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JOSHIMATH SINKING CRISES: BADMINTON COURT CAVES, WALLS COLLAPSE

QUESTION IS... WHEN?

Joshimath | Agencies

The "sinking town" of Joshimath in Uttarakhand is on the brink of disaster with cracks in hundreds of buildings. The scale of damage is most visible at the Jaypee power plant, currently the most dangerous building in town.

Because of the extent of destruction at the residential complex of Jaypee, people have been banned from entering the campus.

At the badminton court, the cracks in the walls are so wide that a human hand can slip in, an NDTV team found. The floors are sagging, and the windows are askew in the complex.

The doors are barely hanging off hinges and parts of the roof are crumbling.

Some of the rooms are barely standing. A light nudge can bring the wall crashing down. In the toilet, the floor has caved.

The entire complex has been declared a "red zone" - which indicates most dangerous - and it is widely believed by locals as well as experts that the residential building could collapse any minute.

Residents say for the past few days, ground water has been gushing beneath the surface at a high speed, and it is this water that has weakened the walls and floors. Cracks in buildings are oozing this brown muddy



water.

Across the temple town, which is the gateway to popular pilgrimage sites like Badrinath, massive cracks have appeared in buildings and roads after years of unplanned infrastructure building, including hydropower projects.

Many have fled their homes and around 600 houses and hotels are sinking in the town of around 20,000 people.

Thousands of residents are being evacuated to safety. The state government will demolish the most damaged buildings in the next few days.

The town also hosts a major Indian army base and a strategic road to the

DEMOLITION DRIVE HALTED, LOCALS ANGRY OVER LESS COMPENSATION

Joshimath: While the cracks that have appeared in the buildings of Joshimath are widening, the administration has been facing the opposition of the affected people in the demolition drive.

In a meeting between the administration and the locals, it was announced that a compensation of Rs 1.5 lakh would be provided to the affected families, which was refused by the locals.

disputed border with China that has also reportedly developed wide

CRACKS APPEAR IN HOUSES IN ALIGARH

Aligarh: Several houses in Aligarh have also started developing cracks.

Coming after buildings developing cracks in Joshimath in Uttarakhand, it has created panic among the local residents.

According to the locals, a pipeline was laid by the government under the Smart City scheme, which is now reportedly leaking, leading to the development of cracks.

Houses in the Kanwariganj area have reported cracks and leaks.

"It has been 3-4 days. We have intimated about the same to the department, but no assistance has been provided so far. We are being forced to live in terror," said Mansoor Ali, a local resident.

cracks.

The region is prone to earthquakes and has seen disasters in recent years blamed on melting glaciers and incessant construction and drilling in the mountains. In 2021, at least 200 people were killed in flash floods in Joshimath and surrounding areas in a disaster partly blamed on excessive development.

Golden Globes 2023

'Naatu Naatu' wins the Best Original Song Award

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

As India is all set to bring home the Golden Globes 2023 award for the song 'Naatu Naatu' from S.S. Rajamouli's magnum opus 'RRR', young singer K.S. Harisankar, who has lent his voice to the track in Malayalam, finds himself on cloud nine.

On hearing the news of the track bagging the award for the Best Original Song at the 80th Golden Globes, the dentist-turned-singer congratulated the entire team of the film.

"It was an unforgettable experience for me when I sang the song as all the leading lights of the film, including Rajamouli Sir were there. Normally, I sing songs of a different genre and many asked me if it was me who had sung the Malayalam version. Am extremely happy," said the 29-year-old.

Incidentally, Harisankar hails from a family of legendary musicians and was trained by his maternal grandmother K. Omanakutty besides two of his uncles M.G. Radhakrishnan and

M.G. Sreekumar who are leading lights in the music industry here.

'Naatu Naatu' was in competition with 'Carolina' from 'Where the Crawdads Sing', 'Ciao Papa' from 'Guillermo del Toro's 'Pinocchio', 'Hold My Hand' from 'Top Gun: Maverick', 'Lift Me Up' from 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'.

Receiving the honour was music composer M. M. Keeravani, who dedicated



the award to Rajamouli and the actors Ram Charan and NTR Jr.

'Joy of film watching': Rajamouli

Los Angeles: "Where will I put my trophy? In my heart!" With these words S.S. Rajamouli ended his chat with 'The Hollywood Reporter' on the Golden Globes red carpet.

Looking very patrician in his black dhoti and kurta, with a red-bordered back shawl, Rajamouli responded to the anchor reacting to the scenes at LA's iconic Chinese Theatre the previous night, where the audience started dancing to 'Naatu, Naatu' on the aisles.

"Isn't that great? To take the audience out of their seats and make them dance," Rajmouli said. "I think it comes from the joy of film watching."

He noted: "I don't think America has ever seen that kind of reaction from the audience. Back in India we do. ... Humans are humans across the globe wherever they are."

All flights grounded across US after massive computer outage

Washington | Agencies

All flights across the US currently remain grounded after a huge computer outage left the passengers stranded, international media reported.

Passengers have been left waiting on the tarmac after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suffered a nationwide system error, which has left flights grounded indefinitely, Mirror reported.

The system, critical for relaying essential information to flights, has been out since Monday evening, and it's now starting to affect services in and out of the US, as per the reports.

The FAA notified that the system was down via an Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC) advisory, stating that the US



NOTAM system failed at 20:28 UTC. It said that technicians were working to restore the system, but that there was no estimated time for the resolution of the problem, media reports said.

According to the Air Traffic Control System Command Center, "The NOTAMS outage continues with no cur-

rent estimate time of restoration. A hotline has been activated." Bettina Inclan, who has been left waiting at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, tweeted: "Update from our United pilot - The down system doesn't let him check flight plans and follow federal regulations," Mirror reported.

World Bank downgrades 2023 global growth forecast to 1.7%

Washington | Agencies

Global economic growth is projected to slow to 1.7 per cent in 2023, 1.3 percentage points below the forecast made in June last year, marking its third-weakest pace in nearly three decades, the World Bank Group said in its latest Global Economic Prospects report.

Given such adverse shocks as high inflation, rising interest rates, sluggish investment and the Russia-Ukraine war, global growth has slowed "to the extent that the global economy is perilously close to falling into recession", Xinhua news agency quoted the report as saying.

The downgrade reflected "synchronous policy tight-



ening aimed at containing very high inflation", as well as deteriorating financial conditions, declining confidence and energy supply disruptions, it said.

Noting that the adjusted global growth forecast is overshadowed only by the

2009 and 2020 global recessions, the report said in 2024, the global economy is on track to grow by 2.7 per cent.

More specifically, the report said that growth for advanced economies is projected to slow to 0.5 per cent in 2023, 1.7 percentage points below the June forecast.

US economic growth has been downgraded by 1.9 percentage points to 0.5 per cent, the weakest performance outside of recessions since 1970.

The Eurozone economy is projected to grow at 0 per cent, down 1.9 percentage points from the previous forecast.

Meanwhile, the report said that growth for emerging and developing economies is projected to slow to 3.4 per cent in 2023, 0.8 percentage points below the June forecast.

It added that global trade volume will grow 1.6 per cent this year, down 2.7 percentage points from the previous forecast.

KHEMKA GETS 55TH TRANSFER IN 31 YEARS

Chandigarh:

The Haryana government has transferred senior IAS officer Ashok Khemka for the 55th time in his career of 31 years. Khemka, Additional Chief Secretary in the Science and Technology Department, has been posted as Additional Chief Secretary, Archives Department. The 1991-batch IAS officer's transfer comes days after he wrote to Chief Secretary Sarvesh Kaushal, saying he did not have enough work with the merger of his Science and Technology Department into the Higher Education Department. In the letter, he indicated that the workload in the Science and Technology Department "was not more than two-three hours per week", said a communication by him.



Cold wave conditions likely in northern, central states after January 14: IMD

The IMD said that cold day to severe cold day conditions are very likely to continue in some parts of Uttar Pradesh on January 11, while cold day conditions are also very likely to continue in isolated pockets over Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi on January 11 and over Bihar on January 11-13.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department on Wednesday predicted cold wave conditions after January 14 for central and northern parts of the country.

The cold wave conditions are very likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi and Rajasthan on January 15, 16, said the IMD.

It also added that a fresh spell of dense to very dense fog is very likely in isolated pockets during night and morning hours over Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi during January 14-16.

The gradual rise in mini-



mum temperatures by 2-4 degrees Celsius is very likely over many parts of East India during next three days and no significant change thereafter. Gradual rise in minimum temperatures by

2-3 degrees Celsius is very likely over many parts of Central India during next three days and fall by 2-4 degrees Celsius thereafter", said the IMD.

However, it added that no

significant change is likely in minimum temperatures over Gujarat state during next 24 hours and gradual fall by 3-5 degrees Celsius thereafter.

The IMD said that due to

continuation of prevailing light winds and high moisture near surface over Indo-Gangetic plains, dense to very dense fog is very likely to continue in some parts during night and morning hours over Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during next 24 hours and in isolated pockets for subsequent four days.

"Dense fog is very likely in isolated pockets during night and morning hours over Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, West Madhya Pradesh during next 24 hours. Dense fog very likely to continue in isolated pockets over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya and Tripura during next 48 hours", the IMD said.

March against politics of fear and hatred: Rahul Gandhi

Fatehgarh Sahib (Punjab) | Agencies

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, spearheading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, on Wednesday said the march was against the politics of fear and hatred promoted by the BJP and the RSS, and their attempt to divide India on the lines of religion, caste and language.

"That is not our history", he said, "our history is of love, mutual brotherhood and unity among people".

Addressing a public meeting before beginning the Punjab leg of the march, Gandhi said he felt humbled to have visited the site of the martyrdom of the two young sons of Guru Gobind Singh, who chose to lay down their lives in the fight against injustice and intolerance.

He also thanked the people and the party workers for participating in the yatra so early in the morning despite the biting cold.

Drawing a clear, ideological distinction between the BJP and the Congress,



Gandhi said, "while they (BJP) practice the politics of hatred, violence and fear, we practice the politics of love, unity and brotherhood". Gandhi said in the journey of about 3,000 km so far, he had met diverse sections of the people, including farmers, traders, small shopkeepers, labourers, unemployed youth and students. "The purpose of this yatra is to listen to people rather than telling our own point of view."

Former Aam Aadmi Party

MP from Patiala, Dharamvir Gandhi, and film actress Jonita Dhoda also joined the yatra.

Gandhi also interacted later with senior ex-servicemen and a panel of Punjabi historians, economists, sociologists, and agricultural experts.

He was on the 117th day of the Bharat Jodo Yatra that began in Kanyakumari on September 7, 2022, and will culminate with the hoisting of the tricolour in Srinagar on January 30.



'MUSLIMS MUST ABANDON THEIR BOISTEROUS RHETORIC OF SUPREMACY', SAYS RSS CHIEF

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat said in a recent interview that 'there is no harm to Muslims living today in Bharat, but at the same time, Muslims must abandon their boisterous rhetoric of supremacy'.

In a comprehensive interview with RSS mouthpiece 'Organiser', Bhagwat extensively talked about many issues, including why Hindu society is becoming more aggressive about its faith, beliefs and values.

He said that the newfound aggression among Hindus is a result of their awakening to the reality that they have been at war for over a thousand years.

"The simple truth is this is Hindusthan and it should remain Hindusthan. There is no harm to the Muslims living today in Bharat. If they wish to stick to their faith, they can. If they want to return to the faith of their ancestors, they may. It is entirely their choice," Bhagwat said.

Speaking further on the issue, he said that there is no such stubbornness among Hindus.

"Islam has nothing to fear. But at



the same time, Muslims must abandon their boisterous rhetoric of supremacy. We are of an exalted race; we once ruled over this land, and shall rule it again; only our path is right, rest everyone's is wrong; we are different, therefore we will continue to be so; 'we cannot live together' -- they must abandon this narrative. In fact, all those who live here -- whether a Hindu or a Communist -- must give up this logic," Bhagwat said.

Talking about Hindu society, Hindu dharma and Hindu culture, Bhagwat said, "It is natural for those at war to be aggressive. The Hindu society has been at war for over 1,000 years - this fight has been going on against foreign aggressions, foreign influences and foreign conspiracies. The Sangh has offered its support to this cause, so have others. There are many who have spoken about it. And it is because of all these that the Hindu society has awakened. It is but

natural for people at war to be aggressive."

Speaking further on the issue, the RSS chief said, "So there is a war to defend the Hindu society, Hindu dharma and Hindu culture. Foreign invaders are no longer there, but foreign influence and foreign conspiracies have continued. Since this is a war, people are likely to get overzealous. Although this is not desirable, yet provocative statements will be uttered."

Bhagwat also said that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people have a right to live and deserve social acceptance.

"This is biological, a mode of life. Now there is much fuss over the issue; but we will have to acknowledge this too. We want them to have their own private space and to feel that they too are part of the society," Bhagwat said.

"The LGBT issue is not a new one; they have always been there. These people also have a right to live. Without much hullabaloo, we have found a way, with a humane approach, to provide them social acceptance, bearing in mind that they are also human beings with an inalienable right to live," he added.

If govt feels victims are entitled, pay them, SC tells Centre in Bhopal gas tragedy case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday told the Central government it was not prohibited from granting relief to the Bhopal gas tragedy victims, and it cannot absolve from itself from the welfare state principle saying that its stand was that it "take it from them (successor firms of Union Carbide Corporation) (and) "as and when taken from them", it will pay.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and comprising Justices Sanjeev Khanna, Abhay S. Oka, Vikram Nath and J.K. Maheshwari, grilled Attorney General R Venkataramani, representing the Centre, as to how could it file a curative petition without filing the review.

The bench told the AG that the central government was not prohibited from granting relief to the Bhopal gas tragedy victims.

It said: "Their (successor firms of Union Carbide Corporation) argument is that you are opening the whole thing. You said we are not opening the whole thing... you are saying accept more liability. If they are willing, then no problem, but they are saying 'No you chose to enter into a settlement, not under any duress or pressure that is nobody's case, can't be'."

The bench further added that if the government feels victims are entitled to be paid more, "please pay them... the question is what we should do in curative petition... Pay them, most welcome to do".

The bench told the AG as a welfare society "if you are so concerned you want to pay more; you should have paid more".



As the AG replied that if Union of India was delinquent, then all these questions would have been answered, but somebody else is delinquent, the bench said: "No, absolutely no... you as a welfare state adopt a different principle whatsoever, whether you are liable or not."

Justice Kaul said, "I am saying, is it I don't want to pay but I can get it from...". The AG then said the question is who should back the liability to pay.

The bench said: "Have you paid them extra, you want to absolve yourself from the welfare state principle, and want to say I will take it from them, as and when taken from them, I will pay." The top court is hearing a curative petition filed by the Centre in December 2010 for enhanced compensation for the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy. On Tuesday, the apex court had pulled up the Centre for pursuing its curative plea seeking an additional Rs 7,844 crore from successor firms of Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) for giving compensation to the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy. The hearing in the matter will continue on Thursday.

Fresh worry of Shiv Sena-UBT as Thackeray's term as party chief ends on Jan 23

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over seven months after a split, the Shiv Sena-UBT is beset with a fresh worry as the five-year tenure of party President Uddhav Thackeray is slated to end on January 23.

Sena-UBT MP Anil Desai said that the party has written to the Election Commission seeking permission to hold organisational elections including of the President and its national executive.

"Our lawyers have sought the ECI's clearance to conduct the intra-party elections before the end of Thackeray's term as party chief. If the ECI has any reservations to this, then it should extend his tenure as party President until a final decision is taken," he said. After the split in June,



the Shiv Sena-UBT and the Balasahebchichi Shiv Sena are currently engaged in a bitter dispute before the EC for the party name (the original 'Shiv Sena') and its iconic symbol (Bow and Arrow). Owing to

certain exigencies, in October 2022, the ECI had given new names and symbols to the two factions - Shiv Sena-UBT got the symbol of a Flaming Torch and the BSS of 'Two Swords & Shield'.

6 KILLED IN UP AS DUMPER DRIVES INTO TEA STALL

Rae Bareilly: Six people were killed and four others injured when a dumper rammed into a kiosk in Gurbuxganj area of Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly district on Wednesday.

A police spokesman said that the accident took place on the Banda-Bahraich highway when due to the dense fog and poor visibility, the dumper rammed into the roadside tea point.

"Ten persons sitting in the kiosk were mowed down by the dumper of which six died on the spot," the police said. The deceased have been identified as Lallai, Lallu, Ravindra, Vrindavan and Shiv Mohan. "Ashok Bajpai, Ram Prakash Tiwari, Dipendra Lodhi and Shrawan Lodhi sustained serious injuries in the incident and have been admitted to the district hospital," the police said.

Air India 'pee-gate' Delhi court denies bail to accused

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Wednesday denied bail to Shankar Mishra, who is accused of urinating on an elderly female co-passenger, while in a drunken state, on a New York-New Delhi flight in November last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate, Patiala House courts, Komal Garg, who had reserved the verdict earlier, rejected the plea, saying that the alleged act of accused of relieving himself upon the complainant is "utterly disgusting and repulsive" and the act itself is sufficient to outrage the modesty of a woman. "The egregious conduct of the accused has shocked the civic consciousness and needs to be deprecated," it said, noting that the accused was voluntarily drunk and had consumed alcohol during the



night and the said fact has not been denied by him. "It has also come on record that accused has tried contacting the victim and the possibility of accused influencing the witnesses

cannot be ruled out. Further, as per the report of the IO, the other witnesses are yet to be interrogated and the investigation is at a very initial stage," the court said.

CBI raids 50 locations in FCI-linked corruption case; recovers Rs 60L



related to procurement, storage and distribution.

The CBI has been working on a specific input which suggested that corrupt methods were underway in the FCI.

On Tuesday, the CBI had arrested a deputy general manager Rajeev Kumar Mishra when he was about to accept a bribe of Rs 50,000 from one Ravinder Singh Khera in Punjab.

The CBI said that two days ago, it had lodged an FIR in connection with the case against 74 people including government officials, private entities, agents and mills owners. Raids are currently underway in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana.

Two locations in Delhi are being raided by senior CBI officials while in Punjab, raids are going on in Ludhiana, Patiala and Amritsar.

DELHI GOVT NOTIFIES REVISED FARE FOR AUTO AND TAXIS

New Delhi: The

Delhi government on Wednesday notified the revised fare for auto rickshaws and taxis in the city.

The revised fare approved for auto rickshaw for, meter down fare for initial 1.5 km has been increased to Rs 30 from Rs 25 earlier, while the per kilometre fare has been increased to Rs 11 from the earlier Rs 9.50. However, the night charge from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. will be same 25 per cent extra.

The revised fare approved for taxis for meter down fare for initial 1.5 km has been increased to Rs 40 for both AC and non-AC, from Rs 25 for both, while the per kilometre fare for non-AC been increased to Rs 17 from earlier Rs 14, while for AC cabs, it will now be Rs 20 from earlier Rs 17. However, the night charge from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. will be same 25 per cent. The last revision in the auto rickshaw fares happened in 2020 while that for taxis, including black and yellow Taxis, economy taxis and premium taxis, happened nine years back in 2013.

Self-styled godman jailed in Haryana for abusing 100 women



of Rs 35,000 on him. He was booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the PoCSO Act and the IT Act on the complaint of the then SHO of the Tohana police station on July 19, 2018. The SHO in the complaint said he got a video on the mobile phone in which the accused was seen abusing women sexually. Later, the police found 120 videos of the accused in which he was seen abusing women.

Chandigarh | Agencies

A fast-track court in Haryana has sentenced a self-styled godman to 14-year jail for sexually abusing about 100 women.

Fatehabad, Balwant Singh, convicted Billu Ram, a.k.a. Amarपुरi, a.k.a. Jalebi baba, on January 5. The quantum of punishment was awarded on Tuesday. The court also slapped a fine

Poverty, debt burden drive ex-U-16 Bengal cricketer to suicide

Kolkata | Agencies

Rohit Yadav, a member of the U-16 Bengal cricket team for the 2019-20 season, has committed suicide at his ancestral residence in Howrah district on Wednesday.

His stiff body was discovered on the bed of his room by his family members on Wednesday morning. The body was immediately rushed to a local hospital where he was declared brought dead.

After initial investigation, the local police believe that the young cricketer probably committed suicide by consuming poison. His body has been sent for autopsy following which the exact reason of death would be ascertained.

His family members claimed that lack of funds to pursue his



cricketing career coupled with huge debt from the market pushed him to depression, due

to which he may have committed suicide. According to the family mem-

bers, Rohit took loans from his acquaintances for the purpose of purchasing sports goods.

However, since his family did not have any steady source of income, he was unable to repay the loans and as a result the lenders started putting pressure on him. His family members claimed that to repay the debts, Rohit resorted to fresh lending from other sources, which led him to a debt trap.

It is learnt that he appeared restless for the last couple of days, but none of his close associates and friends could imagine that this would finally prompt him to take the extreme step.

Rohit was first included in the 35-member U-16 squad of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), and later he even made his room into the playing XI.

'IT MIGHT TAKE 5 YRS TO COMPLETE TRIAL', JUDGE TELLS SC IN LAKHIMPUR KHERI CASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A trial court in Uttar Pradesh, which is hearing the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, has informed the Supreme Court that it might take five years to complete the trial in normal course. The cases involve Ashish Mishra as the prime accused, who is son of Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra.

A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and V. Ramasubramanian noted that the sessions judge says that in normal course, it may take five years. The sessions judge, in a letter sent to the apex court, said there are 208 prosecution witnesses, 171 documents, and 27 forensic science laboratory (FSL) reports in the case. The top court was hearing a bail plea filed by Ashish Mishra. During the hearing, the top court asked the Uttar Pradesh government counsel to confirm whether four accused in a separate case lodged over the killing of three occupants of the car, which allegedly mowed down farmers, are still in custody.

CHANGE OF NAME

I SUSHILA KHATOON is legally wedded spouse of No. 15686997L HAV RAJMUHAMMAD ANSARI presently residing at vill-Dubha (Nichlapur) Teh-Tamkuhi Raj Ps-Pateherwa Distt-Kushinagar St-uttar pradesh Pin-274407 have changed my name from SOSHILA KHATOON to SUSHILA KHATOON vide affidavit no. BC 466243.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 4572436H CHM RAJKUMAR SARKAR s/o KRISHNA CHANDRA SARKAR presently residing at Vill- Gomordha, Lohanda, Dinajpur, Raiganj, west Bengal Pin:733134 have changed my son's name from RAKI SARKAR to MRINAL SARKAR and changed my son's DOB from 24/12/2005 to 21/12/2005 vide affidavit No. 75AA 724168.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 4569141F HAV S DHARUMAN s/o SUBRAMANI presently residing at No. 114/3, Katthivadiyanpatti, VTC-Sembedu, PO: Sembedu, Sub District: Vellore, District: Vellore, State: Tamil Nadu Pin-632002 have changed my daughter's name from D DEBEKA to DEEPIKA D vide affidavit No. 75AA 724173.

CHANGE OF NAME

I VIMALBAI HILAL WAGH is legally Mother of No. 4581069H NK WAGH SHAILESH HILAL .(11MAHAR REGT) presently residing at Vill: Chopda, Teh: Chopda, Dist: Jalgaon, State: Maharashtra Pin-425107 have changed my name from VIMALBAI to VIMALBAI HILAL WAGH vide Affidavit No. 75AA 724171.



MP WILL HAVE A PIVOTAL ROLE IN BUILDING A DEVELOPED INDIA: PM NARENDRA MODI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

PM Narendra Modi said that Bharat ki Azadi ka Amrit Kaal of Everyone is indulging in building a developed India at pacying. In such a situation, the strength and determination of Madhya Pradesh will play a pivotal role. From faith, spirituality to tourism and from agriculture, education to skill enhancement, Madhya Pradesh is extraordinary as well as amazing and aware. Madhya Pradesh will have a very important role in building a developed India. PM Modi virtually inaugurated the 7th Global Investors Summit at Brilliant Convention Centre Indore. The President of Guyana Dr. Mohammed Irfan Ali and the



President of Suriname Chandrika Prasad Santokhi were especially present and addressed the event. Earlier, CM Chouhan welcomed all the guests.

Prime Minister Modi said that not only every Indian, every organisation of the world, every expert of the

world is looking at India's growing economy as a shining star in the global economy. Our strong macroeconomic fundamentals are capable of leading the world. Today India is the fastest growing economy of the world. In the next four to five years, India will be the third

largest economy in the world. On the global stage, not just this decade but the century belongs to India.

The President of Guyana Dr. Mohammed Irfan Ali said that he was happy to visit Madhya Pradesh and meet the Chief Minister of the state Chouhan. The pace of development has picked up in Madhya Pradesh due to good governance and good policies.

He had a firsthand experience of the cleanliness and beauty of Indore city. Due to these specialties, many industries are coming up in Madhya Pradesh. Guyana will also become a partner in industrial development. President Ali noted Guyana's emergence as a cricketing hub.

FAMILY OF SIX ATTEMPTS SUICIDE BY INGESTING INSECTICIDE OVER FINANCIAL WOES

Bhopal: A family comprising six members, residing in Bairagarh locality of the city attempted suicide by ingesting poison at their house on the intervening night of Tuesday-Wednesday, the police said. The police added that all of them were saved, as they were taken to the hospital in due time. Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) of Bairagarh, Antima Samadhya said that the head of the family, identified as Kishore Jatav is a contractor by profession. Jatav and his wife took the extreme step, as Jatav was stressed over failing to complete the contracts he had taken from people.

She added that the couple has four children, to whom the insecticide was served by mixing it in the milk. All members of the family ingested the insecticide at 2 am on the intervening night of Tuesday-Wednesday.

When Jatav's condition began deteriorating, he informed one of his relatives about the same, who then contacted the Dial-100 police. The police rushed to the couple's house and referred them to Hamidia hospital in Bhopal in the nick of time.

When Jatav regained consciousness, he gave the statements to the Bairagarh police, in which he said that he took the extreme step owing to immense work pressure. The treatment of all family members is underway, after which a probe will advance in the case, ACP Samadhya said.

'They are our own people not strangers': Narottam Mishra on Karni Sena protests

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Home Minister Narottam Mishra has reacted over the demonstration being done by Karni Sena in Bhopal. He said that members of Karni Sena are our own people, not strangers and there is no enmity between us. He also said that a discussion will be held with Karni Sena in a conducive atmosphere and the administration will request them to end the movement. Notably, it has been a couple of days since the members of the Karni Sena are stuck to their demand for setting up a ministerial committee to study their 21-point charter of demands.

The Home Minister also took a dig at Madhya Pradesh Congress president and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath for taking a U turn on obscene CD controversy and said, "It is for the second time that Kamal Nath has



changed his statement. The entire state knew that Kamal Nath took U turn on waiving of farmer loans within ten days, showed his back to the promise of providing dearness allowance to unemployed youths and so on."

Calling Kamal Nath 'Palatnath', he said that it is an old habit of his to take U turn from election promises. Mishra further added that the Global Investors Summit going on in Indore will prove a milestone to Madhya Pradesh.

Congress party running out of leadership in state: PHE Minister Brajendra Singh Yadav

Team Absolute | Guna

With less than a year left for the state assembly elections, both BJP and Congress leaders often got involved in the slugfest in the state. In this chain, state public health engineering Minister Brajendra Singh Yadav responding to former cabinet minister Jaivardhan Singh's claim of Congress will cross the 150-seat mark in the upcoming assembly polls, Yadav said that BJP will cross



the 200-seat mark. Launching a sharp attack on the Congress party and its senior leaders, Yadav has said that the grand old party is running short of leaders and leadership in the state.

Without naming anyone, he further went on to say that both the senior Congress leaders in the state are busy setting up their sons. Both the leaders are trying to make their sons the Chief Minister and as a result of that the Congress has ended due to the tussle between the two leaders, and now the Congress worker has understood. He also said that ever since Jyotiraditya Scindia left the Congress, the bad days of the Congress have started.

Ticket seekers should be familiar with the people, constituency & issues: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath on Wednesday said that local leaders and workers will be given first preference in the distribution of tickets for the Assembly elections due at the end of this year.

After chairing a meeting of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) office bearers at Indira Gandhi Bhavan, the former Chief Minister said there is a demand for local candidates and he would agree

with it. He said the party will prefer candidates who are local residents, not those who come to contest elections only. "Ticket seekers should be local residents, and he/she should be familiar with the people of a particular constituency and their issues. There is a need for local politics and I also agree with it," Nath said. He also advised Congress leaders and workers seek-



ing tickets not to fall prey to fake survey reports. Nath said he has asked Congress leaders to conduct their own survey in their respective areas, and not to believe in fake surveys. "It has come to notice that a nexus of fake surveys is operating in Madhya Pradesh and I would advise Congress workers to conduct their own survey," Nath added. Nath pointed out that conducting surveys is a routine affair for

political parties, but surveys give just an indication, not a clear picture. He said several BJP leaders are unhappy and they wanted to join the Congress, but the grand old party does not give any kind of assurance and has faith in those who have been working for the party for several years. Nath added that every election is contested on different issues, and the issues in the upcoming Assembly elections would be very challenging. "This election would be challenging in many ways as we are fighting to protect our rich constitution.

3 NEW FLOATING SOLAR PROJECTS READY TO COME UP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Inviting industrialists to invest in renewable projects of the state, New and Renewable Energy Minister Hardeep Singh Dang said that they will not face any kind of problem. Madhya Pradesh is preparing to supply 50 percent of Prime Minister Modi's target of 500 gigawatts of renewable energy. Energy storage projects are being encouraged.

A 600 megawatt floating solar project is being set-up at Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh. Work on three other floating proj-

ects worth Rs. 7 thousand 500 crore will initiate soon in the state. There is a possibility of setting-up 60 thousand megawatt solar, 15 thousand megawatt wind and other renewable energy based projects. So far, over 60 thousand megawatt solar and about 5 thousand megawatt wind power projects are implemented and are at the implementing stage in the state. In the Investors Summit, 128 industrial houses have given proposals for investment in renewable energy. This information was given today in the session on renewable energy at the Global Investors Summit under

the chairmanship of Principal Secretary Energy and Renewable Energy Sanjay Dubey. In the session, Parag Sharma, Founder and CEO, Otto Power Pvt Ltd, made a presentation on "Opportunities in Renewable Energy Sector in Madhya Pradesh". Executive Vice President Greenko Group Pravin Mitter Nanda, Chairman Avada Group Vineet Mittal, Executive Director NTPC Mohit Bhargava, CEO of Tata Power Renewable Energy Ashish Khanna, CMD SJVN Nandlal Sharma and CMD of REC Ltd. Vivek Kumar Dewangan discussed in detail about the opportu-

nities, difficulties, challenges and solutions in the field of renewable energy. They appraised about their projects. Queries and doubts were resolved after the session. MoUs signed MoUs worth Rs. 16,000 crore were signed in the presence of Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar, New and Renewable Energy Minister Hardeep Singh Dang, Energy Development Corporation Chairman Girraj Dandotia. Out of this, a MoU of Rs. 1,000 crore was signed between REC and RAMS and Of Rs. 15,000 crore was signed between PMCL and REC.

Two killed, 11 injured as truck collided with a bus

Team Absolute | Guna

As many two persons were killed and 11 others injured after a truck crashed into the passenger bus from the rear end. The accident took place on National Highway-46 near Barkheda village falls under the Chanchoda police station area around 4 am on Wednesday.

During the preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the bus (UP93-GT-1048) moving

from Ahmedabad, Gujarat to Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Those who were killed include the bus conductor and one other passenger. The injured have been admitted to the district hospital, where they are undergoing treatment. Locals police informed that the bus driver parked the bus on the right-hand side of the road instead of left after the tire of the bus was punctured. While the driver and the conductor were busy changing the tyre, the truck crashed into the bus from the rear end.

ADM orders re-verification of Neapanagar MLA's caste certificate



Team Absolute | Burhanpur

ADM Shailendra Singh Solanki has ordered the re-verification of Neapanagar MLA's caste certificates after a BJP leader alleged that the legislator had submitted forged documents to contest the Assembly election. Former BJP Mandal president Praveen Katkar on Tuesday during a public hearing had expressed serious concerns over the alleged fake caste certificate presented by Neapanagar MLA Sumitra Kasdekar. Katkar lodged a complaint with ADM Solanki against the MLA seeking a thorough probe into her caste certificate to check its authenticity.

In his complaint, Katkar claimed that as per documents, Kasdekar was born and brought up in Semadoh Tehsil of Amravati district, Maharashtra and completed her secondary education from

there. In the documents submitted, she was enrolled with the name Sumitra Labu Semalkar in school, however, as per the school report, no student with the name 'Sumitra' was enrolled with them.

Earlier, Katkar had lodged a similar complaint with the collector, seeking a thorough scrutiny of all the documents submitted by the MLA. He had demanded strict action against the MLA if her documents, on the basis of which she contested the polls, were found fake.

The collector then asked Neapanagar SDM to submit a detailed report on the matter. Katkar alleged that the SDM did not hold a fresh investigation and so the MLA came out clean. He, thus at the public hearing on Tuesday demanded the re-verification of the MLA caste certificate. The ADM has orders for the same

Take nutritious food regularly along with medicines: Governor

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that patients suffering from cancer should be made to realise that even though they are battling the disease alone, we are also standing with them mentally. He said that along with regular intake of medicines for cancer patients, nutritious diet should also be taken regularly. Governor Patel was addressing the Foundation Day program of Jawaharlal Nehru Cancer Hospital and Research Centre. Governor Patel said that it is generally



possible to cure cancer through advanced medical

methods, but we should not let those suffering from

incurable cancer feel helpless. He said that it is often seen that people take medicines for the treatment of disease but do not make proper changes in diet. Because of this, the body starts getting weaker rapidly. This dangerous disease can be prevented by nutritious diet and regular exercise. Commissioner Bhopal Division Malsingh Bhaydiya, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Bhopal KVS Chowdhary and Managing Director Jawaharlal Nehru Cancer Hospital Divya Parashar were present in the program.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE. (under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s.13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules).

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EDITOR'S SPECS

1 child or youth died every 4.4 seconds in 2021

More than 5.0 million children under age 5, including 2.3 million newborns, along with 2.1 million children and youth aged 5 to 24 years -- 43 per cent of whom are adolescents -- died in 2021, according to a report released by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. The global under-5 mortality rate fell by half since the start of the century, while mortality rates in older children and youth dropped by 36 per cent, and the stillbirth rate decreased by 35 per cent. However, gains have reduced significantly since 2010, and 54 countries will fall short of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals target for under-5 mortality. Unless swift action is taken to improve health services, almost 59 million children and youth will die before 2030, and nearly 16 million babies will be lost to stillbirth, warn the agencies. Children born in sub-Saharan Africa are subject to the highest risk of childhood death in the world -- 15 times higher than the risk for children in Europe and Northern America. Mothers in these two regions also endure the painful loss of babies to stillbirth at an exceptional rate, with 77 per cent of all stillbirths in 2021 occurring in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Nearly half of all stillbirths happened in sub-Saharan Africa. The risk of a woman having a stillborn baby in sub-Saharan Africa is seven times more likely than in Europe and North America, the reports show. Similarly, more than 40 per cent of stillbirths occur during labour, most of which are preventable when women have access to quality care throughout pregnancy and birth. For children that survive past their first 28 days, infectious diseases like pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria pose the biggest threat, according to the reports.

RELIEF RALLY IN THE OFFING - EXTENT OF SAME DEBATABLE

Arun Kejriwal

Trading in the calendar year began on a positive note with markets gaining on the first two trading sessions. They lost ground on the next three sessions with Friday witnessing a sharp sell-off. BSESENSEX ended the week with losses of 940.37 points or 1.55 per cent to close at 59,900.37 points while NIFTY lost 245.85 points or 1.36 per cent to close at 17,859.45 points. The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 lose 1.32 per cent, 1.25 per cent and 1.17 per cent respectively. BSEMIDCAP lost 0.58 per cent while BSESMALLCAP lost 0.50 per cent. The India Rupee remained unchanged at Rs 82.72 to the US dollar. Dow Jones began the new year on a negative note and lost on the first trading day. It then gained, lost and had a sharp rally on Friday, gaining a massive 700 points. The week ended with gains of 483.36 points or 1.46 per cent at 33,630.61 points. There was one listing of a primary market issue from Radiant Cash Management Services Limited during the week. This issue had a poor response during subscription and the size of issue was reduced. The fresh issue which was for Rs 60 crore was reduced to Rs 54 crore, while the offer for sale of 331.25 lakh shares was reduced to 212.22 lakh shares. Further, even though the anchors were allotted shares at the top end of the price band of Rs 99, the remaining investors were allotted at the lower end of the price band of Rs 94. Merchant bankers were also allotted shares as part of their underwriting arrangement. The share debuted on the bourses on Wednesday at Rs 99.30, a gain of Rs 5.30 or 5.63 per cent. They closed even higher at Rs 104.70, a gain of Rs 10.70 or 11.38 per cent. At the end of the week shares closed at Rs 107.95,



a gain of Rs 13.95 or 14.84 per cent. The better performance of the share post listing is to do with the lower IPO size and it becoming imperative for the merchant bankers to justify their pricing and valuation for the company. The IPO market has taken a break temporarily and is likely to become active after the celebration of the India festival, "SANKRANT" also popular for kite flying on 15th of January. One should see a sudden rush of IPOs post this day into the week ending just before the Union

Budget is presented on Wednesday, the 1st of February. Parliament session would begin a day earlier on the 31st of January. The week ahead would see a spate of results from the IT pack with TCS declaring results on Monday the 9th of January, HCL Tech and Infosys on Thursday the 12th of January and Wipro on Friday the 13th of January. This would give a good indication of what's happening in the IT space with cost pressures or pricing pressures and new order wins. During the course of the last cou-

ple weeks of trading, the market seems to be making lower tops which is a bearish signal by itself. If one recalls, the lifetime highs were made on the 1st of December 2022. These were at levels of 63,583 on BSESENSEX and 18,887 on NIFTY. The next two lower tops were made on 14th December at 62,835 and 18,632 points respectively. The third and final one was made last week on 3rd January at 61,343 and 18,265 points. It is

therefore imminent that if this bearish pattern is to be negated, we need to cross these levels at the very outset. Monday would see our markets rising sharply on the back of positive news flow from the US as far as job data and possibility of interest rate hike not being as quick as anticipated happening. At the same time, one must remember that FPI's have been sellers over the last 11 consecutive days. Would they use the buoyancy on Monday to press further sales or turn positive? Not sure. Coming to the markets in the week ahead, as already mentioned they would open positive on Monday. How much and how far this rally would go is debatable. For the ensuing rally to be sustainable and meaningful, markets need to cross the first hurdle of the previous top of 61,343 and 18,265 and sustain them. Any failure to do so would result in further pressure as we would have made yet another lower top. On the support side, strong support does exist at levels of 59,650-59,750 and 17,770-17,800 levels. Any violation of these levels could lead to a further fall of 0.5 per cent to 1 per cent which could be a swift one. My gut feel for the moment is that currently neither the breakout or the breakdown looks likely in the coming week. The strategy should be to sell on rallies and keep a sharp lookout on US markets for news flow. Finally, budget expectations could start being talked about in another ten days' time when the present rally or move is over. Trade cautiously.

(Arun Kejriwal is the founder of Kejriwal Research and Investment Services. The views expressed are personal)

international

Originated from Pakistan, deadly shipment of uranium seized at Heathrow airport

London | Agencies

Counter-terror cops and security services in the UK have launched a probe after a deadly shipment of uranium was seized at London's Heathrow airport, a media outlet reported. The undeclared nuclear material can be used in a dirty bomb. It was destined for Iranian nationals in the UK, originated from Pakistan and arrived on a flight from Oman, The Sun reported. A source said: "The race is on to trace everyone involved." The package, suspected of being smuggled to UK-based Iranians, arrived in the hold of a passenger jet. Specialist scanners detected the potentially lethal uranium as it was ferried to a



freight shed, triggering alarms. Border agents swooped and isolated the unregistered shipment in a dedicated radioactive room. Counter-terror police were alerted and a security probe launched into who sent the cargo.

It originated from Pakistan and arrived at Terminal 4 on an Oman Air jet from Muscat, The Sun reported. Cops were understood to be targeting an Iran-based firm with UK premises where the material was due to go to mystery recipients. No arrests have been made.

Extreme weather events cause \$270bn loss in 2022: Report

Berlin | Agencies

Hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters inflicted \$270 billion in damage worldwide in 2022, less than the "extremely costly 2021" with \$320 billion, a German reinsurer said in a report. "2022 joins the recent run of years with high losses," the report by Munich Re said. The costliest natural disaster in 2022 was Hurricane Ian in the US, which caused losses of around \$100 billion, Xinhua news agency cited the report as saying. "Climate change is taking an increasing toll," Thomas Blunck, member of the Board of Management of Munich Re, said in a statement.



The natural disaster figures for 2022 were dominated by events that were more intense or occurred more frequently, he added. The second costliest and greatest humanitarian disaster in 2022, with at least 1,700 deaths, was the severe flooding in Pakistan resulting from a "record-breaking monsoon rainfall". Rainfall there in

heavy storms brought "hailstones the size of tennis balls" that caused losses in the billions. Germany also saw an "exceptional year for weather" and logged one of the two warmest years on record, the National Meteorological Service (DWD) said. Temperatures were 2.3 degrees Celsius above the value of the internationally valid reference period (1961-1990). As a result, the river Rhine, Europe's busiest waterway, saw water levels fall to record lows, forcing ships to carry less cargo. "It is difficult to quantify the indirect economic consequences of climatic events like these," Munich Re said.

FOUR KILLED IN MASSIVE FIRE IN IRAN

Tehran: A massive fire that broke out in a company in Iran's northern province of Qazvin killed at least four people and injured two others, Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) reported. The victims were employees of the company in the industrial city of Alborz, Amir Hosseinpour, general manager of Elvand municipality's fire department and safety services, was quoted by ISNA as saying on Tuesday. The two injured men, who were hospitalised, sustained 60 per cent of burn injuries, said Hassan Esmaili, the Head of the Qazvin Provincial Medical Emergency and Accident Management Centre as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. The fire, which had been put out, caused property damage to the company, but its nearby buildings were spared, said Hosseinpour. Firefighters were working to clean up the area, while the cause of the accident was under investigation, Hosseinpour added.

Indian-American reality show star gets 78 months jail for wire fraud

New York | Agencies

An Indian-American reality TV star has been sentenced to 78 months in prison for running a nationwide telemarketing fraud scheme that targeted "vulnerable, elderly victims". Jennifer Shah, 49, who starred in 'Real Housewives of Salt Lake City', previously pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud in connection with telemarketing. In addition to the prison term, Shah of Salt Lake City, Utah, has also been sentenced to five years of supervised release. The court ordered her to forfeit \$6,500,000, 30 luxury items, and 78 counterfeit luxury items, and to pay \$6,645,251 in restitution. "With today's sentence, Jennifer Shah finally faces the consequences of the many years she spent targeting vulnerable, elderly victims," Attorney Damian Williams said in a statement last week. These individuals were lured in by false promises of financial security, but in reality, Shah and her co-conspirators defrauded them out of their savings and left them with nothing to show for it. "This conviction and sentence demonstrate once again that we will continue to vigorously protect vic-



tims of financial fraud and hold accountable those who engage in fraudulent schemes," Williams said. According to court documents, from at least 2012 until her arrest in March 2021, Shah was an integral leader of a wide-ranging, nationwide telemarketing fraud scheme that victimised thousands of innocent people. The scheme principally involved selling those victims so-called "business services" in connection

with the victims' purported online businesses (the "Business Opportunity Scheme"). Shah knowingly and intentionally facilitated the sale of "leads" a contact information for potential victims who had been identified as susceptible to the scheme's lies -- to sales floors that were perpetrating the Business Opportunity Scheme and, during the latter portion of her participation in the scheme, owned and operated one of the sales floors that was part of the scheme, the court noted. Many of Shah's victims were elderly or vulnerable, and suffered significant financial hardship and damage, a US attorney office statement said. The victims were defrauded over and over again at Shah's direction until they had nothing left. She and her co-conspirators persisted in their conduct until the victims' bank accounts were empty, their credit cards were at their limits, and there was nothing more to take. The reality show star took a series of increasingly extravagant steps to conceal her criminal conduct from the authorities -- she directed others to lie, she put businesses and bank accounts in the name of others, she required payment in cash, she instructed others to delete text messages and electronic documents, etc.

BIDEN 'SURPRISED' TO LEARN CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS TAKEN TO HIS PRIVATE OFFICE

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden said he was "surprised" that classified documents from when he was Vice President in the former Barack Obama administration, were taken to one of his former private offices. "I was surprised to learn there were any government records that were taken there to that office," Xinhua news agency quoted Biden as saying reporters in Mexico City where he had a trilateral summit with the leaders of Mexico and Canada. The President said he doesn't know "what's in the documents" that were found in a locked closet when his attorneys were vacating office space at the Penn Biden Center in Washington, D.C. The Penn Biden Center is a think tank about a mile away from the White House, affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania and named for Biden who had served as the Vice President from January 2009 to January 2017.



White House special counsel Richard Sauber issued a statement on Monday, saying that Biden periodically used this space from mid-2017 until the start of his 2020 presidential campaign. This discovery of "what appears to be Obama-Biden Administration records, including a small number of documents with classified markings" was made in early November of 2022, according to the statement. "They found some documents in a box in a locked cabinet, or at least a closet. And as soon as they did, they realised there were several classified documents in that box," Biden said on Tuesday. The attorneys "did what they should have done" by immediately calling the National Archives, he added. The classified documents found inside the Penn Biden Center closet are reportedly US intelligence memos and briefing materials that covered topics including Ukraine, Iran and Britain.



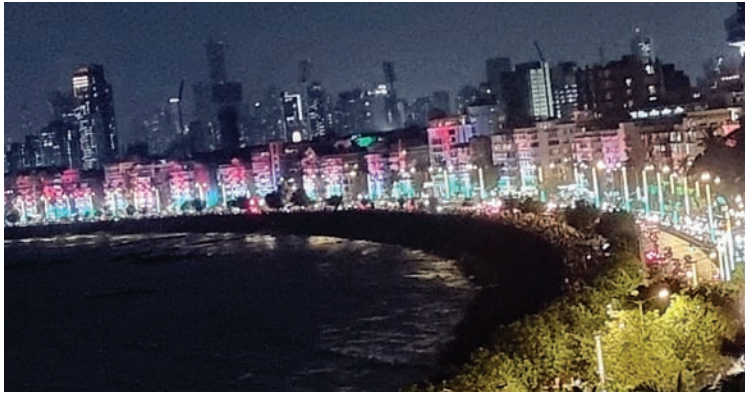
MAHA TOPS, GUJARAT 2ND IN CARE RATINGS ON PERFORMANCE

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Chennai

Maharashtra tops the overall ranking list prepared by credit rating agency CARE Ratings scoring high on social, financial inclusion, and fiscal categories.

According to CARE Ratings, the rankings are based on seven pillars -- economic, fiscal, social, infrastructure, financial inclusion, environment, and governance -- and covers 46 indicators to rank the major states in the country.

"The State Ranking study is aimed at capturing the comprehensive performance of the states. This study highlights the areas in which the various states have shown healthy performance and the areas which need further attention of the policymakers.



Maharashtra, the financial capital of the country, tops the ranking with a favourable score not just in financial inclusion but also for the state government finances and social indicators.

While the Union Territories were excluded from the study, CARE Ratings had the states into two categories -- Group A (large states) and

Group B (Northeast, hilly and small states).

The comprehensive coverage is consistent with shifting viewpoints around the world, where reducing income disparity, governance, environmental protection, and sustainability are becoming increasingly important, CARE Ratings said.

"We have looked at the performance of the states not just in terms of economic growth, physical infrastructure and investment, but also given due importance to social indicators,

environmental aspects, governance and financial inclusion. This is with the recognition that inclusive and sustainable growth is the need of the hour.

"As expected the top few ranks have been taken by the Western and Southern states. Western states have scored high on the fiscal and economic category, while southern states have outperformed in the social and environmental category," said Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CARE Ratings.

Among the northeastern states, Sikkim leads due to better scores in economic, social, infrastructure and environment categories.

As expected, Maharashtra topped in financial inclusion with best performance in credit/GSDP ratio, NBFC sanctions and health insurance penetration. It also fared well in mutual fund penetration.

According to the study, the Southern states topped in environment due to relatively favourable performance in terms of air quality, solid waste management, forest cover and renewable installed capacity.

Bombay HC quashes FDA order, allows J&J to produce baby powder

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday quashed the Maharashtra FDA's order cancelling the licence of pharma giant Johnson & Johnson to manufacture its baby powder from the Mulund plant.

A division bench of Justice Gautam S. Patel and Justice Shivkumar G. Dige termed the Food & Drugs Administration's action as unreasonable and therefore "arbitrary" - while setting it aside, paving the way for J&J to resume production and sell its baby powder.

It observed that it is not reasonable that the moment one sample from a batch is found to be of substandard, the company's manufacturing licence is cancelled.

"This seems to us to be extreme and there's nothing to show that FDA has consistently adopted such a stringent standard with other J&J products or other manufac-



turers," said the judges. In a drastic move on September 15, 2022, the FDA Joint Commissioner had cancelled J&J's licence to manufacture baby powder products and also told the company to recall its market stocks, after which the company challenged the decision in the high court.

Observing that while a watchdog like FDA is necessary, Justice Patel and Justice Dige said that proceedings

cannot be protracted with a "harsh delay" like this for weeks and months, and the watchdog must do its job properly to guard and protect the interests of the consumers.

The judges also frowned at "the now usual excuse of Covid" on the delays for a test on a sample collected in October 2018 - well before anyone could imagine Covid - and the delays continued until 2022.

Arya Chandorkar wins Children II category at National Show Jumping

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Arya Chandorkar won the CSN Children II category at the National Show Jumping here at Amateur Rider's Club.

Riding on horse Winston, Arya finished her rounds in 57 seconds without any penalties in the CSN Children II category of Show jumping of 80 CMS.

M Krishna Sahithi secured the second and third positions respectively while riding two different horses KENIA and ASCA IX - Z. Sahithi finished the rounds in 59 and 80 seconds respectively without any penalties. The competition organised across CSN1/CSN3/Grade II/ Grade III & JNEC category (CSN) categories, under the aegis of International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) and



Equestrian Federation of India (EFI), will conclude on January 14.

"It was a wonderful experience participating in the CNS event. I got an opportunity to perform in front of a very talented international panel of judges and was happy performing at the event. I started learning horse riding at ARC

in Nov 2021. With great coaches and guidance from various experienced and talented people at ARC, I was able to improve my riding skills. My parents took me to the riding sessions every day, which helps me to improve my skills and keep continuing learning from the other riders," Arya said after the win.

ED RAIDS NCP LEADER HASAN MUSHRIF, FAMILY, AIDES ON CORRUPTION CHARGES

Team Absolute | Kolhapur/Pune

In a dawn swoop on Wednesday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided the home and certain locations linked to senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Hasan Mushrif, his family members and some other persons in Kolhapur and Pune for alleged charges of corruption and money laundering.

The simultaneous raids, carried out at 7 locations in the two cities, came after Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ex-MP Kirit Somaiya hurled various allegations of financial irregularities against Mushrif.

He has also accused the NCP leader and his associates of corruption and money laundering of hundreds of crores pertaining to deals through defunct companies, grabbing a sugar mill, besides amassing huge properties,



etc. Teams of around two dozen sleuths swarmed at Mushrif's home in Kagal town of Kolhapur around 6 a.m., and other places connected with the NCP leader, amid tight security, confiscated certain documents and other evidence, and the raids continued for over 12 hours. On the radar of the probe agencies for some time, Mushrif, 68, has vehemently denied the accusations and wondered if the "people of a particular community are being targeted". "No notice or intimidation

was given. We were all raided by the IT Department even four years ago. We have provided all the information. I have repeatedly said that I have nothing to do with all this, the companies, the factories or the persons as alleged," he said.

The former BJP lawmaker cited several instances and reeled off figures of alleged financial deals involving Mushrif, his associates, officials and others through shell or bogus companies, and how the funds were reportedly routed for other illegal deals worth hundreds of crores of rupees. Among other things, Somaiya has charged Mushrif of grabbing control of the Appasaheb Nalawade Gadhinglaj Cooperative Sugar Mill Ltd, huge payoffs and money-laundering of massive amounts through murky transactions which benefited him, his family or associates.

SANJAY RAUT'S JIBE AFTER PROBE AGENCY RAIDS ON SHARAD PAWAR'S PARTY LEADER

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut today dubbed "pressure politics" the Enforcement Directorate's action against former Maharashtra minister and NCP MLA, Hasan Mushrif.



The Central agency conducted searches at multiple premises in Maharashtra as part of a money laundering investigation against Mushrif and others. The raids are understood to be linked to a probe related to alleged irregularities in the operations of some sugar mills based in the state that are linked to Mushrif, officials said. "This action is pressure politics but Mushrif will come out of this phase," Raut told reporters. He said Mushrif is a leader from the Opposition who is putting up a fight which is against a particular ideology. "Be it me, Anil Deshmukh or Nawab Malik (who all were arrested by ED in separate cases)...some BJP leaders had talked about putting Hasan Mushrif behind bars. Such language was used against Bhavana Gawli (MP), Yeshwant Jadhav (both members of the Eknath Shinde faction of Shiv Sena) and many important leaders who are part of the government now. "But they get relief and those in Opposition are facing pressure politics," Raut said, adding Mushrif is a fighter and the entire Opposition is with him.

No pre-arrest bail for Shinde faction leader, wife in BJP activist attack

Team Absolute | Thane

A court here in Maharashtra on Wednesday rejected the pre-arrest bail applications of a leader belonging to 'Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena' (BSS), his wife, and a former city corporator booked in connection with the attack on a BJP functionary last month.

Additional sessions court judge AS Bhagwat noted the applicants are not entitled for anticipatory bail currently as it could hamper the investigation.

Police on December 31, 2022, registered an FIR against ten persons, including BSS leader Vikas Repale, his wife, and an ex-corporator, for allegedly attacking BJP activist Prashant Jadhav in Thane city over putting up a banner. A cross complaint was also registered against Jadhav, who was injured in the attack and hospi-



talised. The BSS faction is headed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde who shares power with Bharatiya Janata Party. Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis handles the Home ministry. In their pleas seeking pre-arrest bail, the Repale couple and the ex-corporator stated they were falsely implicated in the case over politi-

cal enmity. The prosecution opposed the applications filed by the trio citing the safety of witnesses.

Advocate Makrand Abhyankar, who appeared for the complainant Prashant Jadhav, also opposed the bail applications.

"After considering the FIR, it appears the names of the applicants are prominently appearing in the FIR and specific act of violence are attributed to them along with other people. The use of weapons like sticks, iron rods, sharp weapons has also been alleged with allegations of beating on head, private parts. The alleged offence required in depth investigation and hence strong prima facie case is appearing against the applicants. "In such circumstances, grant of anticipatory bail will hamper the investigation. The applicants are not entitled for anticipatory bail," the court said.

MAN ARRESTED FOR RAPING 60-YEAR-OLD PARALYSED WOMAN

Nashik: A man in his early twenties has been arrested here for allegedly raping a bed-ridden 60-year-old woman, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in the Upnagar area of Nashik city early Tuesday morning, said an official.

The woman, who has suffered a paralysis attack, lives alone in her house of corrugated iron sheets and is bedridden for the last seven years. Her brother lives nearby, the police official said. Around 1 am on Tuesday, a 22-year-old man entered the house and allegedly raped her repeatedly after threatening her with dire consequences if she raised alarm. He also clicked her photographs before leaving, she said.

The woman told her brother about the incident when he came in the morning to give her tea, following which a police complaint was registered. The suspect was arrested and further probe is on, the police official added.

Industrial designing, a perfect combination of creativity and problem solving: Divya

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Divya Chaurasia is an award-winning industrial designer, with a background in engineering and user experience. An expert in user-centered research, sustainable practices and design for manufacturing.

Industrial designer is a person, who designs everything from pens and lamps, to cars and airplanes. According to Divya, industrial design is the perfect combination of creativity and problem solving - two things that she is extremely passionate about. "It's never boring. On a typical work day, I might be sketching, making things, talking to manufacturers, doing math, 3D modeling, and user testing or



speaking with clients." Currently, Divya works as a senior industrial designer, her work is inspired by the everyday pursuits of people. She is fascinated by the connection between humans, objects and environments, and captures this relationship in delightfully functional products. Her work has been exhibited at NYCxDesign (New York Design Week) and NYC Media Lab Annual Summit.

She also received the prestigious Chicago Athenaeum Good Design Award in 2021, in the sustainability category. Being a strong advocate for sustainable practices in design, Divya has given guest lectures at the Industrial Design Society of America Technical Deep Dive and North Carolina State University on the topic.

Going forward, she is excited about new technological developments in materials and manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence in art and design. "It's an exciting time to be designing products. The digital and physical worlds are merging and our interactions with things are changing rapidly. We are also seeing a huge shift in how and where things are made." She concluded

Sheezan Khan's Bail Adjournd Till January 13

Tunisha Sharma Case

Team Absolute | Palghar

A court in Palghar district of Maharashtra on Wednesday adjourned till January 13 the hearing on the bail plea of TV actor Sheezan Khan, arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of his co-actor Tunisha Sharma.

Tunisha Sharma (21), who had acted in the TV show 'Ali Baba: Dastaan-E-Kabul' along with Khan, was found dead in the washroom on the set of the Hindi serial near Vasai, located on the outskirts of Mumbai, on December 24, 2022.

On Wednesday, advocate Tarun Sharma, representing



complainant Vanita Sharma, opposed the bail application saying the offence was a serious one. Khan's lawyers Shailendra Mishra and Sharad Rai requested the court to grant bail to the actor, currently lodged in the

Thane Central Jail, saying the abatement of suicide charge was not applicable in this case. Additional sessions court judge RD Deshpande adjourned the hearing till January 13, when Khan's bail plea is likely to be decided.

Indian Heritage Society creating awareness about Mumbai's cultural heritage

Team Absolute | Mumbai/New Delhi

The Indian Heritage Society-Mumbai (IHS) will present the 31st Edition of their theme 'Use Live Music to Save Heritage', in the form of the 'Mumbai Sanskriti' Music Festival, at the iconic Town Hall (Asiatic Library), on January 14 and 15, 2023, carrying on the tradition of showcasing incredible classical talent and rekindling the spirit of culture, art, and heritage among the Mumbaikars.

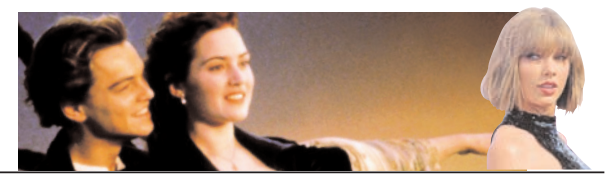
Maharashtra Tourism is supporting this festival, which is co-sponsored by HSBC and Tata Consultancy Services, while Northern Lights is curating it. The festival is an effort to increase awareness of the rich heritage of Mumbai using live classical music. Celebrating the richness of cultural heritage starting 14th January, the first day of the festival will see the electrifying performance of Indian music director and Santoor maestro Rahul Sharma with Pt. Bhawani Shankar and Pt. Mukundraj Deo to pay tribute to Rahul's father and guru Padma Vibhusan Late Pandit Shivkumar



Sharma who have performed for IHS on various occasions in the past. Further to the magical evening, on 15th January, the musical soiree will bring soulful vocalist Vidushi Shubha Mudgal who will perform with Pt. Aneesh Pradhan and Pt. Sudhir Nayak.

Talking about the musical evening Anita Garware, Chairperson Emeritus, Indian Heritage Society - Mumbai says: "To carry forward our rich cultural & built heritage to future generations, IHS organised this well-known celebration 31 years

ago. We aim to unite city lovers by merging the history of Mumbai with the spirit of classical music. The festival's most recognizable feature is the remarkable group of artists who dazzle the evening with their talent by presenting live performances absolutely free of cost for the audience." Excited to perform at the event, Santoor Maestro Rahul Sharma said: "Music reaches the soul and the heart and beyond barriers. It has a metaphysical appeal. It gives me immense pleasure to perform at the festival and for IHS for such a cause, at an exemplary sight as the Town Hall. This performance will be special for me as IHS will pay tribute to my father and guru Padma Vibhusan Late Pandit Shivkumar Sharma. This will not only reach the ears of the audience but touch their hearts." Eminent Hindustani classical vocalist and composer Shuba Mudgal quoted: "Festivals such as IHS's Mumbai Sanskriti create awareness among people about their culture and heritage. The effort that IHS is taking is highly appreciated, and I feel privileged to be a part of the festival this year.



GOLDEN GLOBE 2023

'RRR', 'HOUSE OF THE DRAGON', 'THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN' MAKE HEADLINE

Los Angeles | Agencies

The song 'Naatu Naatu' from the Indian film 'RRR' directed by S.S. Rajamouli was named the Best Original Song in Motion Picture, 'The Fabelmans' won Best Picture, Drama and 'The Banshees of Inisherin' bagged the Best Picture, Musical or Comedy at the Golden Globes Awards. 'House of the Dragon' won best TV drama and 'Abbott Elementary' received the prize for best TV comedy. In a marathon telecast that stretched over three hours, 'The White Lotus', was named best limited or anthology series for its Sicily-set second season.

Their victories came as the tarnished awards show attempted to relaunch itself as a star-studded celebration of movies

and television after being forced off the air in 2022 in the wake of a series of controversies, reports 'Variety'.

'The Banshees of Inisherin,' a comic look at the dissolution of a friendship, won a leading three prizes, including awards for its screenplay and the lead performance of Colin Farrell.

'The Fabelmans', a warm-hearted look at Steven Spielberg's childhood, also won a directing prize for the filmmaking icon.

If the evening had a theme, it was one of reinvention and renewal.

Several of the winners described themselves as being given golden opportunities after being cut out from or overlooked by a business that failed to appreciate their talents. That included best actress in a motion picture musical or comedy winner Michelle Yeoh, an action

star turned an awards season darling with her turn in "Everything Everywhere All at Once," who talked about the ageism and racism she faced. It was a theme that was amplified by Farrell, who thanked his "The Banshees of Inisherin" writer and director Martin McDonagh for helped to rechart his career path when he cast him in the 2008 black comedy "In Bruges." And echoed by best supporting actor winner Ke Huy Quan, a former child actor who had stopped acting before he was cast as Yeoh's husband in "Everything Everywhere All at Once."

The focus of the evening was on the fantasies and fables being spun on the big and small screen alike, but glimmers of the painful reality being experienced in parts of the world managed to break through the glitz and glamour.



Zendaya wins Best actress in TV series

Los Angeles | Agencies

Zendaya was named as the Best Performance by actress in TV series for 'Euphoria' and Julia Garner clinched the Best Supporting Actress, Television award for her performance in 'Ozark' at the 80th Golden Globes here.

For Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series, Drama category, Zendaya was nominated alongside names such as Emma D'Arcy ('House of the Dragon'), Laura Linney ('Ozark'), Imelda Staunton ('The Crown') and Hilary Swank ('Alaska Daily').

However, Zendaya was not present to take the honour. Julia was contending in the category Best Supporting Actress, Television and was nominated alongside Elizabeth Debicki ('The Crown'), Hannah Einbinder ('Hacks'), Janelle James ('Abbott Elementary') and Sheryl Lee Ralph ('Abbott Elementary').

While accepting the honour Julia Garner said: "I am overwhelmed. I am grateful to be here. Playing Ruth for all this year has been the greatest gift."

In India, Golden Globes 2023 is streaming on Lionsgate Play.

Letitia Wright gives 'Black Panther 3' update

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' star Letitia Wright during the pre-show at the Golden Globes and discussed the anticipated third chapter of the 'Black Panther' saga. Wright spoke with 'Variety' who asked, "When are we going to get 'Black Panther 3' greenlit?"

"I think it's already in the works," Wright replied.

"You know, we just had a terrific two years of bringing it out and everybody coming together to support it. We need a little bit of a break, we need to regroup and (director) Ryan (Coogler) needs to get back into the lab, so it's going to take a little while, but we're really excited for you guys to see that."

When pressed for more, Wright said, "I always try to do positive words and positive thinking, and I believe that good words manifest, so I'm manifesting a 'Black Panther 3,' why not?"

For Variety's November 2022 cover



story about "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," Coogler and Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige spoke about a potential third chapter. At the time, Coogler said that he "definitely" had "no idea what I'm doing next as a writer and director."

But Feige said he had been having "conversations" with Coogler about a third "Black Panther" movie, with "ideas pitched back and forth". When asked whether he would ever consider making a "Black Panther" movie without Coogler, Feige demurred and referenced the death of "Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman.

"I go back to what I said when we decided to make 'Wakanda Forever' after losing Chad," he said.

"This mythology and these characters deserve to continue and will continue after all of us are gone, I hope, and will continue forever in movies the way it has in comics for 50-plus years." Feige added, however, that working without Coogler "wouldn't be the preference".



Keep Smith's wife's name out of your mouth! Eddie Murphy

Los Angeles | Agencies

During his acceptance speech for the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the Golden Globes on Tuesday night (Wednesday morning), Eddie Murphy offered some key advice for up-and-comers in the industry: Don't mess with Will Smith, reports 'Variety'. "I want to let you know that there is a definitive blueprint that you can follow to achieve success, prosperity, longevity and peace of mind," Murphy said at the end of his speech. "It's a blueprint and I've followed it my whole career. It's very simple, just do these three things: pay your taxes, mind your business and keep Will Smith's wife's name out of your f***ing mouth!" The joke -- which, of course, references the infamous moment at last year's Oscars when Smith slapped comedian Chris Rock for making a jab at Jada Pinkett Smith's alopecia -- resulted in rapturous, shocked laughter from the audience, according to 'Variety'.

The Cecil B. DeMille Award, which has been given to standout filmmakers and performers in the entertainment industry since 1952, was presented to Murphy by Tracy Morgan and Jamie Lee Curtis. Murphy, says 'Variety', starred with Morgan in the original 'Coming to America' and its 2021 sequel; he worked with Curtis on 'Trading Places' in 1983.

Murphy has previously been nominated for six Golden Globes, winning in 2007 for his performance in 'Dreamgirls', for which he was also Oscar-nominated.

Michelle Yeoh slams racism, lifts Best Actress trophy

Los Angeles | Agencies

As Michelle Yeoh won the Best Actress - Motion Picture - Musical/Comedy award at the Golden Globes 2023 for her role in 'Everything Everywhere All at Once', she took a moment on stage to slam racism that she faced during the initial stage of her career.

Summing up her journey of 40 years, she took her sweet time to let it sink in as he laid her hands on the trophy. "Whew! OK. I'm just gonna stand here and take this all in," she said. "Forty years, not letting go of this. So just quickly, thank you Hollywood Foreign Press for giving me this honour. It's been an amazing journey and incredible fight to be here today, but I think it's worth it". She went on to say: "When I first arrived here, I was told I was a minority. Forget about them knowing North Korea, South Korea, Malaysia, Japan, or India. Someone also told me 'Oh you know English'. To which I replied, 'yeah the flight to the US is 13 hours long, so I learned the language on the flight'." Actress Stephanie Hsu was spotted crying in the audience section as Yeoh made her award acceptance speech. As she was reminded of her exceeding time on stage through a piano piece, she said in jest, "shut up! I can beat you". "As time went by, I turned 60 last year, and I think all of you women understand this as the days, years, numbers get bigger, the opportunities get smaller, as well." Then along came the best gift: 'Everything, Everywhere All at Once,' the actress concluded.



Austin Butler wins Best Actor-Motion Picture for 'Elvis'

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Argo' star Ben Affleck has landed the job of serving customers at a Dunkin' Donuts drive-through in Boston. The Oscar-winning actor was snapped taking orders and serving up coffee at a drive-through window, with his wife Jennifer Lopez pulling up in a white SUV to order her own takeaway, reports 'The Mirror'.

But things weren't as they seemed, as Ben was actually shooting a commercial for his beloved Dunkin' Donuts, with JLo acting alongside him. According to 'Mirror', it's the first time the pair have acted together since their 2003 film 'Gigli'.

Ben seemed to be in good spirits as he wore an official Dunkin' Donuts cap and T-shirt during the commercial. Jennifer looked glamorous with a full face of makeup. She wore a white coat with matching turtleneck top and sweatpants. 'Mirror' further states that she also carried a light brown purse as she ordered her coffee. Ben seems to be a huge fan of the brand and has been seen carrying Dunkin' Donuts coffee around for weeks and his go-to order is an iced coffee. Jennifer and Ben tied the knot in an intimate ceremony back in July before hosting a huge wedding celebration with family and friends the following month.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Selena gomez



ICC T20I batting rankings

SURYA KUMAR EXTENDS LEAD ON TOP OF THE TABLE

Dubai | Agencies

Star India batter Suryakumar Yadav, who is making a habit out of breaking records, is inching closer towards the all-time ICC men's T20I batting rankings, extending his lead on top of the table from 883 rating points to 908 in the latest update on Wednesday.

Following up his 36-ball 51 in the second T20I, Surya blasted a majestic century -- his third in six months -- in the series decider in Rajkot recently. The 51-ball 112 not out was laced with seven fours and nine sixes, not sparing an inch of the stadium with his sublime 360-degree hitting.

Unsurprisingly, he was the Player of the Match as India put on a colossal total of 228/5 and went on to register a massive 91-run win. His stunning returns in both games puts him second in the all-time T20I batters rankings, just seven rating points behind England's Dawid Malan (915). Suryakumar was placed fifth in the all-time list during the previous update of the rankings but has now leapfrogged Babar Azam (896), Virat Kohli (897) and Aaron Finch (900) over the last week, as per ICC. The right-hander batter had to wait for a long time for the India cap, making his T20I debut after turning 30. But there has been no stopping him ever since



as he has gone to rack up runs consistently at a rate not seen before. In 45 T20Is, Surya has accumulated 1578 runs at a phenomenal strike rate of 180.34, the highest for any batter with more than 250 T20I runs. In the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, he finished as the third-highest run-getter with 239 runs in six matches while striking at an eye-watering 189.68.

All three of his fifties -- against South Africa, Zimbabwe and Netherlands -- proved to be crucial knocks under the cir-

cumstances and in the case of the latter two, turned the tide in favour of India.

Suryakumar will not have to wait for too long to gun for Malan's record as New Zealand are set to travel to India for a white ball tour consisting of three ODIs and three T20Is later this month. The T20I series will kick off on January 27 in Ranchi and good returns against the fifth-placed Kiwis could see Surya break yet another record, something he has made a habit of.

AUSTRALIA, INDIA PLAYERS GAIN BIG IN LATEST ICC PLAYER RANKINGS

Dubai: Australia's star performers from their Test series win against South Africa have been richly rewarded in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings released on Wednesday while India stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were also the big gainers in the ODI section.

Usman Khawaja was the biggest mover, following his stunning century in the third and final Test against South Africa in Sydney -- he moved up to 8th in the Men's Test batters' rankings. Performers from the drawn Test between Pakistan and New Zealand also made big gains, with Tom Latham, Devon Conway and Saud Shakeel making big moves. Meanwhile, Virat and Rohit moved up in the ODI batting rankings. Kohli, who scored a stunning century in India's victory against Sri Lanka in the first ODI in Guwahati, has moved up two spots to 6th. On the other hand, Rohit also scored an aggressive 83 and has gained a spot to sit at 8th. Sri Lankan skipper Dasun Shanaka scored a fighting ton despite his side losing and has gained 20 spots to move to 61. Meanwhile, in the bowling charts, Mohammed Siraj is the biggest gainer after scalping two wickets in the first ODI, moving up four spots to 18.

Malaysia Open

Sindhu loses to Marin; Prannoy and Satwik-Chirag pair advance

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu couldn't manage to get the winning start in 2023 as she suffered a loss at the hands of familiar foe Rio 2016 champion Carolina Marin of Spain in the opening round of Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament, here on Wednesday.



Coming back to action after a five-month-long injury layoff, Sindhu lost 12-21, 21-10, 15-21 in her first match since the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medal win. It was the first meeting between the Rio 2016 finalists since Marin beat Sindhu at the Swiss Open final in 2021.

The Spaniard dominated the opening game right from the start and clinched it easily 21-12. But the Indian ace bounced back in the second game with a healthy 11-5 lead at the time of the interval and quickly raced to 21-10 to force the decider. In the deciding game, Marin restored her momentum and headed into the break with an early lead and wrapped up the match with ease after the change of sides.

On the other hand, HS Prannoy and the world championships bronze medallist men's pair of Chirag Shetty

and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy sailed into the round of 16.

In men's singles, Prannoy overcame Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen in three games, 22-24, 21-12, 21-18 in the first round. The men's doubles pair Satwik and Chirag trounced the world No. 9 Korean combination of Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho to win 21-16, 21-13.

After losing the closely fought opening game, Prannoy took the second game and was trailing 2-7 in the decider before scripting a comeback to clinch the match in one hour and 15 minutes. Prannoy, the only Indian left in the fray in the singles event, will take on Indonesian Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo to set up a potential quarterfinal clash with second-seed local player Lee Zii Jia. Sindhu's loss ended India's challenge in the women's singles category as Malvika Bansod lost world No. 2 Korean An Se Young 9-21, 13-21.

Adelaide International 2

Badosa, Kasatkina seal quarterfinal slots

Adelaide | Agencies

Paula Badosa of Spain bolstered her start to the season by sealing a spot in the Adelaide International 2 quarterfinals with a 6-1, 7-5 win over lucky loser Kaia Kanepi, here on Wednesday.

With her 1-hour and 23-minute victory over seven-time Grand Slam quarter-finalist Kanepi, No.9 seed Badosa has defeated the two Estonians ranked inside the Top 40 back-to-back this week. She ousted Estonian No.1 Anett Kontaveit in the first round. Former World No.2 Badosa survived 27 winners from big-hitting Kanepi to level their rivalry at one win apiece. Badosa had 22 winners and just eight unforced errors in the match. The Spaniard eased through the first set before Kanepi made a much tougher test of things in the second set. However, a backhand volley winner in the 4-4 game gave Badosa a breakpoint, which she converted after a wide rally backhand by



Kanepi. Kanepi, though, returned to level footing immediately, as Badosa double faulted the next game away when serving for the match. But Badosa used heavy, deep returns to reclaim her break and lead 6-5, where she successfully served out the win on the second time of asking. Badosa will next meet No.11 seed Beatriz Haddad Maia, who defeated another lucky loser, Amanda Anisimova, earlier in the day.

Australian Open 2023

Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek named top seeds for men's, women's singles draw

Melbourne | Agencies

With U.S. Open winner Carlos Alcaraz of Spain withdrawing due to an injury, his compatriot Rafael Nadal has been given the top billing in the men's singles draw in the Australian Open, starting in a few days.

In women's singles, Poland's Iga Swiatek, the World No. 1 in the WTA Rankings, was expectedly named the top seed with Tunisia's Ons Jabeur as the second-ranked player.

Nadal is the second highest-ranked player in the ATP Rankings and will be the top seed in the Australian Open with Norway's Casper Ruud as the second seed. The 22 Grand Slam titles winner is gunning for his 23rd title in the Majors to further widen the gap with Novak Djokovic (21).

Andrey Rublev (6th seed), Felix Auger-Aliassime (7th), Daniil Medvedev (8th), Taylor Fritz (9) and Holger Rune of Denmark complete the top 10 in the Australian Open men's singles seedings.



In the women's singles section, Jessica Pegula of the USA is seeded third followed by Caroline Garcia (4th), Aryna Sabalenka (5th), Maria Sakkari (6th), Coco Gauff (7th), Daria Kasatkina, Veronika Kudermetova (8th) and Veronika Kudermetova is ninth while Madison Keys complete the top 10 seeds for the Year's first Grand Slam.

INJURY FORCES MARIN CILIC TO WITHDRAW

New Delhi: Marin Cilic of Croatia announced his withdrawal from the year's first Grand Slam on Wednesday, due to his knee injury that ended his run of seven consecutive Australian Open appearances.

Former world no 3 sustained a knee injury last week during a warm-up ahead of his quarterfinal match at the Tata Open Maharashtra, where he was competing as a top-seed player.

The 2014 US Open champion, Cilic, is the new name on the list of players, who will miss the first Major of the year. Earlier, World No. 1 men's singles player Carlos Alcaraz of Spain has opted out of the 2023 season's first major after picking up an injury while training.

Shagun looking for her maiden win is the early leader in first leg of WPGT 2023

Pune | Agencies

Shagun Narain, who is looking for her maiden professional title on the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, took the opening day's honours in the first leg of the WPG Tour 2023 at the Poona Club Golf Course.

The course, which is hosting an event for the first time since 2021, did not yield low scores with Shagun's even par 71 being the best card of the day.

Another promising player, Nayanika Sanga, also looking for a breakthrough win, was in close touch with a round of 2-over 73, the same as the experienced Neha Tripathi.

Favourite Seher Atwal and talented amateur Vidhatri Urs carded 3-over 74 each and four players including Sneha Singh and Ridhima Dilawari



shot 75 each. Others shooting 75 were amateur Ananya Garg and Khushi Khanijau.

Shagun, who had an early bogey-birdie start on second and third, closed her front nine with bogeys on eighth and ninth. On the return journey she birdied three times on 10th, 12th and 16th and dropped a shot on 14th for 71. Nayanika had a rough bogey-bogey start, but she recovered well with birdies on eighth and ninth. On the second nine she had bogeys on 10th and 16th in her 73. Neha had two birdies and three bogeys.

Seher Atwal had four birdies, but that was undone by four bogeys and a disastrous triple bogey on Par-4 15th.

Vidhatri suffered two late double bogeys on 15th and 17th in her round of 74 that also had three birdies and two bogeys.

BVL GETS A PARTNER IN RUPAY TO BUILD VOLLEYBALL TALENT AT GRASSROOT LEVEL

Guwahati | Agencies

RuPay has partnered with Brahmputra Volleyball League to support league's mission to build volleyball talent at a grassroots level in Assam and the North East India Region.

The majority of BVL matches are scheduled to take place from January to March, 2023 and will comprise 600 plus matches. This league will be organised between the volleyball teams of villages of Assam.

The core concept is to leverage a league format to grow the culture for volleyball at the regional level. The response so far has been incredible, with a record participation of over 393 teams from 144 villages in Assam. The format offered to these village teams is exactly the same as a league format with home and away games.

The BVL is organised in three stages including district, zonal and super league levels. The local community takes ownership of hosting the matches in their respective villages. In its third season, the league will be



discovering talent in both boys and girls categories.

DPS Jaipur set to launch DJTA, a world-class tennis academy

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

DPS Jaipur is all set to launch the Devyani Jaipuria Tennis Academy (DJTA) in the city in the coming week. The world-class training facility will be backed by India's National and Davis Cup Coach, Zeeshan Ali. The launch will also see the commencement of the Devyani Jaipuria Tennis Championship for under-14 and Under-16, from January 9th up to the 20th.



has moved to sports & well-being, the academy aims to encourage sports amongst people of all ages. Speaking about the academy, Devyani Jaipuria, Pro Vice-Chairperson of Delhi Public School, says, "The academy has been a dream in the making for quite a while. We

have brought together the best coaches and aim at overall development of the students. We are looking forward to tapping and honing the top tennis talent in the country and guiding them to chart a successful sporting career." The academy will be spearheaded by India National and Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali. The academy, spread over 15 acres, is ready and operational and is already witnessing massive enthusiasm from young tennis aspirants across the state and the country.

IND v SL, 1st ODI

'Cannot get him out like that', Rohit on withdrawing appeal against Shanaka for run-out at non-striker's end

Guwahati | Agencies

India captain Rohit Sharma has given his reason for withdrawing the run-out appeal against Dasun Shanaka for backing-off too far at the non-striker's end in the first ODI against Sri Lanka here, saying his counterpart was batting on 98 and that was not the way they wanted to get him out.

Shanaka, batting on 98 in the final over, had gone too far out the crease at the non-striker's end and pacer Mohammad Shami whopped off the bails and appealed for run-out. However, Rohit Sharma withdrew the appeal, which allowed Shanaka to complete his century and end the match at 108 not out as Sri Lanka, chasing a massive total of 373/7 by



India were restricted to 306/8 in 50 overs and lost the match by 67 runs on Tuesday night.

The mode of dismissal, popularly called Mankading by the Western media, is quite contro-

versial and even though the International Cricket Council (ICC) recently included it in legal modes of dismissals, many players consider it against the "spirit of the game". Asked why he withdrew the appeal, Rohit said they "wanted to get him out the way we wanted to get him out". "No, I mean I had no idea Shami did that. Again, he's batting on 98 and the way he batted was brilliant. Cannot get him out like that and wanted to get him out the way we wanted to get him out. Hats off to him," Rohit said after the match. The incident did not have much impact on the overall result as Sri Lanka were already on the verge of defeat. Though Rohit was happy with the win in the first of the three-ODIs, he said they could have bowled a little better.



'IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL TORTURE': RAM CHARAN LOOKS BACK AT 'NAATU NAATU'

Team Absolute | Mumbai/ Los Angeles

When Marc Malkin of 'Variety' asked Ram Charan if he would like to be a Marvel superhero, the 'RRR' hero responded at once: "Absolutely. Why not?" And when he was asked about his favourite Marvel superhero, he said without thinking much: "Tony Stark." He was referring to the character Robert Downey Jr plays in the Iron Man franchise. "Or maybe Captain America, why not?" Ram Charan added as an afterthought. "We have some amazing superheroes in India too," he pointed out. "How about you invite one of our heroes over here?"

Talking specifically about 'Naatu Naatu', he said: "My knees still wobble talking about it today. It was a beautiful torture and look where it has got us."

Was the 'RRR' director S.S. Rajamouli hard on them during the terrific action sequences? Rajamouli said: "I took care of them like babies. No one ever got hurt." To this, Ram Charan added: "He spanked the babies too."

On the positive response 'RRR' has been getting in the run-up to the awards, Rajamouli said: "It humbles me that I get love from so many people." In the same spirit, NTR Jr had told 'Variety' in another red carpet interview: "We thought we had a winner, but it turned out to be more than a winner ... you don't expect this to happen."

Earlier, the actor had tweeted: "Congratulations Sirji on your well-deserved #GoldenGlobes award! I've danced to many songs throughout my career but #NaatuNaatu will forever stay close to my heart...@mmmkeeraavani"

'WHAT MORE CAN AN ACTOR ASK FOR?': NTR JR ON THE GLOBES RED CARPET

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Los Angeles

RRR may have lost the Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture (Non-English), but the 'RRR' team still has much to celebrate. And celebrate NTR Jr will.

Talking to 'The Hollywood Reporter' on the red carpet, looking dapper in a tuxedo and bow tie, with wife Lakshmi Pranathi also in black, the 'RRR' star said: "It can't get any better than this. The West accepting us ... America, the Mecca of filmmaking ... here we are at the Globes. What more can an actor ask for? ... We are truly honoured, truly honoured."

When asked about the ecstatic audience response to the 'RRR' screening at the iconic TCL Chinese Theatre in LA, NTR Jr, after noting how a visit to the century-old cinema was on his bucket list, said: "It blew my mind ... That reaction yesterday was nothing less than the reaction back home. People were dancing, people were yelling, people were shouting and screaming. I just loved it, I just loved it."

He added: "Audiences accepting 'RRR' is a very big award altogether. We'll be truly blessed ... It'll be our pride."

And what did he plan to do after the awards ceremony was over? With his wife beaming in the background, NTR Jr said: "I just want to relax ... chill. Yes, I am going to unwind a little bit."



Taapsee starts shooting for sequel of 'Hasseen Dillruba'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu has started shooting for the sequel of 'Hasseen Dillruba', which is titled 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba'. Filmmaker Anand L. Rai took to Twitter to announce that the shooting has commenced and also asked Taapsee as to why she hasn't shared the poster yet.

"O hamari hasseen dillruba Aaj shooting shuru ho gai hai 'phir aayi hasseen dillruba' kia taapsee tujhe bola tha na 9 baje poster dalne ke liye..dala kyun nahi abhi tak? #PhirAayiHasseenDillruba," he wrote.

To which Taapsee replied: "Sir i'm not ready yet... Is baar toh le gai hai character ko Kanika Dhillon! Pata nahi kya kha ke likhi hai yeh kahani. Aur har baar mere saath hi kiyun aesai. PhirAayiHasseenDillruba." 'Hasseen Dillruba' is a 2021 romantic thriller film directed by Vinil Mathew and written by Kanika Dhillon.

It stars Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey and Harshvardhan Rane. 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba' starred Taapsee Pannu and Vikrant Massey in lead roles.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

'Naagin 6' actress Mahekk Chahal, who was admitted to hospital in first week of January after she felt severe chest pain, is now back home.

The actress shared in detail about cough and cold led to lung infection and pneumonia. Mahekk said: "I was basically travelling a lot in December. I went to the US and was having a slight cold and cough. I just took it casually and then after coming back, I went to Delhi and despite having a cold and cough, I just kept traveling, went to Jaipur and then again back to Mumbai. I started shooting for my show 'Naagin'. I was taking warm water and Vitamin C that we usually take but never realised the seriousness of my deteriorating health."

The actress, who emerged as the winner of 'Bigg Boss 5' and also participated in the action-based reality show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11', revealed further on how things became worse for her in January.

She in fact, shared a video also on her Instagram handle where she talked about her health and mentioned that never take cough and cold lightly.

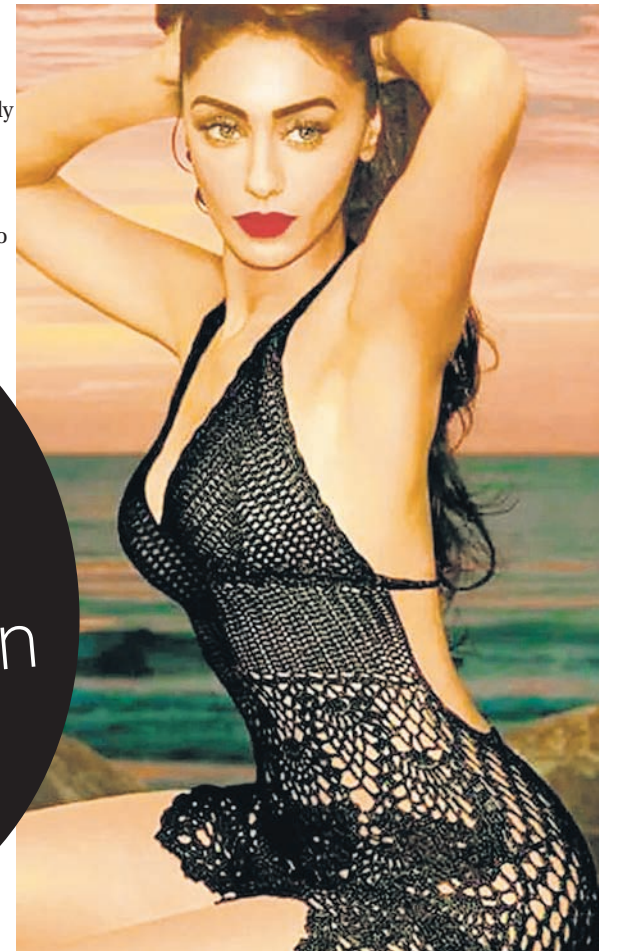
She added: "In January I started having pain in my chest, although normally in such a situation you feel pain in your throat, but I felt in my chest. My oxygen level went extremely down and all the symptoms were quite similar to Covid. I collapsed and was rushed to the hospital where doctor asked me to undergo a CT scan immediately."

The actress continued to recall how both of

her lungs got infected: "Then it came out that both my lungs were infected with pneumonia. And the doctor is like you will have to get oxygen because you're not able to breathe properly until I don't put you on some medication for your chest, it won't go. And then after that, I was in the hospital for more than a week."

"After nine or ten days I'm back, my mom is taking care of me and it will take time for me to recover," she concluded.

Mahekk Chahal back home after hospitalisation for over a week



Sidhu Moose Wala created both friends and enemies: Dilbagh Singh

Shachi Chaturvedi | Mumbai

Dilbagh Singh is one of the's finest singers. At the festival of Lohri, the artist will perform in Mumbai. In an exclusive interview with Absolute India News, the singer discusses his journey, inspiration, Sidhu Moose Wala, and much more. Excerpts:

On His Journey

Dilbagh shares that he started his career when he was very young. He shared, "I began my journey in 2005, and in 2007 I released a song that was well-received by the public. At that time, the internet was not at its peak, but that song brought me a lot of work. I achieved popularity in 2014 with Thodi jeeni peeti hai. That music did wonders for me."

On choosing singing as a career

The artist talked about how his parents Mikka Singh advised him to be a singer, "I decided on a career after Mikka Singh suggested me to start singing. When I informed my parents about it, they said, 'Music and singing are fine, but what will you do for money?' Later, I convinced them. My mother told me to give my all to my work when they realised what I wanted to do, and I followed her advice," Dilbagh said.

On struggles he faced

Dilbagh does not look at his journey as full of struggle rather he labels it as a journey full of hard work. "I think my journey is full of hard work. I don't believe it is full of obstacles since labelling my path as such would be insulting to what God has given me. My path has been like a heartbeat, with ups and downs", shares Dilbagh.

On Sidhu Moose Wala

Dilbagh while talking to us opened up about the Sidhu Moose Wala murder case and shared, "Sidhu Moose Wala was a highly talented man, but when you reach a certain level



of success in your work, you begin to feel superior.

I agree that what happened to him was horrible and really bad, but I believe that when he was at the top, he created both friends and enemies, and he did not handle the relationships well, which cost him his life. I feel that saying sorry and saying thank you are extremely vital in life. You should constantly say these words whenever you get the opportunity."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Ithana Dhillon

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Faisal Shaikh, who is popularly known by his stage name Faisu, talked about his job at a perfume shop and how he broke a bottle of perfume costing Rs 14,000.

In a recent podcast with Maniesh Paul, he recalled working in a shop where he was the only male employee alongside 32 female employees.

"It was evening time and a beautiful girl entered the shop. I held her hand and sprayed perfume as we generally do so



Actor Faisal Shaikh recounts breaking perfume bottle worth Rs 14K

that she can smell it. I was so lost looking at her that the perfume bottle fell from my hand and it was all broken."

He added that he admitted his mistake and it was just second day of his job. "The owner of the shop told me that he would deduct the loss from my salary of two months. So, I worked there for two months and left the job. Later, he shared that now he owns his own brand. "I have my own brand now which I launched on my birthday and I have got Rs one crore pre-order."

Faisu also remembered his first earning of Rs 50 from selling clothes on the streets in Mumbai, how he became successful, and that his YouTube channel has millions of subscribers.