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ARGENTINA ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS

Argentina Beat France 4-2 on Penalties

DOHA | Agencies

Lionel Messi shines as Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties to win World Cup.

Argentina won the World Cup on Sunday after beating defending champions France 4-2 on penalties, following a dramatic 3-3 draw after extra time. Argentina keeper Emiliano Martinez saved Kingsley Coman's penalty and Aurelien Tchouameni fired wide to give Argentina their first world title since 1986, and third overall.

France had come from two goals down to level over 90 minutes with Kylian Mbappe netting twice in two minutes, including an 80th-minute penalty. The France striker completed his hat-trick in the 118th with another spot-kick after Argentina's Lionel Messi had tapped in for a 3-2 lead in the 109th. Argentina had gone 2-0 up in the first half with Messi, making a record-breaking 26th World Cup appearance, converting a 23rd-minute penalty. They struck again with a sublime



four-pass counter-attack as Alexis Mac Allister's cutback found Angel Di Maria and he finished well. Argentina star Lionel

Messi became the first player in the history of the FIFA World Cup to score a goal in every knock-out match of the edition.



"Deepika Padukone" the first Indian to present the FIFA trophy

Deepika Padukone became the first Indian to present the FIFA trophy, making India proud. The FIFA World Cup trophy was escorted by the celebrity and chief international representative of India as it was unveiled at the Lusail Stadium in a specially ordered vehicle.

Deepika Padukone entered the arena alongside FIFA veteran and former Spanish professional footballer Iker Casillas Fernandez and revealed the trophy, which weighs 6.175 kg and is composed of 18-carat gold and malachite, became a momentous occasion for India.

The celebrity had millions of cameras flashing; she looked absolutely breathtaking in a white shirt, a brown overcoat, a black belt, and her hundred-watt grin.

Superstar Deepika Padukone has given India a lot to be proud of during the course of her career. Deepika Padukone has an unrivalled global appeal that only intensifies with time, having represented India at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival where she served as a jury member and being the only Indian to make the list of the Top 10 Most Beautiful Women in the World according to the "Golden Ratio of Beauty."

UGC prepares ground for Bachelor's exams in 12 Indian languages



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A nationwide change will take place in the higher education system, especially in undergraduate courses as language will cease to be a barrier in BA, B.Com, and B.Sc courses. Students will be able to graduate in their mother tongue.

In view of the same, preparations have begun to make the course books available in languages like Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Tamil and Telugu among others.

The University Grants Commission (UGC), under an initiative by the Union Ministry of Education, is engaging with publishers to translate English textbooks to various Indian languages.

Along with these, representatives of Oxford University Press, Orient Blackswan and Elsevier also participated in the high-level meeting. The UGC recently held discussions with representatives of Wiley India, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, Cambridge University Press India, Cengage India and McGraw Hill, India on bringing out undergraduate English textbooks in Indian languages.

UGC, as a part of NEP 2020, is working towards getting the most popular textbooks translated for UG programs in higher education institutions across the country in the 12 Indian languages.

UGC Chairman Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar said that the Commission will act as a nodal agency to provide help and support to the publishers with regard to identification of textbooks, translation tools and editing experts so that the books can be made affordable in the digital format.

He added that the Commission will proceed further in two ways, wherein popular textbooks of the programs will be identified and translated and simultaneously, Indian authors will be encouraged to write the textbooks in Indian languages for non-technical subjects.

Kumar was all praise for the publishers who participated in the mission and said that the Commission intends to get several books translated within six to twelve months, for which it has constituted an apex committee to prepare a road map and work towards the goal. Kumar said that the focus will be on the translation of existing textbooks which will later be extended to postgraduate programs.

MAN KILLED STEP-DAUGHTER FOR TALKING OVER PHONE AT NIGHT

Hyderabad: In a shocking incident, a man in Hyderabad killed his step-daughter as he was angry with her for talking to someone on mobile phone at night.

The incident occurred at Bakaram under the limits of Musheerabad police station on Saturday night. After strangulating Yasmeen Unnisa (17) to death, Mohammed Sadiq, an autorickshaw driver, went to the police station and surrendered. The accused told police that his daughter used to be engaged on mobile phone till late in the night and despite his warnings she did not mend her way. On Saturday night, he scolded her and in a fit of rage, throttled her to death.

Yasmeen was alone at the house. The victim's mother Raheem Unnisa is said to be employed abroad. Yasmeen was one of the two daughters of Raheem Unnisa from her first husband. After his death, she married Sadiq and later went to Dubai for a job. Police have registered a case and took up investigation.

Google removes thousands of YouTube channels in China

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Google removed thousands of YouTube channels last month, including 7,599 channels, 1 AdSense account, and 3 Blogger blogs as part of its ongoing investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to China.

These YouTube channels and blogs mostly uploaded spammy content in Chinese about music, entertainment, and lifestyle.

"A very small subset uploaded content in Chinese and English about China and US foreign affairs," said the company. The company also terminated 3 YouTube channels that shared sensational content in Chinese that was about the war in Ukraine and relations between mainland China and Taiwan.

The company also terminated 515 YouTube channels



as part of its investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Azerbaijan and 57 YouTube channels in Brazil.

"We terminated 1 AdSense account and blocked 1 domain from eligibility to appear on Google News surfaces as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to China," said Google.

Google-owned YouTube said last month it removed

over 1.7 million videos in India for violating its Community Guidelines in its third quarter (Q3) report.

In the same period, the streaming platform removed over 5.6 million videos globally for violating its community guidelines. According to the Community Guidelines Enforcement report, more than 94 per cent of these videos were first flagged by machines rather than humans.

PM calls for focus on wealth generation, peace for development of Northeast

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday underscored the need to focus on eight pillars of Lakshmi (wealth), peace, power, tourism, 5G connectivity, culture, natural farming, sports and potential, for further development of the eight Northeastern states.

Addressing a meeting of North Eastern Council (NEC) in Shillong, Modi said that the Government has gone beyond conversion of 'Look East' policy to 'Act East', and now its policy is 'Act Fast for Northeast' and 'Act First for Northeast'. The meeting marks the golden jubilee celebration of the NEC. It was formally inaugurated in 1972.

Hailing the contribution of NEC in the development



of the Northeastern region, the Prime Minister said that the region is the gateway to Southeast Asia and can become a centre for development of the entire region. "And to realise this potential of the region, work is going on the projects like Indian-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and Agartala-Akhaura rail project," the Prime Minister said.

Highlighting the success

of peace initiatives in the region, he said that many peace agreements have been signed, inter-state boundary agreements have been done and there has been a marked reduction in instances of extremism. Discussing India's commitment towards net zero, the Prime Minister said that the Northeast can become a powerhouse of hydropower. This it said, will make

the states of the region power surplus, help in expansion of industries and generate a large number of jobs.

Discussing the tourism potential of the region, the Prime Minister said that both culture and nature of the region are attracting tourists from across the world. He added that tourism circuits are being identified and developed in the region also.

Many Northeastern states have come to railway map for the first time and efforts are being made to expand the waterways also. The length of national highways has increased by 50 per cent since 2014 in the region.

He said that with the launch of the PM-DevINE scheme, the infrastructure projects in the Northeast have gained more momentum.

2,000 HEPATITIS C CASES IN UP VILLAGE, LOCALS SAY GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION HIGH

Shamli (Uttar Pradesh) | Agencies

More than 2,000 people have been reported to be suffering from Hepatitis C in a village in Shamli district due to contamination in the groundwater. A lake in the Maamour village in Shamli district has subjected the people to slow poisoning since Kairana's effluent is directed towards this water body.

The contamination has adversely affected the groundwater too, and the Maamour village (population of 2,500) is the worst affected. Villagers claim that around a dozen people have died in the past one year due to this.

Two brothers, Noor and Salman died due to Hepatitis C last month.

Hepatitis C and cancer cases are on the rise along with skin-related diseases. Villagers claimed that the groundwater has been contaminated up to about 250 feet in the village.

Farmer Rajiv Chauhan said, "The lake is spreading cancer and jaundice here. About 500 people in the village are suffering from

black jaundice and the lake is continuously increasing in size. Over a thousand bighas of farmers' land has already been submerged. We get drinking water from a place 3 km away."

According to the health department, around 2,100 Hepatitis C patients have emerged in the past one year, and most of these are from the Kairana region.

District Magistrate (Shamli), Jasjit Kaur, said, "A water treatment plant is being constructed at a cost of about Rs 38 crore under the Namami Gange scheme to dispose of the contaminated water of Maamour lake. We are preparing an action plan on an ATM-based RO water plant to provide pure drinking water to the villagers."



Fake currency worth Rs 137cr seized in 3 yrs, most are Rs 2000 notes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Fake currency notes, with face value of crores of rupees are being caught every year, indicating an increase in their circulation in the country. This creates trouble for the common people and poses a big challenge for the government and the police.

According to sources, police and other security forces have seized fake currency worth the face value of Rs 137 crore in the last three years. The seized counterfeit new notes of Rs 2000 are also amount to crores in face value. Fake currency is mostly traded or smuggled from Pakistan and is sent to India across the border among other routes, sources said. The Border Security Force (BSF) and the police forces have been successful in seizing such notes to an extent, but a lot still remains to be done. The Central government claimed to curb fake cur-

rency by demonetisation, whereas statistics reveal a starkly different reality. According to data provided by the Union Home Ministry, fake notes of face value Rs 137,96,17,270 crore were caught from 2019 to 2021. As many as 3,10,066 lakh fake notes were seized in 2021, whose face value was Rs 20,39,27,660 crore.

A total of 8,34,947 lakh fake notes with face value of Rs 92,17,80,480 crore were confiscated in 2020, apart from 2,87,404 lakh fake notes of face value Rs 25,39,09,130 crore in 2019.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), fake currency of the denominations of Rs 2000 and Rs 500 were seized in large amounts in the last three years.

In 2021, the face value of seized fake notes of the Rs 2000 denomination was Rs 4,84,78,000 crore, while the seized notes of Rs 500 had face value of Rs 12,57,99,000 crore.

As many as 2,44,834 lakh notes of Rs 2000 in 2020 and 90,566,000 notes in 2019 were seized.

Apart from this, fake notes of Rs 500 denomination have also been seized in lakhs from across the country over the years. The MHA apprised that the figures did not indicate any specific pattern regarding the circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN).

The government claimed that the intelligence and security agencies of the Central and state governments had been keeping a keen eye on the elements involved in the spread of FICN and took action against reported violations. Several steps are being taken by the MHA to thwart the same. According to the government, an FICN Coordination group had been constituted by the Home Ministry for sharing information among the security agencies of the state and Centre to combat the problem. A Terror Funding and Fake Currency (TFFC) Cell has been constituted in the National Investigation

Agency (NIA) to conduct focused investigation of terror financing and fake currency cases. The government claimed to have strengthened the international border security by deploying additional men for round-the-clock surveillance, by setting up surveillance posts along the border, erecting fences and intensive patrolling. An MoU has been signed between India and Bangladesh to prevent and combat smuggling and circulation of counterfeit currency notes, while training programmes have been organised for state police officers as well as those of Nepal and Bangladesh to make them aware about the problem.

The Reserve Bank of India has prepared a strategy to curb counterfeit notes, reportedly taking various measures, including raising security standards on bank notes, to make counterfeiting difficult and costly and organising awareness programmes for the public.



CRISIS DEEPENS IN TELANGANA CONGRESS, 13 LEADERS QUIT PARTY POSTS

Hyderabad | Agencies

The crisis in the Congress' Telangana unit deepened on Sunday with 13 leaders, who had defected to the party from the TDP in the past, announcing their resignations from party posts.

Narender Reddy, Seethakka, Vijay Rama Rao, Erra Shekhar, and others said they would send their resignations to Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Working President.

This came a day after some senior leaders announced the launching of "save Congress in Telangana" movement to protect the party from leaders who came from other parties. They called a battle between the original Congress and migrants from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

This was seen as an open revolt against state chief A. Revanth Reddy, who came to the Congress from the TDP a few years ago. Meanwhile, the Revanth Reddy group is planning to counter the allegations made by senior leaders, who were unhappy with him over packing recently announced party executive with migrants from the TDP.

The group wants to highlight that the allegations made by the dissidents will weaken the organisation.



In another development, the central leadership of the party has taken a serious view of the happenings in the state unit. AICC in charge Secretaries are reported to be in touch with dissident leaders. Some central leaders are likely to meet the dissident group on Monday. Senior party leaders, who have

been in the party from the start of their respective political careers, on Saturday declared that they are launching a 'Save Congress in Telangana' movement to protect the party from what they described as a leader who came into the Congress after shifting loyalties from party to party.

The meeting of the senior leaders was held at the residence of Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. Former state President N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, MLA T. Jagga Reddy, Madhu Yashki Goud, Damodar Rajnarasimha, and A. Maheshwar Reddy were among those who attended the meeting.

Arvind Kejriwal calls for boycotting Chinese goods

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While addressing the national council meeting after the MCD and assembly polls, Aam Aadmi Party National Convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday called for boycotting the Chinese goods. The national council meeting is currently underway here.

"Today I appeal to the people of India through this platform to start boycotting Chinese goods. I appeal to the Government of India to show some courage and learn to respect the soldiers of our country," said Kejriwal addressing the party members.

While Chinese aggression is increasing, border tensions are raising, the BJP government aims to create the narrative that everything is fine. Instead of punishing China, the Central government is rewarding them," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Kejriwal tore into the BJP-led Centre, claiming the Central government is rewarding China for its aggressions



while soldiers are fighting bravely.

"In 2020-21, we imported goods worth \$65 billion from China. The next year, this grew to \$95 billion. We need to strengthen India's manufacturing capabilities. We are importing slippers, spectacles, and clothes from China. Can these things not be made in India," Kejriwal asked on the occasion.

The day we started showing eyes to China and will stop importing of such huge

amount of 95 billion dollars, China will learn the lesson. 90 per cent of the goods that we are importing from China, all these goods can be made in India, Delhi CM said.

There is something troubling happening these days. Chinese aggression at the border is increasing, our soldiers are fighting at the borders bravely. But the problem is that we seem to be rewarding China for its aggression, Kejriwal claimed in the national council meeting.

Advocates booked for assaulting woman SI in court premises

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Police in Thiruvananthapuram's Vanchiyoor has registered a criminal case, for insulting a woman's modesty and alleged misbehaviour, against 20 advocates for assaulting a woman Sub-Inspector of Police at the district court premises here.

The police action came following a complaint filed by Aleena Cyrus, a sub-inspector attached to the Vallyathura police station.

According to police, a person was taken into custody by the Vallyathura police for anti-social activities but later released on bail. The police said that the sub-inspector appeared in the court on Saturday as part of the case



and she was assaulted by advocate Pranav who was the lawyer representing the arrested person. Pranav was accompanied by other advocates and abuses were hurled at the woman police officer.

There have been clashes between advocates of Vanchiyoor court with

policemen earlier also but a complaint against advocates by a woman police officer is for the first time. Advocates of this court had earlier assaulted journalists and even stone pelting had taken place on this court premises during one of such fights a couple of years ago.

176 UP secondary schools may face derecognition

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh) | Agencies

The UP Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UP Board) issued show-cause notices to 176 secondary schools over complaints of mass copying. These schools may lose their affiliation if their replies are inadequate.

Divyakant Shukla, secretary of UP Board, has sent a list of the 176 schools to the district inspectors of schools (DioS), so that these schools are not made centres for the 2023 board examinations.

The UP Board received complaints of copying in these schools during the board and internal examinations. The board has already de-recognized 20 of the 176 schools.

The maximum numbers of schools, 27, are from the Azamgarh division while four are in the Prayagraj division. Shukla said, "These schools have been served show-cause notices for anomalies in the previous exams.



The board will follow the set procedure to formally de-recognise these schools in due course of time, as we issued notices to them. At the same time, we have also forwarded the list to DioS concerned, so that these schools are not made exam centres for Classes 10 and 12 board exams in

2023." The cases and replies of the schools will be placed before the UP Board's recognition committee and its recommendations would be sent to the state government for clearance before the recognition is withdrawn.

Officials said that in many cases, reports have also been sought from

the DioS concerned and the divisional joint director of education (secondary) of the area.

There are some schools for which recommendations were made for withdrawal of recognition, right at the level of DioS as well as the joint director of education. Strict action of withdrawal of recognition may also be taken against schools guilty of aiding mass copying during exams last year.

Four schools of Prayagraj, too, are facing withdrawal of recognition. Show-cause notices have been issued to New Children School, at Sindhvi Tola in Shankargarh, and its case has been referred to the recognition granting committee of the UP Board.

A report has also been sought from the joint director of education in the case of Shri Bachai Singh Singraur Inter College at Chandrasen and UD Memorial Inter College at Asrawe Kalan. Action against Pancham Lal Ashram Inter College of Gayasuddinpur in Transport Nagar, Dhumanganj, is also underway.

Three children hit by speeding car in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Three children suffered injuries after they were hit by a speeding car in North Delhi's Roop Nagar on Sunday, said police. The children were standing on the footpath when the car hit them. According to the police, the incident took place at around 9 a.m.

The police said that one Gajender (30), a resident of Pratap Nagar was driving his Brezza car. When he reached near the Lilawati school, he lost his control over the vehicle, and rammed into the three children who were standing on the footpath.

After receiving the PCR call, a team was immediately sent to the crime scene. The injured children were rushed to a nearby government hospital.

The doctors told the police that two children, aged 10 and 4 years, were out of danger. The third child, aged six years, was hospitalised and was kept under observation. The police said that they have



lodged an FIR under sections 279, 337 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The car was impounded by the police.

The police said that they have initiated a legal action against the driver of the car.

HOSHIARPUR-DELHI TRAIN MAY RUN UP TO MATHURA: PUNJAB MINISTER

Chandigarh: The Hoshiarpur-Delhi passenger train is expected to run up to Mathura-Vrindavan, Punjab Revenue Minister Bram Shanker Jimpa said on Sunday.

He said that Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has sought a detailed report from authorities in this regard.

Considering the demands of the people of Doaba region, Jimpa had written a letter to the Railway Minister to run the Hoshiarpur-Delhi passenger train to Mathura-Vrindavan. In the reply, the Union minister said he has asked officials to explore the possibilities of this demand.

Jimpa had written that the Hoshiarpur railway station is an important railway station of Doaba. Many pilgrims go through Hoshiarpur to visit prominent Hindu shrines in neighbourhood Himachal Pradesh. He said the pilgrims from Hoshiarpur have to board other transportation after reaching New Delhi to go to Mathura-Vrindavan.



Muslim votes are being 'chewed like chewing gum', says Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

Lucknow | Agencies

Senior BJP leader and ex-cabinet minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Sunday that for decades, Muslim votes are being "chewed like chewing gum" and "chucked like cast-away".

Addressing Minorities Rights Day programme, organised by Uttar Pradesh Minorities Commission in Lucknow, Naqvi said that the "crook contractors of votes" have committed "cruel, communal, criminal conspiracy" against the minorities to "hijack" their socio-economic and educational empowerment. Naqvi added, "Today, India has become the flag-bearer of inclusive empower-



ment by crushing the curse of communalism."

Naqvi said that the "treacherous traders of votes" are responsible for economic, educational and social backwardness of some sections of the Muslim community.

Naqvi added that today the

time has changed, the environment has changed and mood of the country has changed. The Modi Magic' has replaced the praxis of 'polarisation' with politics of prosperity', he said.

Along with majority communities, the minority communities have benefited equally by the positive atmosphere of "development with trust" in the governments led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Uttar Pradesh minister of state for minority welfare, Danish Azad, UP minorities commission chairman Ashfaq Saifi, BJP UP minority morcha president Basit Ali and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

AYODHYA TO HAVE UNIFORM COLOUR CODE

Ayodhya | Agencies

To give it a distinct identity, the temple town of Ayodhya will soon have a uniform colour coding for various establishments. The Ayodhya Development Authority is finalising the scheme of colours to be used in buildings of different nature.

There will be a dedicated colour each for commercial, residential, religious and historical buildings.

The colour of the temples leading to Ram Janmabhoomi site will be saffron. There will be a uniformity of colour in different buildings and pavements in their vicinity. Ayodhya Development Authority vice-chairman Vishal Singh said, "There will be different types of colour choices for commercial, residential, religious and for the buildings of archaeological importance. We are yet to finalise which shades of colours to be painted on which type of buildings. However, the colour of the



temples leading to the Ram Janmabhoomi site will be saffron." According to the sources, other than the temples on the Ram Mandir way, all the private buildings - from Saadatganj area of the Faizabad city to the banks of Saryu - will also have the same colour.

Besides, agencies involved in

the construction of the grand Ram temple are taking special cognisance of the security of Ram Janmabhoomi complex. A double-layer security wall with a 50-metre foundation will ensure permanent security for the temple, said Anil Mishra, member of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

After Mumbai ban, dance bar girls moved to Goa, now face local ire

Panaji | Agencies

Dance bar culture, which was banned in Mumbai-Maharashtra in the year 2005, has spread its wings in Goa.

Facing nuisance, BJP leaders in the coastal belt from North Goa are up in arms against it, claiming that it is tarnishing the image of the coastal state.

Along with Goa's BJP MLA Michael Lobo, sarpanch Joseph Sequeira from Calangute constituency, in North Goa, has demanded state police to act against the mushrooming of dance bars in their area, claiming they are being operated illegally.

These elected representatives have also submitted a letter to the state government and the Director General of Police, demanding action. Sources informed that not only in Calangute, but wherever there is good footfall of domestic tourists, these dance bars are being operated by availing licence meant for 'restaurant'.

BJP leader Joseph Sequeira said, that around 16 illegal dance bars are operating in his panchayat jurisdiction.

"We have not permitted anyone to operate dance bars, licences are issued only for restaurants. There is no provision to issue a licence for a dance bar, hence the restaurant licence is being used for illegal purposes," Sequeira said.



"No sooner had the dance bars been banned in Mumbai, they looked at Goa as an opportunity to spread this concept here. My village name is getting spoilt for this illegal trade. This should be stopped. Our elected representatives (MLAs) should discuss this issue in the Assembly session and put a ban on it," Sequeira added.

According to Sequeira, he has served notices to all the 16 dance bars.

"We have sought a reply from them and have told them to remove all banners and hoardings (mentioning as dance bars) from the village. We will take further action," he said.

He said that there will be no impact on

tourism activities if these dance bars are banned. "There will be absolutely no effect on tourism business," he said, adding that they are conducting surprise checks.

According to local MLA Michael Lobo, because of these dance bars, touts have become active, who cheat tourists visiting the coastal village.

"I am confident that the police will take action. Earlier, there were 700 to 800 touts. But after my appeal to the Chief Minister, the police acted and now only 200 to 250 touts are there, who operate during night time," Lobo claimed. Lobo said that tourists visiting the state should get safety.

"We need to send a message to the world that tourists are safe here. Illegal things should be stopped. Panchayat has given licences for restaurants, but they convert them into dance bars. It is totally illegal. I had stopped this earlier, but again it has started," he said.

"Last time, the panchayat and the Planning Development Area (PDA) had taken action against these dance bars and they were demolished. But again they have been constructed and now 12 to 13 dance bars are established," Lobo said. In the past few days, he claimed that numerous incidents of touts have been reported, who cheated tourists of large amounts of money by making false promises.



HOUSES WILL BE BUILT FOR THE POOR ON THE LAND FREED FROM LAND MAFIA AND BULLIES-CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Chouhan has said that a special campaign will be conducted from the month of January in the New Year and land will be given to the homeless poor people to live in. The yagya to make houses for the poor on the land freed from land mafia and bullies is starting from Bhopal Neelbad. CM said that those who do not have a plot of land to live in the village, will be provided free lease for residential house on the basis of applications received in the campaign being started from January 4, 2023. The vacant land will be allotted to the poor under the Mukhya Mantri Awasiya BhuAdhikar Yojana. Huzur area will also be benefitted by this. A scheme will be started to construct and provide pucca houses to those in the urban area where they are living and to the old occupants. CM Chouhan was performing



bhoomi-pujan of development works costing Rs. 215 crore at Neelbad Tiraha. As soon as Chouhan reached Neelbad Tiraha, he went to Maa Singh Vahini Darbar and paid obeisance. Chief Minister

Chouhan said that today is a historic day for Neelbad. Houses for the poor will now be built on the government land freed from those people who used to encroach upon government land, indulge in bullying and hooli-

ganism. These people had occupied thousands of acres of land, not one or two acres. Unfortunately, the people of the previous government used to encourage them.

Chouhan congratulated the Bhopal district administration for freeing 40 acres of land from hooligans and anti-social elements in Neelbad area of Huzur Assembly area. He said that so far 23 thousand acres of government land has been freed from goons and land mafia in the state. This campaign will go on continuously.

CM Chouhan said that the land encroached by anti-social elements will also be freed. Police officers are instructed to crush such anti-social elements. The CM said that after legalizing the illegal colonies, basic facilities like electricity and water would be provided. There will never be any shortage of funds in the coffers of the state government for public welfare works.

Congress promises farm loan waiver revival in state comeback bid

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Congress in Madhya Pradesh has promised that if it is voted to power in the state assembly polls next year, it would reintroduce the farm loan waiver scheme that it had brought after forming a government in 2018. The party's state unit president and former chief minister Kamal Nath made this announcement last evening when he also said that the farm loan of every farmer in the state would have been cleared by now if his government was at the helm.

Ahead of the last assembly polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had promised to implement a farm loan waiver scheme in the state if the party came to power.

The party delivered on its promise as Kamal Nath signed the file for waiving loans of up to ₹ 2 lakh soon after taking oath as the chief minister in December 2018. It is widely believed that the grand old party's promise of farm loan waiver was one of the major factors behind its victory. Sharing the order of the loan waiver scheme issued on December 17, 2018, the day he took oath as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Nath said in a tweet, "On this day, the order for loan waiver of the farmers of the state was issued. Had the democratically elected Congress government been in power now, the loan of each and every farmer of the



state would have been waived by now." Nath assured that the loan of farmers would be waived if Congress returns to power in the state. "There is nothing to worry about. As soon as the Congress government is formed next year, this order will be issued again and the loan of each and every farmer brother will be waived," he said in another tweet. Reacting to Nath's tweets, MP Home Minister Narottam Mishra, who is also the spokesperson of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in the state, termed this announcement as "cheating". "Not a single farmer got the benefit of farm loan waiver of up to ₹ 2 lakh as stated in the order (posted by Nath). This is cheating. This tweet is rubbing salt into the wounds of farmers, who have become defaulters due to this promise," Mishra said.



CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan was called on by international cricketer and Member of Parliament, Padmashri Gautam Gambhir at the Chief Minister Residence during his stay in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Chouhan welcomed former Indian cricket team captain Gambhir.

MBBS in Hindi is on, but no one in MP knows how many opted for it

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The BJP-led government in state with much fanfare became the first in the country to introduce an MBBS course in Hindi medium, but two months later it has no information on the number of first-year MBBS students who have opted for Hindi.

For instance, in Gandhi Medical College (GMC) in Bhopal where Hindi medium MBBS course was supposed to start as an experiment, there are a total 250 students in the first year, however, there is no system to identify the numbers who have opted for Hindi medium.

"The system of opting for a medium of language for students is yet to come. Those willing to study in Hindi, will have translated books. We are also planning to provide separate classes for those who want to study in Hindi medium," said Dr Arvind Roy, Dean of GMC. On the lack of a system to identify the number of students opting their medium of study in Hindi, doctors in GMC itself put varied



questions -- as to how to figure out how many students are taught MBBS syllabus in Hindi? Also, if there are language opting systems for students, then how will the exams be conducted?

To justify the system, the college administration, however, said: "Syllabus will be the same for all students, and it is up to the students to decide whether to write answers in Hindi or English." To this, Dr Roy added: "See, the system (Hindi medium MBBS) has been introduced aiming to encourage Hindi medium students or those who are weak in English. It is to ensure that language should not be a barrier. It is just a beginning and the system will be upgraded as per the needs of the students."

A doctor, who is also a senior professor in GMC, said that only a few books of first year's syllabus have been translated from English to Hindi and presenting that as "MBBS in Hindi" will be unjust.

"I believe that at least medical students would not do it. Students, even those doing MBBS courses in Hindi, should improve their English otherwise they will face problems. Because, it is totally a research-based study and the entire research and books are in English," said a professor, requesting not to be named.

VYAPAM SCAM PROBE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO BJP LEADERS, EX-MINISTERS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The political temperature in Madhya Pradesh is expected to rise over the probe into the Professional Examination Board (Vyapam) scam which is expected to affect many BJP leaders and former ministers.

The Vyapam scam has been in the limelight since the last decade with the death of more than 50 people linked to it and more than 2,000 being jailed. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) along with the Special Task Force (STF) has been probing the matter.

Many leaders associated with the Congress, the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have come under the scanner in this case. Leaders of both the political parties, along with former minister Lakshmikanth Sharma and two office-



bearers of the RSS have been jailed in the case. In the complaint given by former Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh on October 6, 2014, the STF had registered a case against eight students enrolled in the medical college. It took around eight years for the STF to register the case which has raised questions on the timing of the FIRs. Singh, in his complaint

said that in the examinations conducted by Vyapam after 2006, people colluded with its officials, MP government ministers and senior BJP leaders to get financial benefits. He added that the scam was perpetrated with the direct and indirect connivance of the leaders. Singh's complaint states that possibilities of fraudulent admission existed with some students' residential

address being identical, with cases of students passing Classes 10 and 12 from the Uttar Pradesh Board and their MP domicile certificate being doubtful.

Along with this, differences were also observed in the photo affixed to the exam form and in the one affixed during seat allotment. The probe revealed that the accused students made imposters sit in the exams of 2008-09 and procured admission in Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal, through the same.

It is being speculated that many BJP leaders and the names of those holding influential posts will also come up in the probe. Political analysts believe that the complaint registered before the assembly elections to be held in 2024, will be used for political gains. The content of the FIR has raised apprehensions of its large impact on the state's politics.

4 killed in dumper truck accident, driver arrested

Team Absolute | Chhindwara

Four men were killed and two others injured after they were hit by a speeding dumper truck in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Sunday.

The accident took place in Chandangan area close to Chhindwara city late Saturday night, they said, adding that the condition of one of the injured persons was critical.

"The dumper truck hit two motorcycles and a pedestrian before ramming into a road divider. Three persons died on the spot while another one succumbed to the injuries at a hospital where he was admitted," Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sanjeev Uiksey said.

At the time of the accident, three persons were going on one motorcycle and two others on another, he said.



"The two injured men were admitted to a hospital and the condition of one of them is critical," he added. The victims, all residents of Chhindwara, were in the age group of 20 to 35, the ASP said, adding that their bodies were sent for post-mortem.

The driver of the dumper has been arrested and charged for rash driving. The vehicle has also been impounded, Uiksey said.

ELDERLY COUPLE DIES AFTER THEIR HUT CATCHES FIRE IN NARMADAPURAM

Narmadapuram: An elderly couple was burnt to death after their hut caught fire in Narmadapuram district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Sunday. The incident occurred at Kharkali village under Bankhedi police station limits during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday when the victims were asleep, an official said.

Barkhedi Police Station in-charge Shrinath Jharwade said, "Some villagers said that post-midnight, they saw that the hut was on fire, following which they tried to douse the flames." But after the blaze was extinguished, the victims - a 65-year-old man and his 62-year-old wife - were found dead at the spot, he said. A case was registered and further investigation is underway, he said.

Three killed, 10 injured after two buses collide on Yamuna Expressway



Team Absolute | Bhopal | New Delhi

At least three people died and ten others were injured after a collision between two buses on the Yamuna Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida Sunday morning.

A senior police officer said they got a PCR call at about 5.30 a.m. about the accident. One bus was going towards Delhi from Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh while the second bus was on its way to Anand Vihar Terminal in Delhi from Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri.

"Both the bus drivers lost their control over the vehicles and they collided. A police team was sent to the spot after receiving the call. All the injured were rushed to Greater Noida's Yatharth Hospital and district government hospital where three of them succumbed during the course of treatment. Ten others were undergoing treatment," the police officer said.

The police said that they have impounded both the vehicles. A case of rash and negligent driving has been lodged in this respect at Police Station Knowledge Park.

'Pathaan' controversy likely to reach MP Assembly

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The controversy over the upcoming Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone-starrer film 'Pathaan' is yet to die down in state.

Amid rising demand to ban the film in theatres, the issue is likely to be discussed in the upcoming winter session of the Assembly scheduled to commence from today.

The controversy around Pathaan' was triggered after state Home Minister Narottam Mishra objected to a song from the film titled Besharam Rang', claiming that it hurt religious sentiments of the Hindu community. Mishra said the way the colours saffron and green have been used in the costumes used in the song is objectionable.

Assembly Speaker Girish Gautam went one step further and asked Shah Rukh Khan if he would dare to watch his movie 'Pathaan' with his daughter.

"Will he (Shah Rukh) dare to watch film with his daughter? I am asking Shah Rukh Khan, your daughter is 23-24 years old, watch your movie with her," Gautam said on Saturday. With the five-day winter season set to begin on Monday, the issue is likely to be raised by the BJP on the floor of the House. Besides the BJP and other right wing groups, some Congress members and several Muslim organisations have also demanded a ban on the release of 'Pathaan'.

Meanwhile, some other politicians are of the view that boycotting the film will not be



the right step. Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha has come forward in support of the movie, saying he doesn't support boycotting something as it is an anti-social process.

"No matter you like the film or not, it is for the censor board to decide if a movie should be released. If anyone has any problem, he/she should bring it to the notice of the censor board. The censor board will see if there are any objectionable scenes and suggest to delete them accordingly," Tankha said. He said that if people start making personal comments against the artistes of a film, there is no end to it and it is also not good for the image of the country or the society.

After the song Besharam Rang' was released, #BoycottPathaan started trending on Twitter as many objected to Deepika donning a saffron bikini in the song.

'Objectionable' content taught in some madrassas will be scrutinized: Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Sunday said that alleged objectionable content being taught in some madrassas in the state will be scrutinised. The issue of objectionable content being taught in some madrassas has been brought to his attention, Mishra, who is state government spokesman, told reporters while replying to a question. "I have just seen it (the alleged objectionable content) at a cursory glance...We will ask the district collector to get such study material of madrassas scrutinised from the education department to avoid such unpleasant situations," Mishra said. However, he didn't specify which madrassas he was talking about.

Some sections have raised question marks over certain content being taught in madrassas at a few places in the state. In August this year, Madhya Pradesh Culture Minister Usha Thakur had



said illegally-run madrassas may be used for human trafficking and a probe must be carried out against such facilities.

"The office-bearers of the children's commission recently carried out surprise inspections of such illegally-run madrassas. They found that 30-40 children were kept without a healthy environment. There was an insufficient arrangement for food. I fear it may be a case of human trafficking," Thakur had alleged.



EDITOR'S SPECS

YOUTHS USING GOVT SCHEMES TO MAKE A SUCCESS STORY IN KASHMIR

Tdeal with the rising rate of unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir, they are now preferring to earn self-employment. Various schemes have also been introduced at the government level, the aim of which is to provide means of self-employment to the educated youth instead of the government jobs.

Several youths in Kashmir have started their business by adopting these schemes and now are not only standing on their own feet but also providing employment to others.

Among these youths is Bisma Mushtaq of Adigam in Kokernag, who along with her two sisters and brother started a fishing business and became successful.

Bisma got in touch with the Fisheries Department to start this business and started her farm with their help. Bisma made a lot of profit from this business which she started in the year 2016.

"I am very thankful to the fisheries department for helping me a lot. In the beginning I faced a lot of difficulties, but with the help of the department I found a solution to every problem," said Bisma.

Bisma's brother Nazim guided his three sisters in the same field and all of them played a key role in taking this business forward. "Today the youth are only dependent on government jobs but even without that we have many sources that need to be exploited," he said.

Bisma has emerged as a successful entrepreneur in today's history. She is not only earning on her own but also providing employment opportunities to other unemployed youths.

ACADEMIC PRESSURE DRIVING UP ANXIETY DISORDERS, MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

MOHAMMED SHAFEEQ

On August 31, Rahul Bingumalla, a student of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad, was found hanging in his hostel room and the police investigation revealed that the second year MTEch student killed himself due to placement and thesis pressure.

It was not an isolated incident. Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana and the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh have reported many such incidents in recent times.

Rahul's case highlights the pressure of studies at the educational institutions and how some students succumb to it.

A native of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh, Rahul wrote in the suicide note that the institute should not force students to complete the thesis. "If he is exhausted, he will do more research on suicide and ultimately his research will succeed. Because of this, I did smoking and drinking to come out of the pressure but I could not," he wrote in the note which police retrieved from his laptop.

In 2019, IIT-Hyderabad saw three suicides and in all the cases, students cited academic pressure, peer-pressure and depression as reasons for taking the extreme step.

M. Anirudh, a third-year mechanical and aerospace engineering student, ended his life in January.

Mark Andrew Charles, a second year masters student and a native of Varanasi district in Uttar Pradesh, hanged himself in July. He was depressed over poor academic performance. He wrote in the suicide that he felt the world does not treat well those who do not succeed in life.

Pichikala Siddharth, a third-year student of computer science, died by suicide in October. The 20-year-old jumped off the third floor of the hospital building. Before taking the extreme step, he sent emails to his friends stating that he lags in studies and is afraid of failure in making a career.

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, known for several leading educational institutions and also best coaching centers to train students for country's top professional courses, account for a large number of students' suicides in the country.

Data collated from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows that more than 3,600 students committed suicide in Telangana from 2014 to 2021.



Stress of study and peer pressure are stated to be the cause of a large number of suicides.

Charan Teja Koganti, consultant psychiatrist, KIMS Hospitals, Kondapur, said that these days a lot of students are coming to him with anxiety disorders, depression and panic attacks due to academic pressure.

"Unfortunately these cases are only increasing with each year. According to data by NRCB, nearly 12,526 students in India committed suicide between 2019-2021. This pressure is not just with academics but also often related to physical appearance, body image issues, cyberbullying, performance in extracurricular activities, social interactions, cultural standards, friendship or any romantic relationships," Charan Teja said.

He continued: "Today, students live in a super competitive world where everyone is trying to be perfect or excellent to achieve success in life. This adversely affects the ways students view success. Students who perform poorly in academics often receive harsh criticism and are subject to constant comparisons by family, teachers and friends."

"Parental pressure was once the main cause but since the pandemic I see a shift where parents are little relaxed about academics and are more concerned about the overall personality development of their children."

"But students have self-induced pressure and constantly compare themselves with their fellow students sometimes even with a

stranger on social media. Also schools enroll students in way too many programs at such an early age and it's difficult for some students to cope with."

Silpi Sahoo, chairperson, SAI International Education Group, said that it is sad to see the degree of pressure put on children for marks. "NEP 2020 emphasises on raising the happiness quotient in children so that we can raise a happy country in future. At school level, we should not standardise the learning approach as it leads to loss of creativity, boredom and lack of concentration."

"It is important therefore to have tailor made instructions to meet the needs of children and develop an interest in learning at school and at home. We need to engage well-ness counsellors at schools to have regular interactions with children as well as parents."

Anitha Ravirala, Consultant Psychiatrist, Amor Hospital, Hyderabad, said: "The fear of exams, absence of proper preparations and planning, comparisons with others, pressure from teachers and more importantly from parents, fear of failure, anxiety and depression due to inability to cope up will drive the students to commit suicide."

Advising students to just work hard and not obsess over results, Ravirala recommended a strategy for students to de-stress: "Proper planning and preparation, proper revision, taking breaks in between, good

food, sleeping well, listening to music will decrease the stress." Charan Teja underlines the importance of teaching about warning signs of depression, stress and anxiety to students as a part of mental health education in school curriculum. "We should train students about dealing with failure, coping skills and other skills which can prepare them for life's challenges. Train the parents, wardens and teachers to recognise warning signs of suicide in any affected student and get professional help immediately," he said.

Jini Gopinath, clinical psychologist at YourDost, one of the leading mental wellness platforms, cited a recent study which shows that 56 per cent of millennial reported good mental health levels while 44 per cent are dealing with a variety of mental health challenges.

"It is most certain that there has been a rise, simply because Gen Z mostly looks for quick fixes and wishes things to change instantly. When they understand that their call for help is not heard, these patterns become more prominent," Gopinath said. He pointed out that suicide rates among primary and high school students are the highest.

A recent NCERT study conducted in 2022, states that 3.8 lakh students across the country have also identified frequent mood swings as an area of concern across grades, gender and types of schools. As many as 81 per cent of the respondents reported academics as their cause of anxiety. Gopinath continued, "Most of the people in this generation are smart and when all toppers come together, the problem that arises is the newness of what it means to compromise. Pressure builds and the students make sure they go to all extent to emerge becoming the first rank holder. Among them, those who do not make it among the top rankers end up having issues of under confidence, and negative thinking patterns, and are open to major risks."

He added: "Gen Z is also vulnerable as they live in virtual space, which means they are open to multiple triggers. Their dependence on social space is more, and feelings of aloofness and loneliness started focusing on these individuals' lives. This also resulted in social disengagement where they preferred being their person with their own set of recreational activities."

international

N.KOREA FIRES 2 BALLISTIC MISSILES INTO EAST SEA: S.KOREA

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the East Sea, the South Korean military said on Sunday, the latest in a series of launches that raised tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said that it detected the launches from the Tongchang-ri area, North Pyongan Province, between 11:13 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. It did not provide other details, Yonhap News Agency reported.

"While strengthening our monitoring and surveillance activities, our military is maintaining a full readiness posture in close cooperation with the United States," the JCS said in a text message sent to reporters.

The launch came a month after the North fired an intercontinental ballistic missile thought to be capable of reaching the whole of the continental US. The previous day, the North commemorated the 11th anniversary of the death of Kim Jong-il, the former leader and father of current leader Kim Jong-un.

The latest saber-rattling could be Pyongyang's reaction to last week's passage of a UN resolution calling for global efforts to improve human rights conditions in the North, observers said.



On Friday, Japan's Cabinet also endorsed a key security document that embraced "counterstrike capability" that would pave the way for the country to launch a counterattack should it and its ally, the US, come under attack, possibly from the North.

This year, the North has fired more than 60 ballistic missiles, marking a single-year record.

SEVEN DIE IN FIRE AT HOUSE IN PHILIPPINES

Manila | Agencies

Manila: Seven people were killed after a fire broke out at a two-level house in the Philippine capital on Sunday morning. Firefighter Eugene Briones said the fire broke out around 9 a.m. Local time in Muntinlupa City and was extinguished 23 minutes later, Xinhua News Agency reported. Citing an initial investigation, Briones said a family of 10 was living in the house. He said firefighters are looking for three others who were reported missing. It was not sure whether they were out of the house or not when the fire broke out.

Briones added that the victims were probably asleep when the fire broke out and failed to escape.

An investigation is underway to determine what caused the fire.

Kim Jong-un apparently skips remembrance event for late father

Seoul | Agencies

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un appears to have skipped an event marking the death of his father on the weekend, leading to speculation among South Korean observers that he may be concentrating on devising plans for the new year.

The North's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Sunday that the country's senior officials visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang the previous day to pay tribute to Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-un's father who died on December 17, 2011.

Officials from the ruling Workers' Party of Korea and the standing committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, along with those representing the military, visited the palace, where Kim Jong-il and his own father, North Korean founder Kim Il-sung, lie in state, Yonhap News Agency reported quoting KCNA.

Kim Jong-un had visited the palace to mark all previous anniversaries of his father's death and even organised major



commemorative events on the third, fifth and 10th anniversaries.

Hong Min, a researcher at the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul, said that Kim may have spent the weekend trying to come up with plans for 2023. "There is no indication that something important happened that prevented him from visiting the palace," Hong said. "It is possible that Kim Jong-un and his close aides instead visited Mt. Paekdu in Samjiyon to map out plans for

the new year.

"If Kim had skipped Saturday's event for a meeting in Pyongyang, then the North Korean people would have a hard time accepting that," Hong added. "But if he had indeed visited Mt. Paekdu, which is considered sacred, then the people would understand it as a trip to lay the foundation for a turning point."

On December 6, South Korean government sources said the draft for the country's defence white paper, to be published in January, includes an expression referring to North Korea and its military as an enemy for Seoul. The word had last been used to describe North Korea in South Korea's defense white paper in 2016. Meari, a North Korean propaganda outlet, took exception to the move on Sunday, saying it revealed South Korea's true intentions for confrontations. Another propaganda site, Uriminjokkiri, said South Korea will push inter-Korean affairs to the brink if it goes ahead with plans to publish a report on North Korean human rights.

1 KILLED, 26 INJURED AS OIL TANKER CATCHES FIRE IN AFGHANISTAN

Kabul | Agencies

One person was killed and 26 others were injured as an oil tanker caught fire inside a tunnel in Afghanistan's Parwan province.

"The gruesome incident took place inside Salang tunnel around 09:00 p.m. local time Saturday and rescue team has shifted one dead and 26 injured to nearby hospitals," provincial administration spokesman Hekmatullah Shamim told Xinhua.

Salang Tunnel with 3,000 meters above the sea connects Afghanistan's capital Kabul to the northern eight provinces and the accident has caused traffic suspension for a while, Xinhua News Agency reported quoting locals.

Shamim also noted that the fire had been extinguished and rescue operation goes on to see if there were anymore victim left in the area.

Six Indians charged in multimillion-dollar tech scam in US, Canada

New York | Agencies

Five Indian men and a woman have been charged in connection with a transnational technical support scam that targeted more than 20,000 victims, many of them elderly, in the US and Canada.

Gagan Lamba, and Harshad Madaan, from New Delhi; Jayant Bhatia, from Ontario, Canada, and Vikash Gupta, from Faridabad, were charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, computer fraud, and substantive violations of wire fraud and computer fraud, US Attorney Philip R Sellinger said.

Lamba, Madaan, Bhatia, and a fifth defendant, Kulwinder Singh, of Richmond Hill, New York, are also charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering, money laundering, and engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity.

The sixth defendant, Meghna Kumar of Edison, New Jersey, pleaded guilty last week to information charging her with engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity, based on her role in the scheme.

Sellinger said that the scamsters frequently targeted senior citizens and scared them into paying for unnecessary and useless computer repair services. According to documents filed in this case and



statements made in the court, the defendants and others were members of a criminal fraud ring that operated a technical support fraud scheme in the US, India, and Canada from 2012 through November 2022. The scheme targeted victims across the US and Canada, including New Jersey, many of whom were elderly, the press statement read. The primary objective was to trick victims into believing that their personal computers were infected with a virus or malware and then convince the victims to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars to the fraud ring for phony computer repair services.

Over the course of the conspiracy, the fraud

ring generated more than \$10 million in proceeds from at least 20,000 victims.

The fraud ring caused fraudulent pop-up windows to appear on victims' personal computers. The pop-ups were designed, at times, to "freeze" the victims' computers, which prevented the victims from using or accessing files on their computers. Sometimes the pop-ups warned victims to not shut down their computers.

In reality, the pop-ups were a hoax, designed to trick the victims into believing that their computers were infected with viruses that did not actually exist. Victims who called the technical support phone numbers appearing on the pop-ups were connected to one or more call centres in India associated with the fraud ring.

The Indian authorities had arrested Madaan on December 14, and Gupta a day after on local charges for their involvement in the tech support scheme. While Lamba remains at large, Bhatia was arrested by Canadian authorities pursuant to a provisional arrest request from the United States, the Department of Justice release noted. Singh, who was arrested at his home in New York, made his initial appearance on December 14 before US Magistrate Judge Michael A Hammer in Newark federal court and was released on \$100,000 unsecured bond.

Foxconn removes Covid restrictions at main iPhone factory

San Francisco | Agencies

Apple iPhone supplier Foxconn has lifted Covid-19 restrictions at its primary iPhone factory in China, which will allow employees to move around again freely.

According to Bloomberg, it means that the company's "point-to-point" system will be eliminated, which prohibits workers from going between their dorms and the factory campus, reports AppleInsider.

Additionally, Foxconn has reopened its on-site cafeterias and has stopped offering free meals. From December 16 to December 31, the company will pay regular workers 15 yuan per day but meal expenses will be deducted from their pay.

However, Foxconn will continue to provide Covid patients who choose to stay in accommodations provided by the company with free meals, the report said.



"Foxconn will now need to address the potential increase in sickened staff and a possible shortage of workers," said Will Wong, senior research manager, International Data Corporation.

"More initiatives will need to be taken to appease staff, other than financial compensation," Wong added.

Meanwhile, last month, it was reported that Foxconn required 1,00,000 new workers to get back to full capacity, but due to a shortage of quarantine space, it had frozen the hiring.



FADNAVIS SHOULD BECOME CM AS LONG AS I AM STATE BJP CHIEF, SAYS CHANDRASHEKHAR BAWANKULE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra BJP president Chandrashekhhar Bawankule on Sunday suggested that as long as he is the party's state unit chief, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis should become the chief minister for the "overall development" of the state. The statement comes months after Bawankule's predecessor Chandrakant Patil, who is now a cabinet minister, had said that the party decided with a heavy heart that rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde should become the state's chief minister instead of Fadnavis.

Bawankule's remark gave ammunition to the opposition parties, with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) saying that it showed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had no value for current CM Shinde.

Speaking at a public event in Nagpur, Bawankule said, "...As long as I am the state unit president (of the BJP), Fadnavis should become..." The BJP leader left the sentence incomplete and took a pause as he waited for response from the audience. After a couple of persons from



the audience shouted "chief minister", Bawankule continued his speech and said, "We all need to work in such a manner that he (Fadnavis) will get that post (of CM). It is not about getting him that post, but it is for the overall development of Maharashtra state." "If one person can define the future of

Maharashtra, it is Devendra Fadnavis," he added.

The BJP, the largest single party in the Maharashtra Assembly, sprang a surprise on June 30 when it announced that Shinde, who had split the Sena and toppled the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, would

become the CM.

After the Uddhav Thackeray government collapsed due to the rebellion by a group of 40 Shiv Sena MLAs led by Shinde, it was expected that Fadnavis would become the CM. But Fadnavis announced that Shinde would lead the new government. Fadnavis, a former CM, had also said that he would stay outside the government, but within a couple of hours, BJP president J P Nadda announced that Fadnavis will take oath as deputy CM.

Responding to Bawankule's statement, NCP MLC Amol Mitkari said, "It means BJP leaders have zero value for current CM Eknath Shinde and his faction. Soon, they (Shinde and his supporters) will realise that they have been cheated by the BJP. Chandrakant Patil had already made a similar statement a few months back that it was painful for BJP leaders to see Fadnavis becoming deputy CM." Bawankule's statement comes on the eve of the winter session of the state legislature in Nagpur. Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said on Saturday that Shinde-led government will not last till February next year.

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy meets Maharashtra Governor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Rajya Sabha member and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Subramanian Swamy on Sunday met Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at the Raj Bhavan. In a statement, the Raj Bhavan said it was just a courtesy meeting.

The meeting comes a day after the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray group), Nationalist Congress Party, Congress, and other parties took out a massive 'Halla Bol' morchha in Mumbai against the Eknath Shinde-BJP government demanding Koshiyari's removal for "insulting" Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and social reformers Mahatma Phule and Savitribai Phule.

The meeting assumes significance as Swamy had earlier reportedly opposed the Maharashtra government's



plans to develop a corridor at the temple town of Pandharpur in Solapur district. The government has proposed to build the corridor around the Vitthal and Rukmini temple on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath project. However, there is a requirement to demolish some religious as well as res-

idential structures in the town for the project, which is being opposed by some sections.

The Pandharpur temple attracts lakhs of devotees annually, which puts a huge pressure on the government machinery and the police force. The corridor is aimed at facilitating the devotees.

Fearless sense of independence of courts saved democracy during Emergency: CJI Chandrachud

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The "fearless sense of independence of courts" saved democracy during the Emergency in 1975, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has said. CJI Chandrachud, who assumed the office of the Chief Justice of India in November, was felicitated by the Bombay High Court on Saturday. At the ceremony, he spoke at length about several judges of the past and his experience while working with them. "It was judges like Rane who kept the torch of liberty burning which had become dim in those years of Emergency in 1975. It was the fearless sense of independence of our courts which saved Indian democracy in 1975," the CJI said.

He said Indian democracy stands firm because of the "fierce tradition of our own courts, of the judges of the bar who have come together and hoisted the flag, and the



torch of freedom for which our court stands and has always stood". Speaking about the Bombay High Court, the CJI said its strength lies in its ability to write, formulate and lay down the law for the future.

"It is for us to do everything we can to attract the best talents to the Bombay HC. There I believe judges have a vital role to play in providing mentorship to the bar," he said.

The CJI also acknowledged the increasing empha-

sis on technology in the functioning of courts.

"The nature of judicial institutions has changed over the last few decades. There is increasing use of technology in our functioning. We couldn't have functioned if it was not for technology in the times of the COVID pandemic," he said. The CJI said the infrastructure put in during the pandemic shouldn't be dismantled. "It's important that we use technology even if we are not comfortable with technology," he added.

'Both CMs talks with Union HM Amit Shah should be made public,' says Ajit Pawar

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Maharashtra Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar on Saturday said that Karnataka and Maharashtra CMs' talks with Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the border issue should be made public. "Karnataka and Maharashtra CMs' talks with Union HM Amit Shah should be made public. We'll support it if the state government brings proposals on the border issues," said Ajit Pawar.

Pawar demands to add border areas in Maharashtra. He further added that it had been an old demand to add border areas with Maharashtra.

"It's our old demand that Belagavi, Nipani, Karwar and other border areas should be joined with Maharashtra," said Maharashtra Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar. A proposal soon to be passed says DCM Fadnavis

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis



said that a proposal pertaining to the Karnataka-Maharashtra border row will be passed in the winter session of the state Assembly.

"We will pass a proposal pertaining to the Karnataka-Maharashtra border row in the winter session of the state

Assembly. CM Eknath Shinde will table the proposal in the Assembly," said Devendra Fadnavis.

Meanwhile, on December 14, Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister Basavraj Bommai and

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde regarding the Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue.

After chairing a meeting regarding the Maharashtra-Karnataka border row, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the two states will not make any claim against each other until the Supreme Court gives its verdict.

Shah said, "The meeting between Maharashtra and Karnataka on the border issue was held in a positive atmosphere today." "I had called Maharashtra Chief Minister and Deputy CM, Karnataka Chief Minister, Home Minister, and other senior leaders. Keeping a positive approach, Chief Ministers of both states agreed that a resolution should be reached in a constitutional manner," he said. "No party shall claim the border areas until SC decides": Amit Shah

Shah said that no party will make any "claim" against the other until the Supreme Court gives a decision on the matter.

Bailable warrants cancelled as Navneet Rana, husband appears in court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special court in Mumbai cancelled bailable warrants issued against Amravati MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana after they appeared before it on Saturday in connection with a case of resisting arrest and obstructing police personnel from performing their duty. The special judge directed them to attend the court's dates and co-operate in early disposal of the case.

In April this year, Mumbai police arrested the Ranases for allegedly "creating enmity between different groups" after they announced they would chant Hanuman Chalisa outside Matoshree in Bandra, the private residence of then Maharashtra chief minister



Uddhav Thackeray. It had triggered angry protests from Shiv Sena workers, leading to the arrest of the couple.

Special Judge R N Rokade had, during the previous hearing, issued bailable warrants against the couple after noting they had failed to appear before it under the charge sheet filed in the case by the police. They had been directed to appear before the court on December 14 and get the warrants can-

celled after paying a sum of Rs 5,000 each. However, they didn't turn up, following which the court re-issued the bailable warrant. On Saturday, the Rana couple appeared before the special judge and moved a plea seeking cancellation of the warrant. The court allowed their application subject to the condition the accused shall attend the dates of courts and co-operate to ensure early disposal of the case.

MODEL BOOKED FOR BLACKMAILING WOMAN WITH PRIVATE VIDEOS TAKEN ON SPY CAM

Mumbai: A 34-year-old man was booked by Malabar Hill cops for alleged blackmail, extortion and sexual harassment of a 42-year-old woman in lieu of videos shot of her on a spy cam. The accused, who is a model, was said to have extorted Rs 6.45 lakh from the woman on the pretext of sending out her pictures and videos in compromising positions. He was also accused of threatening to destroy her married life and of threatening to kill her son if she doesn't pay up another Rs 18 lakh. According to the police complaint, the victim came in contact with the Haryana native, in 2021. Both were in a brief relationship, during which time the accused

shot several videos and pictures of them in compromising positions. "The victim has complained that he kept blackmailing her for almost a year from September 2021 until November 2022. He also stalked her on social media and abused her several times," an official said. "The victim gave Rs 95,000 through a digital wallet and Rs 5.50 lakh in cash to the accused. But he kept demanding more money," he added. It was claimed that the accused then demanded Rs 18 lakh, threatening to take her son's life and ruin her marriage. The victim sought police help and an FIR was lodged under IPC section 354A (sexual harassment), 417 (cheating), 384 (extortion), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 506 (criminal intimidation) and other relevant section Of IT Act, in the Malabar Hill police station.

Teenage girl gang-raped in Palghar village, eight held

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A teenage girl was allegedly raped by eight men at a village in Palghar district of Maharashtra, following which the police have arrested all the accused, an official said on Sunday. The incident occurred during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, in which the accused raped the girl at an unoccupied bungalow in their beach village before taking her to the seashore, where they again sexually assaulted her, he said.

A case of gang-rape has been registered against the accused at Satpati police station, a spokesperson of Palghar district rural police said, adding that the victim was around 16 years old.

"In her complaint lodged on Saturday, the victim said that her ordeal began at 8 pm on December 16 that continued till 10 am the next day, during which the accused took her to an unoccupied bungalow in Mahim village where they took turns to rape her. Later, they also took her to the seashore where they again



sexually assaulted her in the bushes," he said.

Based on her complaint, the police arrested the eight accused in the early hours of Sunday and registered a case against them under various Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, including 376 (D) (gang-rape), 366 (A) (procurement of minor girl), 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), and sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he said. Further investigation is on.

Stealth guided missile destroyer Mormugao commissioned into Indian Navy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The stealth guided missile destroyer Mormugao was commissioned into the Indian Navy on Sunday. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and Goa CM Pramod Sawant were among those present at the commissioning ceremony in Mumbai.

Singh said the warship's commissioning will boost India's maritime power. He termed INS Mormugao as the most technologically advanced warship.

Indian economy is among the top five economies in the world, and according to experts, will be among the top three in 2027, Singh said.

The Navy chief said the commissioning of the warship, on the eve of the Goa

Liberation Day, is indicative of the large strides taken in warship design and building capability over the last decade.

INS Mormugao is the second of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers, indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. Named after the historic port city of Goa on the West coast, Mormugao coincidentally undertook her first sea sortie on December 19, 2021 when Goa celebrated 60 years of liberation from the Portuguese rule.

The warship is packed with sophisticated state of the art weapons and sensors such as surface to surface missile and surface to air missiles.

TMC collects more than Rs 1 lakh in fines from shopkeepers & single-use plastic users

Thane | Agencies

The Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) is conducting a cleanliness campaign in Thane city on a large scale and during this campaign the Thane civic body officials collected a fine to the tune of rupees more than one lakh from litterers and single use plastic users. Abhijit Bangar, TMC chief said, "At many places in Thane even after cleaning by the civic body cleaners it is observed that the shopkeepers, pan shop owners, hotel owners, after opening their shops in the morning the garbage is found in the front of their shops. The team formed for collection of fines took action and fined an amount of more than one lakh from the shopkeepers and the action will continue under the cleanliness campaign."

Bangar further added, "We have observed that the locality was unhygienic outside the pan shops and hotels around the city. And

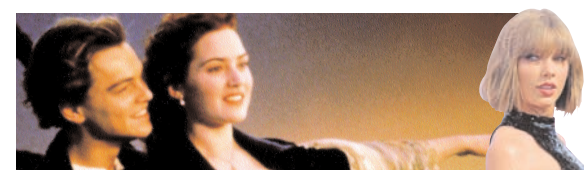


the city is also becoming unhygienic due to gutkha and this matter is serious. During the period from November 1, 2022 to December 15, 2022, action was taken against more than

350 shops and establishments in the nine ward committees of the TMC." More than 1 lakh recovered as fine' says civic body chief "A total fine of more than 1 lakh has been

recovered under it. Also the use of plastic is dangerous for the environment and despite the ban on plastic, many shopkeepers are still using single use plastic. The anti-plastic campaign is being intensified to prevent plastic pollution. It was found that some shopkeepers were not following the rules in all the Ward Committee areas; it was observed that the proportion was higher in Majiwada- Manpada ward committee area. In the action taken during the period 1 November 2022 to 15 December 2022 under the nine wards Committee of the TMC, stock of plastic has been found in 93 shops and a fine of Rs 96,520 has been collected from the concerned shopkeepers," said Bangar.

The Thane civic body chief Abhijit Bangar also appealed to the citizens and shopkeepers of Thane to avoid using single-use plastic because the plastic that is thrown away once is causing harm to the environment.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Kate Hudson has opened up on her approach to filming nude scenes. She explained that she doesn't mind it as long as it doesn't draw too much attention to her breasts. The Hollywood star has been appearing on screens since the 1990s and will soon be seen on Netflix in the murder mystery 'Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery' - which includes the final on-screen appearance of the late Dame Angela Lansbury, reports.

While out promoting the film, the topic of nude and love scenes was raised - with Kate explaining that she has a reasonably blasé

I don't have an issue with nudity personally: Kate Hudson

approach to filming without her kit on. She, however, fears that saucy scenes could make her a target for lurid conversation - and she hopes this is something that can be avoided.

Discussing her nude scenes on Sunday, Kate explained: "I don't have an issue with nudity personally - I think it's great."

"But I don't want to be on a promo tour and all anyone wants to talk about is my b****, and how hard it was. You don't want the movie to be about that", she said further.

While she was on the promo trail, Kate has been something of an open book about her life, including how she balances raising her three children who she shares with three different men.

KATE WINSLET RECALLS TABLOID TREATMENT POST 'TITANIC'

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Titanic' actress Kate Winslet is calling out the tabloid treatment she received early in her career.

The Academy Award winner recently got candid about her experience in the 1997 James Cameron blockbuster 'Titanic', including the "awful" body-shaming she faced from the media and the public, as she appeared on the Happy Sad Confused podcast ahead of the film's 25th anniversary, reports.

"Apparently, I was too fat," Winslet told host Josh Horowitz of some of the more insulting arguments about why Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio) couldn't fit on that door prior to his death. "Isn't it awful? Why were they so mean to me? They were so mean. I wasn't even f***** fat."

She continued: "If I could turn back the clock, I would have used my voice in a completely different way.... I would have said to journalists, I would have responded: 'Don't you dare treat me like this. I'm a young woman, my body is changing, I'm figuring it out, I'm deeply insecure, I'm terrified, don't make this any harder than it already is.' That's bullying, you know, and actually borderline abusive, I would say." According to the reports, she's previously opened up about the "straight-up cruel" treatment she got from tabloids, telling The Guardian last February: "I was still figuring out who the hell I bloody well was!" "They would comment on my size, they'd estimate what I weighed, they'd print the supposed diet I was on," Winslet recalled. "It was critical and horrible and so upsetting to read."

'Yellowstone' prequel series '1923' casts Joseph Mawle

Los Angeles: The 'Game of Thrones' actor Joseph Mawle has been cast in the 'Yellowstone' prequel series '1923'. He joins a stacked cast that includes Helen Mirren, Harrison Ford, Robert Patrick, Jennifer Ehle, Jerome Flynn, James Badge Dale, Sebastian Roche, Darren Mann, Michelle Randolph, Marley Shelton, Brian Geraghty, and Aminah Nieves, reports.



Like '1883' before it, '1923' tells the story of a previous generation of the Dutton family as they work to establish the ranching empire featured in 'Yellowstone'.

Mawle will star as Captain Shipley, described as "the captain of a British cargo ship, who has seen a lot during his years at sea." '1923' will debut the same day 'Yellowstone' drops its Season 5 midseason finale on Paramount Network.

It was previously announced that Season 5 of the mothership series would be split into two instalments of seven episodes each. The Season 5 premiere scored a substantial rise in viewership over the Season 4 premiere, notching up 8.8 million viewers on Paramount Network alone.

Britney Spears' dad claims he saved her life with conservatorship

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop icon Britney Spears' father Jamie has opened up about his relationship with his estranged daughter and hints he has no regrets that she was placed under a conservatorship - saying that he thinks it saved her life.

The father-of-three was given full control of Britney's financial and personal affairs back in 2013 when a court ordered her into conservatorship following months of erratic behaviour.

Jamie said that he thinks the only reason his daughter is alive is because the courts gave him control of her life. He said: "Not everybody's going to agree with me. It's been one hell of a time."

"But I love my daughter with all my heart and soul. Where would Britney be right now without that conservatorship? And I don't know if she'd be alive. I don't."

He added: "For protecting her, and also protecting the kids, conservatorship was a great tool. Without it, I don't think she would have got the kids back."

Jamie said that he acted to ensure Britney's sons saw their mother - and arranged with Kevin for her to have 50 per cent access to them, although Kevin had more legal rights over the boys.

Jamie said: "We could take the kids to Europe. They didn't miss time with their mother. They didn't miss time with their father. Not many people knew that. The main purpose was to get Britney back with her kids in a comfortable relationship. We did everything in the world with them."

He added: "My relationship with Kevin gave them a sense of peace, and of protection. Kevin will tell you this too - it was us who raised the kids. I just did what I was supposed to do, or felt like I needed to do."

Since her conservatorship ended, Britney has married third husband, actor Sam Asghari.



Sam Worthington lost 'Green Lantern' role for criticising the superhero

Seoul | Agencies

Actor Sam Worthington, who was a candidate to play the super spy before Daniel Craig landed the role in 2006's 'Casino Royale', with producer Barbara Broccoli even personally cutting his hair to match her vision of 007 before he filmed his screen test, but he was ultimately lacking in one particular area.

"I could play Bond as a killer, but I couldn't get the debonair down for the life of me. The suit did not fit," he explained, reports.

The 'Avatar' actor was also eyed for the title role in 'Green Lantern', which ultimately went to Ryan Reynolds - but his bluntness took him out of the running. He recalled asking: "It didn't make much sense to me - the suit comes out of his skin."

"And I was like, 'He's got this powerful ring that can create anything. Well, what can beat the ring?' The answer was, 'Nothing.' I was like, 'Well, something needs to beat it, or it won't be very interesting.'""The movies that I did right after 'Avatar' were great big spectacles, but I should have been looking for movies that pried a little bit more into the human condition. I was boring myself with what I was doing. And if I'm boring myself, then I'm sure as hell going to be boring an audience."

"So I decided to develop a dad bod and that I wouldn't care what I looked like. Of course, that's antithetical to what a studio wants when they pay X amount of dollars to make a movie about a chiseled hero. My arrogance clashed with the studio and the director's vision, and it turned into a horrible fight...I could have handled things differently, instead of showing up on the first day with a big belly."



Hayek admits lap dance in a movie was 'physically challenging'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Salma Hayek has admitted that her lap dance scenes with Channing Tatum in the new 'Magic Mike' film - 'Magic Mike's Last Dance' - were "physically challenging".

The actress was tasked with performing the racy act for an eye-catching scene on the third instalment of the movie franchise, reports.

Her efforts are seen in the latest trailer for the film, which dropped last month, and she's now opened up on how hard it was to perform. And now, she's revealed just how hard the scene - which is sure to set viewers' pulses racing when it hits the big screen next year - was to nail.

Speaking to the media, the Oscar-nominated star said: "It's very physically challenging. My goodness. You just wait to see. It's complicated." According to the reports, Salma joined the cast for the latest filming following Thandiwe Newton dropping out. Discussing her role, she explained she's set to play a "strong woman".

She jokingly continued: "You know what was my day going into the office? I would just sit around and watch, like, 12 men, semi-naked dancing and doing pirouettes. And I got to boss them around." Speaking to a magazine in August, she praised the hunk's improved skills, saying: "If you thought he could dance (before), you are going to realise you haven't seen anything. His dance skills - he just got better."



Demi Rose





IND vs BAN 1st Test Day 5

INDIA TAKES 1-0 LEAD IN TWO-MATCH SERIES

Chattogram | Agencies

Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Mohammed Siraj took out the remaining four wickets as India took 50 minutes on day five to defeat Bangladesh by 188 runs in the first Test at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium on Sunday.

The win also means that India has taken a 1-0 lead in the two-match series, with KL Rahul getting his first win as a Test captain. Though Bangladesh fought hard to delay the inevitable, thanks to their skipper Shakib Al Hasan's 84, others didn't last long as they were bowled out for 324 in 113.2 overs.

For India, left-arm spinner Axar took four wickets in the fourth innings, while Kuldeep picked three scalps, followed by Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, and Ravichandran Ashwin taking a wicket each. The win also boosts India's prospect of reaching a second successive World Test Championship final, going past Sri Lanka to



be third in the table with 55.77 points percentage.

There were multiple heroes for India, starting from fifties by Cheteshwar Pujara, Shreyas Iyer and Ashwin, along with Kuldeep's 40 taking the first innings total to 404 after being 48/3 at one point. Siraj burst through Bangladesh top-order in the first innings, while Kuldeep took a five-for to bowl them out for 150. With a massive 254-run lead, India chose not to follow-on and batted again, with Pujara and Shubman Gill notching up respective centuries to give Bangladesh a target of 513. Chasing a mammoth total,

Bangladesh's openers had a 124-run stand with debutant Zakir Hasan registering his maiden Test century. But India's bowlers, who had to toil hard on a slow-turning track which had some turn and bounce, fought back post lunch on day four to seal the victory.

Brief scores

India 404 in 133.5 overs and 258/2 declared in 61.4 overs beat Bangladesh 150 in 55.5 overs and 324 in 113.2 overs (Zakir Hasan 100, Shakib Al Hasan 84; Axar Patel 4/77, Kuldeep Yadav 3/73) by 188 runs.

NEED TO RESPECT PHASES WHERE THE OPPOSITION PLAYS WELL: KL RAHUL

Chattogram | While the scorecard from the first Test between India and Bangladesh at Chattogram will show a comfortable 188-run win for the visitors, it won't tell the story of how the KL Rahul-led side had to work hard in order to get things in favour.



"That's Test cricket, right? You are never going to get a victory that will be easy. We knew that and have played enough Test cricket to understand that there will be phases where the opposition plays well and we need to respect that. We need to keep doing our job and of that, I am very proud of that throughout the Test match, our energy and intensity has been really high to maintain that for all five days."

"Throughout the five days, we have shown great commitment as a team after not playing Test cricket as a team for some time. There was a bit of worry coming into the Test match about how the bodies would react and how we would manage to be on the park for so long and still maintain our focus and intensity. But we did very well and that's something very pleasing," said Rahul, the stand-in skipper, in the post-match press conference.

"Yes, there are areas where we can improve, but I will take the win. Everyone performed and did their job. Yes, the guys who did really well, put their hands up and took those good days to make it really valuable for the team."

Australia defeat South Africa to close in on WTC final

Dubai | Agencies

Australia have maintained their unbeaten Test status at home this summer and closed in on booking a spot at next year's World Test Championship final with a decisive six-wicket victory over a disappointing South Africa in Brisbane on Sunday.

The win sees Australia move further ahead at the top of the World Test Championship standings, while South Africa are overtaken by India and drop to third as a result of the loss, the ICC said in a statement. The Test match was over in less than two days as Australia's strong bowling attack - with some assistance from a bowler-friendly surface at The Gabba - made light work of South Africa's batters with an impressive team performance.

Skipper Pat Cummins (5/42) and the consistent Scott Boland (2/14) did the majority of the damage on Sunday, while Mitchell Starc (2/26) picked up his 300th Test wicket early in the day as South Africa were skittled for just 99 in their second innings. South Africa caused some concern in the Australia camp when they claimed four wickets. The hosts chased down the 34 required for victory, with



Marnus Labuschagne (5*) and Cameron Green (0*) guiding the side home as the

Aussies clinched the opening match of the three-game series.

MITCHELL STARC JOINS THE 300-WICKET CLUB IN TEST CRICKET

Brisbane | Starc claimed 3-41 in the first innings and then added 2-26 in the second to cross the 300-victim mark.

The pacer is the seventh Australian and the 37th bowler to take 300 or more wickets in Test cricket. He currently has 301 wickets in 142 innings of 74 Test matches at an average of 27.20 and a strike rate of 49.5. He has the best haul of 6-50 and the best match haul of 11-94. On 13 occasions Starc has taken five wickets in an innings and on two occasions, the 32-year-old from Baulkham Hills, Sydney, has taken 10 wickets in a match.

"It was nice to pull a nice ball out. I said to Patty [Cummins] I felt like I could get him that way, the way he's set up. I'll definitely take that as a nice ball to bring it up with. It's something to be proud of. It's something I will reflect on later. Just really pleased to have a good Test match win," Starc said. "I'm not sure I'd get one wicket let alone 300," Starc had said in the lead-up to the Test. "It's been an interesting but very enjoyable journey. Hopefully, there's a bit more left in it," he added.



India climbs WTC standings after triumph over Bangladesh

Dubai | Agencies

India have boosted their chances of appearing at next year's ICC World Test Championship final with a comprehensive 188-run victory over a gritty Bangladesh in Chattogram on Sunday.

India receive a valuable 12 points courtesy of the triumph and now hold a 55.77 win-percentage as they close in a top-two finish at the end of the current World Test Championship period.

The victory sees India jump in front of Sri Lanka and up to third on the current standings, with pacemakers Australia and second-placed South Africa the only teams in front of them, the ICC said in a statement.

The good news for India is that those two teams are cur-



rently battling it out in a three-match series of their own in Australia, meaning India may be able to make further inroads during their remainder of their series in Bangladesh. India host

Australia for four Test matches during February and March next year and need to finish in the top two places on the standings to make it back-to-back appearances in the World Test

PAK v ENG BROOK CENTURY AND ABRAR LEAVES THIRD TEST EVENLY POISED

Karachi | Agencies

Harry Brook struck his third century to continue his remarkable series and helped rebuild England's innings after Pakistan had managed to pin down the visitors at 145 for five on the second day of the third and final Test here on Sunday.

England, who lead the three-match series 2-0 after a 74-run win in Rawalpindi and a close-fought 26-run victory in Multan, took a crucial 50-run lead on the back of Brook's innings before they were bowled out for 354 and Pakistan cut the deficit to 29 at the close of play at the National Stadium here.

Brook's 111 revived England's chances of becoming the first team ever to clinch a 3-0 series sweep in Pakistan after the visitors were teetering at 145-5. The middle-order batter rescued the visitors with a superb



innings. After Pakistan's spinners knocked

over the English top-order, Brook and wicketkeeper Ben Foakes amassed

117 for the sixth wicket and brought England within touching distance of Pakistan's first innings total of 304.

Brook drove spinner Abrar Ahmed for his eighth boundary to reach his third career hundred following up his 153 in the first Test and 108 in the next.

England were struggling at 145/5 soon after lunch after Ben Stokes (26) attempted a third run which Brook turned down only to see his skipper stranded.

After Brook fell, Foakes added another 51 alongside Mark Wood for the seventh wicket.

Brief scores

Pakistan 304 & 21 for no loss in 9 overs (Abdullah Shafique 14, Shah Masood 3) trail England 354 in 81.4 overs (Harry Brook 111, Ben Foakes 64, Mark Wood 35; Abrar Ahmed 4-150, Nauman Ali 4-126) by 29 runs.

National Racing Championship

Ashwin Datta triumphs in LGB Formula 4

Coimbatore | Agencies

Ashwin Datta of Dark Don Racing emerged champion in the LGB Formula 4 category with a last-ditch effort in the last lap to win the race in the final round of the 25th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship here on Sunday.

Datta was overtaken by Arya Singh but he did not give up and came up with a superb effort in the final lap to win the race and title.

The day belonged to Datta as he won both races at the Kari Motor Speedway with domination.

The last race and last few laps in the Formula LGB 4 saw high adrena-



line action as Chennai-based Ashwin, Saran Vikram Tmars and Arya Singh were engaged in a great chase at the 2.3km circuit. Ashwin won the last

race with a timing of 27:46.956, the organisers informed in a release. It all boiled down to the last race in the JK Tyre Novice Cup category as

well with Kyle Kumaran showcasing his control at the wheels. He finished second behind MSpOr's Dhruv Goswami but still went on to seal the championship. In the JK Tyre Endurance League Cup powered by United CRA, Abhishek V and Amarnath Menon came out tops. The pair of Jeffrey Reviven and Johann Reeves was second. The third place was taken by Jayanth Prathipati and Alvin Sundar. The total time was one hour of endurance on bikes.

Unlike in previous years when Covid 19 was a major factor, this time the organisers were able to conduct the events with freedom and spectators were present physically at the Kari Motor Speedway.

I think the 18th over's three runs made the difference: Harmanpreet

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Despite losing the fourth T20I to Australia by seven runs, captain Harmanpreet Kaur was proud of the fight shown by the youngsters in hunting down 187 and admitted that getting just three runs in the 18th over became the difference for them in winning and losing.

"I think we were in the game throughout but just one over here or there can make the difference. Yes definitely, if I were there till the end things would have been different."



"But still, after I got out I had faith in Deepthi and Richa. I think the 18th over where we scored just three runs was what made the difference (between winning

and losing)," said Harmanpreet after the match ended.

Despite losing the match and series, Harmanpreet was proud of her young team. "I think all the young girls who got to play against this Aussie side got a lot of experience. I am really proud of how we bowled in the first 10 overs. We won in a lot of areas and I am really proud of that."

Asked on why she didn't bowl a few overs of off-spin, Harmanpreet revealed, "I picked up an injury during Asia Cup, so just batting right now. I will definitely come and bowl soon."

'Hypocrisy is mind-boggling': Sehwa slams Australia for Gabba pitch

Brisbane | Agencies

After the first Test between Australia and South Africa ended within two days, former cricketer Virender Sehwa slammed Australia for the Gabba pitch, saying that had it happened in India, it would have been labelled as the end of test cricket and what not.

Taking to twitter after the match, the former India opener pointed out the hypocrisy as the Australia captain and their supporters have been defending the 'dangerous' pitch.

"142 overs and not even lasting 2 days and they have the audacity to lecture on



what kind of pitches are needed. Had it happened in India, it would have been labelled the end of Test cricket, ruining Test cricket and

whatnot. The Hypocrisy is mind-boggling. #AUSvSA," Sehwa tweeted.

Despite the sharp criticism of a heavily grassed Gabba strip, Australia captain Pat Cummins said the pitch was not dangerous.

"Personally, I don't mind when the groundsman errs on the greener side occasionally. I've played a lot of Test matches when they've erred on the flatter side, so I think it was the same for both teams," said Cummins.

"There was some sideways movement, a little bit of up and down bounce but it was fine. There's no balls jumping off a length or anything like that. No way (was it dangerous)," he added.

JAFFNA KINGS BEAT GALLE GLADIATORS BY 16 RUNS

Colombo | Agencies

Jaffna Kings beat Galle Gladiators by 16 runs in the ongoing Lanka Premier League 2022 at the R Premadasa Stadium, here on Sunday.

Batting first, Jaffna Kings posted a competitive total of 170/8 in stipulated 20 overs.

Chasing down the target, Thanuka Dabare and Captain Kusal Mendis opened the innings for Galle Gladiators, who didn't get the start they wanted and were reduced to 29/3 in 4.5 overs.

Captain Kusal Mendis made a blistering 58 runs from 45 balls, which included 7 boundaries and 1 six. Nuwanidu Fernando and Ifthikhar Ahmed contributed with 22 and 23 runs respectively, but the team fell short of the target by 16 runs.



For Jaffna Kings, Binura Fernando was the pick of the bowlers as he

scalped 3/20 from his allotted 4 overs. James Fuller and Vijayakanth

Viyaskanth took 2 wickets each, while Maheesh Theekshana took 1/18.

The team got off to a flying start as both the openers found boundaries early in the innings. Afif Hossain was the highest scorer for the Jaffna Kings with 54 runs from 35 balls.

For Galle Gladiators, Wahab Riaz was the pick of the bowlers as he took 3/37 from his allotted 4 overs. Meanwhile, Nuwan Thushara took 2/31 from his 2 overs. Nuwan Pradeep took 1/32 from 3 overs.

Brief scores

Jaffna Kings 170-8 in 20 Overs (Afif Hossain 54, Samarawickrama 32; Wahab Riaz 3/37) beat Galle Gladiators 154-9 in 20 Overs (Kusal Mendis 58, Ifthikhar Ahmed 23; Binura Fernando 3/20) by 16 runs.



Sara plays freedom fighter Usha Mehta in the upcoming movie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sara Ali Khan has wrapped up the shoot of her third film this year with 'Ae Watan Mere Watan'. Sara plays the role of the Mumbai-based freedom fighter Usha Mehta in the movie.

Earlier in the year she was seen in the streaming movie 'Atrangi Re', and now she has completed the shoot of Laxman Utekar's untitled next project and 'Gaslight' with Vikrant Massey.

The actress took to the stories section of her Instagram on Sunday, and dropped a bunch of pictures from the sets. She kept her fans updated as she shot a late night schedule for 'Ae Watan, Mere Watan' after her fashion show, eventually wrapping in the morning by 10:44 a.m. She shared another photo after the wrap, with her team.

Sharing a picture of the wrap-up cake which wrote: "It's a wrap, Tune-in-to 42.34m". She wrote on one of the pictures: "Ae Watan, Mere Watan".

The actress has a packed slate for the next year with films belonging to different genre like Pawan Kripalani's 'Gaslight' opposite Vikrant Massey, Laxman Utekar's untitled next with Vicky Kaushal and the other being 'Ae Watan Mere Watan'.

Apart from all this, her new film 'Metro: In Dino' with Anurag Basu and Aditya Roy Kapoor, too, is in the pipeline.



Rohit Shetty recalls how Himesh composed a song overnight

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Rohit Shetty talked about the song 'Chalo Na Naino Se Baan Rey' from the film 'Bol Bachchan' and how it was originally not a part of the movie. He had called Himesh Reshammiya overnight and the song was made.

They were all shooting in Jaipur and they did not have any backup dancers, so his own action stuntman took on the role, and also of backup

dancers.

Later, Ranveer Singh eulogised 'Indian Idol 13' contestant Shivam Singh's performance on the track 'Sajde Bichava' from his film 'Kill Dil'.

Ranveer said: "Absolutely stunning. You have spiritualised the whole atmosphere. 'Sajde' is worded by Gulzar SahSahab the song itself begins with his voice. When I lealearned at you were going to sing 'Sajde', I was eagerly waiting to see how you would ren-

der the song because the difficulty level of this song is high. But, you rendered it beautifully."

Thanking Ranveer for the compliments, Shivam said: "Sajde is personally one of my favourite songs as well. I love it so much that there was a time when I wanted to release this song in my own voice as a cover but I never imagined that I would get an opportunity to sing this song in front of you on the stage of Indian Idol."



ADITYA RAWAL LEARNED ARCHERY FOR THE SERIES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Ferrari Ki Sawaari' actor Aditya Rawal, who plays the role of a tribal character named Sarju in the Sidharth Sengupta's web series 'Aar Ya Paar', has talked about how he prepared for the role. The series revolves around the character Sarju played by Aditya Rawal, the protagonist and a tribal man, who excels in archery. It follows his fight for the survival of his tribe against the modern world, its corrupt politics and corporates.

He said: "Sarju, the character I play, belongs to a fictional isolated tribe, Degohaat. When his tribe is massacred by outsiders for commercial gain, he rises to defend his people and his home. 'Aar Ya Paar' tells the story of his fight and what he has to sacrifice to protect his own."

Talking about his preparations, Aditya said: "One of the draws of being an actor is that we get the opportunity to learn things we never would have had a chance to otherwise. I learned archery for the series and had a great time doing it."

"Our archery coach, Swapnil Parab, taught me to use the tribal bow (a basic bow without any trappings), a recurve bow (used in competitions like the Olympics) and the compound bow."

Sharing his working experience with his co-stars, he shared: Working with both Sumeet Vyas and Patralekha was wonderful. Sumeet sir was such an assured, calming presence both on and off set. While shooting the scenes that we are in together, he was incredibly generous and considerate. I learnt a lot while working with him and while spending time together after shoots."



Moose Jattana calls Uorfi a 'cocky personality'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After making a considerable splash with 'Bigg Boss OTT', social media influencer Moose Jattana is entering the popular reality dating show 'Splitsvilla X4' hosted by Sunny Leone and Arjun Bijlani.

Moose spoke about her reluctance before she said 'yes' to the show and why she is not so fond of Uorfi Javed.

She said: "My first thought was that it's not the place for me, I won't fit in and I'll probably clash with people in terms of how I feel about love. I'm not possessive, I don't crave commitment. I had concerns but I was told I'd have fun, and that I sure did."

Moose is going to be another mischievous chief-maker after Uorfi and both are entering at the same time. Both Moose and Uorfi were part of 'Bigg Boss OTT' and clearly, Moose doesn't hold Uorfi in high regard.

As she mentioned: "I wasn't really on the show at the same time as her! Thank God for that because what I've seen of her on the show I didn't like. Very cocky personality."

While talking about the current season of the dating-based reality show, she added: "I'm enjoying this season. Many characters, some fake stories too, some acting, and some real emotions. There's something for everyone this season I would say. I can't wait to see myself on the show, and see how my story plays out. Plus I made an effort to look good this time."

Moose believes in showing her real side and doesn't have any game plan. "I have no strategy. I've never had one. I just play with my heart. Whatever feels right at the time."



Vrushika Mehta confirms she is "Engaged"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' actress Vrushika Mehta has shared several pictures on her Instagram handle informing her fans about her engagement with Saurabh Ghedia, who lives and works in Toronto.

Vrushika also posted a video from a beautiful location in which they can be seen dancing together and creating some romantic moments.

In one of the pictures, they can be seen looking at each other while sitting on a couch, while in the other the actress can be seen twirling around while he looked at her. Another one reflects their love for each other when Saurabh lifts his ladylove in his arms.

She wrote in the caption: "Our beginning of forever 11.12.2022."

Vrushika is seen wearing a grey-coloured lehenga with heavy embroidery all over it. She teamed it with choker necklace, and earrings. On the other hand, Saurabh complemented her with a similar-coloured kurta-pyjama with a double jacket.

Kishwer Merchant also mentioned: "Omig Vrushy, itni badi kab hui tum...congratulations love."

Sana Sayyad, Kanika Mann, Sonal Vengurlekar, Rohan Gandotra, Vaishnavi Rao, and other celebrities also gave their best wishes to the couple.

Saurabh also wrote expressing his happiness: "Grateful for you and excited about our journey together! rabhdi-



vrushy." To which the actress replied: "Sau mera sab kuch."

On the work front, Vrushika is known for her roles in 'Ishqbaaz', 'Satrangi Sasural', 'Yeh Teri Galiyaan', and others. She is remembered for her roles in 'Dil Dosti Dance', and 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai'.

Trupti Khamkar's series to be premiered at Sundance

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood Actress Trupti Khamkar, who is enjoying the response to her recently released streaming film 'Govinda Naam Mera', is elated with the selection of her short film titled 'Nocturnal Burger' at the prestigious Sundance film festival.

In the short film 'Nocturnal Burger', she will be seen in a new avatar of a cop. The actor known for her comic timing will be seen in a serious role that will showcase her acting versatility.

Reacting to the development, she said, "I am super excited about the film being premiered at the 'Sundance film festival', as an actor you always dream about your film premiering at various international festivals. The film will also showcase my acting versatility as I essay a serious cop role."

She added: "My character in the short film is completely in contrast to all the roles I have done till now. I am sure people will like the film and also my acting talents. It is completely opposite from what I play as Manju in 'Govinda Naam Mera'."

Trupti is known for her movies like 'Tumhari Sulu' and 'Gadhedo: Donkey', the first ever Marathi Zombie film 'Zombivali' and the OTT show 'Girgit'.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nushratt Bharuccha