

absolute india



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▶ WHEAT PRICE IS AT RS 2,831 PER QUINTAL NOW, WHICH IS 5 PER CENT MORE THAN LAST MONTH'S PRICE OF RS 2,693 PER QUINTAL. SIMILARLY, FLOUR PRICE IS CURRENTLY AT RS 3,196 PER QUINTAL, 4 PER CENT MORE THAN LAST MONTH'S PRICE OF RS 3,072 PER QUINTAL.

▶ THE CURRENT WHEAT PRICE OF RS 2,831 PER QUINTAL IS 15 PER CENT MORE THAN THE YEAR-AGO PRICE OF RS 2,431 PER QUINTAL. ALSO, THE CURRENT FLOUR PRICE OF RS 3,196 PER QUINTAL IS 23 PER CENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S PRICE OF RS 2,597 PER QUINTAL, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DATA.

Wheat, flour prices soar, expected to remain high till new crop arrives

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In the past one month, prices of wheat and flour have soared by 5 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, and commodity watchers expect them to remain high till the new crop arrives, which is bad news for the consumers of the two essential commodities.

In the past one year, wheat prices

have gone up by 15 per cent, while flour prices have increased by 23 per cent, and with the new crop expected only in April 2023, the prices are expected to remain high, market watchers said.

Owing to the Russia-Ukraine war, global demand for wheat has increased sharply while production has been low, which has led to the spike in prices of the commodity.

As of now, the government has

227 metric tonnes of wheat, which is just 22 tonnes more than the buffer stock norms of 205 metric tonnes. However, if sources are to be believed, the government does not have any plans to sell wheat in the open market or apply stock limit.

Sources also pointed out that the government is monitoring the situation and the inter-ministerial committee will review the prices of wheat this week.



WhatsApp bans over 23 lakh malicious accounts in India in Oct

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Meta-owned WhatsApp on Wednesday said it banned over 23 lakh bad accounts in India in the month of October in compliance with the new IT Rules 2021 which are being amended to put more responsibilities on social media platforms. Between October 1 and October 31, 23,24,000 WhatsApp accounts were banned and 8,11,000 of these accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users, said the company. The messaging platform, which has more than 400 million users in the country, received 701 complaint reports in October in India, and the records 'actioned' were 34.

"In accordance with the IT Rules 2021, we've published



our report for the month of October 2022. As captured in the latest Monthly Report, WhatsApp banned over 2.3 million accounts in the month of October," said a WhatsApp spokesperson.

Under the upgraded IT Rules 2021, major digital and social media platforms, with in excess of 5 million users, have to publish monthly compliance reports.

Meanwhile, in a major push towards an open, safe, trusted and accountable Internet, the Ministry of Electronics and IT has notified some amendments aimed at protecting the rights of 'Digital Nagriks'.

The amendments impose a legal obligation on intermediaries to take reasonable efforts to prevent users from uploading such content.

INDIAN STANDARDS TO BE PART OF CURRICULUM IN EMINENT INSTITUTIONS

New Delhi: With a view to introduce Indian standards as an integral part of the curriculum in eminent institutions, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has partnered with six top engineering institutes of India. Officials said that this initiative is for institutionalising the engagement of BIS with the institutes for securing the active participation of academia.

The partnership was signed with the Indian Institute of Technology BHU, Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Indian Institute of Technology Madras and National Institute of Technology Trichy on November 28, 2022 for establishment of a 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at these institutes.

The official emphasized on the need to engage with start-ups and incubation centres at academic institutions in the formulation of new standards and compliance with the existing.

Bilkis Bano moves SC, challenges premature release of 11 convicts

- The premature release of convicts on August 15 set off a huge controversy, with political parties and civil society organisations demanding the decision be rolled back. The convicts, in fact, received a 'heroic welcome' amidst fanfare, triggering controversy.
- In the aftermath of their release, several activists and leaders from opposition parties moved the Supreme Court challenging the Gujarat government's decision to set convicts free.
- When the matter came up for hearing, the state government in its affidavit told the court that the release of convicts was based on their "good behaviour" and that they had already spent 18 years in jail. It had also told the court that the decision had the approval of the Union home ministry.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bilkis Bano has approached the Supreme Court challenging the premature release of 11 convicts who gang-raped her and killed her family members, including her three-old daughter in 2002. She has also sought the review of the Supreme Court's earlier judgment that allowed the Gujarat government to make a decision on the remission of the convicts, LiveLaw reported.

Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said he will look into the matter today, November 30 evening, and decide on the listing of the petitions.

Advocate Shoba Gupta, appearing on behalf of Bano, sought to know from the CJI if the matter would

come up before a bench headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi since he is now part of a constitutional bench hearing Justice Rastogi had earlier authored the verdict that allowed the Gujarat government to consider remission pleas of the convicts, which Bano has opposed. Bano's advocate, Gupta, urged the CJI that the matter be heard in an open court. To this, CJI said, "Only court can decide that. The review has to be heard first. Let it come before Justice Rastogi." The convicts walked out of the Godhra sub-jail on August 15, after a Gujarat government panel approved their application for remission of sentence under the state's 1992 remission policy.

In May, a bench led by Justice Rastogi had said that the Gujarat government had the jurisdiction to consider the remission pleas of the convicts since the crime took place in Gujarat. The apex court bench had overturned Gujarat high court's earlier ruling that remission pleas must be considered by the state of Maharashtra since the trial was transferred out of Gujarat.

PUNJAB POLICE CANE-CHARGE PROTESTING FARMERS IN SANGRUR

Chandigarh: Punjab Police on Wednesday cane-charged protesting farmers and farm labourers outside Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's rented house in Sangrur town. Mann is currently campaigning in Gujarat for the assembly polls.

Tens of thousands of farmers assembled there over their demand, including an increase of minimum daily wages to Rs 700 under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA), implementing five-marla plot schemes for Dalits and allotment of the third part of common panchayat land on lease to the community.

They were protesting under the flag of Sanjha Mazdoor Morcha, a joint front of eight labour unions.

In the evening, as they marched towards the chief minister's residence, the police resorted to the cane-charge to disperse them.

Maha minister compares CM Shinde with Chhatrapati Shivaji, sparks row

Satara | Agencies

A fresh row erupted in Maharashtra politics after a Bharatiya Janata Party minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha compared Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's escape from Agra Fort in 1666 from Mughal clutches with the 2022 political rebellion against the party (Shiv Sena) by Eknath Shinde who later became the Chief Minister.

At a commemoration function atop the historic Pratapgad Fort on Wednesday afternoon, Lodha - a prominent realtor, made the comparison which drew strong reactions from the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi allies.

"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj went out of Agra, so is Shinde. As Aurangzeb had barred the Maharaj, someone also had stopped Shinde. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj came out for 'Swarajya', Shinde did it for Maharashtra," claimed Lodha.

The BJP minister's comments left CM Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis aghast and the large audience virtually speechless, while the Opposition slammed him, with one of

the allies launching demonstrations. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)'s Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar attacked Lodha, demanding 'control' over people who make such statements even in the presence of the CM.

"These people who keep making such statements must be controlled. After one stumbles, the other becomes cautious. But, it seems there is competition among them. Can Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ever be compared like this," fumed Pawar. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and ex-Minister Aditya Thackeray condemned the comparison of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with those whom Maharashtra considers as 'gaddaar' (traitors). Congress Legislature Party Leader Balasaheb Thorat said that this has become a trend, with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj being insulted by the Governor, the BJP spokesperson and now a minister.

"The Chhatrapati is the pride of the state. We strongly condemn the minister's statement. He must apologise for it or the people of the state will never forget it," demanded Thorat.

GANDHIJI, SARDAR PATEL GUJARAT'S PRIDE IN 20TH CENTURY, PM MODI IN 21ST: RAJNATH SINGH

Ahmedabad: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said Mahatma Gandhi and Vallabhbhai Patel were the symbols of Gujarat's honour and pride in the 20th Century and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the state's "honour and pride" in the 21st Century.

"While Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel were the symbols of Gujarat's honour and pride in the 20th Century, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as Gujarat's honour and pride in the 21st Century. And today, foul language is being used by Congress for our PM," he said.

NEW NDTV BOARD APPROVES PRANNOY ROY & RADHIKA ROY'S RESIGNATION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a dramatic late night development on Tuesday, the new NDTV board approved the resignations of Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy as directors of RRPR Holding Private Ltd (RRPR), the promoter group vehicle of New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV).

This means that the existing and longstanding promoters and management of NDTV has exited the company. The Adani group takeover is thus complete.

The board also appointed Sanjay Pugalia and Senthil Chengalvarayan as directors on RRPR board with immediate effect.

It needs to be mentioned that NDTV's promoter firm RRPR Holding had on Monday stated that it had transferred shares constituting 99.5 per cent



of its equity capital to Adani group-owned Vishvapradhan Commercial (VCPL), thus completing the official takeover of NDTV by the Adani group.

The transfer of shares will give the Adani group control over a 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV. The open offer, which began on November 22, has seen shareholders tender 5.3 million shares, or 31.78 per cent of the issue size of 16.7 million shares, so far, the exchange data showed. The open offer will close on December 5.

GDP GROWTH HALVED TO 6.3% IN SEP QUARTER OF CURRENT FISCAL

New Delhi: As India's GDP growth halved to 6.3 per cent in the September quarter of the current fiscal from 13.5 per cent in the June quarter, economists said that the fall is in line with broader expectations, including RBI's own forecast. The drastic fall in GDP growth in July-September period was mainly due to moderating of a favourable base effect.

The GDP had expanded by 8.4 per cent in September quarter of 2021-22, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

GDP growth was boosted by the performance of private consumption expenditure and gross fixed capital formation, whereas government expenditure displayed a discouraging contraction in Q2 FY2023, on account of the modest de-growth in the Centre's non-interest revenue expenditure. Additionally, net imports nearly doubled as compared to the year-ago period, exerting a drag on the GDP growth. Moreover, discrepancies stood at a 10-quarter high in Q2 FY2023, which suggest substantial revisions in the sectoral growth prints may lie ahead.

'Entities registered as companies to be allowed to provide local news'

▶ The Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, permit Multi-System Operators (MSOs) to transmit their own programming service, either directly to their own subscribers or through one or more Local Cable Operators.

▶ These own programming services referred to as Platform Services (PS), which also include most 'local-channels', are exclusive programming services being generated at local level offered by MSOs.

▶ All PS channels will be placed together under genre 'Platform Services' in the Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) along with their Maximum Retail Price and option for activation/de-activation of PS as per the applicable orders/directions/regulation(s) of TRAI.

▶ MSOs offering PS, to retain recording of all PS channel programmes for a period of 90 days, said the guidelines.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Only entities registered as 'companies' will be allowed to provide local news and current affairs, the guidelines issued by the government stated.

As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for Platform Services, MSOs (Multi System Operators) not registered as "company" and desirous of providing local news and current affairs are mandatorily required to apply within three months with Ministry of Corporate Affairs for conversion into "company".

The guidelines said that a simple online registration process for PS channels by MSOs is at nominal fees of Rs 1,000 per PS channel. It also said that the total number of permitted PS channels per operator is to be capped at 5 per cent of the total channel carriage capacity.

In accordance to the Rule 6(6) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994; the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Wednesday issued the guidelines in respect of 'Platform Services'

provided by MSOs in India.

To cater to the need of the local language and culture of the subscribers, the cap on PS channels shall be computed at the level of state/ union territory.

Also, additionally, 2 PS channels shall be permitted at the level of each District to cater to the need of local content at the District level.

Besides, all PS channels will have to carry a caption as 'Platform Services' to distinguish them from the registered TV channels.

The guidelines included that the content of the PS to be exclusive to the platform and is not to be shared directly or indirectly with any other Distribution Platform Operator.

However, sharing of live feeds from the religious places like Temples, Gurudwaras etc., shall be permitted.



GOVT TELLS TELCOS NOT TO INSTALL 5G BASE STATIONS WITHIN 2.1 KM FROM AIRPORTS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has sent a letter to telecom providers Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone not to install C-band 5G base stations within the 2.1 km range of Indian airports with immediate effect, as C-Band 5G can create problems with the aircraft's radio (radar) altimeters, which they rely on during takeoff and landing, and to help avoid crashing into mountains.

The DoT letter, seen by IANS, said that the telecom service providers (TSPs) are advised that "in the area 2,100 meters from both ends of runway and 910 meters from centre line of runway of Indian Airports shall have no 5G/IMT base stations in the 3,300-3,670 MHz".

"The base station, nodal or repeater installed in the periphery of 540 metres surrounding the area, the maximum power must be limited to 58 dBm/ MHz in 3,300-3,670 MHz range," the letter said.

Airtel has installed 5G base stations at airports in Nagpur, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Guwahati and Pune, while Jio has installed 5G base stations in the Delhi-NCR area.



According to the DoT letter, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has provided the buffer and safety zone sketch and has requested to ensure mitigation measures while implementing C-band 5G spectrum, in and around the airport areas in view of the safety concerns for operation of aircrafts.

The DoT asked telecom providers to ensure downward tilting of 5G base stations to an extent such that the 5G emissions do not interfere with radio altimeters. The new rule will be applicable till the replacement of all air-

craft Radio Altimeters filters is ensured by the DGCA.

"It is expected that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will proactively ensure the above in a time-bound and expeditious manner. DGCA is requested to inform DOT as soon as the above task is complete to enable lifting of the restrictions," read the DoT letter. As high-speed 5G wireless networks roll out across the world, pilots in the US are also reporting frequent problems with the aircraft's radio (radar) altimeters.

According to an analysis of reports by IEEE Spectrum (the world's leading engineering magazine) made to NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS), complaints of malfunctioning and failing altimeters soared after the rollout earlier this year of high-speed 5G wireless networks, which use similar C-band frequencies.

In January this year, at least three flights above Tennessee in the US simultaneously experienced altimeter errors that made it "impossible to maintain assigned altitude", according to one of the pilots.

One jet lost its autopilot completely, and reportedly had fire trucks waiting for it on landing.

According to the report, in February, a passenger plane on approach to the Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans experienced erratic low-altitude warnings as it flew below 1,000 feet.

In March, a commercial jet landing on autopilot at Los Angeles International Airport suddenly went into an aggressive descent just 100 feet above the ground.

All three incidents -- and many more this year -- were linked by pilots to problems with the aircraft's radio altimeters, according to the report.

Condoms, contraceptives found in school bags in B'loru

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

A routine exercise of checking school bags in Bengaluru schools revealed shocking facts of the students being in possession of condoms, contraceptives, cigarettes and whiteners.

Incidents such as consuming alcohol, having shots of vodka in schools have become quite common these days. But, what is disturbing is that substances are found, says D. Shashikumar, general secretary of the Associated Managements of Schools in Karnataka (KAMS).

Shashikumar told reporter on Wednesday that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The schools have decided to send these children on a 10-day holiday. The managements have also decided to keep the information confidential and arrange counselling for the students and their parents. The checking was conducted mainly in the schools located on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The condoms and contraceptives were found in the



bags of Class 10 students, both boys and girls. Upon questioning, the students without any hesitation told the teaching staff that they needed to have some fun amid their tight schedule, sources said. The behaviour is also attributed to the isolation period of two years during the Covid pandemic as the children spent most of their time with electronic gadgets.

The parents and school managements conceal these facts fearing getting a bad

reputation. There are small children who are drug peddlers. If the matter reaches a high-level committee, we will speak about it, Shashikumar said.

It was a routine exercise taken up by the school managements as per the advice of KAMS. In a meeting these facts were discussed in the interest of students. "I made a submission to the Child Welfare Committee in this regard four days ago but there has been no response," he said.

Delhi Excise Policy Scam: Arora sent to ED custody till Dec 7

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Court on Wednesday sent Amit Arora, Director of Buddy Retail, to seven days Enforcement Directorate (ED) remand in connection with the alleged Delhi Excise Policy scam. The ED sought 14 days of custody, however, the court gave a week's time. Arora was arrested by the probe agency from Gurugram this morning.

Last week, the economic intelligence agency filed its first charge sheet in the matter.

Arora, the accused number ninth in the ED and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)'s FIR, is the owner of Buddy Retail Private Limited. Running over 3,000 pages, the first charge sheet was filed against businessman Sameer Mahendru.

There are allegations that Arun Ramchandra Pillai, a resident of Kokapet in Hyderabad, used to collect undue pecuniary advantage from Mahendru for onward transmission to accused public servant Vijay Nair.



The ED filed its case on the basis of the FIR of the CBI. On Friday, the CBI filed its first charge sheet in the matter. It has charge sheeted Vijay Nair, Abhishek Boinpally, Sameer Mahendru, Arun Ramchandra Pillai, Mootha Gautham, and two public servants -- the then Deputy Commissioner of Excise Department Kuldeep Singh and the then Assistant Commissioner of Excise Department Narender Singh.

BS-IV vehicle scam: ED attaches properties worth Rs 22 cr, Ashok Leyland's role being probed

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said that it has attached properties worth Rs 22.10 crore of firms in a Prevention of Money Laundering case relating to the BS-IV vehicle scam, and the role of Ashok Leyland was also being probed.

The properties are in the names of firms connected to Diwakar Road Lines and Jatadhara Industries Pvt Ltd, of former Andhra Pradesh TDP MLA J.C. Prabhakar Reddy, and another firm C. Gopal Reddy & Co and family members.

The Supreme Court had in 2017 ordered that vehicles that were not compliant to BS IV emission norms should not be sold in India by any manufacturer or dealer from April 1, 2017, and that the registering authorities were also prohibited.



However, Jatadhara Industries Pvt Ltd (JIPL) and C. Gopal Reddy and Co in contravention to the aforesaid Order purchased BS-III vehicles from

Ashok Leyland Ltd at discount and fraudulently registered the same as BS-IV vehicles by fabricating the invoice copies. Investigation revealed

that some of the registrations were done in Nagaland, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

"The ED has gathered evidence in the form of fabricated invoices from RTO authorities in Nagaland and original invoices issued by Ashok Leyland as scrap for some vehicles and established the crime. The crime proceeds generated by owning and selling these vehicles have been quantified as Rs 38.36 crore," the ED said. As a result of the investigation and searches, movable properties to the extent of Rs 6.31 crore consisting of bank balances, cash, jewellery and receivables as well as 68 number of immovable properties to the extent of Rs 15.79 crore belonging to accused and their family members have been attached.

Further investigation is in progress, including the role of Ashok Leyland in the entire scam.

K'TAKA FARMER GETS RS 8.36 FOR SELLING 205 KG ONIONS, RECEIPT GOES VIRAL

Gadag, (Karnataka) : The receipt of a farmer from Karnataka's Gadag district showing that he received only Rs 8.36 after selling 205 kg of onions, has gone viral on social media, prompting netizens to question the state's ruling BJP government over the plight of farmers during its regime. But this is not the story of just one farmer in Gadag. All onion growers in the district are getting less than Rs 10 per their produce in Bengaluru's Yeshwanthpur market.

The farmers travel a 416 km-long distance to reach Bengaluru from Gadag.

In Pavadeppa Hallikeri's case, whose receipt has gone viral, the wholesaler priced the farmer's 205 kg produce at Rs 200 per quintal, deducted Rs 377 for freight charges and another Rs 24 for porter charges.

Another farmer from the district who had gone to the Bengaluru market with 212 kg of onion, got a total of Rs 1,000. But, after deducting the porter commission, transport charge, hamali charges, he only received Rs 10.

The farmers managed to reap a good crop following the incessant rain creating havoc.

But, the crash of prices of the onion crop has devastated the lives of farmers of the entire district, explain locals. The people are demanding that the Minister for Agriculture B.C. Patil, who is also a district in-charge minister of Gadag district, to come forward and help the farmers.

Liquor den raided in Gujarat's Rajkot, families of accused create ruckus

Rajkot | Agencies

Ten bootleggers were arrested after the Gujarat Police State Monitoring Cell (SMC) team raided a country liquor den in Rajkot city, sources said on Wednesday. After the police action on Tuesday night, the family members of those arrested created a ruckus at the Malaviya Nagar police station and made serious allegations of corruption against them.

In a complaint, SMC's Assistant Sub Inspector N.G. Sapar has stated that on a very specific information that a liquor den is run in Gokuldham Awaj Yojana, a raid was conducted at various flats in the society.

Country liquor worth Rs three lakh, raw material and bottles besides 10,081 IMFL bottles were seized in the raid. In all, a total seizure of 38 lakh were made.

The arrested include bootlegger Hardik alias Kavi Haresh Solanki, Anilsinh Jadeja, Nitin Jariya, Amit



Chauhan, Dharmendra Rathod, Arvind Singada, Jayesh Gadhi, and Kanu Parmar under various sections of Gujarat Prohibition Act.

The case is being investigated by Police Sub Inspector M.S. Maheshwari.

It was not a smooth raid for the police team, as women members and youngsters first confronted them first.

After the raid was over, when bootleggers were taken to Malaviyanagar police station, family members of Hardik and other bootleggers 'gheroed' the police and tried to free the accused. They were making bribery allegations. Some of the women also alleged that every month, a police team takes bribes to let them run the den.

Aaftab confesses to killing Shraddha during polygraph test

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Aaftab Amin Poonawalla confessed to killing his live-in partner Shraddha Walker and disposing off her body parts during his polygraph test conducted at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in the national capital, sources said.

After six sessions, the polygraph test finally ended on Tuesday, the FSL sources said.

"He has confessed to killing Shraddha and disposing of her body parts in the forest areas. He also had relationships with several girls," they added.

Recently, the Delhi Police contacted a woman who met Aaftab after he had killed Shraddha.

The police have also recovered Shraddha's ring that Aaftab had gifted the woman, a psychologist by profession, on October 12.

Aaftab met the woman on the mobile dating application 'Bumble', the same platform where he had first met Shraddha.

In her statement to the police, the woman said that she had met Aaftab twice at his Chattarpur's residence



which he shared with Shraddha and had no clue regarding the victim's body parts kept in the refrigerator.

According to the sources, she met Aaftab on the dating app on May 30, just 12 days after he killed Shraddha on May 18.

Earlier on Tuesday, a court allowed Delhi Police to conduct a narco test on Aaftab on December 1 and 5.

The sources said that a polygraph and a narco test is imperative in this case, as Aaftab, during interrogation, was deceptive in nature and tried to mislead the interrogators.

SENIOR JOURNALIST RAVISH KUMAR RESIGNS FROM NDTV

Senior journalist Ravish Kumar has resigned from his post as senior executive editor at NDTV India, according to reports.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Senior journalist Ravish Kumar has resigned from his post as senior executive editor at NDTV India, according to reports.

As per the reports, the news channel is said to have announced his resignation through an internal communication on Wednesday.

The Ramon Magasaysay award-winning news anchor used to host the popular programmes 'Prime Time', 'Ravish Ki Report', 'Hum Log' and 'Desh Ki Baat'.

NDTV said that his resignation came into effect immediately, sources said.

"Few journalists have impacted people as much as Ravish," reports quoting the internal communication said.

The resignation came a day after the new NDTV board approved the resignations of founders Prannoy

Roy and Radhika Roy as directors of RRRP Holding Private Ltd (RRPH), the promoter group vehicle of NDTV. This meant that the existing and longstanding promoters and management of NDTV has now exited the company.

The board also appointed Sanjay Pugalia and Senthil Chengalvarayan as directors on RRRPH board with immediate effect.

It needs to be mentioned that NDTV's promoter firm RRRP Holding had on Monday stated that it had transferred shares constituting 99.5 per cent of its equity capital to Adani group-owned Vishvapradhan Commercial (VCPL), thus completing the official takeover of NDTV by the Adani group.

The transfer of shares will give the Adani group control over a 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV. The diversified conglomerate is also conducting an open offer for another 26 per cent stake in the media firm.

6 KILLED, 15 INJURED IN BUS-TRUCK COLLISION IN UP DISTRICT

Bahraich : At least six people were killed and 15 others injured when a bus collided with a truck in Tappe Sipah area of Bahraich district on Wednesday. The injured were rushed to a hospital, where the condition of four is stated to be critical. The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained. District magistrate Dinesh Chandra said that prime facie, it appears that the truck was coming from the wrong side when it hit the roadways bus. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief over the deaths and asked officials to ensure proper treatment to the injured.

CHANGE OF DOB

I ALKA KAR m/o Army No. 14672952K, Rank-HMT, Name ANANTA PRASAD KAR Residing at Village Dakshin maynadal Post keshapet Tehsil Tamruk District East Midnapore State West Bengal pin code- 721139 have changed my name from ALKA KAR & date of birth 01/06/1956 to ALOKA KAR & date of birth 01/01/1957 vide affidavit dated 19/11/2022 at Bhopal Court Madhya Pradesh.



BENEFITS OF CM JANSEVA ABHIYAN TO BE DISTRIBUTED FROM DECEMBER 2: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Chouhan has said that the distribution of approval letter will start from December 2 under the Mukhya Mantri Jan-Seva Abhiyan in the state. Acceptance letters of the Jan Seva Abhiyan and the benefits of the 38 schemes included in the campaign should be given to the concerned beneficiaries in every Gram Panchayat of Harda and Narmadapuram including Betul by organising programs. CM Chouhan said that voluntary organizations should play an active role in promoting the provisions of PESA Act in the tribal-dominated areas of the state. PESA Act has been implemented for the empowerment of tribals. Implementation of its provisions will bring a positive change in the lives of our tribal brothers and sisters. An awareness campaign is being run by



the state government, voluntary organizations should also co-operate in spreading the information. CM Chouhan was reviewing the ongoing preparations for benefit distribution and PESA awareness campaign programme under Mukhyamantri Jan-

Seva Abhiyan in Betul on December 2. It was informed that distribution of letters of approval under Mukhya Mantri Janseva Abhiyan and the benefits of the schemes included in the campaign will commence from Kundabakasur Gram Panchayat of

Bhimpur development block of Betul district on December 2. Beneficiaries of Narmadapuram and Harda along with Betul will also participate in the program. Along with this, approval letters will be distributed in all Gram Panchayats of Betul, 427 Gram Panchayats and urban bodies of Narmadapuram district and 220 Gram Panchayats and 80 wards of urban bodies in Harda district. It was told that CM Chouhan will also participate in the PESA awareness campaign in Nishana Van village of Bhimpur development block. Chairman Madhya Pradesh Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation Sawan Sonkar and Principal Secretary Scheduled Castes Welfare, Tribal Affairs Smt. Pallavi Jain Govil were present. Officials of Betul, Harda and Narmadapuram attended the meeting virtually.

MP Chief secretary Iqbal Singh gets six-month extension



Team Absolute | Bhopal

May 31, 2023.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, who was set to retire from the top post on Wednesday, has been given an extension for the next six months.

An order issued by the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pension, stated that Bains will continue in the post till

from 1.12.2022 to 31.5.2023 under Rule 16 (1) if AIS (DCRB) Rules, 1958, 'the order read. Bains was appointed chief secretary within 24 hours of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government returning to power in March 2020 with the support of Jyotiraditya Scindia and 25 Congress MLAs, who had defected to the BJP.

Chouhan's silence on appointing new CS till the last day (Wednesday) has created a buzz of speculation as several senior officials were in the race for the top post. However, it had also been speculated that Bains would be getting the extension, especially after Chouhan visited New Delhi on Tuesday.

Bains's extension comes at a time when the state is headed for Assembly elections, expected to take place in November 2023.

RAVEENA TANDON SNAPS AT SATPURA TIGER SAFARI VIDEO DISTURBANCE

Team Absolute | Bhopal/Mumbai

A day after the Madhya Pradesh forest department launched a probe into her November 22 tiger video in the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon scoffed at the boiling controversy and claimed she had done nothing wrong, here on Wednesday.



this video as well, is habituated to coming close to the vehicles and snarling," she added.

Contending that tigers are the kings where they roam, they (the visitors) were 'silent spectators' as any sudden movements can startle them (the big cats) also, she pointed out.

The actress said she was travelling in a jeep licensed by the Forest Department which stuck to the designated 'tourism path', scoffing at reports contending her vehicles driving close to a tigress in the protected areas of the reserve on November 22. Raveena added that she was accompanied on her safari by trained guides and drivers provided by the Forest Department, who are trained to know their boundaries and legalities.

"Once can never predict when and how the tigers will react.... Luckily for us, that we did not take any sudden action, but sat quiet and watched the tigress move on," Raveena said.

"We were on the tourism path, which mostly these tigers cross. And Katy the tigress in

The video which went viral on the social media, shows the safari jeep purportedly near the tigress, camera shutter sounds are audible as also the tigress roaring at them in the sanctuary. Following an uproar, the MP Forest Department authorities ordered a probe on Tuesday (November 29), and all those who were on that safari shall be questioned.

Raveena added how "close encounters of all kinds are pretty regular and uploaded by all" on social media. "God forbid it happens to be a famous person in the vehicle. Guess whose fault is it then?" she wondered. An ardent wildlife lover, after returning from the safari, an excited Raveena shared pictures and videos of her 'break from work' with her kid.

Odisha police form SIT to probe death of Bina girl on Puri beach



Team Absolute | Bina

In a major update in the mysterious death of an 18-year-old MP girl in Puri, the Odisha police formed a SIT on Wednesday to probe the case. The girl was a resident of Bina and had gone to Jagannath Puri on a family trip. Her death under mysterious circumstances had sparked protests in her hometown, after which CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan ordered a high level probe into the matter.

After the CM's intervention, Sagar and Odisha police have been cooperating to solve the case together. The Odisha police informed about forming a SIT to Sagar SP Tarun Nayak over a telephonic call. Madhya Pradesh DGP Sudheer Saxena also talked to Odisha DGP over a call to speed up the probe and bring justice to the victim's family members. In a letter addressed to the Sagar SP, Odisha police, has said that in view of the

seriousness and sensitivity of the matter, a special investigation team has been formed. The team will comprise of Sadar SDPO, KC Mund, and DSP, Manobrata Satapathy.

According to reports, the 18-year old girl had gone with her family members to offer puja at Jagannath Puri in Odisha. The family decided to stay at a hotel in Puri from where the girl went missing on November 23. The girl had reportedly come down from the hotel, to pick up clothes that had fallen down. When she did not return, the family members filed a complaint with the police. Later, on November 26 her body was found on the Penthakota beach in Puri. The girl was found floating face down in undergarments and had severe injuries on her body. Receiving information about this, the victim's family members alleged that she was raped and said, "Her face was burnt with acid and her fingers were mutilated." After recovering the dead body, a postmortem was conducted by Penthakota Marine PS in-charge, Bamdev Nanda in the presence of the district scientific team. The team of doctors that conducted the post-mortem said that prima facie, the victim's death can be attributed to drowning.



SBI DONATED EQUIPMENTS TO NEPENDRA KUMAR A PARA-ATHLETE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

SBI has undertaken number of direct and indirect activities under CSR during this year. It has provided Canoe Paddle, Kayak Paddle and an ultra-modern wheelchair to a Para athlete specially abled Nependra Kumar. These equipments are very useful for him in participating, practising for tournament/ championship. The cheque was handed over to him in a simple event organised at the premises of SBI Local Head Office, Bhopal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief General Manager, Bhopal Circle Binod Kumar Mishra briefly explained the comprehensive corporate social service banking policy of State Bank of India. He said that SBI had always been at the forefront of promoting good and innovative social work and also support sports. Mishra wished the best of luck to Nependra for his bright future and all his future endeavours.

Indore: Court rejects Shweta Jain's plea for operating bank account

Indore: An application in the district court by honey trap case accused Shweta Vijay Jain, seeking an order to let her operate her bank account was rejected.

The court refused to allow her to do transactions from the bank account. The accused had also pleaded to get the money seized by the police delivered to her but this demand was also rejected. The court had earlier dismissed another similar application filed by another accused in the same case.

In her application, Shweta Vijay Jain had sought permission for transactions from the bank account saying that her children's studies were being affected as the bank account has been frozen. She had said that the children's school fee has not been deposited. She feared that her children would be forced to drop out of school if the fee was not deposited. The court, after hearing arguments had reserved the order which was issued on Tuesday.



Sheopur woman donates property, life savings worth Rs 1 crore to Temple Trust

Team Absolute | Bhopal

An elderly woman donated her share of property worth nearly Rs 1 crore to Chhimchhima Hanuman Temple Trust in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh. Shiv Kumari Jadon is a teacher in one of the government schools of Khitarpal village in Vijaypur area.

According to reports, she took the decision to donate all her life savings, assets and property to the Trust as she was disappointed with her husband and sons' behav-

our. Shiv Kumari ensured her two sons received their official share and then transferred her own share of property, gold & silver ornaments and bank balance to Chhimchhima Hanuman Temple Trust. Reportedly the woman mentioned in her will that the authorities of the temple trust should conduct her funeral instead of family members. Also, she said the amount received from the life insurance policy post her death along with gold and silver will belong to the temple trust.

BURHANPUR POLICE RECOVERS ALL 17 RIFLES LOOTED FROM FOREST DEPARTMENT OUT-POST

Team Absolute | Burhanpur

Burhanpur police on Wednesday recovered all 17 rifles which were looted by unidentified miscreants from a post set up by the forest department in Burhanpur district, an official said. The incident occurred at Bakdi post under Navra forest area of Napanagar tehsil around 9:30 pm on Monday.

Superintendent of police (SP) Rahul Kumar Lodha said, "Police recovered all the firearms on Wednesday during a search operation launched after the incident." SP Lodha addressing the media persons here informed that the accused fled leaving the weapons near the pond at the Bakdi forest outpost.

Earlier, on the night of November 28, about 15 to 20 unidentified assailants attacked Bhola Barela, a security guard posted at the forest department's outpost armory and his wife, and looted 17 rifles and cartridges kept in the cup-



board of an armory.

On the complaint of Barela, police registered a case against unidentified miscreants under Section 395, 397 (dacoity) of IPC and began an intensive search operation in the area. Joint teams of police and forest department raided Bakri and Jampati villages. The weapons recovered from the spot

include 16 pieces of 12 bore guns, one Bharmar gun, which totals to 17 guns. 652 pieces of cartridges of 12 bore guns and 82 pieces of fired cartridges were also recovered.

The total value of the seized material is about Rs 4.45 lakh. The accused are still on the run and police teams are looking for them.

Farmers in Ratlam wait for insurance payouts of loss sustain years ago

Team Absolute | Ratlam

In 2018, when heavy rain destroyed his soybean crops, Sunil Patidar of Shivpur was not worried as he had insured his crops under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). He filed for mid-seasonal crop loss claim immediately, expecting to use the money for the next crop cycle. Four years on, he still awaits the insurance amount.



"I had taken a loan to sow soybean on my six bighas, but rains destroyed everything. The Patwari (revenue officer) surveyed the place and sent a report to the insurance company. Subsequently, my compensation of Rs 4,500 per bigha was approved. In total, I was to receive Rs 27,000," Sunil tells Reporters. Everything was in order, but the ICICI Bank allegedly misnamed Shivpur village as Sevria while submitting the claims information to the insurance company. Result: Sunil is yet to receive his money.

According to reports, 38 complaints related to the 2020 kharif season remain unresolved till date.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 13, 2016, the scheme aimed at reducing the insurance premium burden on farmers who take loans for their crops, besides protecting them from the vagaries of weather.

A uniform premium of only 2 per cent for all kharif crops and 1.5 per cent for all rabi crops will be paid by the farmers and the remaining premium will be paid by the gov-

ernment, so that the farmers are provided the full sum insured for crop loss in the case of natural calamities. There is no upper limit on government subsidies. Even if the remaining premium is 90 per cent, it will be borne by the government.

Farmers complain that crop loss surveys are not conducted on time. Often, there is a delay in updating information on the insurance portal also. "Floods damaged my soybean crops. Patwari came on time to survey the loss, but the insur-

ance company employee did not reach out for verification. I complained to the tehsildar and he contacted the insurance company. Fifteen days have passed, nothing has happened," says Rameshwar Lal of Sejavadia village.

"We staged a dharna at the Collectorate under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Sangh. That did get us an extension in 2020 from March 1 to March 10 to make an online portal entry. But even then, the insurance amount was not received," the farmers say.

Acknowledging that 38 farmers in the district have lodged a complaint with the CM helpline, he says the amounts were not received mostly due to closure of bank accounts. "In such cases, banks return the amount to the insurance company. We are making efforts to get the money back." Farmers, however, say there is a need to decentralise the functioning of insurance companies by launching offices or help centres at the local level.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. DEMAND NOTICE. (Under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SECURITISATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.



EDITOR'S SPECS

ONLY 9% WOMEN CANDIDATES IN FRAY IN GUJARAT POLLS

Political parties are relying largely on male candidates in the Gujarat Assembly polls as only 9 per cent women candidates are in the fray this time. The 182-member Gujarat Assembly will go to the polls in two phases on December 1 and 5, while the counting of votes will be taken up on December 8. Incidentally, the women participation has gone up as compared to the 2017 Assembly polls. This time, a total of 138 (9 per cent) female candidates are contesting the elections, as compared to 122 (7 per cent) in 2017, a report by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said on Tuesday. BJP has fielded 9 per cent women candidates, whereas Congress and AAP have fielded 7 per cent and 4 per cent women candidates in Gujarat polls, respectively. As per the report, 997 (62 per cent) candidates have declared their educational qualification to be between 5th and 12th standard, while 449 (28 per cent) candidates have declared having an educational qualification of graduate or above. The report said that 48 candidates are Diploma holders and 85 candidates have declared themselves to be just literate while 42 candidates are illiterate. Similarly, 561 (35 per cent) candidates have declared their age to be between 25 and 40 years, while 861 (53 per cent) candidates are aged between 41 and 60 years. There are 197 (12 per cent) candidates who have declared their age to be between 61 and 80 years, while two candidates are aged above 80 years.

CLIMATE CHANGE WARRIORS ON AN ASSERTIVE STREAK

Asad Mirza

After successfully getting a Loss and Damage Fund established, the climate change warriors have also launched legal actions against unresponsive governments.

It seems that Climate Change is now gaining real traction and importance for the common people more and more, but our politicians are not ready to take any notice of these changes, which are going to have immeasurable negative impact on the lives of billions of people across the globe.

Besides calls for wealthier nations to provide compensation to underdeveloped countries to cover the costs of severe damage and losses, citizens of some countries have also initiated legal proceedings against their governments for inadequately addressing the climate change fallout.

The month of November saw two environment-related incidents taking place. First, at the latest COP summit at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt, termed as 'Africa's COP', the voice of the most-vulnerable and most-affected countries was heard with an agreement to establish a loss and damage facility.

However, progress is still snail-paced in terms of raising ambitions to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Leaders attempted to keep that goal alive at the Egypt conference, but did not increase calls to reduce carbon emissions.

November also saw hundreds of activists, including Greta Thunberg, marching through the streets of Stockholm to a court to file a lawsuit against the Swedish government for what they claim is insufficient climate action.

Lawsuit by Swedish citizens

Over 600 young activists signed an 87-page document, which would serve as the foundation for the lawsuit, which was filed in the Stockholm District Court.

They want the court to rule that the country's climate policies violate the human rights of its citizens. According to Anton Foley, spokesman for the youth-led initiative Aurora, which prepared and filed the lawsuit, Sweden has never treated the climate crisis as a crisis. Sweden is failing to fulfil its responsibilities and is breaking the law.

Earlier, in one of the most high-profile cases, Germany's highest court ruled last year that the government's climate targets must be adjusted to avoid undue burden on the young. The German government responded by pushing back its target for net zero emissions by five years to 2045 and laying out more ambitious near and medium-term steps to achieve that goal.

What emerges from this is that people all across the world are increasingly becoming aware of the damages wrought by the Climate Change, and also understanding that who is the main culprit for unleashing this catastrophe, in pursuance of greed and lucre.

What is loss and damage?

The Alliance of Small Island States at international climate negotiations in Geneva in 1991, first introduced the concept of loss and damage, but it was not seriously considered again until 2013 at the COP-19 climate conference

in Warsaw, Poland. The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage was created with the aim of enhancing knowledge of the issue and finding ways to approach it. There has been little progress since then. The Glasgow COP, last year rejected a proposal made by members of the G-77 group of over a hundred developing countries and China for a formal loss and damage financial facility. Instead, in a bureaucratic manner, the Glasgow Dialogue was established for further discussion on the issue and its funding. Critics have described the dialogue as "an excuse to delay further action." It seems as if the rich countries are dragging their feet on financing any such endeavour.

While historically, between 1751 and 2017, the US, the European countries and the UK were responsible for 47 per cent of cumulative carbon dioxide emissions, as compared to just 6 per cent from the entire African and South American continents. Yet, the culprits have been slow to make financial contributions to ease the impact on the most affected countries. In 2010, Global North nations agreed to pledge \$100 billion annually by 2020 to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. But according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which tracks funding, in 2020 wealthy countries pledged just over \$83 billion. That was a 4 per cent increase on the previous year, but it still falls short of the agreed amount.



What's the impediment?

Though in principle, developed nations acknowledge the need to address loss and damage, some amongst them argue for financing through existing climate funds, insurance schemes and humanitarian aid. Their reluctance is reflected in the European Union's briefing, for example, which said that it was "open to discussing L&D (loss and damage) as a topic but hesitant about creating a dedicated L&D fund".

Former British Prime Minister and WHO ambassador for global health financing, Gordon Brown has realistically opined that the announcement of the new initiative -- the global loss and damage fund -- to right historical wrongs by compensating climate-hit developing countries, might be a good feel factor but the real question is whether the developed world will really loosen its purse strings?

This breakthrough, he says, brought back memories of another initiative, the 100 billion pounds a year agreed at the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit to help poor countries mitigate

the effects of the climate crisis. Brown says further that that money has never fully materialised. If 13 years' experience of the 100 billion pounds fund that never was is anything to go by, eulogies of praise will soon turn into allegations of betrayal. Far from the loss and damage fund narrowing the credibility gap on climate action, it is likely to bridge nothing if money fails to flow from rich to poor.

What is needed, however, is not less but more aid to help developing countries tackle the dramatic consequences of an unprecedented series of crises. Indeed, developing countries, unlike advanced economies, had no fiscal, monetary, or social space at the onset of these crises, to raise the issue.

One key priority for the global community should be not only to increase aid but also to make it much greener to help developing countries tackle the challenge of climate adaptation in an effective manner. Green aid encompasses financial and technical assistance to governments and direct investments in projects in both mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

international

PROTESTERS TURN STREETS INTO WARZONES IN CHINESE CITY

London | Agencies

Protesters screamed as they threw glass bottles at scores of riot police in China, as demonstrators continue to defy President Xi Jinping's brutal Communist regime and his disastrous zero-Covid policies, media reported.

The sound of shouts and the smashing of glass pierced the night air in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, as the defiant and frustrated protesters clashed with riot police carrying shields.

Hundreds of riot police, seen wearing hazmat suits for the first time, advanced towards the protesters and were seen dragging the screaming protesters away to unknown locations in dystopian scenes. The violent protests mark some of the strongest dissent China has seen for over 30 years - but despite Beijing cracking down on protesters with ruthless violence, demonstrators are still defiant-



ly turning out on the streets and fighting back against Xi's officials, Daily Mail reported. There have been violent protests in China before - but these protests, which have extended from Beijing to Shanghai, are different because they are spontaneous, nation-wide and directed at the central government. The protests mark the most overt threat against Xi's government and his brutal Communist regime since he took power 10 years ago, Daily Mail reported. In Guangzhou, angry protesters threw anything they could find - including glass bottles - at the police officers,

who covered under their riot shields. The violent clashes prompted a fierce rebuke, with officers dragging screaming protesters away to unknown locations. Earlier on Tuesday night, locals shopping in a market watched on as a steady stream of riot police officers marched in formation through the streets of Guangzhou. The arrival of hundreds of riot police escalated tensions in the city and video shows demonstrators throwing glass bottles at the officials in chaotic and violent scenes.

The riot police were seen tightly bunched together, with rows of officers protecting themselves from the incoming onslaught of glass with their see-through shields. In the video, people could be seen screaming and shouting in frustration at the brutal crackdown against protesters who are demonstrating against Xi's zero-Covid policy which has seen millions placed under strict lockdowns for months, Daily Mail reported.

Putin is failing in his brutal war of aggression: NATO chief

Bucharest | Agencies

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that Russian President Vladimir Putin is "failing in his brutal war of aggression" in Ukraine and is "responding with more brutality".

He made the statement on Tuesday while attending a forum in the Romanian capital of Bucharest. In his opening remarks, Stoltenberg said that in response to Russia's full-fledged invasion of Ukraine, "we are raising the readiness of our troops".

"We have doubled the number of NATO battlegroups from four to eight, including one in Romania, led by France," he said.

The Secretary General stressed that NATO allies and the alliance are not a party to the conflict in Ukraine, "but we are providing unprecedented support" to Kiev for as long as it takes.

"Because Ukraine is a nation that has the right to self-defence, a right which is enshrined in the UN Charter."

According to the NATO chief, Putin is trying to "weaponise winter".

"To force Ukrainians to freeze or flee. He is trying to break the will of the brave Ukrainian people. And to divide all of us who support them." Stoltenberg went on to say that NATO



and its allies have made additional pledges to the alliance's Comprehensive Assistance Package for Ukraine which will fund urgent non-lethal support, including fuel and generators, as well as help fix critical energy infrastructure badly damaged by massive Russian missile and drone strikes.

"We realise that it is extremely important that President Putin is not able to win in Ukraine. That will be a tragedy for Ukraine, but it will also make the world more dangerous and much more vulnerable," he added.

Later at a press conference with the NATO chief also in Bucharest, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the last time he met senior officials of the alliance, his three words were "weapons, weapons, weapons".

'US WORKING TO IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AGAINST N.KOREAN MISSILE LAUNCHES'

Washington: The US is working to further improve its missile warning system, the commander of US Space Command has said, following a barrage of North Korean missile tests that included multiple intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launches.

"We are looking at how we integrate a sensor architecture that gives us as much warning as possible in terms of any type of missile activity out of North Korea," Gen James Dickinson said on Tuesday in a webinar hosted by the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, a Washington-based research organisation.

Dickinson said the Space Command is currently working to integrate existing US assets into "an architecture where we can provide both the US and our allies and partners as much advanced warning as possible", adding, "We are also looking at how we can incorporate commercial sensors in the same respect."

His remarks come after a recent series of North Korean missile launches, Yonhap news agency reported. Pyongyang fired over 30 ballistic missiles since late September, also conducting its 10th ICBM test of the year on November 18.

Since the start of the year, the North launched an annual record of 63 ballistic missiles, far exceeding the previous record of 25 in 2019.

United Nation's envoy warns of dangerous escalation in Syria

United Nations | Agencies

UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen has warned of a dangerous escalation in the war-torn Arab nation.

"In repeated briefings, I have warned of the dangers of military escalation in Syria. I am here in person today to tell you that escalatory dynamics are indeed taking place, and this is worrying and dangerous," he told the Security Council in a briefing on Tuesday.

For many months there has been a slow increase in mutual strikes between the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on one side, and Turkey and armed opposition groups on the other, across northern Syria and with violence spilling over into Turkish territory, he said.

On November 20, a week after the bombing in Istanbul,



which Turkey attributed to the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) -- a claim that the SDF denied -- Turkey launched what it called the "Claw-Sword Air Operation".

There were also reports of SDF strikes on Turkish forces and armed opposition-controlled areas and inside of Turkish territory, said Pedersen.

Three Indian-origin women among Australia's Superstars of STEM

Melbourne | Agencies

Three Indian-origin women among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians have been selected as Australia's Superstars of STEM. Dr Ana Baburamani, Neelima Kadiyala and Dr Indrani Mukherjee will undertake a two-year program in 2023 and 2024 to step into the media spotlight as STEM experts. "The new Superstars reflect the strong diversity of women and non-binary people in Australian science and technology," a Science & Technology Australia (STA) press note stated.

The Superstars of STEM initiative is supported by STA, which is a peak body in science and technology, representing more than 105,000 scientists and technologists. As a biomedical researcher, Dr Ana Baburamani Aseeks to piece together the complex process of brain development and the mechanisms contributing to brain injury. She is presently a Scientific Advisor in the Department of Defence --



Science and Technology Group. Dr Indrani Mukherjee, Deep time geologist at the University of Tasmania, says her "research questions key concepts, and explores links between early Earth evolution, the origin of complex life and formation of precious mineral deposits". Neelima Kadiyala, an IT Program Manager with Challenger Limited, has over 15 years of experience delivering extensive transformation pro-

grams across multiple industries including Financial Services, Government, Telco and FMCG. The programme, since its inception in 2017, selects 60 women and non-binary STEM experts and gives them the training, networks and experience to become experts in their fields as media commentators. It also seeks to smash gender assumptions about who can work in science, technology, engineering and maths.



BIG DECISION OF BMC, SOLAR ENERGY WILL BE MADE FROM CANALS; CITY WILL ALSO GET RID OF THE SMELL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

BMC has taken a big decision. It has been decided to install solar energy panels on the drains in Mumbai. On the one hand, electricity can be generated; on the other hand, the problem of odor will also be relieved. It is being told that this project was proposed about 6 years ago. BMC is preparing a plan to generate electricity by installing solar panels on hundreds of drains in Mumbai. BMC will do this work from CSR fund and there is a plan to install solar panels with the help of charitable organizations, societies, various departments of BMC, government buildings, private plot holders, educational institutions and other authorities. Energy obtained from solar panels will be made available to these institutions only. Along with this, there is also a plan to cover these drains with slabs. With this, people will no longer be able to put garbage in the drains and the city



- Major drains include**
- Gajdar Nala
 - SNTD Nala
 - Mogra Nala
 - Kol Dongri
 - Mithibai Nala
 - JVPD Nala
 - Versova Mogra
 - Shastri Nagar
 - Bhagat Singh
 - Nagar Nala.

dwellers will be exempted from flood-like situations during rainy days. There are 309 major canals in Mumbai, their length is about 290 km. Along with this, and there are 508 small canals, whose length is 605 km. With

this decision of BMC, on the one hand, electricity can be generated; on the other hand, the problem of smell will also be relieved. This project was proposed about 6 years ago, which has now received the green signal.

“In November 2016, the then Corporator Dilip Patel had made this proposal. In the proposal given 6 years ago, it was said that a large number of people live in the vicinity of these open drains. They have to face foul smell. Due to the dumping of garbage in the drains, the surrounding areas get submerged during the rains. If solar panels are installed on these small and big drains, then the stench will also go away and green energy will also be generated. There is a plan to install solar panels on the drains with RCC slabs on them. The official informed that the meeting was held twice on this proposal. After which it got approved.

BMC official

COPS HUNT FOR MAN WHO STALK-CHASED MINOR GIRLS IN BOSS' MERCEDES

Will track travel route to uncover death on bus : Nerul police

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Amboli Police have launched a manhunt to track down an absconder, who along with his friend, had stalk-chased two minor schoolgirls in their boss' Mercedes car last weekend in Andheri west, an official said here on Wednesday. "We have already arrested one person and have formed a special team to track down the other missing accused... He will be nabbed soon," Amboli Police Station Senior Police Inspector Bandopant D. Bansode said. The shocking incident occurred last Saturday afternoon on the Apna Bazar Lane towards the busy main thoroughfare, Veera Desai Road, when the two 15-year-old girls were returning home from a tuition class. On seeing them, the duo -- Salman Qureshi and Zeeshan -- started teasing them, passing vulgar comments and making lewd gestures, alarming them.



The petrified girls immediately hailed an autorickshaw to rush home when the undeterred duo in the Mercedes gave a hot chase to the three-wheeler for nearly half an hour, even attempting to intercept it at times.

At one point, when the autorickshaw got mired in a traffic snarl, Qureshi hopped out of the car and chucked a note with his phone number on one of the girl's lap. After the harrowing experience, the girls managed to reach home and the father of one, who feared possible kidnap and harm to them, complained to the Amboli Police Station. Moving swiftly, the Amboli Police managed to track down Qureshi and is on lookout to catch Zeeshan, who may have fled to his home-state Uttar Pradesh. Qureshi has been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, and further probe was on, said Bansode. The two working in a garment shop, had taken their boss' car for a joyride when the incident occurred. The incident sparked fresh concerns on social media and among parents, but the police earned laurels for their prompt action in the matter.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Nerul police will track the route taken by the 22-year-old woman who died while travelling from Goa to Mumbai in a bus. Cops will check all the major points where the bus had stopped and then go on to Goa to investigate the matter. The inspector (crime) at Nerul police station is handling the case. Tamina Alem, a Malwani resident, died on the bus on Sunday. She was allegedly coming to Mumbai from Goa with her friend after she sustained injuries while learning to ride a scooter on Friday. Forensic experts have concluded that the primary reason behind her death is a head injury. Her viscera have been reserved for histopathological analysis. Senior Inspector Tanaji Bhagat of Nerul police station said, "The primary cause of the death mentioned by the forensic expert is head injury. It is hard to believe that her friend was unaware of the injury. Her mother has told us that she had spoken to Alem the morning of the day she died." "We need to conduct a more detailed investigation. We have to reverse track the bus route and check CCTV camera footage wherever the bus stopped. If necessary, a team can be sent to Goa for further investigation," said Bhagat. The bus driver and the cleaner, in their statement, said the woman was fine when she boarded the bus, but fell unconscious when the bus stopped at Kohinoor Hotel in Satara. Alem's friend Sachin Kittu, who had gone down to get tea, had asked the driver to take the bus to a hospital, but he refused. They allegedly also had a fight, but the bus driver and cleaner denied beating up Kittu, said a police source.

HISTORY-SHEETER DEMANDS COMFORT IN JAIL, THREATENS TO START HUNGER STRIKE

Team Absolute | Thane

An undertrial lodged in Thane Central Jail has written a letter to the MCOCA court seeking a comfortable living situation in the prison, failing which he has threatened to start a hunger strike. The accused, who has around 20 serious cases filed against him, in a letter through his wife, demanded that he should be shifted to Byculla jail, or moved to the hospital ward of Thane jail. In case these two demands are not met, he asked that he shall be provided with a mattress, TV and dishes, home-cooked meals among other things in his cell. The court has rejected the application. As per police sources, Guddu Mohiuddin Shaikh alias Munna, 30, is a notorious criminal and gangster who has been active since 2011 and has several cases of extortion, murder, attempt to murder, etc. He was first convicted in 2013 in an attempt to murder case filed with Kurla police and sentenced to five years in jail.



After he was released, he was booked in several other cases and managed to get bail. He was again arrested in 2019 following a case filed with MHB Colony police wherein the cops invoked the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). He has been lodged in Thane jail since. Police sources said that Munna, who has been visiting the prison over the past decade, not only bullies other inmates but also jail staff and officials who take him to the court. Last week, during his appearance before MCOCA court, he assaulted a police officer. The cop has filed a complaint with Colaba police, said Harshad Bhikanrao Ahirrao, in-charge of Thane Central Jail.

Man stabs sister-in-law to death, injures wife and mother-in-law

Team Absolute | Thane

A 50-year-old man allegedly killed his sister-in-law and injured his wife and mother-in-law over a dispute in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said. The incident took place in Badlapur town of the district around 6 am on Monday, an official said. The accused arrived at his in-laws' place and picked up a quarrel about divorcing his wife and getting some docu-



ments of a house in Mumbai, he said. The accused allegedly started beating and stabbing his 60-year-old mother-in-law and when his wife and

sister-in-law intervened, he attacked them as well, the official said. While the accused's sister-in-law died on the spot, the other two women had to be hospitalised, he said. The accused has been arrested under sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Maharashtra Police Act, the station house officer of Badlapur West police station said.

WOMAN HELPS COPS ARREST CRIMINAL SON

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Vishnu Nagar police on Monday were moved by the actions of an underprivileged woman who turned in her son on learning he had snatched a gold chain from an 85-year-old. The police, who had been examining CCTV footage of the incident, were startled when the accused's mother not only helped identify him but also took the cops to her home to nab him. The senior citizen, Kamala Choudhary, ventured out for a walk around 7.30 am on Monday. When she reached Devi Chowk, Dombivli West, a young man emerged from behind, snatched her mangalsutra which is worth Rs 40,000 and fled. Choudhary, who sustained an injury on her leg, approached the Vishnu Nagar police station at 11.30 am to register a complaint against the snatcher.

After examining footage from CCTV cameras along Choudhary's route, the police zeroed in on a person in a yellow shirt and Capri pants. Choudhary confirmed that he was the perpetrator. The cops then circulated the footage across police stations. "We formed a team to track down the accused and during the investigation, a person revealed that he was a Phule Nagar resident. When the cops reached the locality, they came across an elderly woman, Tanibai Raju Waghri, around 5.30 pm. When the cops showed her the footage, she immediately identified the man as her son Kanu," said Pandharinath Bhalerao, senior inspector, Vishnu Nagar police station. "Our team was dumbstruck when Tanibai asked why we were inquiring about Kanu. The cops replied that had he met with an accident, but she said he was at home.

The cops then broke it to her that he had snatched a mangalsutra, which infuriated her. She immediately took the cops to her home," Bhalerao added. Kanu, 30, told the cops that his wife had undergone surgery a couple of months ago, which exhausted his savings of Rs 40,000. "His flower business had apparently been hampered due to the lockdown and he decided to snatch chains to make ends meet," said a police officer. The cops have recovered the mangalsutra while Waghri has been sent to police custody by a court. Tanibai said, "It's true that we are in need of money, but should this drive someone to commit crime? I was shocked to learn that my son had snatched the mangalsutra of an elderly woman, causing her injuries. It is really unfortunate. I can't say anything else."



Five people injured after truck overturns on Mumbai-Bengaluru highway

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least five people were injured when a truck in which they were travelling overturned near a bridge on Mumbai-Bengaluru highway in Maharashtra's Pune district on Wednesday morning, police said. The accident took place at around 5 am near Bhumkar Chowk close to Navale Bridge, they said. "The truck was coming from Satara side

when it overturned. As per primary information, four to five people were injured and they have been shifted to a hospital," inspector Jayant Rajurkar from Sinhgad Road police station said. On November 20, at least 24 vehicles were damaged after a truck lost control on the downward slope of the Navale Bridge and caused a pile-up. More than 20 people were injured in that accident, police earlier said.

PRAKASH AMBEDKAR ASKS UDDHAV-LED SENA TO CLARIFY STAND ON ALLIANCE WITH MVA



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) leader Prakash Ambedkar on Tuesday asked the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena to clarify whether there would be an alliance between the VBA and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena is in talks with the VBA for a tie-up, but the former is already a constituent of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition which includes the Nationalist Congress Party and Congress. We want Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena to clarify whether there will be an alliance of the MVA and VBA for future elections, or whether VBA and Sena will have a separate political alliance. Our earlier talks took place on a positive note, and now we have come to a stage where the VBA is keen on finding out the Sena's outlook towards us, Ambedkar's outfit said in a statement. VBA leaders and Subhash Desai of the Shiv Sena have held two rounds of meetings so far and both sides are positive on forming an alliance ahead of elections, it added. Prakash Ambedkar is the grandson of late Dr B R Ambedkar.

Mumbai court relies on DNA test report, sentences man to 20-year imprisonment for raping step-daughter

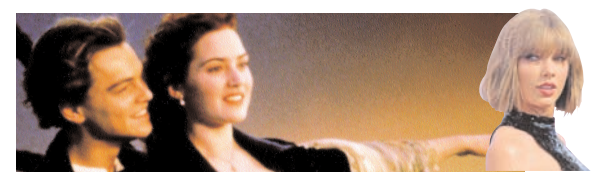
Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special court in Mumbai has relied on a DNA test report and sentenced a 41-year-old man to 20 years' imprisonment for repeatedly raping his 16-year-old step-daughter since 2019 and impregnating her, even the victim turned hostile during the case trial. Special Judge Anis Khan, designated to hear cases related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in the order passed on Tuesday said in such peculiar circumstances, DNA tests are an effective tool for investigation as well as to establish the proof of guilt of the accused. "The DNA report clearly indicates the accused was the biological father of the foetus of the victim girl," the court said in the order, a copy of which was made available on Wednesday. "It is, indeed, sad that a very serious and heinous offence has been committed by a step-father on his step-daughter who is a child below 18 years," it said.



Merely because the victim and her mother have turned hostile does not mean it would lead the prosecution case to fail, the court said. As per the prosecution, the accused had been raping the girl since October 2019. In June 2020, the girl informed about the offence to her mother following which a police complaint was lodged.

During a medical examination, it was revealed the girl was 16 weeks pregnant. The pregnancy was later terminated. During the trial, the victim and her mother turned hostile. The court in its judgement said the victim and her mother in their statements before the court claimed the accused was the only earning member of their family and hence they want to forgive him and bring him out of jail. "The statement given by the victim is sufficient to prove she is under emotional pressure from her mother and hence has denied the incidents," the court noted. "In these peculiar circumstances, DNA tests are an effective tool for investigation as well as to establish the proof of guilt of the accused. In the present case, the DNA test has proved that the accused and the victim were the biological parents of the foetus," the court said. The procedure of collection of blood samples, submission of the same to a lab and further analysis was done properly and hence the final DNA report has to be accepted, the court said.



I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE THE BEST FANS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY: **RITA ORA**

Kosovo | Agencies

Rita Ora has revealed she's been turned into a postage stamp in her native country of Kosovo, as a surprise to celebrate her 32nd birthday.

The singer took to Instagram to share a snap of her face immortalised on the piece, and gushed that she is 'so grateful' for the honour after her own grandfather received a similar tribute for his

work in Arts and Film.

Along with the snap of her stamp, Rita also shared a gallery of images documenting her recent birthday getaway to The French Alps, where she enjoyed a luxurious stay in a chalet with a group of pals.

Her caption read: 'I feel so grateful today. Thank you to posta kosova for special this beautiful surprise for my birthday. I have been honoured an official postal stamp (in case you want my face on all of your Mail) in Kosovo. I'm so happy and honoured to be along my grandfather Besim Sahatciu who equally was recognised for his contribution in Art and Films.'

'I am so sorry that I'm not able to be there and receive this in person, due to work commitments, but when I can I will be sure to come and visit you and show my appreciation! Thank you! And to everyone else thank you for all my birthday wishes. I'm so lucky to have the best fans friends and family. I can't wait to show you all what I've been working on. Bring on 2023! Watch this space! I love you!'



Evan Peters explained the arduous prep he did for the notorious serial killer

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Evan Peters, who plays Jeffrey Dahmer in Netflix's hugely successful 'DAHMER - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story', explained the arduous prep he did to portray the notorious serial killer. The actor plays Dahmer in Ryan Murphy's 'DAHMER - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story', and while the series has garnered its fair share of criticism, Peters' visceral performance has been widely praised. In a conversation with Murphy and the series' ensemble cast, released on November 28, Peters detailed the arduous work that went into capturing Dahmer's ominous essence.

"He has such a distinct voice, and that dialect," Peters said.

"I worked with dialect coaches and then created this 45-minute audio composite that I listened to every day to stay in the accent,



but also to really get into the mindset for the day and all the scenes we were shooting. I tried to attempt to understand what he was thinking and going through. I just tried to stay in it because it was too hard to go in and out of it."

Murphy pointed to a 1994 Dahmer interview, the only network television interview Dahmer ever granted, that Murphy personally suggested as inspiration.

Peters said he "watched as much as I could," which also included courtroom footage of Dahmer. However, it was more than just the voice that Peters focused on.

"I studied how he moved," he said. "He had a very straight back. He didn't move his arms when he walked."

In fact, Peters took things into his own hands literally. Murphy revealed that Peters actually wore lead weights around his hands to work on Dahmer's distinct posture. "In the beginning it was important for me to get how that felt," Peters said. "As we were shooting, I let that go. In the beginning

I wore wardrobe's shoes, jeans and glasses. I had a cigarette in my hand at all times, just trying to get all of these external second-nature so I wasn't thinking about it when we were shooting."

Joe Pesci sustained "serious burns" while filming a scene

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Joe Pesci sustained "serious burns" on his head while filming a scene where his hat was set on fire in 'Home Alone 2: Lost in New York'. The star reprised his role as criminal Harry in the 1992 sequel and while he had a body double for the "real heavy stunts", the actor still suffered various injuries as a result of the pranks played on his character, including having his hat set on fire by Macaulay Culkin's Kevin McCallister, reports.

Pesci said: "In addition to the expected bumps, bruises, and general pains that you would associate with that particular type of physical humour, I did sustain serious burns to the top of my head during the scene where Harry's hat is set on fire."

"I was fortunate enough to have professional stuntmen do the real heavy stunts."

Pesci deliberately kept his distance from Macaulay on the set of the 'Home Alone' films in order to "maintain the integrity" of their relationship on screen.

He told: "I remember Macaulay as being a really sweet kid and, even at his age, very professional. I intentionally limited my interactions with him to preserve the dynamic between his character, Kevin, and my character Harry."

"(I did not) want it to come across on the screen that we were in any way friendly. I wanted to maintain the integrity of the adversarial relationship."

The 'Goodfellas' actor thinks it is unlikely he will reprise the role of 'Harry' again in the future because he doesn't think any new film could recreate the "innocence" of the originals.

He said: "While you never say never, I think that it would be difficult to replicate not only the success but also the overall innocence of the originals. It's a different time now; attitudes and priorities have changed in 30 years."



Samuel L. Jackson reacts to Quentin Tarantino's slamming of Marvel films

Los Angeles | Agencies

The debate around the impact of Marvel on Hollywood continues to swirl. Now 'Pulp Fiction' actor Samuel L. Jackson is weighing in on Quentin Tarantino's opinion that Marvel actors are "not movie stars." Jackson recently appeared on 'The View' alongside his wife LaTanya Richardson Jackson to discuss the Broadway revival of August Wilson's 'The Piano Lesson', which LaTanya directed and in which Samuel stars. During the interview, Samuel was asked for his take on the debate regarding frequent collaborator Tarantino, who recently said on the '2 Bears, 1 Cave' podcast that movie stars have disappeared due to the "Marvel-isation of Hollywood." "It takes an actor to be those particular characters, and the sign of movie stardom has always been, what, asses in seats?" Samuel said during his appearance. "What are we talking about?" Samuel, who plays Marvel character Nick Fury in the MCU and has also starred in several of Tarantino's movies, referenced the late Chadwick Boseman as a definitive "movie star" from the Marvel era. "That's not a big controversy for me to know that apparently these actors are movie stars," he said on 'The View'. "Chadwick Boseman is Black Panther. You can't refute that, and he's a movie star."



Kanye West and Kim have settled their divorce

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Kanye West and reality TV star Kim Kardashian have settled their divorce. As a part of the settlement, the 'Donda' artist has been ordered to pay Kim \$200,000 monthly in child support, reports. In the court documents, it is stated that the former couple will get joint custody with "equal access" to their four kids - 9-year-old North, 6-year-old Saint, 4-year-old Chicago and 3-year-old Psalm.

TMZ additionally reported that the SKIMS founder will continue to have their children 80 per cent of the time.

Aside from the living cost of their four children, Kanye will be responsible for 50 per cent of their educational expenses. They include tuition and security expenses. If the now-exes ever have a dispute regarding any one of their four children, they have to attend mediation, as per the settlement. However, if one of them fails to participate, the other party becomes the decision maker. As for property, the division of assets is in alignment with Kanye and Kim's prenuptial agreement. Both the Yeezy designer and the SKIMS founder waived spousal support.

Hailey Bieber is not pregnant, instead, is suffering from an ovarian cyst

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Hailey Bieber showed an image of her torso to clarify that she is not pregnant, but instead, is suffering from an ovarian cyst.

Hailey detailed a recent health challenge alongside an image posted to her Instagram Stories, reports.

Hailey is seen lifting up her sweatshirt to show her torso, though she clarified that the inflated area was "not a baby."

"I have a cyst on my ovary the size of an apple," she wrote on her Instagram Stories.

"I don't have endometriosis or PCOS but I have gotten an ovarian cyst a few times and it's never fun."

"It's painful and achey and makes me feel nauseous and bloated and cramps and emotional," she continued.

"Anyway, I'm sure a lot of you can overly relate and understand. We got this."

Beiber, who is married to Justin Bieber, has been open about previous health scares, including one earlier this year that led to a hospitalisation.

In April, Hailey shared that she experienced a "mini stroke" that led to the discovery of a heart condition. After undergoing a medical procedure to close the hole in her heart, Hailey said she was "recovering well."

"I feel great," she said in a YouTube video.

"The biggest thing I feel, honestly, is I just feel really relieved that we were able to figure everything out, that we were able to get it closed, that I will be able to just move on from this really scary situation and just live my life."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jessica Chastain



FIFA WORLD CUP

Senegal defeat Ecuador 2-1 to qualify for knock-out stage

USA 1-0 wins over Iran

Doha (Qatar) A decisive strike by Chelsea's Christian Pulisic seven minutes into the second session broke Iranian hearts while helping USA to a 1-0 win in a match which drew interest on and off the field considering the long-standing political hostilities between the two countries. On Tuesday at the Al Thumama Stadium, the Chelsea striker scored the only goal of the match in the 43rd minute. Pulisic's lone strike took them into the last-16 stage where they will take on The Netherlands on Saturday. The US, returning to the World Cup for the first time in eight years, thus finished with five points with one win and two draws and sailed into the knock outs as group runners up and will face The Netherlands, the winners of Group A. The USA has two draws, 1-1 with Wales and 0-0 against England. Iran, who were thrashed 6-2 by England but recovered to beat Wales 2-0, finished with three points, for the 2-0 win over Wales, who were returning to the World cup after a 64 years absence lost all their league matches. For Iran, who never has gone past the group stage, the wait to play in the knockout will move to another World Cup. England topped the group after a 3-0 win over Wales and will take on African Cup Champions Senegal, the Group A runners up in the knockout stage.



Doha (Qatar) | Agencies

A match winner from Kalidou Koulibaly helped Senegal over the challenge of Ecuador 2-1 in the Group A match of the FIFA World Cup and to qualify for the knock-out stage. At the Khalifa International Stadium, all three goals came from players based in England. Senegal, ranked 18 on the FIFA ranking computer went into the lead in the 44th minute through Watford's Ismaila Sarr penalty conversion and went into the half time break leading 1-0.



In the second half, Ecuador, ranked 44, hit back through Brighton midfielder Moises Caicedo in the 67th minute to draw level. The lead lasted for just three minutes with Chelsea defender Kalidou Koulibaly scoring Senegal's second goal of the match to give the lead to the African Cup of Nations champions. The Lions of Teranga, thus will make it to the last 16 of the World Cup for the first time in 20 years. Senegal, which lost to The

Netherlands 2-0, finished their league engagements with six points with two wins and one loss to finish second in the group behind leaders Netherlands. The Europeans completed their league engagements with two wins and one draw, recording identical 2-0 wins over Senegal and Qatar. Their only draw came against Ecuador 1-1. Senegal and Netherlands now join Portugal, Brazil and France into the last 16 stage.

IND V NZ 3RD ODI

Rain forces match to be called off, New Zealand win series 1-0

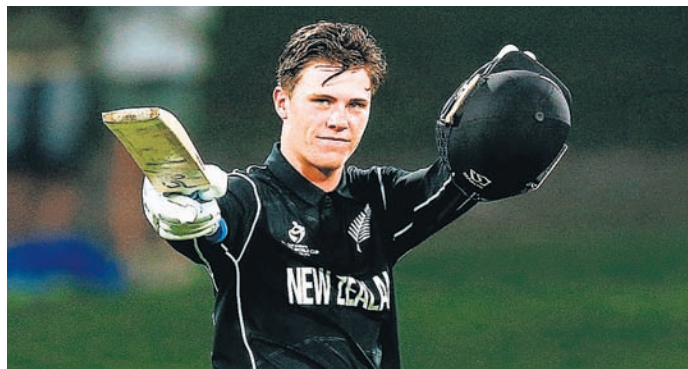
Christchurch | Agencies

Finn Allen and Devon Conway had a 97-run opening stand to get New Zealand's chase of 220 against India start on a bright note. Pacer Umran Malik broke it by taking out Allen, but rain forced the third and final ODI between India and New Zealand at Hagley Oval on Wednesday to be called off.

When rain arrived, New Zealand was at 104/1 in 18 overs and DLS calculations showed that they were ahead by 50 runs. But to constitute a full match, 20 overs were needed to be completed in the second innings. But with rain washing out the prospect of playing out remaining two overs for a result, New Zealand clinched the series 1-0.

Allen got his fifty when he hit a flat-batted six over long-off off Washington Sundar. After pulling Malik through fine leg in the 17th over, Allen tried to reach out to a short ball, but toe-ended the cut to cover, ending the 97-run opening partnership as he fell for 57.

Shreyas Iyer also played a handy knock of 49 as rest of the batters



struggled and perished to a disciplined bowling show by New Zealand. For the hosts, Daryl Mitchell being used as the fifth bowler was a master-stroke, picking 3/25 in his seven overs.

Suryakumar Yadav edged off Milne to slip and when Iyer miscued his loft off Lockie Ferguson, India were in a real spot of bother. It increased when Deepak Hooda fell while trying to take on a short ball, leaving India at 141/6.

But Sundar went about his innings with flick and gentle push past mid-on to collect a brace of boundaries. As Southee erred in his

line, he was quick to pounce on it to place the pull through mid-wicket.

He was also aided by Chahar hitting Mitchell for two huge sixes, though he holed out to him. Sundar was serene in his front-foot drive off Ferguson and then smartly moved across to sweep past short fine leg off Mitchell Santner.

Brief Scores: India 219 all out in 47.3 overs (Washington Sundar 51, Shreyas Iyer 49; Daryl Mitchell 3/25, Adam Milne 3/57) against New Zealand 104/1 in 18 overs (Finn Allen 57, Devon Conway 38 not out; Umran Malik 1/31), match abandoned due to rain.

BOXER SANDEEP SINGH BHATTI TO BE A PART OF TYSON FURY'S HEADLINER EVENT

New Delhi: Pro boxer Sandeep Singh Bhatti, who is represented by VN Promotions, has been chosen to box for Tyson Fury's undercard team.

With the backing of world athlete promoters Top Rank (the boxing promotional company founded by Jabir Herbert Muhammad and Bob Arum) and Frank Warren (the founder of Queensbury Promotions), Sandeep Singh Bhatti will compete against British professional boxer Issac Lowe on December 3. VN Promotions, founded in 2020 by professional boxer Neeraj Goyat and three time Olympian Arjuni Awarad Vikas Krishan Yadav, has successfully assembled a roster of top Indian professional boxers while promoting their careers both on and off the field. Sandeep Singh Bhatti, who just signed a deal with VN Promotions, had the opportunity to compete in a number of professional boxing tournaments in both India and England. After achieving significant success in professional tournaments, VN Promotions got Sandeep enlisted to compete for Tyson Fury's headliner event. Sharing excitement on preparation for his first undercard fight, professional boxer Sandeep Singh Bhatti shares, "In my career, facing off against such a professional fighter is a huge step forward. I'd like to thank particularly Neeraj Goyat my manager for pulling this one off and Top Rank India and Mr Frank Warren, for allowing my talent to compete in an international league fight so early in my career."

Hockey series: India beat Australia by 4-3

Adelaide | Agencies

The Indian men's hockey team broke its 12-match winless streak against world No. 1 Australia with a 4-3 victory in the third game to stay alive in the five-match Test series at the Mate Stadium, here on Wednesday.

This was India's 13th win over Australia in 65 hockey matches and their first since 2016.

It was Mandeep Singh who set up Akashdeep Singh to score the winner for India while other goals were scored by Harmanpreet Singh (12'), Abhishek (47') and Shamsher Singh (57'). For Australia, Jack Welch (25), Aran Zaleski (32') and Nathan Ephraums (59') scored.

After emphasizing on strong defensive structure on the eve of the match, India captain Harmanpreet Singh ensured his team followed it with perfection as they impressed with their one-on-one defence to contain the Australian forwardline who have shown rambling form so far in this five-match series.

Harmanpreet Singh, who has been in great form, was on target with a powerful drag flick that went past Johan Durst at lightning speed. This was Harmanpreet's fourth goal of the tour.

Australia had a chance to level the score early in the second quarter when they were awarded a PC after India's foot-foul in the cir-



cle. But experienced India goalie PR Sreejesh was on-point with his saves. He first blocked Jeremy Hayward's drag flick and then stopped two more shots on goal along with his wingman Suresh supporting him.

However, Australia didn't let go of the opportunity when they won their second PC in the 25th minute. Though Sreejesh did well to block Hayward's flick, Welch nicked the ball past him on rebound.

Australia furthered their scoreline at the start of the third quarter through a well-executed PC scored by Aran Zaleski in the 32nd minute. However, India remained calm in their pursuit and continued to hold on to the momentum - taking the match down to the wire as has been the trend in the previous two matches.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Maharashtra, Saurashtra reach final with win over Assam, Karnataka



New Delhi | Agencies

Maharashtra, Saurashtra reached the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy after registering wins over Assam, Karnataka in their respective semifinals on Wednesday.

Maharashtra vs Assam
Fighting knocks from Swarupam Purkayastha (95), Sibsanar Roy (78) and Rishav Das (53) went in vain as Maharashtra overcame Assam by 12 runs in Ahmedabad to book a spot in the final. Rajvardhan Hangargekar had an impressive spell, finishing with 4 for 65. Riding on Rituraj Gaikwad's 168 and Ankit Bawne's 110, Maharashtra posted a formidable 350/7 in 50 overs. In reply, Assam threatened to chase it down, but they faltered in the end and were even-

tually restricted to 338/8.

Put into bat, Maharashtra lost the wicket of Rahul Tripathi early but Gaikwad and Satyajit Bachhav stitched a useful partnership to build a steady platform. Following Bachhav's dismissal, Gaikwad joined hands with Bawne to put on a 207-run stand for the third wicket.

In reply, Rishav Das's half-century led Assam's run-chase despite Maharashtra bagging regular wickets. But his wicket in the 16th over left Assam at 103/4 and with rebuilding to do.

Karnataka vs Saurashtra
In the other semi-final in Ahmedabad, Jaydev Unadkat's four-wicket haul, Jay Gohil's 61 and Prerak Mankad's all-round contribution led Saurashtra to the summit clash. Having

bowled out Karnataka for 171, Saurashtra reached the target in 36.2 overs to reach the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time since their victorious 2008 season.

After opting to bowl first, Saurashtra reduced Karnataka to 47 for 4, with Unadkat and Prerak Mankad bagging two wickets apiece. Skipper Mayank Agarwal and former captain Manish Pandey were both dismissed cheaply and it was R Samarth's knock of 88 which kept the scoreboard ticking until he became the eighth to depart.

In reply, Saurashtra lost both their openers -- Harvik Desai and Sheldon Jackson -- for ducks but Gohil and Samarth Vyas stitched a 75-run partnership to make things steady for their team.

SHARATH KAMAL, LAKSHYA SEN, NIKHAT ZAREEN AND OTHERS GET PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday conferred national sports awards to Indian table tennis veteran Sharath



Kamal, boxing world champion Nikhat Zareen, badminton ace Lakshya Sen, along with 38 other sportspersons, coaches and institutions at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in Delhi.

Sharath Kamal, who won three gold medals and a silver at the Commonwealth Games 2022 earlier this year, has been conferred with India's highest sporting honour, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award.

Apart from Sharath, 25 sportspersons were presented with the Arjuna Award, given out for consistent performance over a period of four years. Boxing sensation Nikhat Zareen, who became the world champion in May, Lakshya Sen, the men's singles badminton gold medallist at Commonwealth Games 2022, and the 2019 world silver medallist boxer Amit Panghal were among the recipients of the Arjuna Award.

Apart from these three, Triple jumper Eldhose Paul and steeplechaser Avinash Sable were also conferred with the Arjuna Award. While Eldhose became the first Indian to win a CWG gold in the men's triple jump and became the first Indian to qualify for the final of the triple jump at the World Athletics Championships, Avinash Sable won a silver in the men's 3000m steeplechase and broke the Kenyan monopoly on the podium in the sport in the Birmingham CWG.

India cricket team captain Rohit Sharma's coach Dinesh Lad received the Dronacharya Award in the lifetime category.

Asia Junior Championships: India's Dhruv, Unnati and Anmol advance to pre-quarters

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Young Indian shuttlers Dhruv Negi, Unnati Hooda and Anmol Kharb marched into the U-17 singles pre-quarters of the Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships 2022 after registering contrasting victories in Nonthaburi, Thailand on Wednesday.

While fifth-seed Dhruv, who hails from Uttarakhand, fought hard against Thailand's Panya Phutthiphraisakul during his 21-14, 17-21, 21-15 win in the men's category, top-seed Unnati and Anmol had easy outings in the women's section.

Unnati wrapped up the match 21-7, 21-11 against the Indonesian shuttler Dea Nur Fadilla. Haryana-born Anmol too secured a confident 21-12, 21-19 win over Thailand's Ratnacha

Sompoch. In the U-15 singles, Mohammad Ali Mir, Ishita Negi and three other Indians progressed into the round-of-32 on the second day of the tournament.

Mohammad Ali and Gnana Dattu secured easy straight sets victories against Thailand's Paramat Pumleng and Hong Kong's Cheung Sai Shing by 21-16, 21-18 and 21-11, 21-13 respectively in the men's category. Anish Thoppani, on the other hand, recovered well in time after losing the second set to finish the match in his favour by 21-14, 18-21, 23-21 against ninth-seed Maharishiel Gain of Indonesia.

Among women, fifth-seeded Ishita thrashed Lada Na Nakorn of Thailand by 21-9, 21-12 whereas Sampriti Pal outperformed Japan's Ria Haga in a 21-16, 21-16 win.





I am doing something with a unique storyline: **Aditi Dev**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Aditi Dev Sharma has been roped in to play the female lead, Katha in the new show 'Katha Ankahee'. It is a Hindi remake of the Turkish drama 'Binbir Gece' which is inspired by Arabian Nights. The Hindi adaptation of the show features Aditi Sharma and Adnan Khan. It brings out the complicated relationship of a couple and their emotional turmoil and dilemma.

Aditi said: "I think that after a long time I am doing something with a unique storyline, and I am really excited to be a part of 'Katha Ankahee', a narrative that has made a remarkable impression in the hearts of millions across the world. When the concept was narrated, I fell in love not only with the plot but was also drawn to the character of Katha as there is so much depth to her. Katha is an enterprising woman and a woman of integrity with a never-back-down attitude." She spoke further about her character and how she relates to it. "There is so much more to her that makes Katha very relatable. As an actor, it is good to experiment and explore oneself with versatile roles, and the character of Katha gives me the chance to break through my previous characters. This is something really different from what I have done in the past."

Aditi said that the script was so perfect that she didn't take much time to agree for her role in the show.

"I didn't think twice before saying yes to this project. 'Katha Ankahee' is a repentance love story that will showcase how from the darkest moments emerges love. It rides high on emotion. Hope the viewers enjoy it. This is going to be a wonderful experience and I am looking forward to it," she concluded.

I would take up 'Big Boss' in the near future: Anjum Fakih

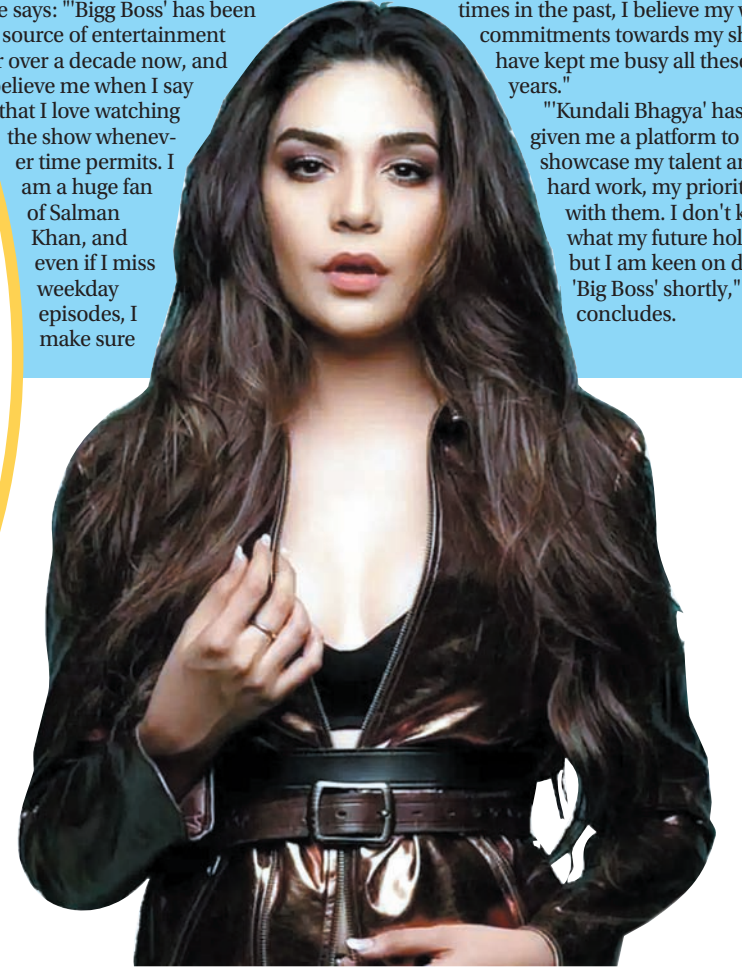
Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Kundali Bhagya' actress Anjum Fakih expresses her interest in being part of the reality show and opens up on her wish of doing 'Big Boss'.

She says: "Big Boss' has been our source of entertainment for over a decade now, and believe me when I say that I love watching the show whenever time permits. I am a huge fan of Salman Khan, and even if I miss weekday episodes, I make sure

to not miss the weekend ka war segment." She's looking forward to taking up 'Big Boss' as her first reality show, as she mentions: "I would take up 'Big Boss' in the near future, although I don't deny that I was approached by the makers quite a few times in the past, I believe my work commitments towards my show have kept me busy all these years."

"Kundali Bhagya' has given me a platform to showcase my talent and hard work, my priority lies with them. I don't know what my future holds, but I am keen on doing 'Big Boss' shortly," she concludes.



ASHI SINGH SURPRISES SCHOOL KIDS

Mumbai TV actress Ashi Singh, who is currently seen playing the role of Meet Hooda in the show 'Meet' is fond of getting surprises since childhood and she decided to give the same happiness to other kids with a similar surprise to school kids. She says: "When I was a child and even today, I personally love surprises. Whenever someone gets you a small gift, you're always very happy. That's why I decided to spread happiness and distribute some gifts to all the kids around me."

In the show, Meet is the kind of girl who does everything for others and Ashi seems to try to do the same with her gesture. She adds: "They did not even know what the gift was, but still, they all were so excited and looking at their smiles, my heart was full of happiness." "I am really grateful to God that I have got such opportunities that have enabled me to bring a smile to their faces, and surprise them with some special gifts," she concludes expressing her gratitude to the Almighty. 'Meet' is based on a Bengali show 'Bokul Katha' and it revolves around a Haryana girl Meet Hooda, played by Ashi Singh, and how she breaks the societal norms and regulations by running her family all alone as a delivery agent.

VICKY, KIARA SHARES THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THEIR ROMANTIC TRACK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The makers of 'Govinda Naam Mera' have released another romantic track, 'Bana Sharabi' featuring Vicky Kaushal and Kiara Advani.

The Bollywood stars talk about their latest track sung by Jubin Nautiyal, lyrics, and composition by Tanishk Bagchi.

Vicky says: "Bana Sharabi' is that beautiful and soothing melody which makes you want to hear it on a loop. While shooting as well, Kiara and I enjoyed listening to the song so much. Jubin and Tanishk have sung this beautiful composition, making it magical. I hope that as much as the listeners have appreciated 'Bijli', they should now get ready to fall in love with 'Bana Sharabi' and the upcoming songs from the album as well."

Kiara also has fun while shooting for the romantic composition with Vicky and she has all hopes from the track that the audience will enjoy listening to it.

Kiara adds: "Bana Sharabi is a special song, it has such a vibrant and contemporary feel to it. Tanishk's composition and writing for the song along with Jubin's voice have made it what it is now, the ideal love ballad that everyone is going to love! I truly hope our fans love it as much as we do."

IT WAS JUST FUN: VARUN ON KRITI-PRABHAS DATING 'RUMOUR'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kriti Sanon has finally opened up about her dating rumours with her 'Adipurush' co-star Prabhas. She called it "absolutely baseless" and also schooled co-star Varun Dhawan for adding fuel to such reports.

This all began on the sets of celebrity dance show 'Jhalak Dikhla Jaa', when Varun spoke to filmmaker Karan Johar about names of a few eligible single women from the Hindi film industry. Varun avoided Kriti's name from the list and when KJo asked why, he replied: "Kriti ka naam isiliye nahi tha kyunki Kriti ka naam kisi ke dil me hai. Ek aadmi hai jo Mumbai me nahi hai, vo iss waqt shooting kar raha hai Deepika (Padukone) ke saath."

Kriti took to Instagram to shut down the rumours.

She wrote: "It's neither pyaar, nor PR.. our Bhediya just went a little too wild on a reality show. And his fun banter lead to some Howl-arious rumours." Kriti added: "Before some portal announces my wedding date-let me burst your bubble. The rumours are ABSOLUTELY baseless!"

She also put a 'fake news' sticker. Reposting Kriti's Instagram Story, Varun also clarified: "Huys UI had ur fun but it's just fun and stuff the channels have edited to have fun we took it as humour dont let ur imagination run so wild," Varun wrote.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Bhumi Pednekar