here, Raut said that earlier Koshyari had insulted



Marathi-speaking people with his comment that Mumbai will not remain the country's financial capital if Gujarat and Marwaris left the city. "At that time, to divert attention from this insult, I was arrested," said

Raut, who was booked in a money laundering case related to the Patra Chawl redevelopment project.

The Sena leader was granted bail earlier this month after spending 100 days in jail.

26/11 sank the fortunes of owners of trawler used by terrorists

Porbandar/Mumbai | Agencies

MV Kuber hardly needs any introduction, the moment you hear the trawler's name it will remind you of the 26/11 attack carried out by Lashkar -E-Toiba terrorists in Mumbai, for which they had hijacked MV Kuber on the high seas. The country will be mourning and paying tributes on Saturday to the 160 martyrs on the 14th anniversary of the attack, but this boat never sailed out of Porbandar harbour, once it was brought back from Mumbai in 2009.

Hiralal Masani and his brother Vinod Masani were in the fishing business and they had bought the trawler in 2000, naming it after the God of Wealth 'Kuber'. Hiralal told



correspondent, "We had never dreamt that the trawler that had sailed out of Porbandar harbour in November 2008, was on its last trip for the family, and that when we will

get the trawler back we will have lost five crew members."

The Mumbai ATS or the Gujarat police never harassed us as they had found no evidence against us, not a

single phone call to Pakistan or any other evidence, said Hiralal. He added that whenever his brother Vinodbai was summoned by the Mumbai ATS he treated them to homemade food. Even when the family was fighting a legal battle and being questioned by the security agencies, the Masani family cared about their crew members who were killed on the boat. Hiralal said his family paid Rs 1.50 lakh compensation to the families of each deceased crew member. The Kuber was grounded by a court order and could not be taken out of Porbandar harbour till the trial was over. Even after the trial was over, it could not be sailed out as no sailor was ready to risk his life on the 'jinxed' boat, Hiralal remembers.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Office of the Executive Engineer Multistoreyed Bldgs Construction Division, Administrative Building, 1st Floor, R.C. Marg, Chembur, Mumbai-400 071. E-TENDER NOTICE NO.7 of 2022-2023 Online E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following 1 Work are invited by Executive Engineer, Multistoreyed Bldgs Construction Division, Chembur, Mumbai-400 071, from the Public Works Department, Govt. of Maharashtra. Details regarding E-Tenders can be seen on http://mahatenders.gov.in E-Tender can be downloaded from Date 29/11/2022 at 10.30 hrs to 29/12/2022 at 17.30 hrs from above mentioned site. The Pre-Bid meeting for below works will be held on Date 13/12/2022 at 12.00 hrs in the office of Chief Engineer, P. W. Region Mumbai, 25 Marzban Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001. Duly filled E-Tender will be opened on Date 02/01/2023 at 12.00 hrs (if possible) at office of the Superintending Engineer, Mumbai Construction Circle, Chembur, Mumbai-71.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Jashn-e-Rekhta is back

Last held in December 2019, the Jashn-e-Rekhta festival is returning on-ground after a pandemic break of three years. To be held from December 2 to 4, at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, the festival will be spread across three days, four stages, 60 events, and 150 artistes. The three-day festival will celebrate the Urdu language and Hindustani culture through ghazals, Sufi music, qawwali, dastangoi, panel discussions, mushaira, poetry recitations, and celebrity conversations. Organised annually in Delhi under the aegis of Rekhta Foundation - a non-profit organisation, operating a free online resource and the world's largest website and resource for Urdu poetry and literature, the festival aspires to unite language lovers from every part of the world to celebrate Hindustani languages, its rich history, and culture. The inauguration will be attended by Javed Akhtar, followed by a ghazal concert by Hariharan, and will conclude on December 4 with a Sufi music performance by Richa Sharma. This year's line-up will have Naseeruddin Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Javed Akhtar, Shabana Azmi, Hariharan, Muzaaffar Ali, Richa Sharma, Kumar Vishwas, Shailesh Lodha, Dia Mirza, Shekhar Ravjiani, Shilpa Rao, Pratibha Singh Baghel, Priya Malik and Rahgir including several other authors, poets, artists, and scholars. Sanjiv Saraf, Founder Rekhta Foundation says, "Jashn-e-Rekhta aims to bring people closer through the celebration of the Urdu language, its music, art, culture, and its Indian ethos. It was last celebrated in December, 2019 after which COVID disrupted life as we know it. However, people exhibited remarkable resilience and came together in overcoming this challenge. I am delighted that the seventh edition of Jashn-e-Rekhta, 2022 is being held after a period of three years."

PEOPLE POWER REVIVES JHARKHAND FOREST, ELEPHANT CORRIDOR

Faiz Anwar

A grave mistake made in the past has turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the villages surrounding Dudhmatiya forest in Tatiyahariya block, around 25 km from Hazaribag in Jharkhand. It all began in the 1980s when the population of wolves in the forest began to increase rapidly, making them stray out and launch attacks on children and elderly. Panicky residents then axed trees in Dudhmatiya to shoo away wolves. But the dwindling forest cover made wild elephants stray into villages and attack people.

Mahadev Mahto, then a government school teacher, was among the many who suffered severe injuries when over 20 elephants went on a rampage in Berho village of Tatiyahariya block in 1989. The incident spurred Mahto into making plans to revive the natural habitats of elephants so that they do not enter villages for food and water.

He roped in people from his village, and nearby Bada and Chhotia Darbhanga. The same people, who once vigorously chopped down trees, were now told to plant and protect. It was not an easy task.

In 1991, Berho residents along with a forest beat officer formed a 10-member 'jungli pashu kshati sahayta kosh' to create awareness of forest conservation and habitat revival for wild elephants. For five years, the committee sensitised people by holding meetings and making announcements using loudspeakers. Over the years, more members joined the team.

In 1995, the committee changed its name to 'van prani suraksha samiti' on getting full-fledged support from the forest department. The 100-hectare lush green Dudhmatiya forest that we see today is the result of hard work put in by the committee members to involve as many villagers as possible.

Now aged 72, Soniya Devi of Bada Daharbhanga was among the first to understand the benefits of forest conservation. At that time, she voluntarily took up the task of staying in a machan (a raised platform made of bamboo and wood) in the forest for a span of six months to alert villagers of any suspicious vehicle or movement, besides stopping people from felling trees and grazing cattle.

Her forest stay is not as regular now as it was before. But whenever she stays in the



machan, village women come to spend time with her in the evenings. Though there are no formal groups or rotational machan duty, things are going well here.

Several villages have subsequently adopted the idea, leading to the formation of 434 forest committees. Narayan Yadav (76) from Bada Daharbhanga was among the first to join the initiative.

"I have been troubled by the recurring dream of 'Vanaspati maiya' asking me to save the forest ever since my wife's death. She was digging up the forest floor to get mud for house repair, but accidentally got trapped in a heap of loose mud. Two others also died in the 1991 incident," says Narayan, who has adopted Teliya Mat, a nearby forest.

Ensuring a safe passage

In 2015, the 'van prani suraksha samiti' members undertook a 100-km march to mobilise people to revive the forest. Then divisional forest officer Siddharth Tripathi also participated in the march, which covered almost 150 villages along the elephant corridor.

"In the past, only one or two elephants used to cross the corridor. Now, three big herds march together. The corridor at Pipcho in Daru block has water and food in abundance. The elephants halt there for four to five days. This is something that has never happened before," says Ram Nandan Ram, a for-

est beat officer with Hazaribag East Division since 1996.

The elephants now move from Pipcho to Badwar, Garia, Turiwar, Ango, Hatyari, Morangi and reach Demotand. From there, they move towards Besh and Resham in the west forest division and towards Barkagaon.

The forest guards and beat officers move with the herd and guide them to another jungle. The villagers carrying mashals (torches) join the guards at night. "Since 2010, we have built around 73 earthen water reservoirs along the corridor to ensure a hassle-free journey for elephants," says Hazaribag East Divisional Forest Officer Sourav Chandra.

According to forest guard Ashish Kumar, more and more elephants are entering the corridor now. He says he guided a herd of 25 elephants and three calves from Hazaribag to Barkagaon as recently as September 28.

"Dudhmatiya mela has been a success. Three herds regularly come to Hazaribag now and stay there for five to 10 days," adds Ram.

A festival for the forest

For the last 27 years, people in Hazaribag have been organising the annual Dudhmatiya mela to spread the message of the conservation of trees and wildlife. Incidentally, Hazaribag district now accounts for 34.91 per cent of Jharkhand's forest cover.

The forest department and

'van prani suraksha samiti' organised the first Dudhmatiya mela or raksha bandhan on October 7, 1995. Around 5,000 people participated in it.

As per the ritual, sacred threads are tied around the trees with a promise to protect them. Three days before the mela, a group of women go on a bhikshatan to nearby villages to raise funds. They sing and beat drums to motivate villagers to participate.

Tatiyaharia sarpanch Suresh Yadav was in Class 8 when the first Dudhmatiya mela was organised. "I still remember taking part in the mela along with my father. We sang songs and performed in plays. Now, my son participates," he says.

Basanti Devi (43) and Rukmani Devi (45) from Bada Daharbhanga, who help collect money every year, believe that van devi has rewarded them by not letting COVID-19 "enter the village".

The main agenda of this year's mela, held on October 7, was to save the green cover from a proposed four-lane road that will run close to the forest. NH 100 already passes through Dudhmatiya forest.

Tackling man-animal conflict

Only four deaths have been reported in man-animal conflicts in the region since 2000, claims Anil Agarwal, a clerk with the forest department in Hazaribag East, pointing to the success of forest committees. Parmeshwar Prasad Yadav (55), a migrant labourer who makes it a point to visit his native Bada Daharbhanga during Dudhmatiya mela, echoes Agarwal.

Demotand resident Surendra Prasad Sahu (52) lost only five quintals of agricultural produce to elephant rampage this year. "Earlier, it used to be much more," he says.

With a variety of trees such as sal, neem, banyan, peepal, amla, mango, banana, karam (adina cordifolia), bael, bamboo, shammi (prosopis cineraria) and mahua flourishing in the dense forest, villages in Hazaribag district have come a long way in saving human lives and promoting elephant population in the region.

international

EU REGULATOR WARNS OF COVID SPIKE IN WINTER

Brussels | Agencies

The European Union's (EU) medicines regulator urged Europe to prepare for a new wave of the Covid pandemic as "cold winter months" arrive.

"Over the last weeks we have not seen a major increase in Covid-19 case rates in the EU as a result of rising immunity following vaccinations and natural infections," Marco Cavaleri, head of Health Threats and Vaccines Strategy of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), told a press briefing.

"However, this could change rapidly as we are getting into the cold winter months," Cavaleri said.

"This virus is maintaining a fast pace in its evolution and new subvariants of Omicron such as BQ.1.1 and its off-springs are on the rise and replacing Omicron BA.5."

These strains show "an increased propensity for immune evasion and growth advantage", he noted, expressing concern that new subvariants like BQ.1.1 are "escaping neutralisation by the currently available monoclonal antibody products, which is expected to translate into poor clinical efficacy".

Vaccine booster uptake in the last few



months has been "rather disappointing", with the European average rate at only 29 per cent in people at highest risk, including those aged above 60 with chronic conditions and immunocompromised, he said. It is of concern that those most at risk of hospitalization or severe Covid-19 are not adequately protected, he said, calling for more efforts to increase the revaccination rate of vulnerable groups to avoid rising hospitalization in the coming months.

"The risk of severe Covid increases exponentially with age above 60. The

older you are, the more you are at risk and vaccines can save your life," he added.

EMA Chief Medical Officer Steffen Thirstrup told the press briefing that there are still "a lot of circulating viruses out there", and their potential to spread, especially among unvaccinated vulnerable people, is still large.

"So I will still consider the pandemic being on," said Thirstrup, stressing the importance of vaccination and revaccination, particularly for vulnerable groups.

10 DEAD, 9 INJURED IN CHINA RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FIRE



Beijing: Ten people were killed and nine others injured in a fire at a residential building in Urumqi, capital of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, authorities said on Friday. The fire broke out at 7.49 p.m. on Thursday night at the building in a community of Tianshan district, reports Xinhua news agency. The blaze was put out at around 10.35 p.m.

Ten people died despite emergency treatment and the injuries sustained by the nine others are not life-threatening, the authorities added. Investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.

UKRAINE SETS UP 3,720 EMERGENCY SHELTERS AMID WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGE

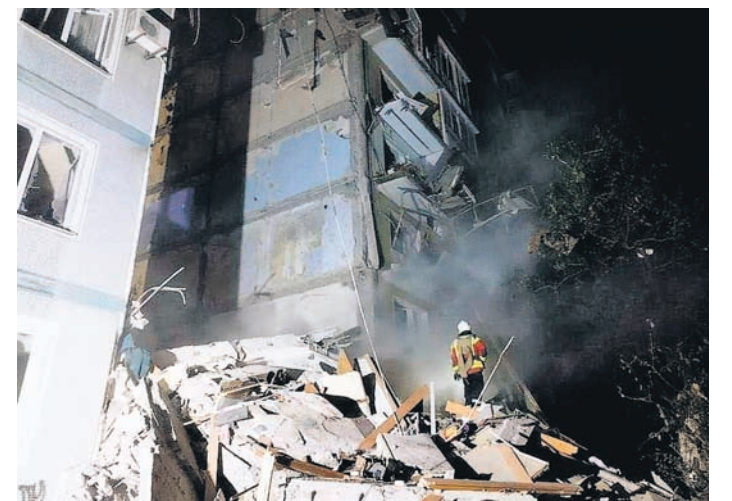
Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian authorities have set up 3,720 emergency shelters across the country after a latest barrage of Russian missile strikes caused widespread electricity outage across the war-torn nation, a top official said here.

According to Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the Ukrainian president's office, the shelters, equipped with power generators, will provide people with heat, electricity, water, internet and medicines, reports Xinhua news agency.

About 70 per cent of households in Kiev did not have electricity access as of Thursday, the capital city's Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

On Wednesday, Russia carried out the fresh missile strikes against Ukraine, resulting in 10 deaths, according to authorities in Kiev. The attack disconnected the country's all four operating nuclear power plants and other major power facilities from the grid and triggered massive outages.



The continued Russian attacks have damaged almost half of Ukraine's energy system and millions of people are without power as temperatures drop for winter.

Blackouts, both scheduled and unscheduled, have become common in many parts of Ukraine, as Russia aims regular waves of missile attacks at parts of the energy infrastructure.

At least seven people were killed and more than 20 million others were left without electricity on November 8 when Russia carried out over a 100 missile strikes in what is believed to be Moscow's biggest wave of missile strikes since the invasion began on February 24.

Biden renews call to ban assault weapons

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden has renewed his call to ban assault weapons. "I'm going to try to get rid of assault weapons," Biden told reporters during a visit to firefighters in Nantucket, Massachusetts on Thursday.

The remarks came on the heels of a pair of high-profile mass shootings in just a few days, Xinhua news agency reported. In the shooting at a Colorado Springs nightclub over the weekend, a gunman wielded an AR-15 style rifle, killing five people while injuring 19 others.

"I'm sick and tired of these shootings,"



the President said on Thursday.

"We should have much stricter gun laws." However, the chance of a ban on assault weapons passing through the US Congress is all but impossible in the near future.

Republicans will

take control of the House of Representatives next term and is likely to oppose legislation to curb gun rights. The US has suffered more than 600 mass shootings so far this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

Last year, the country saw a staggering number of 690 mass shootings, up from 610 in 2020 and 417 in 2019.

Indian expat foils robbery bid in Dubai, wins hearts

Dubai | Agencies

An Indian expat has won a certificate of appreciation from the Dubai Police for stopping a thief from fleeing with Dh 2.7 million (\$735,190) in cash.

Keshur Kara Chavada Karu Ghela, 32, who works in a shop at Dubai's Naif district, was "surprised" when senior police officials visited him at his workplace earlier this week, according to a Dubai Police statement.

According to Major General Tariq Tahlak, Director of Naif police station, the incident occurred when two Asian men were in the Naif area carrying two bags containing Dh 4,250,000 in cash of different currencies.

The thief intercepted the Asians and snatched one of the two bags containing AED 2,757,158, a statement released by Dubai Police said.



"As the two Asian men shouted for help, Keshur saw the robber running with the stolen bag toward him, so he bravely tackled him, started wrestling with him, and pinned him to the ground until the police patrols arrived and made the arrest," Tahlak was quoted as

saying in the statement.

Chavada has been working at the shop for more than 12 years.

"I ran towards the man and grabbed him. He was nearly my size, so it wasn't easy to overpower him. I hit him on the chest, pushed him to the ground and

held him tightly until others came to help," Chavada told The National.

He snatched the bag and gave it back to the owners.

Major General Khalil Ibrahim Al Mansouri, Assistant Commandant-in-Chief for Criminal Investigation Affairs, said that Chavada's behaviour reflects his genuine commitment to the community and his wit in dealing with emergencies. He added that honouring Chavada in his workplace, among his colleagues and neighbours reflects Dubai Police's keenness on strengthening the concept of community partnership and reinforcing the sense of responsibility among individuals.

Chavada expressed his pride and joy for being honoured by senior officers of the Dubai Police, and said that this is a medal of honour that he shall forever cherish, the Dubai Police statement read.



MULTIDIMENSIONAL AGRICULTURE EXHIBITION WILL BE ORGANISED IN MP AS WELL, INNOVATIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED: CM

Chief Minister Chouhan inaugurated Agro Vision in Nagpur. Continuous increase in agriculture growth rate of Madhya Pradesh.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that several important steps have been taken in Madhya Pradesh for the economic prosperity of the farmers. While staying on top in wheat production in the country, Madhya Pradesh did the work of giving full benefits of all types of production to the farmers. The agricultural growth rate of the state is the highest in the country. Despite this, keeping in mind the efforts being made for the welfare of farmers in other states, continuous efforts are being made to implement them in Madhya Pradesh as well. In this connection, on the initiative of the Union Minister Gadkari, work will also be done to adopt the multi-faceted Agro Vision agricultural exhibition and other innovations which have become popular in Vidarbha. Necessary initiative will be taken to organise the programme of Agro Vision in Madhya Pradesh in the interest of the farmers. CM Chouhan was addressing the Agro Vision programme organised in coordination with Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in Nagpur. Along with the exhibition, the programmes of workshop and symposium will continue till 28 November. Chief Minister Chouhan inaugurated Agro Vision by lighting the lamp.

Chouhan said that a 5-point strategy has been implemented to make the agriculture sector prosperous in Madhya Pradesh. This includes increasing production, reducing costs, giving fair prices of crops, necessary compensation for damages and use



of technology.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that arrangements have been made to provide adequate relief amount to the farmers in Madhya Pradesh on damage to their crops due to natural calamities and other reasons. Continuous review was done to provide the amount of crop insurance to the farmers. As a result the farmers got relief. Similarly, work was done to give benefits to the farmers by making full use of remote sensing and technology in agricultural work. Attention is also being

given to agriculture diversification in Madhya Pradesh. Apart from wheat, paddy, gram and pulses, innovations are also taking place in the cultivation of fruits and flowers. Farmers have benefitted from increase in income through bamboo production in the state. Most importantly, arrangements were made to provide relief from interest to the farmers by giving loans at zero percent. CM Chouhan said that by increasing the irrigation percentage manifold in Madhya Pradesh, assistance was given to farmers in increasing their income by providing facilities for more production.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has paid special attention to the development of agriculture sector. Madhya Pradesh's agriculture growth rate has increased continuously. Madhya Pradesh will give even better results in the field of agriculture. He said that he gave detailed information regarding the utility of alternative sources of energy and their benefits. Gadkari said that apart from being Anna Pradata (provider of food), the farmer is also becoming Urja Pradata (provider of energy).

The use of latest techniques is becoming helpful in boosting the income of the farmers. Agro Vision is organised every year in Nagpur with the aim of making the farmers of Vidarbha aware of the new technology and new business in the agriculture sector, increasing their income and making the farmers happy, thriving and prosperous by making farming more profitable. He informed that this is the 13th year of Agro Vision.

Political stir over alleged video of Bharat Jodo Yatra



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bharat Jodo Yatra, which is going out under the leadership of former Congress National President Rahul Gandhi, is in Madhya Pradesh. On the third day of the yatra in the state, a purported video has created a political stir. While the BJP is terming the Bharat Jodo Yatra as the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress is terming the viral video as doctored. Bharat Jodo Yatra is moving towards Indore on the third day in the state moving ahead from Kherad village of Khargone. Meanwhile, an alleged video has surfaced in which slogans of Pakistan Zindabad can be heard. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has attacked the Congress on this. In a tweet, Chief Minister Chouhan said, "In the Bharat Jodo Yatra, raising slogans of Pakistan Zindabad, is it to connect India or to unite those who break India. Have you broken India before, are you planning to break India again?"

Chief Minister Chouhan further said, "Those who raise slogans of Pakistan Zindabad will not be spared at any cost, strict action will be taken against them."

The Congress has termed the video going viral as a doctored video. Senior party leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "Seeing the immense public support that Bharat Jodo Yatra has received, BJP has played a doctored video

PARAMOTOR FELL IN THE FIELD DURING BHARAT JODO YATRA

Khargone: Friday was the third day of Bharat Jodo Yatra of former Congress National President Rahul Gandhi in Madhya Pradesh. Rahul Gandhi's yatra started from Kherda village in Khargone district. During this, a paramotor fell in the field, there was some chaos-like situation, but the journey is going on at its own pace. Rahul Gandhi, along with his sister Priyanka Gandhi and other Congress leaders including state Congress President Kamal Nath, state in-charge JP Aggarwal and former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh, started the third day's journey in the state from Kherda.

Two paramotors were supposed to fly in support of this trip, one of which went over the trip and the other fell in a field. This caused some stir. Khargone police has put a rake on the paramotor flight. It has been told that permission was not taken from the police for this.

to defame the yatra. We are taking immediate legal action against it. Ready for nefarious tactics. They will be given a befitting reply.

KAMAL NATH'S CLOSE AIDE NARENDRA SALUJA JOINS BJP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Congress has suffered a major setback in Madhya Pradesh. Narendra Saluja, who is counted close to Congress state president Kamal Nath, has joined the BJP. Saluja has handled the responsibility of posts like media coordinator of Congress state president and vice president of media department. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan gave BJP membership to Saluja at the Chief Minister's residence. On this occasion, the head of BJP's media department, Lokendra Parashar, state government minister Vijay Shah and many party officials were present.

For the past few days, Saluja had been sidelined by the party and his distance from Kamal Nath had also increased. Not only this, Kamal Nath had also relieved Saluja from the post of media coordinator. But due to the reshuffle later, Saluja got this responsibility again. For the past few days, Saluja was not even coming to the party office and it was being said that Kamal Nath had sent him on leave after expressing displeasure. Party officials say that Saluja's activities were going on suspiciously for a long time and Kamal Nath was aware that he was harming the party. Therefore, the party was also preparing to remove him from all the posts.



CM CHOUHAN PLANTS SAPLINGS ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT LOVING ORGANISATION

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Ashoka, Mulberry (Shahtoot), Cassia and Samia in the Smart City Park. Along with CM, former Mayor of Bhopal Alok Sharma planted saplings on his birthday. CM Chouhan greeted Sharma by presenting him a bouquet.

Former Mayor Alok Sharma planted saplings on his birthday

Role of audit is important in preventing wastage of public money: Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said role of audit is important in ensuring transparency of all types of financial transactions and in compliance with arrangements to prevent wastage of public money. The Audit Department has a rich and glorious history of 160 years. Governor Patel virtually addressed the closing ceremony of the Audit Week on Friday.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Patel said that he has taken initiative to celebrate 16 November as Audit Day from last year in honour of the glorious history of Audit Department.

Governor Patel said that the main feature of the democratic system is to maintain harmony in all its major organs including the legislature. The Audit Department discharges the important and challenging responsibility of fixing the accountability of the Government and other public authority for the expenditure of public money for the Parliament and State Legislatures and making information available in this regard to the general public. In fact, audit is an important means of legislative control over financial administration by being a tool to enforce



accountability of the administration to the legislature. Governor Patel said that the strict standards of audit should be followed with more care, so that the integrity of the audit should not be affected due to loss estimates or exterior data during the audit.

Governor Patel said that for the successful discharge of their duties by the officers and employees of the Audit and Accounts Department, it is necessary to follow the constitutional duties and assigned responsibilities with complete devotion, while always staying alert. He said that the officers-employees of audit have an important role in ensuring the use of national resources effectively in the interest of the poor and needy. Governor Patel said that the officers and employees should work with mutual sympathy and consideration to serve the poorest of the poor and bring smile on their faces. Congratulating the officers-employees of the audit, he said that their cooperation would contribute significantly in accelerating the present pace of development, welfare of the deprived sections of the society and nation-building. Principal Accountant General Geetali Tare gave the welcome address. Principal Accountant General D. Sahu proposed vote of thanks.

BJP MLA Sulochan Rawat suffers brain haemorrhage, rushed to hospital

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former minister and BJP MLA from Jobat Assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh's Alirajpur district, Sulochan Rawat was rushed to a hospital in Gujarat's Vadodara in a critical condition following brain haemorrhage.

According to information, she collapsed all of sudden at her residence on Thursday and was admitted to a nearby hospital. However, seeing her condition, the

doctors referred her to Vadodara.

Sources told IANS that Rawat has suffered a brain haemorrhage and her condition was out of danger on Friday morning. Madhya Pradesh BJP president V.D. Sharma, who was in Gujarat for election campaign, met the family members of



Rawat at the hospital on Friday.

"She fell from the chair while having dinner around 8.30 p.m. on Thursday. She was rushed to a nearby hospital by her family immediately and after that she was rushed to Vadodara for further treatment. Doctors said she is out of danger now, but it will take some time for recovery," said a

source.

Rawat, who was a minister in Digvijaya Singh led Congress government, had joined the BJP with her son in October 2021 and had won the by-election from the Jobat Assembly constituency. She had won the bypoll against Congress candidate Mahesh Patel with a margin of 6,080 votes.

Rawat had also won the elections on a Congress ticket from Jobat (ST) Assembly seat twice -- in 1998 and 2008.

New record of highest power supply in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the history of Madhya Pradesh, on November 24, a new record of maximum power supply was established. On this day, 3027.43 lakh units of electricity was supplied in the state. On the other hand, on November 23, the demand for electricity in the state was recorded at 15 thousand 460 MW. The demand for electricity in the state is continuously being recorded above 14 thousand MW from 10 November and 15 thousand MW from 20 November.

Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar has praised the officers and employees of the power company for the successful supply of 3027.43 lakh units in a day. When the demand for electricity in the state was recorded at 15460 MW, 4034 MW in Madhya Pradesh East Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company (Jabalpur, Sagar and Rewa divisions), 4774 MW in Madhya Pradesh Central Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company (Bhopal and Gwalior divisions) and 4774 MW in Madhya Pradesh West. In Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company (Indore and Ujjain divisions), the maximum demand of electricity was recorded at 6366 MW. Railways were given 286 MW power.

SCHOOL TIMINGS CHANGED IN BHOPAL AS WEATHER GETS COLD

Alert of cold wave in Chhatarpur, Jabalpur; mercury dipped to 6 degrees in Pachmarhi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Trembling has now started in Madhya Pradesh. Now after night, mild cold has increased even during the day. In view of the increasing cold in Bhopal, the timing of all the schools has been increased. Now the school will start from 8:30 in the morning. Collector Avinash Lavania has issued its orders.

On Friday, the maximum temperature in Bhopal dropped the most. A fall of two and a half degree was recorded in Sidhi and one and a half degree in Bhopal. Gwalior is at number 12 in the coldest plains of the country. The night temperature has come down to the lowest at 8.3 degree Celsius in Gwalior.

The night temperature has come down to 4 degrees in Churu, Rajasthan. Last night was the coldest in Nagaon of Madhya Pradesh. Here



the night temperature came up to 6 degree Celsius. The highest night temperature recorded in Indore and Narmadapuram between 13 to 14 degrees. The minimum temperature is above normal. Meteorologist HN Sahu told that the weather will remain like this for four to five days. After that, only when the Western Disturbance becomes strong, the

cold will increase and the temperature will come down rapidly.

The Meteorological Department has issued an alert for cold wave during the next 24 hours. Cold wave can disturb people in Chhatarpur and Jabalpur. Temperatures will remain normal in Indore and Ujjain, while day and night temperatures will drop in Bhopal, Gwalior and Jabalpur.

School timings extended

Bhopal Due to increase in cold, the timings of starting classes in all government-private, ICSE and CBSE affiliated schools of Bhopal have been extended. Collector Avinash Lavania issued orders on Friday. As per the order, the class will not be conducted before 8.30 am. This order will come into effect from November 28.

Lowest night temperature

During the last 24 hours in Madhya Pradesh, the night temperature has come down below 10 degree Celsius in most of the areas. The minimum temperature in Datia, Guna, Gwalior, Pachmarhi, Raisen, Rajgarh, Chhindwara, Damoh, Jabalpur, Khajuraho, Mandla, Naogaon, Rewa, Sidhi and Umaria is between 6 degree to 9 degree Celsius.

Pachmarhi coldest

The maximum cold has recorded in Pachmarhi in the state. The night temperature has declined up to 6 degrees and the maximum temperature in the day went to 23 degrees.



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have a responsibility; it's a bit of a tightrope': Zara McDermott

Los Angeles | Agencies

Zara McDermott has vowed to change her content on social media after learning it 'triggers' people with eating disorders. The former Love Island star, appeared on BBC breakfast on Friday to discuss the devastating impact influencers' social media posts can have on young people struggling with eating disorders.

Zara told presenters Charlie Stayt and Tina De Healy: 'I was sadly trolled quite badly when I came out of the show because of my weight you know I wasn't the smallest girl there but I was a perfectly healthy weight but sadly the trolls decided to tell me I was too big.'

'I then went on my own health and fitness journey and lost some weight as a result of that.'

'I wasn't suffering from an eating disorder myself but I knew there was a massive demand for weight loss content so I was just posting not knowing the detrimental impact it was having on my followers. I was just meeting the demands for that content.'

When asked what she'll do moving forward, she said: 'Essentially for me I've learnt not to allow someone to emulate your exact lifestyle, exactly what you're eating in a day, what exercise you do because you may not believe it but people do what emulate exactly your lifestyle.'

'So not posting things like what I eat in a day, not strict workout regimes that people could copy.'

'I also have a responsibility it's a bit of a tightrope because I want to share my life but I have to be mindful that there are millions of people watching what I do and I don't want to trigger someone who's really vulnerable so it's about finding that perfect balance.'

'I mean I think 99% of the feedback has been positive, there was always going to be 1% that say something because it's a controversial topic and a social media influencer taking on that topic was always going to have that.'

I didn't know I was a girl: Queen Latifah

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Queen Latifah has gotten candid about how her sense of identity has evolved over the years. During an acceptance speech at the inaugural TheGrio Awards in Beverly Hills, 'The Equalizer' star claimed she 'didn't know [she] was a girl' when she was younger, reports. 'It all starts with the family for me. My parents raised me with the idea that Black is beautiful. Black is beautiful, Black is beautiful. Black is OK,' she explained.

'You start saying it enough and you start believing me. And so I didn't realise at the time that what they were preparing me for was a whole world.'

'I didn't know I was a girl, initially, I had to be told that. That had to be explained to me... 'Cause I was running around with my T-shirt

off like the boys... I wanted to play the sports and all these things had to be explained to me because I was free,' she added. 'And so my whole life would feel like I've been trying to maintain my freedom to be me.' As for now, Latifah knows who she is. 'I wear these beautiful gowns and dresses because I want to, because that's part of me. I play in the dirt; I play basketball with the boys - 'cause that's me. I love who I love because that's me. I know me. I know what I've done and what I haven't done.'

The 'End of the Road' star later encouraged the audience, 'I realise that life is fleeting and you just gotta do the best you can. Be as honest and genuine as you can.'

She further noted, 'Don't go for what people are trying to tell you about yourself. It's not true. I said; don't go for what people are trying to tell you about yourself.'



POPPY DELEVINGNE ATTENDED A SWANKY BULGARI EVENT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Poppy Delevingne stepped out for the first time since her husband James Cook was spotted on celebrity dating app Raya. The model, was attending a swanky Bulgari event at the Saatchi Gallery in London on Thursday night, putting on a leggy display in a super-high thigh-split black gown.

She looked in good spirits and ready to enjoy her night amongst the other celebs at the star-studded bash - despite her husband James appearing to move on from their relationship - as the pair are believed to have split. Poppy looked fantastic in a revealing black thigh-split gown with a busty sweetheart neckline. The model showed off her toned pins in the elegant look, teamed with strapped heels and a silver clutch bag.

She posed for a few snaps at the immersive experience, as did Suki Waterhouse, Sabrina Elba, Jessica Plumber and Zara Martin. The socialite wore her blonde tresses in elegant curls and pinned them back to show off her photogenic facial features. She wore a flawless face of makeup, with a pink sheen to her eyes and lips, and accessorised with a Bulgari necklace and stand-out diamond earrings.

Poppy's appearance comes after she and her entrepreneur husband are rumoured to have split. They are said to have called time on their relationship at the beginning of the year but neither party has publicly addressed the rumors. While the pair are said to have remained friends and still mix in the same social circles, it appears James is now moving on romantically.



I wanted to try mushrooms for my 40th birthday: Kristen Bell

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Kristen Bell was honest with her young children when she tried magic mushrooms for her birthday. The actress, who has daughters Lincoln, nine, and Delta, seven, with husband Dax Shepard, has recalled celebrating her 40th birthday by taking hallucinogenics, and she decided to be honest with her kids, reports. She said: 'We've always been really honest with our kids and I had never really done any drugs and I wanted to try mushrooms for my 40th birthday.'

'So my husband got them for me and I tried it. And we told our kids about it.' However, things backfired somewhat when one of the girls told their grandmother, who is more conservative than Kristen. She added: 'I overheard my daughter taking to my mom, to grandma, going, 'So anyway, so mom really wanted to try mushrooms, so'. 'And I just walked by and I was like, 'Uh-oh, uh-oh, uh-oh.' For some reason I'm more worried about telling my mom than than telling my daughter.' Kristen admitted there was no chance her children misunderstood the kind of mushrooms she decided to partake in. She explained: 'Their dad is in recovery, so he's really honest about what alcohol does to your body, how it makes you feel funny and impairs things. What drugs do your body and why most drugs are illegal and all that?' And she has no problem with him bringing that level of honesty to their parenting. She said: 'He has committed to being very involved in our kids' lives and very involved in our marriage. He's a real go-getter. I got no complaints.' Meanwhile, Kristen recently revealed how her children help keep her grounded when she gets home from a day at work. She joked: 'The amount of insults that they can hurl at me in a very short period of time, it really brings me back down to earth. I come home from a day like today - which is pretty elegant and fancy - and we're talking about work and I've had my makeup but they will just they'll pull the rug out from under you so quickly.' My autobiography title would be 'My Kids Keep Me Grounded!'



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



MONICA BARBARO

The Weeknd shares pictures of him babysitting kittens

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper The Weeknd has sent the Internet into frenzy with his recent post of him babysitting a tiny, cute kitten. The star posted the photos on Instagram on November 23, says reports. The first image showed the kitten sitting front and centre with the musician being cut slightly out of frame. The second snap, meanwhile, saw the Canadian native playing games as his furry friend sat next to him.

In the third one, The Weeknd snuggled with the gray cat. In the last photo, the kitten was seen hiding underneath a blanket in front of his dog, a Doberman pinscher. He simply captioned the post, 'babysitting,' adding an alien emoji. Fans couldn't help but gush over the pictures. 'So cute, I love a man who loves animals,' one person in particular raved, while another penned, 'Just fell on my knees.' Others, on the other hand, sent out flirty comments. 'I'm a cat, pls babysit me,' one individual joked. 'You can adopt me, i can meow too,' someone else chimed in, with a different user writing, 'I wanna b that cat SOOOOOO bad.'

This was not the first time The Weeknd drove fans wild. A few months prior, the ex-boyfriend of Selena Gomez wowed fans after he showed off his tongue skills during his 'After Hours Til Dawn' tour.





FIFA WORLD CUP

SENEGAL BEAT QATAR BY 3-1

Doha | Agencies

Senegal strikers Boulaye Dia, Famara Diedhiou and Bamba Dieng scored to secure a deserved 3-1 victory over Qatar and send the host nation to the brink of elimination following their World Cup Group A clash at Al Thumama Stadium on Friday. Senegal have three points from their two games and meet Ecuador in a final pool clash on Tuesday, while Qatar still have no points and will be out of the tournament if Netherlands beat Ecuador or that match ends in a draw later on Friday.

Abdelkarim Hassan goes for a long ranger, and shoots a powerful strike just wide of Senegal goal from 24 yards out. Muntari scored Qatar's first-ever goal at a World Cup in the 78th minute. Mohammad curled a cross into the middle from the right and Muntari jumped high above Koulibaly to thump a header past Mendy.

The two-goal lead is restored again. Sabaly passed it to Ndiaye down the right, who pulled it back into the middle. Dieng just held his run, before turning his first-time shot past the diving Qatar keeper Barsham and into the back of the net in the 84th minute.



BRAZIL BEGIN CAMPAIGN WITH 2-0 WIN OVER SERBIA

Doha: Two second half goals from Richarlison helped Brazil to begin their group campaign with 2-0 win over Serbia at the Lusail stadium in Doha on Thursday evening. Richarlison twin strikes came in the 62nd and 73rd minute and helped him to take his individual goals tally to 19 goals. The Selecao were far from impressive in the first half. After some close look in at the Serbia goal, the Brazilians nearly took the lead-up but were denied by the metal work. Brazil did not have to wait long to take the lead and it came two minutes later.

Richarlison slotted home a loose ball from close range. Richarlison scored his second goal when his right footed elegant drive from the centre of the box after been set up by Vinicius Junior. Vinicius firing in a cross with the outside of his foot and Richarlison controlling the ball with the inside of his left foot before spinning around, and firing an overhead kick with his right into the corner of the goal. Thereafter both Brazil and Serbia created chances but didn't trouble the goal score.

STOPPAGE TIME GOALS HELP IRAN DEFEAT WALES 2-0

Al Rayyan (Qatar): Reduced to 10 men, Wales were left heartbroken as Rouzbeh Cheshmi and Ramin Rezaein scored in the stoppage time to help Iran claim a valuable 2-0 win in a Group B match of the FIFA World Cup at the Ahmed bin Ali Stadium here on Friday.

Iran made the most of their one-man advantage, scoring two injury-time goals to beat Wales and maintain their chances of advancing from Group B.

Rouzbeh Cheshmi's stunning goal in the eighth minute of stoppage time broke Wales' resistance after goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey had been shown a straight red card for racing off his line and fouling Mehdi Taremi in the 84th minute.

Iran then added their second with practically the last kick of the game when Ramin Rezaein finished off another rapid counter-attack with a cool finish over substitute goalkeeper Danny Ward. Wales' goalkeeper Hennessey was initially shown yellow for a challenge on Mehdi Taremi though it was checked by VAR with the referee swiftly overturning the decision.



EMBOLO'S LONE GOAL HELPS SWITZERLAND BEAT CAMEROON

Doha: Brel Embolo scored the only goal to lift Switzerland past his country of birth Cameroon in their World Cup Group G opening match here late on Thursday. Embolo, who moved to Europe with his mother as a boy, scored in the 47th minute after receiving a low cross from Captain Granit Xhaka.

"I am happy with the position we have got and we need to make some changes for the next match. We have enough to do so." Cameroon was confident at the Al Janoub Stadium, looking more likely to win the match from the start thanks to some brilliant moves upfront.

Martin Hongla delivered another effort on the right but Sommer once again made a great save. The Embolo, who joined Monaco from Borussia Moenchengladbach in the summer, did not celebrate because he was born in Cameroon. Embolo should have doubled the lead but his shot was too high under pressure from Frank Zambo Anguissa.

PORTUGAL BEGIN CAMPAIGN WITH A 3-2 WIN OVER GHANA

Doha: Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo put all the off-field worries surrounding Manchester United to rest as he scored an opening goal in the 32 win over Ghana in the Group H match at the Stadium 974 in Doha on Thursday evening.

After a barren first half, the second half produced five goals with Ronaldo opening the scoring for Selecao de Quinas. Ronaldo scored from the spot 20 minutes into the second half thus becoming the first man to score in five World Cups. The joy was short lived as Felix got his name on the scorers' list five minutes later giving Portugal the lead, making it 2-1.

Two minutes Portugal struck again this time Leao getting into the thick of action to make it 3-1 and make it difficult for Ghana to make a late fightback. The Africans, however, fought back scoring a goal with one minute left for the normal time through O. Bukari.

Ronaldo used all his experience to win the game: Wayne Rooney

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Legendary footballer Wayne Rooney raised his doubts about the controversial penalty awarded to Portugal during Thursday night's game in their first Group H match of the ongoing FIFA World Cup against Ghana at Stadium 974 in Doha.

The penalty helped Portugal break the deadlock and, in the process, star striker Cristiano Ronaldo also became the first player in the history of world football to score goals in each of his five editions of the tournament, that he has played.

"No, I think Cristiano used all his experience as a forward player, in that position and used his experience to win the penalty and that's good play, good centre forward play," said Rooney. In the match won by



Portugal 3-2, Ronaldo scored from the spot to get his eighth goal in FIFA World Cups. But the decision to award the penalty was criticised by some football followers on social media.

Ronaldo's former country teammate Luis Figo was not convinced either. "For me, it did not look like a penalty

but it was welcome," he said. Ronaldo fell to the ground following a tackle from Ghana's Mohammed Salisu. The referee then awarded a penalty to Portugal in the 62nd minute with no VAR check. Few football fans on social media also felt that Salisu pushed the forward from behind, and the referee's decision was a fair call.

Auckland | Agencies

Tom Latham reiterated on Friday why he's an ever-dependable middle-order batter for New Zealand by striking his seventh ODI hundred to seal a seven-wicket victory over India in the first game of three-match series at Eden Park on Friday. After Shreyas Iyer top-scored with 80 off 76 balls while captain Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill struck 72 and 50 respectively in their fourth hundred-plus stand as an opening pair this year to propel India to a challenging 306/7, New Zealand were in trouble at 88/3 in 19.5 overs.

Latham took the game away from India, hitting an inexperienced bowling attack all over the park to end up unbeaten on a career-best score of 145 off 104 balls, laced with 19 fours and five sixes. He also stitched an unbeat-



en 221-run stand off 165 balls with skipper Kane Williamson, who was the perfect ally and was unconquered at 94 not out to chase the total with 17 balls remaining. For India, they lost the plot with the ball when Latham and Williamson were attacking them, especially after the 40th over.

Gill brought up India's fifty in the 13th over with a delightful cut, but India needed Dhawan to up the ante. It happened when he took back-to-

back fours off Ferguson in the 15th over and cut upishly twice off Milne for a brace of fours.

Dhawan got his fifty when he heaved over long-on for four off Milne in the 21st over and four balls later, brought up the century of the opening partnership by ramping over keeper's head for four. Three overs later, Gill would reach his half-century. But New Zealand made a comeback as they picked four wickets in 36 runs.

Iyer stepped up to steer India towards a huge total by stitching a 94-run stand with Sanju Samson (36). Brief Scores: India 306/7 in 50 overs (Shreyas Iyer 80, Shikhar Dhawan 72; Lockie Ferguson 3/59, Tim Southee 3/73) lost to New Zealand 309/3 in 47.1 overs (Tom Latham 145 not out, Kane Williamson 94 not out; Umran Malik 2/66, Shardul Thakur 1/63) by seven wickets.

LATHAM TOOK THE GAME AWAY FROM US IN THE 40TH OVER: DHAWAN

Auckland: After losing the ODI series opener by seven wickets at Eden Park on Friday, India captain Shikhar Dhawan admitted that New Zealand's wicketkeeper-batter Tom Latham took the game away from them through his 25-run onslaught in the 40th over of chasing 307. Latham had torn into Shardul Thakur in the 40th over - pulling over deep backward square leg for six, followed by four successive boundaries, three of which were hammered through the leg-side. He would then complete his second ODI century against India with a single to long-on to take 25 runs off that over, making the result a foregone conclusion from that point.

"It's a bit different than other grounds. Have to plan accordingly. Today we've bowled short of length and Latham attacked us there. That's where he took the game away from us especially in the 40th over."

"We misfielded on a few balls. But as I said, we were quite short to Latham, and that's where he took the game away. He hit four boundaries in the 40th over, and that's where the game and momentum shifted," said Dhawan in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"They're all young boys and lots of learning for them in bowling and fielding side as well. We need to implement our plans more wisely and make sure we don't make the batsmen play on their strength. Surely lots of learning for the boys."

INDIA LOSE TO UZBEKISTAN IN MEN'S WORLD TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINAL



Jerusalem: Uzbekistan, the reigning Chess Olympiad champion, overcame India in the double-header semifinals with a 2-2 draw and a 2.5-1.5 win -- including victories by Javokhir Sindarov over Nihal Sarin and Nodirbek Yakubboev against Vidit Gujrathi -- to reach the final at the Men's World Team Chess Championship.

China too advanced to the final of the tournament being played in Jerusalem.

In the double-header semifinal, China drew 2-2 with Spain, then won the second match 3-1, thanks to wins from Lu Shanglei and Bai Jinshi over Jaime Santos Latasa and Alexei Shirov respectively.

Alongside the double final matches later on Friday, Spain and India will compete twice to determine third place in the tournament, organised by the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

Vooty Masters Golf: Chouhan matched Gandas' course record of nine-under 63

Vikarabad (Telangana) | Agencies

Om Prakash Chouhan of Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, matched Manu Gandas' course record of nine-under 63 from round one to gain three spots and zoom into a two-shot lead at a total of 15-under 129 after round two of the inaugural Vooty Masters, here on Friday.

Gurugram-based Manu Gandas, the first-round leader, slipped into second place at 13-under 131 after posting a 68 on day two of the Rs. 1 crore event being played at the Vooty Golf County here.

Chandigarh's Angad Cheema (67), who was overnight tied second, ended the second round in third place at 12-fewer than 132.

The cut came down at one-under 143. Fifty professionals and one amateur made the cut to make it to the money rounds over the weekend. Om Prakash Chouhan (66-63) had early jitters as he saved par from the bunker on the 10th, his first hole of the day.



The 36-year-old, who is a seven-time winner on the PGTI, then made his first move of the day with a 15-foot eagle conversion on the 12th. Chouhan built on the momentum with his birdie on the 15th where he drove the par-4 green. Another good par saves from the bunker followed on the 16th before he picked up a birdie on the 18th.

Chouhan said, "Every aspect of my game was sharper today as compared to round one, especially my second shots and bunker shots. I changed my driver and 3-wood last week as I felt that I wasn't hitting it that well. The new clubs have helped me improve both my distance and accuracy off the tee.

"I felt the rhythm after the good par-save on the 10th. Then the 15-foot eagle conversion on the 12th got my putter going. This is a new golf course for all the players including myself so I utilised the practice round and the Pro-Am round before the event really well. That eventually helped me a lot in planning my game."



Everybody had a different perception about me:

Waluscha De Sousa

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Waluscha De Sousa, who started her career as a model and did a number of glamorous roles, is seen playing the role of a Kashmiri villager in the web series 'Tanaav'. She shared what prompted her to take up a project where she is depicted in an altogether distinct avatar. She said: "I wanted to work in this series as I got to play a simple Kashmiri Muslim woman, a very different character from what I have done before. Everybody had a different perception about me that I don't speak Hindi and I am an NRI whereas the truth is I'm born and brought up in Goa."

On The Kapil Sharma Show, the actress is coming along with Arbaaz Khan, Manav Vij, Sumit Kaul, and director Sudhir Mishra to promote the socio-political series 'Tanaav' which is all about insurgents in Kashmir and their fight with Special Task Group (STG).

Furthermore, the director appreciates the actress for her dedication to work and how she was casted for the series.

"She is too hard working. When we casted Waluscha, she was perfect according to the look and the costume and was looking just like a Kashmiri Muslim girl. But the way she worked on her accent is commendable," he said.

MY JOURNEY IN THE INDUSTRY HASN'T BEEN A VERY CONVENTIONAL ONE:

ALAYA F

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alaya F, who is all set for her next 'Freddy', has talked about how there is no end to creative explorations when it comes to acting. Alaya said: "My favourite part about the job is that you get to experiment with so many different genres, so many different characters and so many different types of storytelling." She added: "I have shot three films since my first and each one is very different than the other, so I'm really excited for the audience to see me really push myself with each project."

"My journey in the industry hasn't been a very conventional one, so why should my film choices be conventional? I want to keep surprising people, and I really hope I can do justice to all the opportunities I've been given since Jawaani Jaaneman." Kartik Aaryan's most awaited 'Freddy' is about the journey of Dr. Freddy Ginwala, a shy, lonely and socially awkward person who loves playing with his miniature planes and the only friend he has is his pet turtle 'Hardy'. Disney+ Hotstar recently announced their upcoming spine-chilling romantic thriller 'Freddy'. Produced by Balaji Telefilms Ltd, NH Studioz and Northern Lights Films, directed by Shashanka Ghosh and starring Kartik Aaryan and Alaya F.

SRK has a Tom Cruise connect in his movie

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Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film 'Pathaan' has a huge Hollywood star Tom Cruise connects, according to the film's director Siddharth Anand.

Siddharth said: "When one sets out to make the spectacle action film of India with one of the all time biggest heroes of our country, Shah Rukh Khan, you need to have a champion team that is unified in the vision."

"Thankfully we got an A-team that came together to push the visual envelope with Pathaan and I was delighted to have someone like Casey O' Neill, who has extensively worked with Tom Cruise, to be by our side." Emmy award-nominated Casey, regarded as one of the best action directors in Hollywood, is the brain behind Tom

Cruise's death-defying stunts in films like Jack Reacher, Mission Impossible series films, 'Top Gun: Maverick' and has also worked with Marvel Studios and Steven Spielberg to name a few. About



Casey, Siddharth adds: "He brings in a wealth of experience and he immediately bought into the idea of creating edge of the seat action for Pathaan that could match what he's done back home in Hollywood."

"What Casey has created in 'Pathaan', is

simply mind-boggling. You will have to see the film for that because we aren't going to disclose any details from the film.

I was too little when Nutan was a superstar: Kajol

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Bollywood actress Kajol talked about late veteran actress Nutan and how she inspired her in life. She also revealed that the 'Sujata' actress was also an amazing singer and she used to play harmonium at home. She said while talking about Nutan: "I was too little when Nutan maasi(aunt) was a superstar, and when I grew up, I watched her in the role of a mother in most of the films. She was also a very brilliant and talented singer and used to perform for us on her Harmonium."

The actress appeared on the singing reality show 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li' Champs' along with her 'Salaam Venky's co-star Vishal Jethwa for the '30 years of Kajol' special episode. The movie is a story of a caring mother played by Kajol, who looks after her terminally-ill son Venky, portrayed by Vishal Jethwa and it showed her struggle and what she does to fulfill his wish. Kajol added that she learned a lot about women's empowerment from her mother and aunt. "I have to say one thing about my mother,

Maasi, and Nani, we keep talking about women empowerment and making women strong these days, but the leading ladies of my life have never taught me about it, but their lives have been a live example for me, they did it and showed it to me. I am fortunate to have been brought up by these women," she added.



Papon has now turned into a filmmaker

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Singer Papon has now turned into a filmmaker and is working on two films simultaneously in Northeast India.

"The Land of the Sacred Beats" and "The Mystical Brahmaputra - A Musical Story" is the two films Papon has been working on for the past 4 years.

Talking about the films, Papon said: "Everyone knows my love towards India, and especially the Northeast. I feel responsible to take the Northeast to the rest of the world."

"The experience of making films like this is life-changing. We have been travelling for years for research and shooting. I hope through this film we are not only able to boost tourism and culture but also promote its beautiful stories."

He was invited to the prestigious Cannes Film Festival as the Cultural Ambassador of Assam. The teasers of Papon's productions were unveiled at the India Pavilion at the March du Film to celebrate cinemas rooted in Assam. The films are produced by Papon and directed by Parasher Baruah. The duo has been travelling lengths and breaths of the Northeast to capture its diversity, livelihood, crafts, arts and stories.



Ganesh master ji, he has presented me and choreographed the dance for me in a way that will be very new for my audience." "I had a blast shooting for this song with Vicky; we rehearsed a lot before shooting it. There was an infectious energy on set; everyone had their A-game on. Bijli is a full-on dance song; it is super catchy and will make you dance every time you hear it."

Kiara and Vicky shares their experience on masala song

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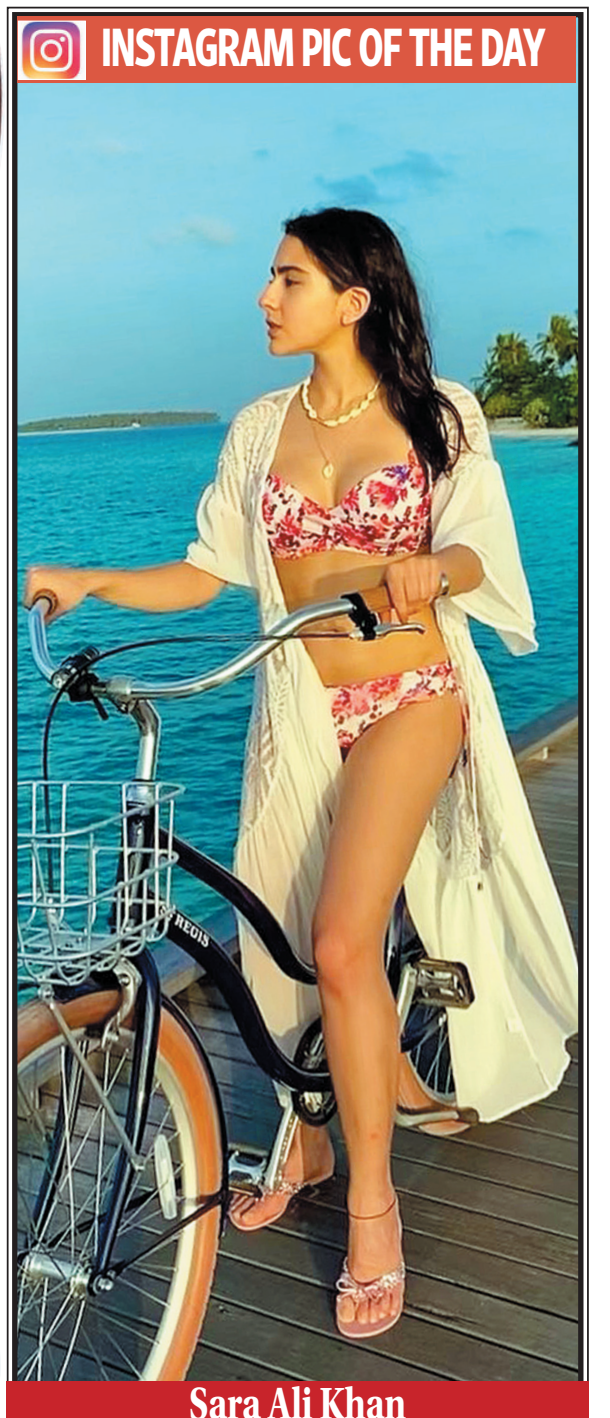
The first dance number titled 'Bijli' featuring Kiara Advani and Vicky Kaushal from 'Govinda Naam Mera' is out. The actor said that this is the first time he danced so much on screen. Written by Vayu and composed by the musical duo Sachin-Jigar, 'Bijli' is sung by Mika Singh, Neha Kakkar and Sachin-Jigar.

Talking about the song, Vicky said: "Honestly, this is the first time ever that I am dancing so much on screen. I had absolute fun to explore this side of me and trust me, Bijli is just a jhalak (glimpse); my fans will see a lot of dancing from me in this film. It was fun to share the dance floor with Kiara, she is an amazing co-star and a great dancer herself."

"I love the desi vibe of the song and Ganesh master's choreography with Mika paaji, Neha and Sachin-Jigar's vocals take the song a notch higher. I am in love with the song and hope my fans will also give it and the film all their love. It was fun to share the dance floor with Kiara, she is one of my favourite co-stars."

Kiara Advani added that this is the first time she has shot for such a masala song. "I have never been seen in an avatar like this before. I loved my Kolhapuri look for Bijli. It was my dream to be choreographed by

Ganesh master ji, he has presented me and choreographed the dance for me in a way that will be very new for my audience." "I had a blast shooting for this song with Vicky; we rehearsed a lot before shooting it. There was an infectious energy on set; everyone had their A-game on. Bijli is a full-on dance song; it is super catchy and will make you dance every time you hear it."



Sara Ali Khan