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JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD SWORN-IN AS 50TH CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday administered the oath of office to Justice D.Y. Chandrachud as the 50th Chief Justice of India. Justice Chandrachud took the oath at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, which was attended by dignitaries. On October 11, former Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit named Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the senior most judge in the Supreme Court, as his successor. Justice Lalit retired on November 8. Justice Chandrachud is the son of former Supreme Court judge Y.V. Chandrachud, who was the longest serving CJI for being in office for about seven years and four months between 1978 to 1985. During his tenure, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud overturned two judgments of his father -- which were related to adultery and the right to privacy. Justice Chandrachud obtained a PhD from Harvard Law School and is known as a non-conformist judge. He has played a key role in introducing virtual hearings during the Covid time, which has now become a permanent feature. He has been part of the landmark judgments on Ayodhya title dispute, decriminalisation of homosexuality, adultery, privacy, entry of women into Sabarimala, etc.

SC ADJOURNS DEMONETISATION HEARING AS CENTRE FAILS TO FILE AFFIDAVIT, CALLS IT 'VERY EMBARRASSING'

The top court is hearing over 50 petitions challenging the Centre's 2016 demonetisation decision to take currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denominations out of circulation. In the previous hearing, the apex court said it was completely mindful of the "lakshman rekha" in connection with the matters of economic policies as it set about to examine the decision making process.

"Normally a constitution bench never adjourns like this. We never rise like this. It is very embarrassing for the court also."
The bench remarked

SC TO HEAR ONE-TIME SPECTRUM CHARGE MATTER TODAY

New Delhi: The one-time spectrum charge (OTSC) matter, which has been lingering for the last four years, will come up for hearing in the Supreme Court on Thursday. There have been 19 adjournments and various opportunities have been granted by the Supreme Court, according to the requests of both the telecom operators as well as the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and the final hearing in the matter remains pending for nearly four years now. The matter will be heard by a bench headed by Justice M.R. Shah, who was part of the AGR bench headed by then Justice Arun Mishra. The total OTSC liability on the operators is estimated to be Rs 25,000 crore. Individually, Airtel and Vodafone Idea have an exposure of Rs 9,000 crore and Rs 11,000 crore, respectively.

'CORRUPT PEOPLE ARE DESTROYING THE COUNTRY, GET AWAY WITH CORRUPTION'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday, while considering activist Gautam Navlakha's request for house arrest, orally observed that corrupt people are destroying the country and they get away with corruption with the help of money. Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, appearing for the National Investigation Agency (NIA), submitted before a bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy that people such as Navlakha, arrested in Bhima Koregaon case, want to destroy the country and alleged that he is pro-Maoist and has links with Pakistan's ISI. Raju alleged that they are not innocent people and involved in actual warfare, and "they want to destroy the country". At this, Justice Joseph remarked: "Who is destroying the country, you want me to tell... the corrupt",

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned until November 24 the scrutiny of the decision-making process behind the 2016 demonetisation policy as Centre failed to file affidavit, saying "it is very embarrassing". On October 11, the Supreme Court asked the Centre and RBI to file comprehensive affidavits on the 2016 demonetisation decision and also keep the files ready in connection with Centre's letter to the RBI, the decision of the RBI Board, and the demonetisation announcement. A five-judge constitution bench adjourned the matter after Attorney General R. Venkataramani sought time to file a comprehensive affidavit. The AG apologised to the bench for not being able to prepare the comprehensive affidavit and sought a week's time. On the

aspect of adjournment, Venkataramani said that it was embarrassing for him also. Lawyers representing the petitioners argued against the submissions for adjourning of proceedings, saying it has never been an

accepted practice before a constitution bench. Senior advocate Shyam Divan, representing one of the petitioners, said this was highly unusual to ask a constitution bench for adjournment. The counsel, for the petitioners, said they should be allowed to argue and the RBI and the central govern-

Massive global Meta layoffs hit India teams



Team Absolute | New Delhi
The worst lay-off in the global tech industry by Meta, that saw 11,000 employees being shown the door, has hit India teams too, albeit marginally, reliable sources said on Wednesday. In one of the worst lay-offs ever in the tech industry after Twitter - which saw 90 per cent of India team being sacked - Meta Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg fired about 13 per cent of the global workforce and extended hiring freeze through Q1 2023. Sources told IANS that layoffs impacted Meta India team across verticals, although the exact number of affected employees could not be ascertained. The India unit of Meta did not immediately comment on an IANS query. Meta is likely to have up to 400 employees in the country, and its business is doing relatively well. According to business intelligence platform Tofler, net profit of Facebook India Online Services, the registered entity of Meta, jumped to Rs 297 crore in FY22 in comparison to Rs 128 crore in FY21, while its revenues grew 56 per cent to Rs 2,324 crore in FY22 from Rs 1,485 crore in FY21. Last week, Meta announced that its India head, Ajit Mohan, decided to step down from his role at the company to pursue another opportunity. Mohan has taken over Indian operations of Snap, which is the parent company of Snapchat, which is growing exponentially in the country especially among the youth. Meanwhile, Zuckerberg said that as a severance measure, the company will pay 16 weeks of base pay, along with two additional weeks for every year of service, "with no cap". "Outside the US, support will be similar, and we'll follow up soon with separate processes that take into account local employment laws," he added.

Major polluters India, China must pay for climate fund, say small island nations

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Small island nations during the ongoing UN COP27 summit, have said that highly polluting nations like India and China should contribute to a climate compensation fund to help countries rebuild after climate change-driven disasters, according to reports. Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne made these comments on Tuesday during the summit in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh. As per media reports, Browne's comments are the first time that both India and China have together been clubbed as major emitters by small island nations. Browne, speaking on behalf of the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) negotiating bloc, told media-persons on the sidelines of the summit that though both India and China are emerg-



ing economies, they have a responsibility towards paying into a climate compensation fund. Delegates at the conference agreed to put the topic of loss and damage onto the formal agenda for the first time in the history of international climate negotiations, reports said further. "We all know that the People's Republic of China, India they're major polluters,

NOTIFICATION FOR BYPOLL TO UP'S RAMPUR ASSEMBLY SEAT HELD BACK

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh's Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla, on Wednesday, stalled the process of by election to the Rampur Assembly seat. The notification for the by election was scheduled to be issued on Thursday. In a release, the CEO said that the notification was being stalled till further orders. The Supreme Court, on Wednesday, directed the Election Commission not to issue the notification for the Assembly bypoll in Rampur Sadar in Uttar Pradesh, which fell vacant following the disqualification of sitting Samajwadi Party MLA Azam Khan after his conviction in a hate speech case. A bench, headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, directed a special sessions court to hear and decide on Thursday itself the appeal of Khan seeking a stay on his conviction so that he survives disqualification as a lawmaker.

HINDU WORD ORIGIN ROW: K'TAKA CONG LEADER APOLOGISES

Team Absolute | Belagavi

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee Secretary Satish Jarkiholi on Wednesday apologised for his comments on the origin of the word 'Hindu'. "One of my statements has turned into a controversy. It has been distorted and spread. I am taking back my statement so that it should not create confusion among people. I apologise if it has caused pain to anyone," Jarkiholi stated in his letter written to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. "I have mentioned that Hindu word came from the Persian language while giving a speech on Oct 6. How did it come to India? I have also stated that in many books it is quoted that the meaning of the word Hindu is dirty. And, I have also pressed for a debate in this regard," Jarkiholi stated. "My speech was based on research in Wikipedia, books, dic-



tionaries and writings of historians. The vested interest forces are trying to project me as an anti-Hindu. There is a well planned conspiracy to defame and cause harm to me. I request CM Bommai to conduct an inquiry against people who are creating trouble and the above quoted facts," he said.

ALLAHABAD HC DISMISSES PLEA AGAINST ACQUITTAL OF BABRI ACCUSED

Lucknow: The Allahabad High Court has dismissed a criminal appeal filed against the order of the Special CBI Court at Lucknow acquitting all 32 persons, including prominent BJP leaders L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti, Kalyan Singh, etc accused of hatching the criminal conspiracy behind the demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992. The bench of Justices Ramesh Sinha and Saroj Yadav dismissed the appeal after reserving the judgment on October 31. The appeal had been filed by two Ayodhya residents, Haji Mehmood Ahmad and Syed Akhlaq Ahmad, who claimed to have witnessed the demolition of the disputed structure on December 6, 1992. They had also claimed in the plea that they are the victims of the incident since their houses had been burnt.

Indians gained 1.5 kg due to sugar binge during the Diwali week

▶ SUGAR CONSUMPTION AMONG MALES SPIKED BY 38 PER CENT WHILE IT INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT AMONG FEMALES. AS A RESULT, MEN GAINED 1.7 KG ON AVERAGE DURING THE FESTIVE WEEK WHILE WOMEN GAINED 1.28 KG.
▶ AMONG THE INDIAN SWEETS, KAJU KATLI AND GULAB JAMUN TOOK THE POLE POSITION IN TERMS OF SWEET CONSUMPTION RECORDED DURING DIWALI WEEK ON THE APP, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT.

Bangalore | Agencies

The overall sugar consumption of Indians went up by 32 per cent between October 22 to 27, during the Diwali week - an all-time high for 2022, which resulted in an average weight gain of 1.5 kgs per user, a report said on Wednesday. Also, a steep decline of 32 per cent in workouts was recorded among Indians. "After the two years of Covid, people have gone all out and celebrated Diwali with full fervour this year - gaining 1.5 kg on average in a week alone! However, it is good to see that many people have promptly made progress toward getting back in shape - losing most of the holiday weight in the 10 days following," said Anjan Bhojarajan, Chief Business Officer, HealthifyMe. According to HealthifyMe, among India's leading metros, Pune (46 per cent) consumed the maximum sugar, fol-



lowed by Hyderabad (34 per cent), Bengaluru (34 per cent), and Chennai (33 per cent). The sweet was relished the most in Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Pune. However, Indians have realised the need to recover. The average amount of sugar consumed decreased by 30 per cent between October 28 and November 3. Additionally, people's physical activity levels have increased by 12 per cent as they try to get in shape, said the report.

Centre deploys team to Mumbai to assess, manage measles outbreak

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Union Health Ministry has decided to depute a high-level multi-disciplinary team to Mumbai to take stock of the upsurge in cases of measles in the city. The team will assist the state health authorities in instituting public health measures and facilitate operationalisation of requisite control and containment measures. The three-member Central team comprises experts drawn from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), New Delhi, Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), New Delhi and Regional Office for Health and Family Welfare, Pune. The team is headed by Dr.



Anubhav Srivastava, Deputy Director, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), NCDC. The team will also undertake field visits to investigate the outbreak and assist the state Health Department in terms of public health measures, management guidelines and protocols to manage the increasing cases of measles being reported in Mumbai.



TELANGANA FORMS SIT TO PROBE MLAS' POACHING CASE

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Telangana government on Wednesday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe MLA's poaching case in which three alleged agents of BJP were arrested last month.

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government's move came a day after the Telangana High Court lifted the stay on the investigation in the case.

The SIT will be headed by Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand. Six other police officers - Nalgonda SP Rema Rajeshwari, Cyberabad DCP Kalmeshwar Shingenavar, DCP R. Jagadishwar Reddy, Narayanpet SP N. Venkateshwarlu, ACP B. Gangadhar and SHO Laxmi Reddy - will be the members of the team. The state government issued a Government Order (GO) after Director General of Police made a request to constitute the SIT in public interest to carry out proper investigation in an expeditious manner.



According to the GO, the DGP informed the government that since the case is sensitive, high profile and sensational in nature as it involves investigation in multiple dimensions, which requires thorough scientific

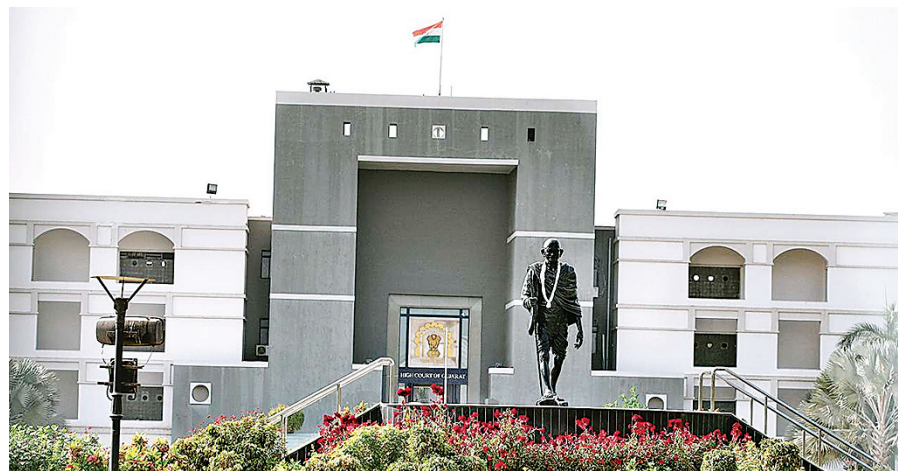
and evidence-based investigation in an elaborate manner, it requires officers with experience and requisite expertise with specific skill sets to carry out investigation.

The three accused said to be BJP agents were arrested from a farm-

house at Moinabad near Hyderabad on the night of October 26 when they were allegedly trying to lure four MLAs of TRS with offers of huge money. Cyberabad police conducted the raid on a tip-off by Pilot Rohit Reddy, one of the MLAs. He alleged that the accused offered Rs 100 crore to him and Rs 50 crore each to three others.

Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish Sharma, a priest from Faridabad in Haryana, Simhayaji, pontiff of Srimanatha Raja Peetham in Tirupati, and Nandakumar, owner of a restaurant in Hyderabad were booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Prevention of Corruption Act. Addressing a news conference on November 3, Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao had released evidence in the case including video recordings of the conversation between the accused and the MLAs. The accused had mentioned names of some top BJP leaders including Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Guj HC rejects govt plea to withdraw criminal case against BJP MLA



Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Gujarat High Court on Wednesday rejected the state government's plea to permit withdrawal of a criminal case against the ruling BJP MLA Dharmendrasinh Jadeja.

A single-judge bench of Justice Niral R. Mehta said: "Learned Assistant Public Prosecutor appears to have exercised discretionary power improperly and would be nothing but an attempt to

interfere with normal course of justice for illegitimate reasons. Thus, this Court cannot be a mute spectator and should not grant permission merely upon asking. This petition is rejected."

On December 21, 2007, a mob of 200-300 persons gathered outside the gate of Essar company at Khambhalia Taluka to agitate for resolution of issues affecting public at large as well as local agriculturists. However, during the said agitation, the

mob had started stone pelting on the buses of the company and as a result thereof, employees travelling in these had received injuries while the vehicles suffered damage. Police officers, deployed there to maintain public peace and safety, also received stone injuries. A case was registered against Jadeja and others for unlawful assembly, rioting with deadly weapons, wrongful restraint, criminal intimidation and other sections.

Gujarat: Congress leader quits as MLA, joins BJP

Gandhinaga | Agencies

Congress legislator from Talala in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district Bhagabhai Barad on Wednesday resigned as MLA as well as from the party's primary membership, and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Barad, who belongs to the Aahir community, is a three-time MLA from Talala constituency.

The seat is considered a Congress stronghold. In the last 10 assembly elections, BJP could register victory here only twice -- in 1995



and 2002. After joining BJP, Barad told mediapersons: "... we are not 'real Congress', other than this, I would not like to make any comments on the Congress party. I am

influenced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development model... so joined the party and will work for the party as its soldier."

ED SUMMONS HEMANT SOREN ON NOV 17 IN ILLEGAL MINING CASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has been summoned again by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on November 17 in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to illegal mining and extortion in Jharkhand and Bihar.

Soren had earlier skipped the questioning and sought three weeks time from the ED.

Agency sources claimed that they have sent him a fresh summons to join the probe.

Soren had written a letter to the probe agency seeking three weeks time. He said that he had programmes to attend and hence he needed three weeks time.

The ED had also written to the Jharkhand Police Commissioner to make appropriate security arrange-



ments ahead of his questioning. "There was a cheque signed by Mr Soren which was found by us during

the recent raid. He also allegedly misused his position and granted a lease," the sources said.

The ED had recently filed a Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) before a Special Ranchi court against Pankaj Mishra, a close aide of Soren, and Bachhu Yadav and Prem Prakash who are also said to be close to the Jharkhand CM.

The court has already taken cognizance of the chargesheet.

The ED said that during the investigation, 47 searches were conducted throughout India on several dates resulting in the seizure of cash amounting to Rs 5.34 crore, freezing of bank balances amounting to Rs 13.32 crore, seizure of an inland vessel MV Infralink -III, reg. No- WB 1809, 5 stone crushers, two Hyva trucks besides incriminating documents along with two AK 47 assault rifles. Earlier the ED had arrested Pankaj Mishra, Bachhu Yadav and Prem Prakash. The accused are presently in judicial custody.

Maha: 7,751 Gram Panchayat polls, direct Sarpanch elections on Dec 18

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In yet another round of mini-general elections at the grassroots level in Maharashtra, 7,751 Gram Panchayats will vote on December 18, and directly elect their respective Sarpanches, State Election Commissioner U.P.S. Madan said here on Wednesday.

The polling will be conducted for the GPs whose terms are expiring in 34 of the state's 36 districts between October-December 2022, and the results shall be declared on December 20.

As per the schedule, the nomination papers can be filed from November 28, scrutiny will be done on December 5, and the last date for withdrawal would be December 7 along with distribution of election symbols to the candidates.

Voting will be held on December 18 from 7.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., but only till 3 p.m. only in the Maoist-affected areas, and the counting of votes will take place on December 20, said Madan.



The highest number of GPs which are going to polls are: Beed - 704, Kolhapur - 475, Sangli - 452, Bhandara - 363, Latur - 351, Gondia - 348, Sindhudurg - 325, Satara - 319.

There are also elections to GPs in Washim - 287, Buldana - 279, Akola and Jalna - 266 each, Amravati - 257, Raigad - 240, Nagpur - 237, Ratnagiri - 222, Pune - 221, Aurangabad - 219, Ahmednagar - 203. Going to polls are GPs in Nashik - 196, Solapur - 189, Nanded - 181, Osmanabad - 166, Jalgaon - 140, Dhule and Parbhani 128 each, Nandurbar - 123, Wardha - 113, Yavatmal - 100.

PROVIDE SECURITY TO CHHAWLA RAPE VICTIM'S FAMILY: DCW TELLS POLICE

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has taken suo moto cognizance towards ensuring welfare and security of the family members of a 19-year-old gang-rape victim whose body was found in a mutilated condition in Haryana, three days after she was abducted, said an official on Wednesday.

The DCW has asked Delhi Police to provide high level security to the family members of the girl after the three accused were acquitted by the Apex Court. The incident had taken place in 2012.

The girl was a resident of Chhawla, Delhi. She was abducted from Qutub Vihar in 2012. As per reports, the girl was subjected to utmost horrors before being murdered brutally. In 2014, the trial court convicted the accused persons and accorded death penalty to them. The Delhi High Court also upheld the judgement considering the matter to be a rarest of rare case. On November 7, the Supreme Court had acquitted all three accused persons pointing out inadequate evidence and improper investigation along with certain other lapses. In the notice issued to police, the DCW has stated that the matter is extremely sensitive and considering the fact that the perpetrators are roaming free, high-level security must be immediately provided to the family members of the deceased girl.



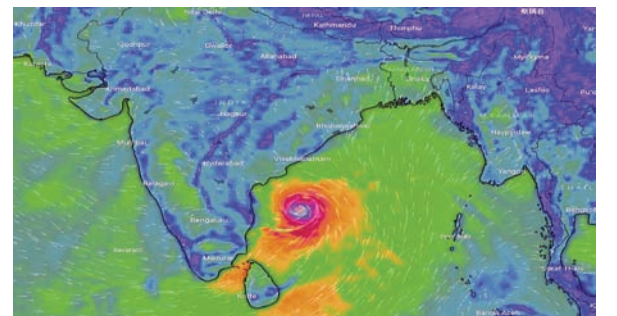
HEAVY RAINFALL FORECAST FOR TAMIL NADU

Chennai | Agencies

The Met Department has predicted heavy rains in isolated places in Tamil Nadu on Thursday (November 10) and the showers, with thunderstorms and lightning, are expected till Sunday.

Rains are likely to hit heavily in some places of Tiruvallur, Chennai, Villupuram, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Pudukottai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Kancheepuram districts.

Additional Director General of Meteorology, Regional Meteorological Centre, S. Balachandran told media persons on Wednesday that a low-pressure area was formed over the southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining the equatorial Indian Ocean



and this system is likely to bring in heavy rains. This system was formed under the influence of the cyclonic circulation over southwest Bay of Bengal, and is likely to become heavier during the next 48 hours and to move northwestwards towards Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts.

The IMD has predicted light to moderate rains on Friday with isolated thunderstorms and lightning likely to

take place in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Karaikal areas. Heavy rains are likely to occur over Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Tirupattur, Vellore, Ranipet, Tiruvallur, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi, and Mylathurathi districts.

Isolated heavy rains have been forecast in many districts on Sunday with thunderstorms and lightning.

Harjinder Singh Dhama re-elected SGPC president

Amritsar | Agencies

In the high-stake electoral battle, Harjinder Singh Dhama was on Wednesday re-elected president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the mini parliament of the religion, officials said.

He secured 104 votes and defeated Bibi Jagir Kaur by 62 votes.

Baldev Singh Kaimpuri was elected senior vice president, while Avtar Singh Fatehgarh junior vice president, and Gurcharan Singh Grewal general secretary. All were elected unanimously. Of the 157 members, 146 cast their votes at a polling centre in Teja Singh Samundri Hall, headquarters of the apex gurdwara body, in Golden Temple complex.

Punjab's Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) dominates the SGPC. This time, the electoral battle was a high-stake one as SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal was in



support of Dhama.

The 191-member -- 170 members elected by Sikh voters, 15 are co-opted and six sitting heads of Sikh temporal seats and head granthi of the Golden Temple -- general house assembles annually.

Chances High Of Big Earthquake In Himalayas, Need To Prep: Scientists

Dehradun | Agencies

Scientists on Wednesday said there is a strong possibility of a major earthquake in the Himalayan region and underlined the need for better preparation to minimise the damage to life and property.

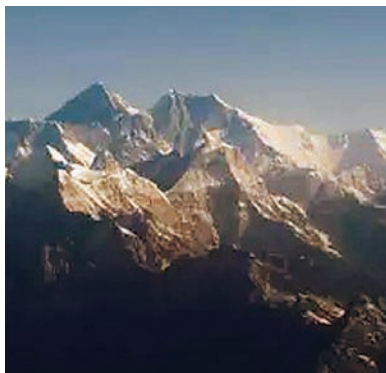
Tremors were felt in Uttarakhand after a strong 6.6-magnitude earthquake jolted the remote mountainous region of western Nepal early Wednesday, killing six people.

Senior geophysicist of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology Ajay Paul said the Himalayas have come into existence as a result of a collision between Indian and Eurasian plates.

Due to constant pressure of the Eurasian plate on the Indian plate, strained energy accumulating under it keeps releasing itself from time to time in the form of earthquakes, Paul said.

"Occurrence of earthquakes due to accumulation of strained energy under the Himalayas is a normal and relentless process. The entire Himalayan region is highly vulnerable to tremors and the strong possibility of a major earthquake is always there," Paul said.

The magnitude of future earthquake might be of seven or more on the richter scale, he claimed. Paul, however, said the



release of strained energy or an earthquake cannot be predicted. "No one knows when it would happen. It may happen the next moment, the next month or after 100 years," he said. Four major earthquakes were recorded in the Himalayan region over the past 150 years, including the tremors in Shillong in 1897, in Kangra in 1905, in Bihar-Nepal in 1934 and in Assam in 1950. Despite these pieces of information, nothing can be said about the frequency of earthquakes, he said. An earthquake occurred in Uttarkashi in 1991 followed by one in Chamoli in 1999 and one in Nepal in 2015. Instead of fearing earthquakes due to their unpredictability, it is important to

keep ourselves prepared to deal with them in a better way and minimise the damage they might cause to life and property, he said.

The constructions should be earthquake resistant, people should be made aware of what can be done by way of preparations before earthquakes, at the time of their occurrence and after they have happened, Paul said.

Mock drills should be conducted at least once every year, he said, adding that if these things are done, the damages by an earthquake can be reduced by 99.99 per cent. Citing the example of Japan, Paul said due to its better preparedness, the country does not suffer much damage to life and property despite being constantly hit by medium intensity earthquakes. He said the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology also keeps sending its teams to villages and schools to create awareness about what can be done to minimise the effects of an earthquake.

Another senior geo-physicist at the institute Naresh Kumar said Uttarakhand has been placed in seismic zone IV and V due to its vulnerability to earthquakes. Around 60 earthquake observatories have been set up in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to register seismic movements round the clock, he said.

Controversy deepens over power of attorney to Yogi issue in Gyanvapi in case



Varanasi | Agencies

The Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh (VVSS) chief Jitendra Singh Bisen who has filed legal suits, including the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi case, has said that the compilation of power of attorneys (PoA) of the cases related to Gyanvapi issue had been completed and was likely to be handed over to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on November 11. "We are ready with the power of attorneys of all the cases related to Gyanvapi mosque and its complex. We are likely to hand it over to the chief minister on November 11," said Bisen. Meanwhile, Kaushal Raj Sharma, divisional commissioner, Varanasi, has termed it a publicity stunt and said there was no consent of the chief minister on this and if

any registry was done in this regard, an FIR would be lodged against the erring persons.

On October 31, VVSS chief Jitendra Singh Bisen had cited threat to his and his family members' lives behind the decision of handing over the power of attorney to the chief minister, stating that he did not want the ongoing cases to be left abruptly if anything untoward happened to him or his family. A government spokesman had said in a statement earlier that "The chief minister's office has nothing to do with the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh's announcement about handing over power of attorney to chief minister Yogi Adityanath in the cases filed by the organisation with regard to Shringar Gauri issue."



"I APOLOGISE," SAYS MINISTER NITIN GADKARI OVER BAD ROAD, CROWD APPLAUDS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari put out a public apology for what he said was a poorly built stretch of highway in Madhya Pradesh and ordered a new contract for the project.

"I am sad and pained. I have no hesitation in apologising if a mistake has been made. On the Mandla to Jabalpur highway, the 63-km Barela to Mandla stretch that cost Rs 400 crore to build, I am not satisfied with it," the Road Transport Minister said in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur on Monday.

His audience broke into applause. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Chouhan was on the stage.

"There is a problem and many of you are facing difficulties. I spoke to my officers before coming here. I have told them whatever work is



pending, have a discussion. After mutual consensus suspend the project and repair the old work, float a new tender and deliver a good road

soon. Whatever you have faced so far, I apologise for it," Gadkari said.

Gadkari and Chouhan launched eight road projects together.

The Union Minister also promised to give Madhya Pradesh roads worth Rs 6 lakh crore during his term and urged the state government to accelerate land acquisition and clearing of forests.

Gadkari's plainspeak has often landed him in trouble within the BJP. On Tuesday, he said the country was indebted to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh - who led two Congress governments between 2004 and 2014 - for economic reforms.

"Liberal economy ke karan desh ko nayee disha mili, uske liye Manmohan Singh ka desh reeni hai (The country is indebted to Manmohan Singh for the liberalisation that gave a new direction)," Mr Gadkari said at an award function.

BJP moving towards major surgery in state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Bharatiya Janata Party wants to strengthen its organization ahead of next year's assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, which is why the party has started moving towards major surgery.

The BJP organization wants to strengthen itself on all fronts before the assembly elections and for this it is necessary that the leaders who have responsibilities in their hands, their work should be better, as well as their activism is visible at the grassroots level. Those who fail to do so are bound to be discharged.

BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma is constantly visiting different parts of the state and is also calling for their report along with the meeting of office bearers from booth level to district level. The office bearers whose reports are not satisfactory even to the party organization are being changed. This is the reason why BJP has changed the in-charges of the divisional level. Due to this change, Kavita Patidar has been made in-charge of Jabalpur division, Kant Dev Singh in-charge of Bhopal division,



Harishankar Khatik in-charge of Chambal division, Alok Sharma as Ujjain division and Shardendu Tiwari in-charge of Shahdol division. The party has already changed many district presidents and many more district presidents are to be changed in the coming days.

Party sources say that the major reason for the defeat of the party in the urban body elections has been due to the conflict, the leaders who had the responsibility of the respective places could not discharge their responsibility in a better way, so in the assembly elections. The party has a special eye to ensure that there is no mistake. The possibility of further changes in the coming days cannot be ruled out.

MP's 'KBC 14' contestant impresses Big B with his hilarious conversation

Team Absolute | Mumbai / Bhopal

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who is currently seen hosting the quiz-based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 14' said he had all fun talking to the contestant Bhopendra Choudhary.

Bhopendra Chaudhary, 37, who works as a Programme Executive in N.M. Sadguru water and development foundation told the host about his town.

He said: "Khurai is a part of the Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh, a tehsil which could turn into the 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh as well. In Khurai, there are two or three things that are famous. The first is the agricultural implementation which is brilliant and it is quite famous in India."

"The second thing is wheat and the third is the Dohela temple where on Makar Sankranti the Dohela festival is celebrated. At 30-40 km, there is a place called Aeran where you can find the roots of tradition and culture."

"The last is Bhopendra Choudhary, who is sitting in front of you and our MLA is Bhopendra Singh, who is a Minister, and so Khurai only has two famous Bhopens, me and him." Listening to how he mentioned himself among all the popular things in Khurai, Big B appreciated him for his wit and cheerful



Furthermore, he also told Big B that during his college days, his friends used to compare him with Shah Rukh Khan. "During my time in college, there were a few female batchmates who used to call me, 'Shah Rukh Khan,' as back in the year 2004-2005, my build and my hairstyle used to resemble him. Till date, I am not aware if they would tease me or not, that's their angle." He also asked the host if he was compared with any of the stars during his college days and the host replied that he was never compared with anyone.

Man held with gun during sub-Bharat Jodo yatra in MP belongs to BJP: Cong

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After a man whipped out a gun during a sub-rally of Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior-Chambal area, the state Congress unit on Wednesday alleged that the miscreant was associated with the saffron party.

A group of Congress leaders, including the leader of opposition (LoP) in the state Assembly Dr Govind Singh and MLA Jayvardhan Singh -- son of Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh --, blamed the ruling BJP for the incident.

Such an incident may reoccur when the foot march led by Rahul Gandhi enters in the state on November 20, they stated.

The Congress also demanded that the government ensure full security arrangement when the rally enters the state and passes through seven districts including Indore, Ujjain, Khargone and Agar-Malwa.

On Tuesday, when a sub-yatra was



proceeding from Bhind to Gwalior district, a youth armed with a loaded country-made revolver tried to open fire on one of the people present. He was, however, overpowered by the people and handed over to the police. Dr Govind Singh, who is MLA from

Lahar Assembly seat in Bhind district, was leading the march from Bhind to Gwalior.

According to the Congress leaders, the incident occurred around 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, when Bharat Jodo tertiary march entered Gwalior dis-

trict. "All of sudden a youth came and pointed the gun at a person, who was part of the march. He was about to shoot him when people present there overpowered him and handed him over to the police. It is a matter of concern and we suspect that such an incident may occur in future as well," the LoP told reporter.

However, Gwalior police claimed that the accused -- identified as Jitu Gurjar -- had accompanied victim Chhotu Tomar to the rally. "The incident was a fallout of a personal rivalry between the two men. The accused has been arrested," said Amit Sanghi, Gwalior SP. Notably, former Chief Minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath had visited Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on November 6 and apprised him about the Yatra's arrival in the state.

Sources said that Chouhan has appointed senior bureaucrats to ensure the security and other arrangements for the same.

Medical University allegedly awarded 278 degrees to people who were never students

Team Absolute | Bhopal

An investigation at Madhya Pradesh Medical Science University, Jabalpur, revealed that 278 degrees were awarded to people who were never students at the varsity. The findings of the five-member investigation committee, led by retired Madhya Pradesh high court judge KK Trivedi, also flagged overwritten answer sheets and revaluation even when the rules did not allow it, reported Hindustan Times.

On August 16, 2021, seven petitioners approached the Madhya Pradesh high court. Demanding an independent probe, the petitioners claimed that there had been massive-scale corruption in the administration of the 2018-19 exams at the medical and nursing colleges affiliated with the varsity.

To investigate the claims, the court directed the state government to set up a high-level committee on October 4, 2021. The committee featured a retired



high court judge, a police officer, and three experts. Seven days later, the state government appointed KK Trivedi to lead the committee.

The findings of the investigation were presented to the court in July. They are expected to be discussed at the upcoming hearing on January 2.

According to the national daily, the committee report says that the universi-

ty showed a mismatch between 278 students who enrolled in the course and those that got degrees. The report further suggests that the varsity only acted "in respect of a few candidates and institutions." In most of these cases, mark sheets were issued in the names of other candidates, even though the enrolment number reflected a different name.

Mindlogics Infratech, a private IT firm, was given the task of delivering university question papers and declaring the results of 2 lakh students.

However, no one responded when contacted on the number given on the company's website. Other irregularities discovered by the committee include granting passing grades to students whose answer sheets were overwritten during "revaluation and special revaluation," which is particularly interesting because the rules do not allow for this. Former exam controller at the varsity, Vrinda Saxena admitted in the report that she was pressured to favour some students.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS PEEPAL, GULMOHAR AND KACHNAR SAPLINGS



Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Gulmohar and Kachnar in the Smart City Garden. Former Mayor of Bhopal Alok Sharma and members of Shradha Welfare Society Bhopal participated in the plantation. The society is constantly active in cleanliness, keeping the environment clean and planting saplings in Bhopal and its surrounding areas.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, senior correspondent of TV channel Shubham Gupta planted on the occasion of the birth of his daughter.

AIIMS Bhopal received first prize for excellent work during Raktdaan Amrut Mahotsav



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Hon'ble Governor of MP and Hon'ble Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Awarded AIIMS Bhopal at the samapan samaroh of MP diwas celebrations. AIIMS Bhopal received first prize at Madhya Pradesh Gaurav Samman Samaroh for excellent

work during Raktdaan Amrut Mahotsav.

On the behalf of AIIMS, Bhopal, Dr Babita Raghuvanshi received the award from dignitaries. Director AIIMS Bhopal Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh congratulated the Department of Transfusion medicine and blood bank for their efforts.

CHILD'S BODY FOUND IN A SACK, MISSING WHILE PLAYING AT HOME

Bhind: The body of an 11-year-old boy who went missing while playing outside his house on Tuesday was found in a sack inside an under-construction building in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district. He has been murdered, the police is looking for the accused.

According to the information received from the police, Virendra Sharma, who lives in Sapad, Ater, his 11-year-old son Aryan was playing outside the house on Tuesday morning, suddenly disappeared. After this the family members searched around. When there was no sign of Aryan, information has been given to the police station.

A police search operation was conducted to find the child of Virendra, who was posted in the army, but Aryan was not found. On Wednesday morning, laborers and artisans who came to work in an under-construction building in Chandrapura area saw a sack, the hand was out of that sack. The laborers informed the police and when the sack was opened, Aryan's body was found in it. Police have intensified the search for the accused by registering a case of murder.

Street lights of Bhopal closed for 10 days will be lit again

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Street lights in many parts of Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, have been off for almost ten days and the roads in these areas remain submerged in darkness at night. When this matter came to light, the Minister in charge and Urban Development Minister Bhopendra Singh took the class of officers. Along with this, instructions were given to turn on the street lights.

Street lights in more than two dozen areas of the capital have been closed for the last ten days. The reason for this was non-payment of electricity bills by the Municipal Corporation. The corporation owes the electricity company about Rs 28 crore for the last two months, out of which only some amount was deposited by the corporation, on which the electricity company disconnected the connections of road lights. Government ministers and officers have to pass through many of the areas where the street lights were disconnected, but the street lights are off for ten days. People



passing through here have to face many problems due to darkness.

In relation to the closed street lights in the capital, the Minister of Urban Development and Housing and District in-charge Bhopendra Singh took a meeting. Minister Singh instructed the officials of the power company including Collector Avinash Lavania, Corporation Commissioner KVS Chaudhary Kolsani that all the street lights of the capital should be made functional

from today. Don't let this situation happen in future. Also, if there are any such cases, then inform the concerned department, collector. Collector will look into this matter and discuss and find a way out.

Minister Singh said that both the departments belong to the government, work in coordination. This matter is also related to the safety of the people. The officials assured the minister that such a situation would not arise in future.

CM Chouhan will hold one-to-one discussion with industrialists and investors in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will meet industrialists and conduct a road-show in Mumbai on November 10 for investment in the state. The Chief Minister will also invite industrialists for the Global Investors Summit to be held in Indore in January-2023.

Chief Minister Chouhan will also attend the inaugural programme of Infobeans Limited and the session on investment prospects in Madhya Pradesh. In addition he will meet Mahindra & Mahindra's M.D. and CEO Dr. Anish Shah, Sanjiv Mehta, CEO, Hindustan Unilever, Anant Ambani and Dhanraj Nathwani, Directors, Reliance Industries, MD, CEAT Tires Anant Goenka, U.S. Pharma CMD Tapan Sanghvi, A.K., Mishra, Director, Chemerics Life Sciences, MD of Encube Ethical Pharma Mehul Shah, Jayash Choksi, CMD, Gufic Biosciences, and Dr. Swati Piramal, Vice-



Chairperson, Piramal Group. Chief Minister Chouhan will hold a special discussion with the industrialists working in this sector on the possibilities of setting up units related to manufacturing of pharma and medical equipment. Under this, he will hold dis-

cussions with the heads and office bearers of Godrej, Alembic Pharma, Aditya Birla Group, Hiranandani Group, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Tata Sons, Procter & Gamble India, Larsen & Toubro, Persistent Systems and Panchsheel Realty Reserve.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Hindu word origin row: Silver platter for BJP

The ruling BJP in Karnataka has decided to launch a big agitation all over the state over the Hindu word origin row. According to the insiders in the state BJP unit, direction has been given to lodge a police complaint demanding action against Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) Secretary Satish Jarkiholi for hurting the feelings of Hindus. Meanwhile, Dalit organisations and progressive thinkers have started a campaign to support Satish Jarkiholi and were carrying out a campaign on social media. When the ruling BJP intensifies the agitation, there is all possibility of the Dalit organisations coming on to the streets, sources said. Minister for Power, Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar, a staunch RSS man, had stated that the Congress party should pay a heavy price for the statement. BJP sources said that the party has got an issue connected to Hindutva on a silver platter and they want to utilize it to maximum extent ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled to be held in less than six months. The BJP has instructed all its MLAs, MPs and leaders to carry out protests on a big scale. They have also been told to rake up issues like adding 'Gandhi' as the family name by former AICC presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, celebration of Tipu Jayanti by the Congress government headed by Siddaramaiah and attempts of Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar for installing the largest statue of Jesus Christ in Asia in his constituency. Meanwhile, Satish Jarkiholi, who is considered as a tall leader, challenged Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to set up a committee to probe whether he had said anything wrong. Winning elections is not a task for them and national parties, BJP and Congress, are dependent on them to a large extent. Among Jarkiholi brothers, Satish Jarkiholi has a special place.

HIMACHAL POLLS

Where women voters outnumber men, BJP sets agenda for their empowerment

Vishal Gulati

Where women voters outnumber men in every election in Himachal Pradesh, the state ruling BJP has come out with the 'Stree Sankalp Patra' that would further strengthen the objectives of women empowerment and women-led development, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said. Talking to correspondent during his campaigning, he said, "In our outgoing five-year stint, we started many schemes for empowering the women. Now in our election manifesto, we have made 11 commitments for women-led development." "The Congress says the Jai Ram Thakur government has done nothing. The truth is that the Congress is taking advantage of our schemes. Even their electricity and water bill is zero, but they won't accept," he said while campaigning in Chopal in Shimla district. "We started many schemes for women belonging to the poor families, whose benefits are being availed by lakhs of them." Under "Stree Shakti Sankalp", part of the BJP's manifesto named 'Sankalp Patra', the party promised to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the government jobs and educational institutions, establish a corpus of Rs 500 crore to give interest-free loans to women entrepreneurs to set up homestays, besides construction of two hostels for girls pursuing higher education in all 12 districts. Countering the main Opposition Congress' promise to provide Rs 1,500 monthly allowance to every woman above 18 years and Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP), which is in its maiden fray, promise of Rs 1,000

per month allowance for women, the Chief Minister replied to IANS that the BJP was a responsible party. "It does what it says". "We worked honestly for the poor for five years. The Congress never thought about the poor. The Congress people say they will put Rs 1,500 in the bank accounts of women. This is a false promise. The Congress had said in 2012 that they will give jobs to every household. Also an unemployment allowance was announced that too was not given," Thakur added. State BJP vice-president, Payal Vaidya, said the BJP was the only party that released the 'Stree Sankalp Patra', an agenda for women empowerment. "This shows our party's commitment towards women. Earlier, the party has increased the honorarium of Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, sewing teachers and mid-day meal workers from 50 to 400 per cent." An election official said the percentage of women voters exercising their franchise in the state has been on the rise since the 1993 Assembly elections. "For almost three decades, the women outnumbered men as voters and they hold the key to the formation of every government, be it the parliamentary or the Assembly or even the panchayat," an election official told correspondent. Social scientists attribute the increased participation of women in the democratic process to the higher literacy and awareness drives by the Election Commission of India. Known for its healthy gender ratio, the tribal-dominated Lahaul-Spiti district every time creates a record of the women voters outnumbering men. The district, the



sprawling Buddhist-dominated district, has 16,455 (52.20 per cent) men and 15,073 (47.80 per cent) women voters. In 2017 polls, the highest polling station was set up at an elevation of over 15,000 feet at Hikkam in Lahaul-Spiti district. With 194 electors, it saw an 85 per cent turnout despite snow in the evening. Sadly this time again, the main parties in the state -- the Congress, the BJP and AAP -- have not been fair to the womenfolk in the ticket distribution. Out of 412 candidates for the November 12 elections to the 68-member Assembly, 24 are women, while 388 are men candidates in the fray. As against the six women candidates fielded by the BJP this time, the Congress has fielded three

women and AAP has six candidates. In 2017 Assembly polls, the women voting percentage was 77.92 per cent, 7.34 per cent higher than the men. In that election the BJP had given tickets to six women, while the Congress had three women leaders. In the outgoing Assembly there are four women legislators. They are six-time lawmaker Asha Kumari (Congress) from Dalhousie; four-time legislator Sarveen Choudhary (BJP) from Shahpur; Reeta Devi (BJP) from Indora; and Kamlesh Kumari (BJP) from Bhoranj. Choudhary is the only woman minister in the outgoing 11-member

Cabinet. From 1972 till 2007, only 19 women have won from 36 constituencies, some winning more than once like Congress leader and seven-time legislator Vidya Stokes. A record over 74 per cent, highest in four decades, of the state's 50.25 lakh electorate exercised their franchise in the Assembly elections on November 9, 2017, where the ruling Congress and the BJP were locked in a straight contest. In the 2012 Assembly elections, the poll percentage figure was over 73.5 per cent, the highest since 1977, while it was 68.36 per cent in 2007.

international

FOUR INDIAN AMERICANS WIN ELECTION TO CONGRESS, ANOTHER LEADING

Arul Louis | New York

The "Samosa Caucus" in the US Congress has added another member with the election of Shri Thanedar, and three of its members have won reelection, while another is leading in his constituency. Democrats Pramila Jayapal in Washington State, Raja Krishnamoorthi in Illinois and Ro Khanna in California have been reelected in the midterm elections, while Ami Bera was leading in California on Wednesday morning. The Indian American members of Congress have nicknamed themselves the "Samosa Caucus". Republican Ritesh Tandon, who ran against Khanna, and Democrat Sandeep Srivastava in Texas have lost, while Rishi Kuma, who is running against a fellow Democrat under California's system was trailing. India's "son-in-law" J.D. Vance, who is married to Usha Chilukuri, has won the Senate seat from Ohio. He is a Republican allied with former President Donald Trump. An entrepreneur and self-made millionaire,



Democrat Thanedar, 67, who was born in Belgium in India, beat a Republican rival in Detroit in Michigan state. Thanedar, who is now a Michigan state legislator, ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic party nomination for Governor in 2018. He came to the US in 1979 and got his PhD in chemistry and an MBA. Running in a constituency that covers a chunk of a city that is overwhelmingly African-American, Thanedar stressed in his campaign that he grew up in poverty in a family of ten in India and worked in odd jobs to sup-

port his family after his father retired. "I'll never forget what it's like to live in poverty, and I'll never stop working to lift Detroit families out of it," he wrote on his campaign site. Thanedar will be the seventh Indian-American to be elected to the House. Chennai-born Jayapal, 57, who was first elected in 2016 from Washington State, is the senior whip of the Democratic Party in the House and the chair of the influential leftist Congressional Progressive Caucus. She has been a strong critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party. Khanna, 46, is also a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and Fox News reported that he is exploring a presidential run in 2024. He is close to Bernie Sanders, the leftist Senator who has unsuccessfully sought the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Krishnamoorthi, 49, who was born in New Delhi is politically a centrist and was a technology entrepreneur. He has worked with former President Barack Obama's campaigns for Senator and President.

SIX DEAD AS 6.6-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HITS NEPAL

Kathmandu: At least six people have died and scores injured when two back-to-back earthquakes hit western Nepal in Doti district, National Earthquake Monitoring Center said. According to Kantipur, locals in Doti district have pulled out the dead bodies of three people when a strong earthquake hit the district on Wednesday at 2:12 a.m. Earthquake measuring 6.6-magnitude occurred in western Nepal whose centre was Doti district, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring Center. Another quake measuring 4.1 magnitude also occurred in the same district at 9:56 p.m on Tuesday. Dozens of houses were damaged due to the earthquake but detailed reports are still awaited since the quake struck at 2:12 p.m. and teams of security agencies have already reached search and rescue efforts.

Nirav Modi loses appeal in UK High Court, may be extradited to India soon

London | Agencies

Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, who allegedly cheated Punjab National Bank (PNB) of over Rs 11,000 crore, is likely to be extradited soon to India from the UK as he lost his appeal in the High Court on Wednesday, reports said. Lord Justice Jeremy Stuart-Smith and Justice Robert Jay, who heard the appeal earlier this year, delivered the verdict that allowed the fugitive businessman's extradition to India, according to reports. Nirav Modi had appealed against his extradition where he would face trial in the fraud case linked to the PNB. "...We are far from satisfied that Mr Modi's mental condition and the risk of suicide are such that it would be either unjust or oppressive to extradite him", the HC said, as per reports. However the process of



bringing him from London back to India may take some time. His uncle, Mehul Choksi, who has taken up citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda, is also accused of cheating the PNB and wanted by Indian agencies. Nirav Modi has the option of approaching the Supreme Court against the High Court's order within 14

days. However, the condition is that he can appeal in the Supreme Court only if the high court agrees that his case involves a point of law of general public importance, reports said. If this option is spent, Modi is free to approach the European Court of Human Rights.

SKorean, US, Japanese nuclear envoys condemn NKorea's missile launch

Seoul | Agencies

The top South Korean, US and Japanese nuclear envoys condemned North Korea's firing of a short-range ballistic missile toward the East Sea Wednesday during their phone talks, according to Seoul's foreign ministry. Kim Gunn, special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, had phone calls with his American counterpart, Sung Kim, and his Japanese counterpart, Takehiro Funakoshi, to discuss responses to the North's latest missile launch, Yonhap news agency reported. The envoys agreed North Korea's provocations violate United Nations Security Council Resolutions and cannot be justified. They promised to strengthen cooperation to respond to possible additional threats. The North's latest provoca-



tion came as ballots are being counted in the US mid-term elections and the South's military has been staging computer-simulated Taeguk drills since Monday. Pyongyang launched 35 missiles into the East and Yellow Seas between last Wednesday and Saturday in protest against a massive combined air exercise of the US and South Korea, called Vigilant Storm.

HOTTEST OCTOBER IN NORTHERN ITALY SINCE 1800

Large swathes of northern Italy experienced the hottest October this year since record keeping began in 1800, the country's National Research Council said.

Rome | Agencies

Temperatures reached 3.18 degrees Celsius above normal levels in the northern part of the country, Xinhua news agency quoted the Council as saying. However, in Italy as a whole, temperatures were high but not record-breaking. The Council said they were 2.08 degrees Celsius higher than normal, the second-highest increase compared to normal levels, just behind the record of 2.13 degrees Celsius reached in 2001. The new data comes from Giulio Betti, a meteorologist and climatologist with the National Research



Council. In addition to the high temperatures, much of the country has also suffered from a lack of rainfall, and an increase in extreme weather

events including storms, floods, and strong winds. The record high temperatures in October followed a long and unusually dry heat-

wave in Italy in the summer months, which resulted in hundreds of deaths and slashed agricultural production.

Nine killed in overnight fire in Turkey



Istanbul | Agencies

Nine people, including eight children, were killed in an overnight house fire in Turkey's Bursa city. Responding to an emergency call made at midnight, firefighters quickly extinguished the fire, only to find the dead bodies of a family caught by the blaze in their sleep, the city governorate announced on Wednesday. According to the gover-

norate, the deceased belonged to the same Syrian family of six siblings, their mother and two cousins. The children were no more than 11 years old, Xinhua news agency reported. Initial reports indicated that the cause was a stove heater left on while the family was sleeping, with a more detailed inspection pending, the governor's office stated. Turkey is home to about 4 million Syrian refugees who have fled the prolonged civil war in Syria.



BJY: 'TAPASVI' RAHUL GANDHI BLOOMS FROM CONGRESS' CROWN PRINCE TO 'MASS LEADER'

Helming the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' (BJY), Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was not a wee bit disappointed when he stepped on the Maharashtra soil, late on November 7, after a 60-day gruelling walkathon spanning four southern states.

Team Absolute | Nanded

Akin to the south, he was accorded the same rousing reception, palpable warmth of the ordinary masses, the sheer enthusiasm of party workers in its erstwhile bastion state and growing attention in the media, both traditional and social. Gandhi continues in the same mould since the past two months - briskly walking from place to place, in cities, towns, villages, hamlets, with a huge band of avid followers, all marching for the common goal of 'saving' India from the monsters of inflation, unemployment, tottering economy, crimes against women, distressed farmlands, among others. Congress state Working President Arif Naseem Khan said that crowds turn up spontaneously, out of love and admiration for Rahul, hail him with boisterous cries of 'Rahul



Gandhi Aage Badho, Hum Tumhare Saath Hain', or 'Ab Ki Baar, Rahul Gandhi Sarkar', among others, but he acknowledges merely with a wave, folded hands or a smile. State Congress Social Media head Vishal Muttemwar said that the BJY is getting massive response online, with growing tribes of followers, likes, for-

wards, comments, tweets, besides the mandatory trolls. "A certain narrative built up by some vested elements has been effectively neutralised, public perception now has changed significantly... Rahulji is being treated like a 'Tapasvi' who is walking sincerely for the good of the country," Muttemwar said.

After 'illegal' arrest and 101 days in jail, Sanjay Raut walks out to hero's welcome

Mumbai: After spending 101 days in jail, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on August 1, walked out of the Arthur Road Central Jail to a hero's welcome late on Wednesday after being granted bail by a special court here.



Soon after the special court verdict, the ED challenged the bail order in the Bombay High Court, which declined to grant a stay on the bail order and posted the matter for hearing on Thursday.

On July 31, the ED team had swooped on Raut's home and arrested him the following day (August 1) in connection with an alleged money-laundering scam arising out of the Patra Chawl redevelopment case of Goregaon, even as Raut claimed innocence.

In the bail order, Special Judge M.S. Deshpande ripped into the ED for the "illegal" arrest of Raut with "no reason", saying "this truth is glaring", though another co-accused in the same case was arrested for a civil dispute, and how "pure civil disputes were labelled as money-laundering or economic offences". Deshpande also questioned the ED's failure to arrest the two prime accused -- HDIL builders Sarang Wadhawan and Rakesh Wadhawan -- besides government officials of MHADA who could be possibly involved in the alleged scam. "I hold that both the accused were basically arrested illegally. Both of them are entitled to parity in view of the disparity made by the ED in not arresting the main accused persons,

Rakesh and Sarang, HDIL, MHADA and government officials responsible for misdeeds of the Wadhawans at the relevant time," Deshpande said without mincing words.

The Special Judge also noted the changing stance of the ED - initially claiming that the Wadhawans and Pravin Raut were the prime accused, and later attributing that role to Sanjay Raut. For the second time in 12 months, a massive media brigade laid siege outside the ARCJ - the previous occasion being the release of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, who was nabbed in a drug case in October 2021.

Hundreds of mediapersons, Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders and workers waited several hours in anticipation of Raut's imminent release from judicial custody.

Reuse preparations for his welcome were underway at his home in Chembur and at the Shiv Sena Bhavan, plus other strongholds, with fire-crackers, distribution of sweetmeats and raising slogans in Raut's favour.

Man held for bid to kill aunt in Thane

Team Absolute | Thane

The incident took place in Wagle Estate area on Monday after the woman, with whom the 38-year-old accused lived, refused to give him money to buy liquor, he said. The accused allegedly attacked the victim, who is his father's sister, with an axe. He then went to the local police station and informed about the incident, the official said. The police rushed to the spot and shifted the woman to a hospital for treatment, he said. The accused was later



arrested and booked under Indian Penal Code Section 307 (attempt to murder), the official said.

FIRE UNDER ANDHERI-VILE PARLE FLYOVER CAUSES TRAFFIC SNARLS

Mumbai: A fire broke out under a flyover on the Western Express Highway at Vile Parle in Mumbai, an official said on Tuesday. Nobody was injured in the incident, he said.

The Fire Brigade official said that the blaze engulfed some scrap vehicles parked under the Andheri-Vile Parle bridge near Sahara Hotel around 4 pm.

"The fire was limited to scrap material and vehicles parked below the flyover and it was doused within 15 minutes," he added.

A fire engine was rushed to the spot immediately after the Fire Brigade received a call at around 4 pm. The incident led to a traffic snarl on the highway and the commuters faced traffic problems around the patch. The cause of the fire is not known.

Two held for pushing women into flesh trade

Team Absolute | Thane

Two persons, including an auto-rickshaw driver, have been arrested for allegedly pushing women into flesh trade in Thane district of Maharashtra, police said on Tuesday. A woman pushed into flesh trade was rescued, they said.

The Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar (MBVV) police were on the look out for two other persons who were also part of the flesh trade racket, an official release said.

The release said the accused would contact customers after going through advertisements on the internet and social media platforms.

Acting on a tip-off, the police on Sunday laid a trap in Mira Road with the help of a decoy customer and arrested an auto-rickshaw driver,



Suresh Yadav, who came to the spot along with a woman, it said. After his interrogation, the police nabbed the second accused, Chotu Indo Ram (23), from Mumbai, said

the release. All the four accused have been booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, it added.

Measles outbreak confirmed in Govandi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A day after a daily reported about the suspicions of BMC officials that the three children from Rafi Nagar in Govandi who died in a span of 48 hours may have had measles, the civic body confirmed an outbreak of the contagious disease in the area. The health department of the BMC, which swung into action after this newspaper highlighted the tragic incident on November 7, has alerted all healthcare facility providers to report measles cases. Hasnain Khan, Noorain Khan, and their cousin, Fazal Khan, who stayed

in gully no 7, Baba Nagar, Rafi Nagar in M East ward-lost their lives between 26 and 27 October.

The BMC spoke to the families of the deceased and recorded their medical histories. Both families said that the children had a fever and developed rashes. The civic body has intensified efforts to track suspected cases in the vicinity. BMC officials carry out a door-to-door survey to detect measles at Rafi Nagar in Govandi on Tuesday. An official who did not wish to be named said, "On October 14, a suspected case of measles was detected at Rafi Nagar and till now, six

cases have been confirmed there. On Tuesday, the BMC surveyed 914 houses and screened 4,086 people out of which 13 suspects who have a fever and a rash have been identified. After the incident, we have written a letter to all health posts, local practitioners and a private hospital to report measles cases to their respective health officers." Executive health officer Dr Mangala Gomare said, "There is an outbreak of measles not only in the East ward but a few others as well. We are keeping a tab on the cases and asked ward officers to be alert." Last month, an outbreak of

measles was reported in Dharavi too. A total of six cases were reported. Apart from Dharavi, there are around 12 to 15 outbreaks across the city."

Dr Tanu Singhal, consultant, paediatrics and infectious diseases, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, said, "To prevent measles, vaccination is important. One has to take the first dose of MMR at nine months and then at 15 months. If someone is suspected of having measles, they should isolate themselves. Some might develop complications such as pneumonia, ear infection, malnutrition and tuberculosis."

STONES THROWN AT LOCAL TRAIN IN THANE, 3 PASSENGERS INJURED

Mumbai: Three passengers were injured when some unidentified persons threw stones at a local train in Maharashtra's Thane district, railway police said on Wednesday. The incident took place at around 8 pm on Tuesday near Kalwa, they said. The injured persons were taken to a hospital for treatment, an official said. A case was registered against the unidentified culprits under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and efforts were on to nab them, he said.

A member of the railway advisory committee later met a senior railway police official here and demanded increased surveillance as well as action against the culprits.

CM Eknath Shinde orders reconstruction of Gokhale bridge at earliest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday ordered to reconstruct Andheri's Gokhale Bridge at the earliest, an official press release from the CM's office said on Tuesday.

According to the release, CM Shinde asked the Western Railway officials to reconstruct the part of Gokhale bridge's railway-over-bridge in at the earliest. CM Shinde spoke to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal and railway officials and directed them to take immediate steps to provide relief to



people. It further said, CM Shinde also directed Chahal to ensure proper traffic management for providing relief to people. The Gokhale Bridge was on Monday closed for traffic

as it was in dangerous condition. The Mumbai Traffic Police also issued alternate routes for motorists. However the closure of the bridge led to traffic jams on the alternate routes.

Polish national held by CBI for carrying heroin worth Rs 18cr

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 74-year-old Polish national arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at the International Airport in Mumbai for carrying more than 6 kg heroin worth Rs 18 crore, was produced in holiday court on Tuesday.

The accused, who was arrested on Monday, claimed his friends cheated him and that he wasn't aware of the drug in his suitcase. He said he agreed to deliver the bag to get money for the treatment of his wife, who is suffering from lung cancer. However, CBI sources said he appeared to be part of a syndicate.

The accused, identified as Jasinki Andrzej Wieslaw, travelled from Zimbabwe to Mumbai via Ethiopia. The CBI, represented by public prosecutor advocate Vimal Soni, told the court that the accused seems to be part of some big syndicate as he had travelled with huge quantities of heroin, kept inside a suitcase in a special cavity.

The central agency sought 7-day custody for further investigation and to unearth the syndicate, as the accused was supposed to deliver the consignment to someone in Mumbai. "My friends cheated me and asked



me to deliver this to someone in Mumbai. I have no idea about the drugs kept in it," Wieslaw told the court.

He also said that his wife is suffering from lung cancer and he is looking after her treatment. His friends had promised him some money after delivering the suitcase in Mumbai, but after getting arrested he found it had drugs in it, said the elderly man. However, CBI sources said that the accused seemed to be a habitual offender and was in a drug syndicate.

"It appears that African heroin is being smuggled into India with the help of this syndicate, and a thorough investigation is required in this case," a CBI officer said. The holiday court has remanded the foreign national in the custody of the CBI till November 15.

Yogesh Lakhani of Bright Outdoor Media Reveals His Philanthropic Side

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Imagine you were a successful businessman, had everything going for you, name, fame, money etc. Imagine it was your birthday. How would you celebrate it? Lavishly, right? A big birthday bash, three tier cake, delicious dishes and drinks to go with and lastly the excitement of opening all those presents! But there are few who believe in the "gift of giving!", giving back to the society that's given them the name, fame and success. Dr. Yogesh Lakhani, Chairman and Managing Director of Bright Outdoor Media Pvt. Ltd. is among the latter.

Call it a moment of epiphany or homecoming, the parties of the head honcho of one of the top 5 outdoor advertising agencies in India used to be the talk of the town. The parties were replete with the biggest of Bollywood stars as attendees. Rumour mills running off for months



feeding from stories of those parties. But then there came a point where the decided to turn towards his society and towards the people that helped him reach the heights he has today. And it's been a long while since then that he started keeping a low-key profile on his birthdays in the social circle and started giving back generously to the place he came from. "I came from a small chawl in Malad. I grew up borrowing

money for my fees, borrowing clothes from other people to wear. I used to sell newspapers at railway stations, worked at my uncle's office as an office boy for a salary of Rs 100. I did all odd jobs while pursuing my dream of becoming big someday. I rose from strength to strength, and this is where I am now. I really don't think it would've been possible had there not been the people I met along the way who helped in my dif-

ficult times. Today, I want to be that person for many such as I was back in the days," says Lakhani.

It is learnt that every year, on his birthday, Dr. Yogesh Lakhani feeds thousands of people living on the streets on his birthday. The man's contribution goes beyond that, as the President of an NGO, every Sunday, he feeds 5000 hungry people. "I really want to give back to the people. These are all my people. This is where I came from. If I hadn't had those people who paid for my tuition and schooling, who gave me their clothes when I so needed them, I wouldn't be where I am today. I want to be that person to those in need. I want to ensure everyone gets the opportunities and help I got along the way. God has been kind and made me capable of achieving so much so why not do the right thing. Also, it gives me a lot of peace and sense of satisfaction," says Lakhani jubilantly.



SEAN PENN GIFTED ONE OF HIS BEST ACTOR OSCARS TO UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Sean Penn has gifted one of his Best Actor Oscars to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The actor, who won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 2004 and 2009 for 'Mystic River' and 'Milk' respectively, has presented one of the statuettes to Zelensky in the capital city of Kiev as a "symbolic" gesture to the politician and his people in Ukraine, says reports. In a video shared on the president's Telegram channel, Sean told him: "It's just a symbolic silly thing, but if I know this is here then I'll feel better and strong enough for the fights. When you win, bring it back to Malibu, because I'll feel much better knowing there's a piece of me here." The trophy will remain in the country until the end of the ongoing war with Russia. In return, Penn was honoured with Ukraine's Order of Merit. Zelensky said: "It's not from me, it's from Ukraine." Penn added: "There are three places in the world that all the pride of my life will be. The place where my daughter was born, place where my son was born and this."

Jennifer Lopez says Ben Affleck's surname is a "power move"

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez says taking her actor-husband Ben Affleck's surname is a "power move". The singer added the move has made her "proud" and said it reaffirmed her feelings that she is in full control of her life, says reports. She made the statements in a cover interview with the December issue of Vogue magazine after her and Ben, married in Las Vegas in July before throwing another wedding extravaganza that lasted three days at her new husband's \$8.9 million estate in Georgia.

Jennifer said: "People are still going to call me Jennifer Lopez. But my legal name will be Mrs Affleck because we're joined together. We're husband and wife. I'm proud of that."

"I don't think that's a problem... it's not traditional. It doesn't have any romance to it. It feels like it's a power move, you know what I mean? "I'm very much in control of my own life and destiny and feel empowered as a woman and as a person. I can understand that people have their feelings about it, and that's okay, too." "But if you want to know how I feel about it, I just feel like it's romantic. It still carries tradition and romance to me, and maybe I'm just that kind of girl." Jennifer added about her and Ben's initial romance: "We were so young and so in love at that time, really very carefree, with no kids, no attachments. And we were just living our lives, being happy and out there. It didn't feel like we needed to hide from anybody or be real discreet."



Model Olivia Culpo was "left with no sense of identity"

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Olivia Culpo was "left with no sense of identity" after her split from pop-singer Nick Jonas. The model, who dated Nick from 2013 until 2015, has confessed to being devastated by their break-up. In an episode of 'The Culpo Sisters', Olivia shared: "I moved to LA with him. I had no brand, no money and I was in love. That was great right, but when he broke up with me, I was kind of left with no sense of identity." "My whole identity was in



taught me that you can't give up."

Meanwhile, Olivia recently admitted that she broke her "no athletes" rule for Christian McCaffrey because of his strong family values. Asked about breaking her own rule and dating the NFL star, Olivia said: "He's just the best, I feel like he is really everything that I could ever ask for. So I never have to worry about anything. I think that was the reason why I didn't want to date an athlete, no offence, because there is a reputation there." "He just comes from a great family. We have a lot in common in that respect. I feel like you can really tell who a person is by the people that raise them, and I just love his parents so much. They have a great relationship."

him, which is a very common story of a young person in love. I thought we were going to get married, I thought all the things, and I just remember night after night looking up at my ceiling in my apartment that I couldn't afford thinking to myself how am I going to pay my rent."

Despite this, Olivia learned some important life lessons from the break-up. She shared: "I couldn't even afford my groceries. It was a serious, pivotal moment for me, but it was something that



REBEL WILSON TAKES SURROGACY ROUTE TO HAVE A BABY GIRL

London | Agencies

Australian actress-comedian Rebel Wilson, who has been in the news for her dramatic weight loss and giving the middle finger to Russian President Vladimir Putin at the 2022 BAFTA

Awards, has announced the birth of her first child via surrogate, according to the reports. The star shared the first picture of daughter Royce Lilly online, describing her as a "beautiful miracle". She also thanked the "gorgeous" surrogate for carrying her.

Wilson shared her all-bundled-up newborn daughter's picture along with a long caption: "Beyond proud to announce the birth of my first child, Royce Lillian, born this past week via surrogate. I can't even

describe the love I have for her, she's a beautiful miracle! "I am forever grateful to everyone who has been involved, (you know who you are), and this has been years in the making... but particularly wanted to thank my gorgeous surrogate who carried her and birthed her with such grace and care. Thank you for helping me start my own family, it's an amazing gift. The BEST gift!! "I am ready to give little Roycie all the love imaginable. I am learning quickly... much respect to all the Mums out there! Proud to be in your club."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jessica Chastain

The cast and crew of 'The Crown' joined for the show's Season 5 premiere

Los Angeles | Agencies

The cast and crew of 'The Crown' were joined by Netflix head Ted Sarandos in London for the show's Season 5 premiere. Before the screening started, Sarandos took to the stage at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in central London on Tuesday evening to introduce the new season. During his speech, Sarandos called the series the "crown jewel" in Netflix's original series catalogue, reports.

"This really has been and continues to be the highlight of my personal and professional life," Sarandos said of the show. "And I'm incredibly in awe with (Peter Morgan's) vision and with his writing. And I am incredibly, incredibly grateful for your friendship. Peter, thank you so much." "It's great being back in Drury Lane where I was 32 years ago for the opening of 'Miss Saigon'," Pryce said,



revealing that at the same time he had been performing on stage Miller had been working as a clerk in the same building. "In the auditorium, selling

programs and ice cream, was Jonny Lee Miller," Pryce said to cheers from the audience. Sarandos continued: "In the end, this is the story of Queen Elizabeth, this is the

story of the Royal Family she told in dramatised stories. Some are very memorable, some forgotten, judging by the Google activity that happens every time we drop a

new season." "But these are the stories that shaped this country during Queen Elizabeth's 70-year reign. There was so much talk about our giving a

two-season order for a House of Cards' back then. But it really set the stage beautifully for this six-season commitment to excellence that became 'The Crown.'



Men's T-20 World Cup

PAKISTAN THRASHES NEW ZEALAND, REACHES FINALS

Sydney | Agencies

Rising to the occasion, Mohammad Rizwan and skipper Babar Azam smashed fantastic fifties and led Pakistan to the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 with a convincing seven-wicket win over last year's finalists New Zealand in the first semifinal at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), here on Wednesday.

With this win, Pakistan now awaits the winner of the second semifinal between India and England, for the summit clash at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on November 13.

After winning the toss and opting to bat first, a fighting fifty from Daryl Mitchell along with a vital innings from Kane Williamson helped New Zealand recover from early jolts and post 152-4 in 20 overs. Apart from Mitchell (53 not out of 35) and Kane Williamson (46 off 42), the likes of Devon Conway (21 off 20) and James Neesham (16 not out of 12) were the other main contributors with the bat for New Zealand.

Thereafter, Babar (53 off 42) upped the tempo and went on to outscore his opening partner to the fifty. But, he couldn't carry his innings longer after that as Boult returned to the attack and broke the century opening stand of 105 runs with the wicket of Babar.

Later, Rizwan (57 off 43) also reached to a 36-ball fifty but like Babar, he also



couldn't last till the end, getting out to Boult in the 17 over. Youngster Mohammad Haris played a vital knock of 30 off 26 to take Pakistan closer to the victory before getting out in the second last over.

Both Mitchell and Williamson took their time to settle down and the scoring rate didn't look good for New Zealand at the end of 10 overs, but they regrouped during the drinks break and smacked 28 runs off the next 13 balls to lift themselves. The duo picked their areas to score, nudged the ball in the gaps and got twos at will to keep the score-board ticking for the Kiwis. Mitchell hit leg-spinner Shadab for a six to bring up their fifty stands.

Williamson and Mitchell struck a crucial 68-run stand for the fourth wicket to lead the recovery and set the stage for a good finish for the Kiwis but Afridi had other plans. It was a slower delivery from Afridi and Williamson shuffled across to scoop but he got bowled during the process.

Shaheen Afridi was the most successful bowler for Pakistan with his 2/24, and Mohammad Nawaz (1/12) was the other wicket-taker.

Brief scores: New Zealand 152/4 in 20 overs (Daryl Mitchell 53 not out, Kane Williamson 46; Shaheen Afridi 2/24) lost to Pakistan -153/3 in 19.1 Overs (Mohammad Rizwan 57, Babar Azam 53; Trent Boult 2/33) by 7 wickets.

INDIA, ENGLAND AIM FOR A PLACE IN THE FINALS

Adelaide | Agencies

At a sunny Adelaide, India and England, two sides with equal amounts of firepower, will be vying for a spot in the final when they meet at the Adelaide Oval in the second semifinal of the Men's T20 World Cup on Thursday. While India entered the knockouts on the back of superlative batting from Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav and hugely effective bowling attack in Arshdeep Singh, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Hardik Pandya and Ravichandran Ashwin, England bat very deep, possess all-round strength and have the pacers as well as spinners to challenge oppositions.

In that case, India would really want for their top order to set the tone right in the first six overs. In the power-play phase of the tournament, India have scored at 5.96 runs per over, which is less than England's 6.79 runs. With the new ball moving around, it has meant that India had to move away from their ultra-attacking approach to being cautious. Suryakumar, the right-handed batter who is also the top-ranked T20I batter, has also been a huge force behind India having the best run-rate in last four overs of the tournament at 11.90 runs per over and changing the tempo of the innings to propel India from a par score to a winning total.

With the dilemma between Dinesh



Karthik and Rishabh Pant still on apart from Hardik Pandya doing nothing worthwhile with the bat after the opener against Pakistan, India need to carefully ponder over who between the two wicketkeeper-batters has to be picked for an extremely crunch game.

With the ball, left-arm pacer Arshdeep has been a revelation with 10 scalps in five matches while senior right-arm pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has an economy rate of 5.4 and has also dismissed Jos Buttler five times in T20 matches. But the pocket of weakness which India can look to exploit could come through their spinners.

With left-arm spinner Axar Patel not excelling much in Australian conditions, he could be replaced by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal to team up with off-spin of Ravichandran Ashwin.

Moreover, with England's batting strike-rate against spin being just 100.5 and averaging just 22 in the tournament, it is an area which India will definitely look to exploit.

Though they have the power and style of Buttler, Alex Hales, Ben Stokes, Liam Livingstone, Harry Brook and Moeen Ali with the bat, England's batting hasn't clicked in unison yet in the tournament.

Their death-overs bowling, which was a huge weakness in last year's tournament, has become a huge strength, as seen from economy rate of six and picking seven wickets in this phase, with left-arm pacer Sam Curran being the leader in their end overs bowling transformation, while the right-arm pace duo of Stokes and Chris Woakes handle the fast-bowling duties upfront.

Bayern extends lead in Bundesliga

Berlin | Agencies

Serge Gnabry's hat-trick helped Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich to cruise 6-1 past hapless Werder Bremen on Tuesday.

The Bavarians made a fairy tale start on home soil and broke the deadlock with six minutes gone when Jamal Musiala tapped home the opener from close range.

Bremen responded straight away as Anthony Jung latched onto Mitchell Weiser's good build-up work to restore parity moments later, reports Xinhua.

Bayern should have retaken the lead but Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting couldn't beat Bremen goalkeeper Jiri Pavlenka from the penalty spot in the 15th minute.

The record German champions continued powerful and eventually made it 2-1 six minutes later as Gnabry collected a loose ball inside the box to curl the ball past Pavlenka into the far corner.

The hosts were shocked and couldn't put up resist-



ance whereas Bayern worked out a 4-1 lead as goals from Leon Goretzka and Gnabry destroyed Bremen's hopes of a comeback before the half-time whistle.

Bayern ceased attacking after the restart but still Bremen couldn't do any damage to the hosts' defence.

The frontrunners, on the other hand, weren't done with the scoring and extended their advantage in the closing stages as Gnabry wrapped up his hat-trick in the 82nd minute before

Mathys Tel finished off a solo run to round off a 6-1 victory on home soil.

"Winning four straight games on home soil with more than four goals speak for itself. We had a difficult start as we wasted a penalty and had to swallow the equalizer. We remained calm though and scored three goals before the break. The boys staged a great performance for the supporters. Compliments to the boys," said Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann.

T20 World Cup Huge challenge to adjust to length: Rohit Sharma

Adelaide | The dimensions at the picturesque Adelaide Oval are different as compared to other grounds in Australia. Depending on which used pitch will be picked for Thursday's semifinal between India and England at the T20 World Cup, the square boundaries are around 57-67 metres, while the straight boundaries are longer, in between 79-88 metres. In this situation, India has a slight edge over England, having played their tense five-run win over Bangladesh via DLS method at this venue last week.



England, on the other hand, will be playing at the Adelaide Oval for the first time in the competition. India skipper Rohit Sharma noted that the change in dimensions ahead of the semifinals required a shift in mindset for batters as well as bowlers at Adelaide Oval, while believing the advantage of having played here earlier would help them on Thursday. "That's one of the challenges that we have had in this tournament. Usually when you play - for example, last year in Dubai, the dimension of the ground didn't change too much. We know there was one side bigger, but other than that, not too many things changed. But when we play here in Australia, obviously some of the grounds have longer, straighter boundaries; some of the grounds have smaller on the sides. So you've got to adjust to it as quickly as possible. Guys have not been here before. For them, it's a huge challenge to adjust to that length and the shot making, as well. I think we adapted to that pretty nicely. We were put under pressure in some of the games, but I thought we responded to that pressure really well," said the right-handed opener in the pre-match press conference.

India to host 2023

Women's World Boxing Championships

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has been named as the host country for the 2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championship.

The announcement was made on Wednesday at a press conference in New Delhi where the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the International Boxing Association (IBA) and the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) in the presence of IBA President Umar Kremlev and BFI President Ajay Singh.

Reigning world champion Nikhat Zareen was also present on the occasion. Interestingly, it's President Kremlev's maiden visit to India. Ever since taking over the office in 2020, Kremlev has been playing a vital role in developing the sport across the globe.

"This is my first visit and it is being fantastic so far. India is very passionate about boxing and conducting the World Championship here



will be the perfect opportunity to celebrate the innumerable victories as well as inspire many more women to take up the sport and popularise the game more than ever. BFI has worked tirelessly to develop boxing in India and the region and I'm sure they will stage an event to remember," said IBA President Umar Kremlev.

BFI & IBA will be working to introduce a historic bout review system at the

Championships. The event will see a total prize pool of approximately INR 19.50 crore (\$2.4 million) and the gold medallists will be awarded with approximately INR 81 lakh (\$100,000).

The opportunity to host the upcoming World Championships is also a testament of the efforts put by the BFI in developing the sport in the country and the position it holds at the global stage.

WE WILL WIN GOLD AT ASIAN GAMES: INDIAN KABADDI TEAM COACH

Pune | One of India's most decorated kabaddi coaches Ashan Kumar has changed the fortunes of the Tamil Thalaivas after taking over as the Head Coach of the side in the vivo Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 last month.

Since his appointment, the Thalaivas have registered four wins in five matches and climbed to the sixth spot on the points table.

When asked if he was following the vivo Pro Kabaddi League before he became the Head Coach of the side from Tamil Nadu, Ashan Kumar said, "Everyone in India watches the vivo Pro Kabaddi League and even I was watching the games before I became the Head Coach of the Tamil Thalaivas team. I was keeping a keen eye on all the matches, looking at the techniques utilized by the players and how the players were dealing with different situations."

Speaking about India's chances at the Asian Games next year, Ashan Kumar said, "The vivo Pro Kabaddi League is a very big platform. The tournament has taken the game of kabaddi to the greatest of heights. This platform will help players enhance their skills and polish their techniques. We have a lot of good kabaddi players in our country and I have full belief that we will win Gold at the Asian Games."



Asian Elite Boxing LOVLINA, ALFIYA STEPS AHEAD INTO FINALS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain and 2022 Elorda Cup champion Alfiya Pathan both produced power-packed performances to secure their place in the finals of the 2022 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan on Wednesday.

Lovlina (75kg) was up against Seong Suyeon of South Korea in her semi-final bout. Right from the beginning, Lovlina effectively utilized her clever techniques and strategies to capitalize on her opponent to clinch a 5:0 victory by unanimous decision.

Throughout the three rounds, the Assam-born boxer displayed her immense strength and superior technical qualities to overpower the South Korean and gave her no chance to make a comeback in the game.

This is the second time this year that Alfiya has defeated Lazzat, having stunned the Kazakh on her own turf in the Elorda Cup in what was the 2021 Youth Boxing Champion's senior international debut competition.

Both boxers will give it their all to bring gold to the country as Lovlina will



take on the 2021 Asian Championships silver medalist Ruzmetova Sokhiba while Alfiya goes head to head with Islam Husaili of Jordan in the final.

Later on Wednesday, Minakshi (52kg), Preeti (57kg), Parveen (63kg),

and Saweety (81kg) will all take to the ring for their respective semi-final bouts.

India's total medal count of 12 in this year's edition of the prestigious tournament is the third highest among all competing nations.

IPL auction to be held on December 23 in Kochi: Reports

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The player auction for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 will take place in Kochi on December 23.

Unlike the 2022 mega auction, when the ten franchises had to rebuild their squads virtually from scratch, it will be a mini auction this year. The ten IPL franchises have been asked to submit their list of retained players by November 15.

According to a report, the BCCI were looking for a potential venue for the auction. However, once the Istanbul plan could not materialise and the cricket board eventually opted for Kochi.

In addition to the money left over from their previous auction purse and the value of the players they release, each team will have an additional Rs 5 crore to spend at this auction, making the overall purse Rs 95 crore.

Punjab Kings had the largest purse left over -- Rs



3.45 crore -- after last year's auction, while Lucknow Super Giants had spent their entire purse. Chennai Super Kings had Rs 2.95 crore remaining, followed by Royal Challengers Bangalore (Rs 1.55 crore), Rajasthan Royals (Rs 0.95 crore) and Kolkata Knight Riders (Rs 0.45 crore).

Defending champions Gujarat Titans were left with Rs 0.15 crore while three teams -- Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals -- had Rs 0.10 crore.



Varun, Kriti talks about their special bond

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The makers of 'Bhediya' have just released an exclusive behind the scenes video featuring leads Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon disclosing some interesting tid-bits about each other. Kriti remarks how Varun has become a better listener. The two stars also reveal their favourite song from 'Bhediya', which turns out to be the recently released 'Apna Bana Le'. Talking about their bond, Varun says, "Kriti and I are working together after six years. While not much has changed in that time, we now communicate even more effortlessly with each other, and this shows in our chemistry."

"Funnily enough, this is one of the reasons our director was worried that we might exude too much chemistry in the film." Kriti adds: "Varun and I have genuinely been very good friends since Dilwale. We are extremely comfortable with each other, and that comfort translates beautifully on screen. We play off each other amazingly."

"We worked together after 6 years, and in these 6 years we've grown as people, and as actors, and our bond has only strengthened! I had a blast working with him!"

PLAYING A BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN CHARACTER WAS BIGGEST REWARD:

Mrunal Thakur

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mrunal Thakur made her Telugu debut with 'Sita Ramam' and received unanimous praise for her work in the film. But, not everything on the film set was a smooth sail for the actress.

She had to learn a new language and emote in a completely alien territory. But, what kept her going was the reward of playing a "beautifully written character" of Sita Mahalakshmi, who is revealed to be Princess Noor Jahan in the movie.

Elaborating on the same, the actress said: "Being part of an enigmatic story was the biggest lucrative

reason for me to be

Ramam. Despite whatever small hurdles that I had to adapt to and learn from, I was so elated to be part of this film. Learning a new language seemed like a small hike in exchange for this beautifully written character by Hanu sir."

The other reward for her was to share the screen with an actor like Dulquer Salmaan: "To be with such an incredible team and working alongside Dulquer was rewarding, to see what an impeccable performer he is. I knew we were making something special, and that elevated with the warm and tremendous welcome you got for my Telugu debut."

part of Sita



Tabu, Kareena and Kriti Sanon are coming together for a film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

It's happening! Tabu, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Kriti Sanon are coming together for a film. The film, titled 'The Crew' and which promises to be a laugh riot, is set against the backdrop of the struggling airline industry. It tells the story of three women, who work and hustle to move on with life. For the film, Kareena will yet again collaborate with Rhea Kapoor and Ekta Kapoor after their last gig together - 'Veere Di Wedding'.

Commenting on the occasion of the announcement, Kareena said: "'Veere Di Wedding' holds a special place in my heart. Working with Rhea and Ekta was an incredible journey. So when Rhea came to me with her new project 'The Crew' I was quite intrigued. This also means I get to share screen space with two stellar actresses, Tabu and Kriti. I am looking forward to starting this project and can't wait to bring this trifecta to

the fold." As the three women in the film try to make their way forward, their destinies lead to some unwarranted situations leading them to get caught in a web of lies. Kriti Sanon said: "I always look forward to strong characters and unique stories and 'The Crew' is one of them. I am thrilled to work with two powerhouses of talent, Tabu ma'am and Kareena." "I've always admired and looked up to them and their work. I've met Tabu ma'am on a few occasions and she has always been extremely warm. Bebo is simply iconic; I've been a fan girl." She added: "On the other hand, Rhea and Ekta are just phenomenal, strong producers who have backed empowering and progressive female characters and subjects. I've always wanted to do a fun quirky all girls film and this one just ticked all the boxes and I instantly loved the script! Can't wait for the journey to begin."

Rachana Mistry shares some skincare tips

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' actress Rachana Mistry shares her skincare routine that she prefers to follow in the middle of her busy shooting schedule. She said: "I'm a pretty lazy person, so I don't do much skincare, but I try to take as much care of my skin as possible because after daily makeup application, our skin tends to become unclean and since I am acne prone, I want to keep it as clean as possible." The 'Barrister Babu' fame continued: "I use ice cubes to soothe my skin, and because I have extremely sensitive skin, I avoid using any form of face masks that are already produced. But I endorse and strictly adhere to the home treatment for skincare." Rachana added that amidst her busy working schedule she makes sure to take out time for herself and prefers to go out shopping on her off days. She added: "Since we frequently shoot back-to-back, it is quite challenging to carve out some time from our busy schedules. I don't often have days off, but when I do; I try to spend as much time as possible with my family." Rachana said that nothing could be a better way to relax than chilling out with her mom.



Ali Fazal to work in two-time Oscar winner Bill Guttentag's 'Afghan Dreamers'

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actor Ali Fazal, who has been constantly making a splash with his international projects, is to next work in film based on all-girl robotics team from Afghanistan.

Bill won the prestigious Academy title for his two short films, 'You Don't Have to Die' and 'Twin Towers'.

Shoot for 'Afghan Dreamers' began recently in Morocco and will be a 50-day schedule, with a majority of the film being shot across Morocco and

Budapest. The film is the true story about the programme that was started by Afghan tech entrepreneur Roya Mahboob in 2017 as a way to help young women develop their skills in the field of science and technology, despite the patriarchal society in the country they hail from. The film throws light on the chaotic, sometimes dangerous backdrop of the country's politics.

The story tells the tale of the team of the Afghan girls who travelled across the world and participated in competitions, garnered global media attention and

even met leading politicians from across the globe.

The role of Roya will be essayed by The Bold Type famed Nikohl Boosheri.

Speaking about it, Ali said, "Excited and humbled to be sharing notes and being directed by Bill who has an impeccable body of work. Afghan Dreamers is a very important story to be told and I'm happy to be part of its cinematic retelling".

The film is being produced by Laura Overdeck, Samudrika Arora and Bill Guttentag.

Saiyami Kher modelled her character on Vivian Ward from 'Pretty Woman'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Wednesday is a crucial day for actress Saiyami Kher as the new season of her web show 'Breathe: Into The Shadows' drops on OTT. The actress, who plays the character of Shirley, a confidant to Abhishek's character 'J', shared that she modelled her character on Julia Roberts' Vivian Ward from 'Pretty Woman'. Talking about the same, Saiyami said: "Shirley was a very challenging character and I tried to take care of the smallest details while portraying her. Our director Mayank and I sat and brainstormed a lot. His brief to me was to keep Julia Roberts from 'Pretty Woman' in mind. Which gave me great direction." Bringing Shirley to life had her own set of challenges for the actress. Although Shirley is an escort by profession and is quite strong-headed in her approach, Saiyami was extra careful that the character did not come across stereotypical. "We tend to stereotype characters like these and we paid special attention to not do that. Shirley is hardened by her profession and the world but she is actually very vulnerable and soft. That's what I always kept in mind." Meanwhile, she is currently busy with 'Ghoomer', which is captained by R. Balki. It tells the story of a coach and his prodigy, where she plays the part of a cricketer. Her next release after Breathe will be Ashwini Tiwari's web directorial debut of 'Faadu'.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Santoshi Shetty