

absolute india

VOL. 10, ISSUE 63, MUMBAI | SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

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Malaysia Open: Chirag-Satwik pair and HS Prannoy march...

'WANT A FREE BUT BALANCED PRESS IN INDIA': SC QUESTIONS ANCHORS' ROLES

SOCIETY DIVIDERS

Justice Joseph orally told a counsel, representing The News Broadcasters & Digital Association: "You (the news channels) create divisions amongst the society, or whatever opinion you want to create is much faster... "Freedom of speech, the greater the freedom the better marketplace of ideas is very good. In the marketplace of ideas we have to also see populace... are we really a fully developed country?... are the audience mature enough to receive this kind of information that is dished out. If freedom is exercised with an agenda, then you are not actually serving the people."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday said the television channels are creating divisions in society, as they are agenda-driven and compete to sensationalise news, and anchors who try to create divisions in the society through their programmes should be taken off air.

It emphasised that a free and balanced press is wanted in India.

A bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna orally observed that channels are competing against each other, they sensationalise things, and serve an agenda.

As counsel said they are guidelines for anchors, Justice Joseph asked: "How many times have you taken off anchors, have you dealt with anchors in a way you send a message, see ultimately who controls the content of the programme anchor and editorial... if anchor himself or herself is part of the problem."

He added that the visual medium can influence much more than a newspaper and asked if the audience are "mature enough to see this content?"

On her part, Justice Nagarathna said: "We want a free and balanced press in India... free but balanced."

Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, representing the Centre, contended that the government is contemplating a separate amend-



SC SEEKS REPORT FROM DELHI POLICE IN HATE SPEECHES CASE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday sought a report from the police in connection with the progress on investigation into the cases of hate speeches made at religious assemblies in the

national capital in 2021. The bench noted that there was no palpable progress made in the investigation in the case.

The bench also noted that the incident occurred in December 2021, and the FIR in the matter was lodged in May 2022.

The bench told Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K.M. Nataraj, representing

Delhi Police, said, "Why do you need five months for lodging an FIR..." It further queried, "How many arrests have been made?" The top court asked the ASG to file an affidavit within two weeks, where the Delhi Police would have to give details on the progress made so far in the investigation of the case.

ment to the Criminal Procedure Code and that is its stand in the mat-

ter. The apex court made these sharp observations while hearing a clutch

DAUGHTER/SISTER'S RIGHTS IN FAMILY PROPERTY DO NOT CHANGE: GUJARAT HC

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court on Friday pointed out that society's mindset towards daughters and sisters needs to be changed, as it held that even after marriage, they have equal rights in the property.

Annoyed with the petitioner's submission, the Chief Justice observed: "This mindset that once the daughter or sister in the family is married, we should not give her anything, this should be changed. She is your sister, born with you. Just because she has married, now her status in the family does not change. Thus, this mindset should go."

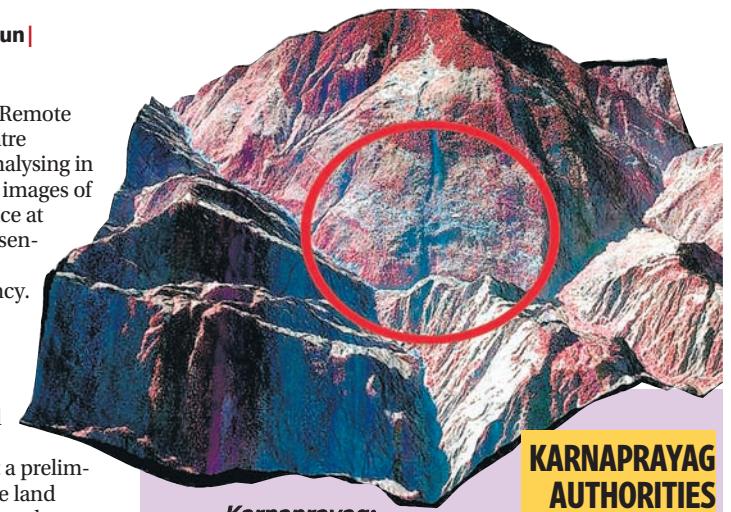
The court also pointed out: "If the son remains son, married or unmarried, a daughter shall remain a daughter, married or unmarried, if the act does not change the status of the son; the act of marriage cannot and shall not change the status of a daughter."

of petitions seeking action in hate speech incidents.

Chennai/Dehradun | Agencies

The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) is analysing in detail the satellite images of the land subsidence at Joshimath, said a senior official of the Indian space agency.

Part of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Hyderabad-based NRSC had, on Thursday, put out a preliminary report on the land subsidence showing that the entire Joshimath may sink. The pictures are taken from the Cartosat-2S satellite. Hyderabad-based NRSC has released satellite images of areas that are sinking. In the images, the entire town, including the Army's helipad and the Narasimha temple, has been marked as a sensitive zone. According to the report, the land subsidence was slow between April and November 2022, during which Joshimath had sunk by 8.9 cm. But between December 27, 2022 and January 8, 2023, the intensity of land subsidence increased and the town sank by 5.4 cm in these 12 days. The satellite images show that the Joshimath-Auli road is also going to collapse due to the land subsidence. Crown of the subsidence is located near Joshimath-Auli road at a height of 2180 m, NRSC said.



KARNAPRAYAG AUTHORITIES ORDER EVACUATION

Karnaprayag: The authorities have ordered evacuation of residents of Bahuguna Nagar of Karnaprayag to safer places as panic gripped the people after many houses developed cracks. The latest crisis comes close to the heels of subsidence in Joshimath that affected hundreds of houses, shops and other establishments. A team of district administration had inspected the affected areas in the town on Wednesday. Tehsildar Surendra Dev said that the administration had inspected the areas earlier also and had identified 27 unsafe buildings. Along with this, a geological survey and major remediation plan were recommended. A team of IIT Roorkee has surveyed the areas twice.

NOW CRACKS APPEARS IN HOUSES IN UP'S BAGHPAT

Baghpat: In Uttar Pradesh, after Aligarh, cracks are now appearing in houses in Baghpur.

Giving details, Baghpur Additional District Magistrate (ADM) said the cracks have appeared in four to five houses in the Thakurdwara area of the district.

The official further added that the administration is looking into the matter and will find the cause and solution to the problem soon.

Gold shines brighter on Friday as prices rise

Chennai | Agencies



Gold on Thursday got more sheen with the price of the 24 karat yellow metal touching Rs 56,290 per 10 grams.

According to Quantum AMC's Fund Manager- Alternative Investments Ghazal Jain, gold prices are on up trend since November 2022 amid moderating US CPI numbers and anticipation of a less aggressive Federal Reserve.

The US dollar as well as US yields have begun to cool off, which has been supporting gold. Other secondary factors weighing on prices have been robust gold buying by global central banks and the potential positive impact on gold demand given the opening up of Chinese markets, Jain

said. "While we are currently at all time high prices, rate hikes by the Fed over the next few months will spur volatility in gold prices and give investors opportunity to accumulate gold and build their allocation," Jain added.

IITians, IIM graduates get pink slips in Goldman Sachs layoffs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The layoffs at global financial services firm Goldman Sachs has hit Indian workers hard as some of the impacted IITians and IIM graduates shared their plight on various social media platforms.

Global investment bank Goldman Sachs began job cuts that are expected to affect more than 3,200 employees or about 6.5 percent of its workforce.

Gourav Sachdeva, an IIM Shillong graduate and a product manager at Goldman Sachs, wrote on LinkedIn that he was part of the layoffs at the company.

"While it's undoubtedly a diffi-

cult time, I am looking at it as a kick-start for the next phase of my professional journey! Of course, I am also grateful to my amazing family for taking this so peacefully and sportingly," he posted.

Shubham Sahu, an IIT Kharagpur 2022 graduate, said at the beginning of New Year, he was impacted by the layoffs at Goldman Sachs "just after my 23rd birthday".

"Wow, this is truly a different way to start a year. It was my first job and my first experience in software development," Sahu posted on the professional networking platform.

"I am actively looking for a job opportunity in full stack/backend development and can join in February," he added.

Corporate Chat India tweeted from its handle that there is "scary stuff at Goldman Sachs India as employees are being asked to go to a conference room, told that they're laid off and asked to leave immediately without being allowed to go back to their desk".

"Started a while ago with a 10-person layoff. But now 100s are expected to be cut," it posted.

According to reports, 10 members were laid off from Goldman Sachs' consumer banking division in Hyderabad.

Absolute India could not independently verify the Twitter user.

The job cuts have also affected Indian-origin employees across the globe.

Explained: How India evaded current global Covid surge to date

Team Absolute | New Delhi



As countries like China and Japan bear the maximum brunt of the global Covid surge, India has survived the immediate threat and according to health experts, majority of the population has got either natural immunity or vaccine-induced immunity to all coronavirus strains currently active in the country.

Given the exposure of the Omicron variant in India in the last one year, there is hardly any possibility of any significant public health problem to be caused by Covid in near terms.

"We will not see any surge in serious cases of Covid-19 in India in the near future. However, we need to prepare

and strengthen our epidemic response system by taking lessons from the last two years," Dr. Harshal R. Salve, Professor at Centre for Community Medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, told reporter.

While China saw a massive

surge in Covid and hospitalisation, especially in the month of December, Japan that is reeling under the eighth wave of the pandemic, has reported record coronavirus-related deaths almost every single day.

Cheaper fuel, jobs and harmony: Rahul's promises in letter

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has written a letter to the people of the country in a massive outreach programme of the party, promising cheaper petrol and diesel, gas cylinder at Rs 500, jobs and harmony.

The party on Friday announced that it will deliver Rahul Gandhi's letter to each house along with a charge sheet against the Central government from January 26. The letter is signed off as "aapka apna Rahul (your own Rahul)"

The letter is written in all regional languages and the exercise is an attempt by the Congress to reap the political benefits from the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Gandhi in his letter has tried to touch all the subjects. He mentions that this is written after completing the historic, 3,500 km long Bharat Jodo Yatra where millions of Indians walked with him from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

"It was the most enriching journey of my life, and I am overwhelmed by the love and affection that every single Indian has



showered on us. I heard intently, to all your stories along the way."

He said there is a palpable economic crisis brewing - joblessness among the youth, unbearable price rise, severe farm distress, and a complete corporate capture of the country's wealth... People are worried about losing their jobs, their incomes are falling further, and their dreams of a better future are shattering.

CONG TO DELIVER RAHUL'S LETTER TO EACH HOUSE

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday announced that it will deliver a letter written by Rahul Gandhi to each house along with a charge sheet against the Central government from January 26. The programme will be for two months which will reach 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, six lakh villages and 10 lakh booths. This is a massive outreach programme of the Congress to take its political message to the people.



CCI ORDER STRIKES A BLOW TO ACCELERATING DIGITAL ADOPTION IN INDIA: GOOGLE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As the fight between Google and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) reaches the Supreme Court, the tech giant on Friday said India is at a juncture where the stakeholders must come together to bring down barriers to access and make safe and secure smartphones available to all, supported by a flourishing digital ecosystem.

Google said that foundational disruptions at this stage could set us back years and undo the deep investments and effort made by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), developers, and the industry overall.

"It is a crucial moment for India - and our hope is that we, along with all the stakeholders of this vibrant ecosystem, can continue to build on top of this foundation," said the company.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to examine an appeal by Google against a decision by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), declining to stay a



Rs 1,337.76 crore penalty imposed on it by the CCI for alleged anti-competitive practices.

Google said that the "directions in the CCI's order" strikes a blow at the ecosystem-wide efforts to accelerate digital adoption in the country.

"Google is appealing these directions before Indian courts. While there has been a lot of reporting and debate on the subject, it is critical that our users and stakeholders understand the full import of what is at stake," the company said in a blog

post. The number of annual app downloads in India reached a new high of 29 billion in 2022, making it the second biggest app market after China, offering developers in India and elsewhere, a strong platform to establish viable businesses on Play.

"India has seen a huge acceleration in the number of people coming online via smartphones. As we look beyond the estimated 700 million users who are already online, safety, affordability and expanded use cases for the next wave of users will be the

pillars that will determine digital adoption.

"Unfortunately, the ordered remedies on Android strike blows to these very areas," said Google, which are increased exposure to online harm and privacy risks, lack of robust and consistent security upgrades, predatory apps that expose users to financial fraud, data theft and a number of other dangers. "Since incompatible Android forks will not support the security and user safety features that Google provides, security responsibilities for these devices will instead fall to the OEMs, who will need to invest extensively in creating consistent, all-year-round security upgrades themselves," explained Google. This will result in higher costs for the OEMs, and consequently, more expensive devices for Indian consumers, it added.

Google moved the apex court after the setback at NCLAT, which did not stay the CCI order on abuse of dominant position in multiple markets in the Android mobile device ecosystem case.

India has shown growth and resilience amid global headwinds: PM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India has shown growth and resilience amid global headwinds, as he urged the public and private sectors to seize opportunities arising as a result of emerging global environment, and to think out of the box.

Modi said this during his interaction with economists prior to the forthcoming Union Budget to be presented on February 1.

Recognising that the underlying global headwinds are likely to continue, strategic recommendations were also made by the economists for further strengthening India's economic resilience, sources aware of the developments said.

Modi noted that while there are risks, the emerging global environment offers new and diverse opportuni-



ties in areas such as digitisation, energy, healthcare and agriculture, among others.

To seize these opportunities, public and private sectors need to leverage synergies and think out of the box, he emphasised during the meeting, official sources said.

Participants at the meeting offered practical measures on ways in which India could prudently sustain its development momentum.

Ideas and suggestions were shared with the Prime Minister on diverse topics, ranging from agriculture to manufacturing.

CBI gets prosecution sanction against Lalu Prasad in land for job case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has got the prosecution sanction from the Ministry of Home Affairs against former Union Minister of Railways and Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad in connection with a case related to land for job scam.

An official said the CBI furnished the prosecution sanction letter before the concerned court.

The CBI had in October last year in its chargesheet named 16 accused including Lalu Prasad, his wife, daughter, then GM of Central Railways, then Chief Personnel Officer (CPO), private persons, and some can-



dicates in the matter.

The CBI had said that during the investigation, it has been found that the accused in conspiracy with the then

LABOURER DEAD, THREE INJURED IN WALL COLLAPSE IN DELHI

Chennai | Agencies

A Bill mandating a compulsory Tamil language paper for recruitment to Tamil Nadu government services was passed by the state Assembly on Friday.

The bill amends the Tamil Nadu Government Servants (Conditions of Service) Act, 2016 for the purpose.

Tabling the Bill, Finance and Human Resources Management Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan recalled that a compulsory Tamil language paper was introduced for direct recruitment to all competitive examinations in the state, through the government order of December 1, 2021.

It was meant to protect the interests of Tamil youths, he said.

"To give statutory effect to the said executive order, the government have decided to amend the Tamil Nadu Government Servants (Conditions of

TN Assembly passes Bill on compulsory Tamil paper in state govt recruitment exam



Service) Act, 2016 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 2016) suitably and to validate any action taken or anything done based on the said order," he said.

The minister pointed out that unlike the legislation enacted by the erstwhile AIADMK government

which permitted the candidates to clear the Tamil paper within two years from the date of recruitment, as per the legislation brought by the DMK government, the Tamil language paper is compulsory for recruitment.

AI 'pee-gate': Now, accused Shankar Mishra says woman urinated on own seat

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After claiming that "unzipping" was not for the purpose of any "sexual desire", Shankar Mishra, accused of urinating on an elderly female co-passenger, while in a drunken state, on a New York-New Delhi flight last November, told the court on Friday that it was the woman who peed on her own seat.

Mishra's claim came after a sessions court issued notice on an application by the Delhi Police requesting his custody.

"I'm not the accused. There must be someone else who peed or it must be her who urinated," he told the court.

He further claimed that the woman was suffering from some prostate-related disease.

Moreover, he said that "the seating system was such that no one could go to her seat".



"Her seat was such that it could only be accessed from behind and in any case, the urine could not reach the seat's front area. Also, the person sitting behind the complainant did not make any such complaint," he said.

On January 11, Mishra's counsel contended that his actions, while obscene, were not intended to sexually harass the victim.

Metroopolitan Magistrate, Patiala House courts, Komal Garg, who had reserved the verdict earlier, denied Mishra's bail plea, saying that the alleged act of relieving himself upon the complainant is "utterly disgusting and repulsive" and the act itself is sufficient to outrage the modesty of a woman.

As Mishra had failed to join the investigation even after notice under section 41A CrPC being issued to him, his conduct "does not inspire any confidence", the court had observed.

Himachal restores old pension scheme for 1.36 lakh employees

Shimla | Agencies

The just over a month old Congress government in Himachal Pradesh on Friday fulfilled a key poll promise, with the Cabinet, at its first meeting, deciding to provide the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to all government employees, covered under the defined contributory pension scheme or National Pension System (NPS), on the pattern of party-ruled Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

This will benefit about 1.36 lakh NPS employees, an official statement said.

The Cabinet also decided



thanking the people of the state for reposing faith and confidence in the policies and programs of the party.

It expressed gratitude to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, senior leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi for their dynamic leadership that resulted in the victory of the party in the recent Assembly elections.

The Cabinet decided to adopt an election manifesto of the party as a policy document of the government and all ministers, secretaries and heads of the departments will implement it, said the statement.

YOUTH COMMITS SUICIDE WHILE ON VIDEO CALL WITH GIRLFRIEND IN W.BENGAL



Kolkata:
Feeling betrayed, a 23-year-old youth hanged himself to death during a video call with his girlfriend in West Bengal's Nadia district.

Sujal Saha took the extreme step at his ancestral residence in Shantinagar Colony on Thursday evening when he was alone at home, District police sources said.

As his family members went to a relative's residence nearby, the victim locked himself in his room and made a video call to his girlfriend. During the course of conversation, he reportedly hanged himself from the ceiling fan while keeping the video calling on.

Local police have confiscated his mobile phone for further investigation. Sujal's family members said that the victim was in a relationship with a local girl and both were about to get married. However, tiff between the two started recently when Sujal spotted his girlfriend going with another youth.

Sujal had also seen the Facebook status of her girlfriend who had uploaded her picture with that youth there. Feeling betrayed, Sujal thought that her girlfriend was trying to sever the relationship.

HC allows foreign Hindu-Christian couple to register marriage in Delhi



Team Absolute | New Delhi

submit the form for solemnisation of marriage.

The couple, who has been living in India for six months, wants to marry and continue living here.

The couple was shown an error message and barred from proceeding further on submitting their particulars on the Delhi government's official website as under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, they were needed to register their marriage. The message read: "At least one party should be Indian".

The couple, however, questioned the authority concerned at the Sub-Divisional Magistrate's office and said that no bar for foreign citizens to solemnise their marriage in India, especially when they have been residing in India.

The couple was told that if they apply for the same offline, there is no such procedure.

Meanwhile, the department's counsel submitted that it is considering making changes in the portal for the registration of the marriage.

The bench, moreover, directed the city government to place on record a status report on what steps are being taken to amend the guidelines and make changes to the e-portal.

As the guidelines and the e-portal had not been changed post 2019, the court directed the Secretary of the department to appear in court on January 17 to

Anjali death case: 11 policemen suspended



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Eleven policemen, who were deployed on route where 20-year-old Anjali was killed after her scooter was hit by a car that dragged her to several kilometers on January 1 in Rohini, have been suspended.

As approved by competent authority, a total of 11 policemen of Rohini district deployed on route at PCRs and pickets have been suspended in view of the Sultanpur incident on January 1, said a senior police official.

After taking cognisance of a detailed report submitted by Delhi Police's Special Commissioner Shalini Singh on the horrific death of Anjali Singh in outer Delhi in the early hours of January 1, the Union Home Ministry recommended action

against several local police officers, sources had said on Thursday.

Apart from seeking suspension of the staff of three PCR vans and two pickets and disciplinary action against them, the Ministry also issued several directives, including addition of murder charge under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, against the accused in the sensational hit-and-drag case. The ministry has sought an explanation from the area's DCP on the security situation on the day of the incident, and action in case any dereliction of duty is ascertained.

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to constitute a Cabinet sub-committee for finalising the roadmap for implementation of its poll promises -- creating one lakh employment opportunities and granting Rs 1,500 to all women in the age group of 18 to 60 years.

Preserved over by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the Cabinet unanimously passed a resolution

CHANGE OF NAME

I DRISYA V is legally wedded spouse of No. 15440427M HAV ARUN H presently residing at Mullakkal House, Chellupadu, Mudappallur (P.O.), PALAKKAD(DIST), KERALA Pin-678705 have

changed my name from DRISYA ARUN to DRISYA V

Proposed New name vide affidavit No. 75AA 724176 dated 11/01/2023 before Bhopal (MP).

CHANGE OF NAME

I VAGH VARSHA is legally wedded spouse of No.

14646900H NK VAGH VINOD BHAI

presently residing at "BABA RAMDEV" Shari

Rang Society Hathshri

Road Dist- Amreli Vill-

Savar Kundla State- Gujarat

Pin-364515 have changed

my name from V VARSHA

to VAGH VARSHA Vide affidavit No. 75AA 724161.

CHANGE OF NAME

I LOVELY KUMARI is legally wife of No.

4288678W NK KISLAY

KUMAR presently resid-

ing at Vill+Po- Rani-3 PS-

Bachhwara Teh- Teghra

Dist- Begusari St-Bihar

Pin:851111 have changed

my DOB from 15/02/1994

to 15/07/1994 vide affida-

vit no. 75AA 724175 .

CHANGE OF NAME

I GULPHULE SHEETAL LAKAR

is legally wedded spouse of No.

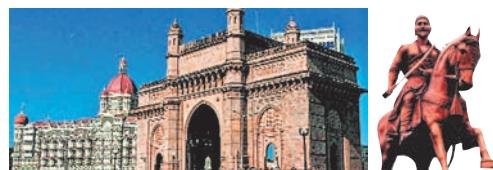
4581230M NK GULPHULE KAMLA KAR SHARAO

presently residing at Lon

i, Teh: Udgir, District:

Latur St-Maharashtra Pin-

413517



10 PILGRIMS BOUND FOR SHIRDI KILLED IN ACCIDENT, PRESIDENT, PM GRIEVE

The PM announced an ex-gratia of Rs 200,000 to the relatives of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured. Mumbai Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expressed shock over the tragedy and announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of all the deceased besides free medical treatment for all the injured victims.

Team Absolute | Nashik

In a tragedy, 10 pilgrims were killed and 24 others were injured when a speeding private luxury bus carrying them to the famed Shirdi Saibaba Temple in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar, crashed into an oncoming truck near Patharde in Nashik district on Friday morning, police said.

The accident took place around 7 a.m., when the bus, with around 45 pilgrims from Ambernath town in Thane, was speeding to Shirdi via Sinnar-Shirdi state highway.

According to police, the bus crashed headlong into the truck coming from the opposite direction and then overturned, resulting in the huge disaster, said the police. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi



expressed pain and grief over the tragedy and conveyed their condolences to the bereaved families and

the injured victims. CM Eknath Shinde also ordered a detailed probe into the accident, the causes

and related aspects, said an official. Among those who perished in the accident are 6 women, 2 men

and 2 minors, all from Ambernath town, said the police.

Of the 24 injured victims - comprising 13 women - 20 are admitted to the Sinnar Rural Hospital, Matoshree Hospital, Yeshwant Hospital and Salunkhe Hospital, and four were treated and allowed to go by the Sinnar Rural Hospital. Some who are seriously injured have been rushed to the Shirdi Superspeciality Hospital and the Vavi police have registered an accident case with the probe underway. Soon after learning of the calamity, the shocked families, relatives and friends of the victims rushed from Ambernath to Nashik, with emotional scenes witnessed near the hospitals, while Maharashtra Minister Dada Bhuse called on the victims undergoing treatment.

1 year jail for congress MLA, 3 others in 2017 assault case



Team Absolute | Nagpur

A court in Maharashtra's Nagpur district on Friday sentenced Congress MLA and former minister Sunil Kedar and three others to one year imprisonment for assaulting power company officials in 2017.

Additional sessions judge Mangala Mote found the accused guilty of charges under section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the Indian Penal Code. The accused were sentenced to one year imprison-

ment and a fine of Rs 14,000 each was imposed on them.

As per the case details, in 2017, there was a dispute between farmers and officials of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd (MSEDCL) over laying a transmission line in a village in Nagpur district. MLA Kedar had reached the village with his supporters to settle the dispute. However, the matter escalated when the legislator assaulted officials of the MSEDCL.

A case was registered at Kelwad police station and a chargesheet was filed following investigations.

Actor Uorfi Javed's reply as BJP leader accuses her of "nudity"

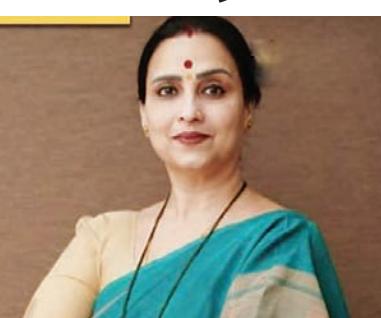
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bigg Boss OTT fame Uorfi Javed has filed a complaint against Bharatiya Janata Party leader Chitra Kishor Wagh for her alleged remarks on the actor's 'immodest' dress sense.

Uorfi's lawyer Nitin Satpave said that the OTT star has complained to the Maharashtra State Commission for Women.

The complaint against Wagh has been filed for threatening and criminal intimidation to harm the actor in the public domain. The lawyer has also requested preventive action under the relevant section of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

"I have lodged complaint for the offence U/s 153(A)(B), 504, 506, 506(ii) of IPC against BJP Party Worker Chitra Kishor Wagh for Threatening, and Criminal Intimidation to cause harm to Model/Acress Uorfi Javed on public domain," the message from Uorfi Javed's lawyer read. "Requested for preventive Action U/s 149 and 107 of CrPC, (Chapter proceeding against her as she is continuously committing breach of peace in society by threatening on media) today have mailed complaint to Woman Commission and now about 12.30 I will meet Rupali Chakankar Chairman Woman Commission. With written complaint for taking further



action," the message further read.

On January 4, the BJP leader took to Twitter and slashed Uorfi Javed for her dressing sense and asked if the women's commission would do anything to it or not. "Half-naked women walk openly on the streets. Why is the Women's Commission not taking notice of this? The protest is not against Uorfi but against the attitude of walking around openly in public places. And yes...the women's commission will do anything or not?" Wagh tweeted in Marathi. In another tweet in Marathi, she wrote, "Actions are not needed. Is it the culture of our Maharashtra to walk naked in public places? Does

"@Maha_MahilaAyog support Uorfi's display of body in Bhar Road in Mumbai which is very disgusting?" Chitra Wagh had shared an image of herself with the Mumbai police on January 1, along with

a snap of the police complaint she had lodged against Uorfi Javed.

It is pertinent to note that Uorfi Javed on Sunday broke silence on her fashion sense and said that "she is allergic to clothes". Taking to Instagram, Uorfi had dropped a photo in which she could be seen showing her legs filled with boils. "Anyone gets these allergies in winters?" she captioned the post.

Later, she shared another video in which she revealed that she got boils on her body after she wore some woollen clothes and captioned it, "I am literally allergic to clothes."

"So now you guys know right that why I don't wear clothes. I have this serious condition. My body starts reacting after wearing clothes. The proof is there. So that's why main itna nangi rehti hoon (So that's why I prefer being nude)," Uorfi revealed.

CBI says Videocon's V Dhoot confronted with Kochhars, he says not true

The lawyer of Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot on Friday argued before the Bombay High Court that the industrialist's arrest in the ICICI Bank loan fraud case was unwarranted as he was cooperating with the probe.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), on the other hand, claimed that he was trying to avoid it.

Dhoot, arrested by the CBI on December 26, 2022, and presently in judicial custody, has moved the High Court seeking to quash the First Information Report, and has also sought interim bail.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and PK Chavan, after hearing both Dhoot's lawyer Sandeep Laddha, and CBI's counsel Raja Thakare, reserved its order on interim relief.

Advocate Laddha argued that Dhoot had appeared before the CBI "31 times" since a 'preliminary enquiry' (PE) was registered in December 2017.

"Dhoot was never arrested in the case. Even when the charge sheet was filed, Dhoot had appeared before the concerned court which granted him bail noting that he had been co-operating with the probe," the lawyer said.

Dhoot had appeared before the CBI twice even last month, he said.

On two other dates (December 23 and



25) he could not appear, as on December 23 he had been already summoned by the Enforcement Directorate, the lawyer said.

"The CBI is holding this non-appearance for two days as non-co-operation. On December 25, the CBI issued Dhoot a notice...he appeared on December 26 and was arrested," advocate Laddha said.

CBI counsel Raja Thakare said Dhoot was summoned in December 2022 to confront him with co-accused Chanda Kochhar, former MD and CEO of ICICI Bank; and her husband Deepak Kochhar, both of whom were arrested on December 23.

"There has been a systematic attempt by Dhoot and the Kochhars to avoid probe. It is a case of conspiracy. When they are outside (not arrested) they decide the precise answers to give. But the moment one person is arrested, the blame game starts, and they start pointing fingers at each other," Thakare said. He added that the CBI wanted to bring the three accused together for interrogation. "Despite being summoned, he (Dhoot) refused to appear. The CBI at the time had Kochhars' custody for a brief time and hence wanted to confront them with Dhoot," Thakare said.

When the HC asked if after Dhoot's arrest, the three were interrogated together, Thakare said they were questioned together on December 26 and 27.

But Dhoot's lawyer said this was not true. The industrialist was never made to sit with the Kochhars and questioned after his arrest, he claimed.

Stranded in Oman, helpless Maharashtra woman brought back to India

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A woman from Maharashtra's Palghar district who was stuck in Oman as her passport and visa were allegedly confiscated by an agent has been brought back to the country and reunited with her kin, a police official said on Friday.

The woman had gone to Muscat in Oman on August 25 last year to work as a domestic help but wanted to return as she did not like the job, Deputy Commissioner of Police Prakash Gaikwad said.

"Her passport and visa was in the custody of an agent. A probe began after the

woman's mother filed a complaint with Vasai police on January 4. We were told the 30-year-old woman was stranded at the airport there for the past three days," the DCP said. "The special branch of Mira Bhayander Vasai Virar police contacted the victim and the Indian Embassy in Muscat, which cleared the hurdles and ensured she returned to India," he added.



Woman cheated of Rs 22 lakh by face book friend

Team Absolute | Thane

A 36-year-old woman from Thane city was allegedly cheated of Rs 22.67 lakh by a person who she had met on Facebook, police said on Friday.

A case in this regard was registered on Thursday, said an official.

The woman, who works as an online executive, got a friendship request from a man in February 2022, she told police.

After they started chatting online regularly, the man told her that he needed money urgently for his

mother's treatment. The woman obliged him by sending him money.

This happened on multiple occasions, as per the woman. She allegedly paid him Rs 72,500 and also gave him jewellery worth Rs 15,688. When she asked him to pay her back, he began to avoid her, following which the woman approached police.

A case under Indian Penal Code section 406 (criminal breach of trust) was registered at Vartak Nagar police station and further probe is on. No arrest has been made so far.

Services Pvt Ltd - which operates Rapido Bike Taxi in Mumbai and Pune - challenging a state government communication of December 29, 2022, refusing to issue it a bike taxi aggregator licence.

Advocate General Dr. Birendra Saraf informed the court that the state government has appointed a committee to examine the issue, and formulate guidelines on various aspects, including safety, before licensing.

However, he said that Rapido was operating illegally without a licence and said first it should discontinue the illegality before coming to the court.

The irked court's order came in a petition filed by Rappen Transportation

The December 29, 2022 intimation declined the licence to the company on grounds that there is no state policy or fare structure on this mode of bike transport.

The annoyed judges also disagreed with the company's contentions that it had complied with the conditions and guidelines under the Motor Vehicles Act.

When the state produced a list of aggregators whose licence applications were pending before the government, the judges said that the proposed policy would be equal for all aggregators to the extent that licences to ply such services would be given to all or to none.

The move followed an order by a bench of Justice Gautam S. Patel and Justice Shivkumar G. Dige warning that if the company did not suspend services immediately, it would permanently bar it from getting a licence and impose a heavy fine.

The irked court's order came in a petition filed by Rappen Transportation

In Actor Tunisha Sharma's Death Case, Ex Sheezan Khan Denied Bail

Team Absolute | Palghar

A court in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Friday rejected the bail application of actor Sheezan Khan, arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of his co-actor Tunisha Sharma.

Additional Sessions Judge R D Deshpande refused to grant relief to the 28-year-old, who was arrested on December 25 and is now in judicial custody.

Advocates Shailendra Mishra and Sharad Rai appeared for Khan before the Vasai court. Advocate Tarun Sharma, who represented Tunisha's



family, opposed bail to the actor, and told the court that Sheezan Khan's mother was also involved in the mat-

ter. He had submitted an application to the Mira-Bhayander, Vasai-Virar police commissioner to make Sheezan Khan's mother a co-accused in the case, advocate Sharma further said.

After hearing both sides, the court rejected Sheezan Khan's bail plea. The detailed order is expected later.

Tunisha Sharma (21), who was acting in the TV show 'Ali Baba: Dastaan-e-Kabul' along with Sheezan 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. She was in a relationship with Sheezan Khan but they broke up later.

Spanish woman becomes second foreign national to donate organs in India

Fernandez has become the first donor from beyond Asia and the second foreign national to donate organs in India. In 2019, a Nepalese national was the city's first international cadaver donor.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

When 67-year-old Teresa Maria Fernandez came to Mumbai, her only intention was to explore the city. But her visit gave a new lease on life to four Mumbai residents and a foreign national, who were donated her organs when she passed away after brain hemorrhage. Her daughter, a doctor of emergency medicine, who asked that her organs be donated. One of the recipients is also a doctor herself. Fernandez came to Mumbai on January 5 and was travelling on a bus with her friend when she suddenly collapsed. As the bus was near Jaslok hospital, she was taken there. Dr Sudheer Ambekar, neurosurgeon at Jaslok Hospital, said, "When she was brought in, she was deeply comatose and after investigation it was revealed that she had a massive brain hemorrhage. She had a history of high blood pressure so most likely that might have been the reason. Her daughter from Spain, who is also a doctor of emergency medicine, got in touch with us.

We discussed the situation with her and operated on Fernandez. Unfortunately, she didn't respond well and became brain dead. The day after the surgery, her family arrived. Her daughter



took the great decision of donating her organs." According to the Zonal Transplant Coordination Committee (ZTCC) the woman's heart, kidneys, lungs, liver and bones were donated by the family. According to Sujata Ashtekar, consultant, Regional and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization, the kidneys, liver, and lungs were donated to patients in Mumbai, while the heart was donated to a Lebanese citizen in Chennai. The bones and tendons were donated to a tissue bank.

The liver donated by the Spanish national gave a new lease on life to a 54-year-old general practitioner from Mumbai. Dr Chetan Kalal, programme director, Hepatology and Transplant Medicine at Nanavati Max Hospital, who headed the transplant team, said the recipient developed liver cirrhosis in 2019, after a hysterectomy.

Govt's goal is to cut down on accidents by 50% by 2024 end

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, along with Minister of Heavy Industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey, officially inaugurated the Auto Expo 2023 on Thursday. In his inaugural address, Gadkari urged the auto industry to enhance safety features in vehicles to reduce deaths due to road accidents. Gadkari said in his opening remarks that the government's goal is to cut down on accidents by 50 per cent by the end of 2024, as he requested the auto industry to take suo moto action for road safety as the government doesn't want to make anything mandatory. Gadkari said: "We aim to make India's automobile industry the world leader in terms of manufacturing, but our goal is to cut down on road accidents by 50 per cent by the end of 2024." The minister claimed that many young individuals between the age group of 18 and 34 die in road accidents. He emphasised that as road infrastructure has improved, so too has the pace at which cars are driven. The minister also asked the auto sector for assistance on the scrapping front. During the scrapping process, the cost of raw materials for the automotive industry was reduced by 33 per cent, while sales increased by 10-12 per cent. Additionally, because people who are going to junk their car are going to buy a new one, your turnover will rise. He also suggested the auto companies to offer discounts to buyers of new cars who present their scrappage credentials. According to Gadkari, it is possible to repurpose metals and semiconductors from scrapped vehicles, which will lower the price of finished goods.

absolute edit



A SCAM CALLED FILM REVIEWS

Vinod Mirani

Film critics too can have a history. Really? Of course they do and it is a long one. Not surprisingly, it is a chequered history with mostly grey shades.

Once upon a time, this was entirely a print media domain. There were some popular critics who people followed and believed but not enough to spend on a film. The genuine critics left their mark on the reviews they wrote. The print media does not enjoy the privilege alone anymore.

Now we have online critics and FM radio critics. Initially, these online critics wrote for an established portal, but soon, some realised that they need not belong or be answerable to an editor. The Net gives one all kinds of freedom. Some decided to start their own blogs or video reviews.

Thanks to social media, these online critics started gaining mileage, so much so that a few of them have a following of more than the circulation of some print media publications!

There are a few online, independent film critics who enjoy hits in some lakhs. This one who goes by the name Deeksha Sharma has as many as 34.4 lakh followers; KRK, the Dubai-based film producer-turned-online film critic, has 11.7 lakh followers, while the other two, Palat Tera Dhyan and Suraj Kumar, both have over 7.2 lakh followers. Don't think any official media critic enjoys this kind of numbers, not even the so called trade experts.

Now, that is what is called 'The times are a-changing'.

Film reviews have always been about a quid pro quo. Critics used to be a small community. The broadsheets never cared about films except for obits of major stars, but, usually, they all carried a film review every Sunday following a film's release. By that time, the people had decided if the film was a hit or a flop and in some cases, a film fared so poorly that it was withdrawn from the cinemas even before the review appeared!

The critics were a privileged lot. The filmmakers trusted them enough to hold special screenings for them a couple of days before the film's theatrical release; the practice still continues with most makers.

Once the press screening was done, it was left to a film's PR man to do the rest, such as

getting a preferred headline and picture to be used. Then an envelope, or lifafa, would reach each critic, who did the needful in exchange for the favour.

A reader mostly checked the picture and the caption. Few bothered to read a review in detail. But, for all those critics, this money never reached home. It was spent on bar hopping. Easy come, easy go. This was all hush hush.

The filmmakers have one perpetual weakness. They like to hear only good things about themselves and their films. If you do otherwise, you are an enemy for life.

Very soon, the critics as well as the media understood this and started exploiting the weakness. Not only the critics, but also the media organisations started saying what the makers liked to read. Now, it was no more a matter of passing a petty cash lifafa. Deals were struck officially.

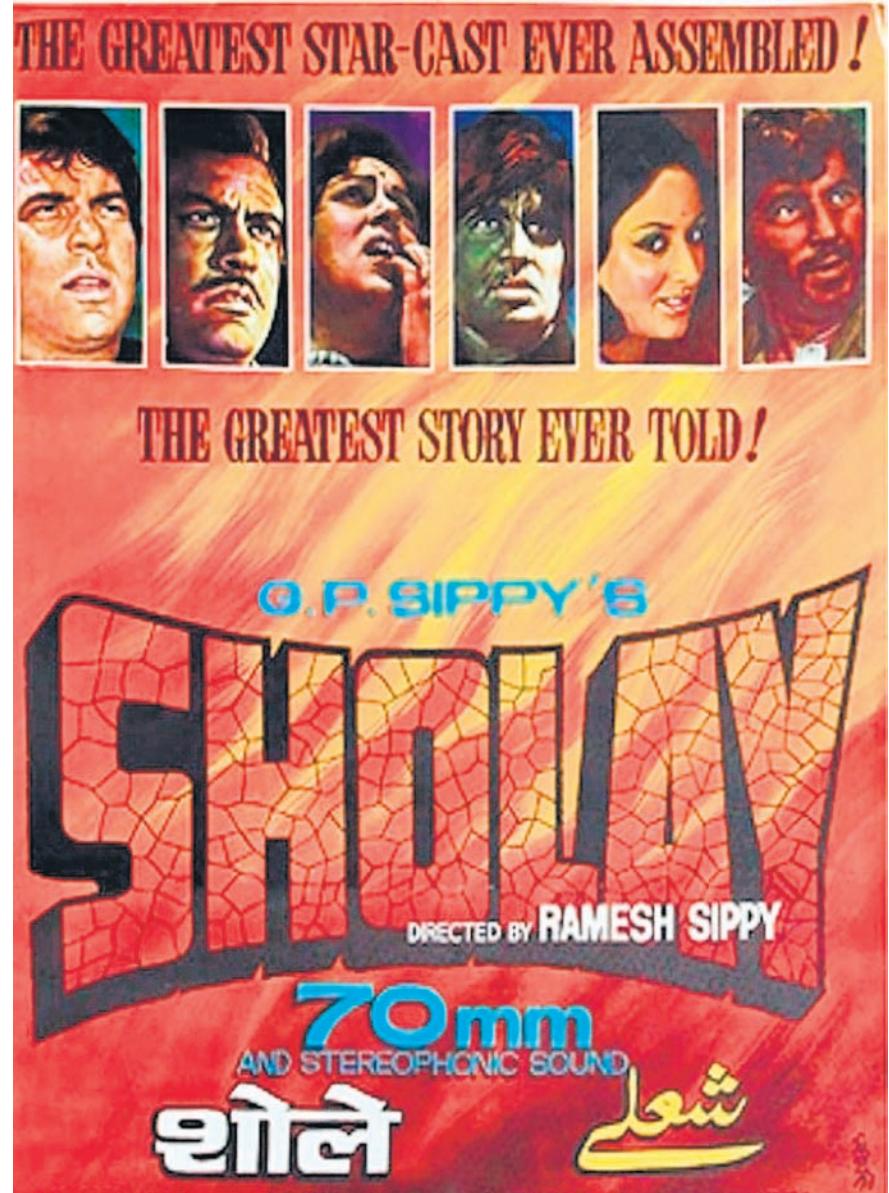
Actually, film reviews in the media were never taken seriously. People who loved cinema always counted on word of mouth. Anybody could become a critic, but a rare few could be objective. A film review was the point of view of an individual. There were critics who judged a film by its maker's name. For instance, a Hrishikesh Mukherjee or a Gulzar film would get high ratings, while a Manmohan Desai film would be panned, merit and commercial success notwithstanding.

Logically as well as practically, a critic should be able to judge a film from the audience's point of view. Except the trade papers, no other critic had that capacity!

So what are the new film critics all about? Simply put: Money. There is also another breed, the ones who want to see themselves being acknowledged as critics! This kind gives all films reviews '5 Stars' and brings this to the notice of the PR concerned. The PR concerned, in turn, would use them to publicise the film! These are not really critics, nor do they belong to any publication.

It is all a scam, this business of film reviewing. It always has been.

One particular critic comes to mind. A former high-level government employee, he reviewed films for a major newspaper. When we came out of press screenings, a Hindi



media critic would explain everything to him, from what the title meant to what the film was all about! No wonder, sometimes, I enjoyed his conversation with the Hindi critic more than the film I had watched.

Then there was a Delhi-based critic. For a '5 Star' review the price was Rs 5 lakh for some actors; others got only four stars for the same amount.

The final blow came when the management of publications decided to hop on to the review business. No more the critic, the marketing department called the shots. The stars a film review earned was now commensurate with the ad budgets! The corporate houses running the film industry were easily convinced. Besides, the critics were no longer reviewing a film for their readers, the people; they were doing it to please the film-

maker or the star.

Earlier, a press screening for a film would be held in a limited capacity, say, 30 to 50 seats, preview theatre, now it needs a 200-to-400-seat multiplex screen, thanks to the digital media as well as to self proclaimed '5 Star' critics. Some of them literally seemed to be obsessed with the number of stars they would give a film, the rest invited to a press screening knew what was expected of them.

Looks like nobody trusted the moviegoer to judge a film, but sadly no critic ever decided for people and, among numerous others, the 1975 film 'Sholay' is the biggest example of this. The film was panned by all critics, but it went on to create a history.

international

'Putin will nominate his chosen heir this year rather than risk being toppled'

London | Agencies

Vladimir Putin will nominate his chosen successor this year rather than risk being toppled as the Russian President's popularity continues to plummet amid a series of military defeats in Ukraine, his former ally has claimed, the media reported.

Putin will seek to hand over power to a chosen heir and retire to his 1 billion pounds Black Sea 'palace' rather than risk the ignominious fate of toppled tyrants like Muammar Gaddafi, said Abbas Gallyamov, Putin's former speechwriter, Daily Mail reported.

The Russian leader will seek to give up power to a technocrat successor who could negotiate an end to the war with Ukraine and the West, and probably not fight the 2024 election, he told Khodorkovsky Live YouTube channel.

Gallyamov said the despot will likely nominate a 'trusted underling' as presi-



dent – like the Mayor of Moscow, Sergey Sobyanin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, or his deputy chief of staff Dmitry Kozak, Daily Mail reported.

Putin's circle no longer see him as a 'guarantor of stability' and are alarmed by the rise of Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the well-armed Wagner private army, which is so far loyal to the Kremlin but could turn on an elite seen as failing in

the war, Gallyamov said.

They fear being slaughtered with Prigozhin's sledgehammer -- the extra-judicial punishment given to his jail convict soldiers who refuse to fight or seek to defect to Ukraine, Daily Mail reported.

One of Prigozhin's former Wagner mercenaries, who changed sides in the Ukraine war, Yevgeny Nuzhin, 55, had his head taped to a brick wall and was beaten to death with a sledgehammer in November when he was captured by his former colleagues.

Prigozhin praised the defector's execution and said that a 'dog receives a dog's death' in response to the video of Nuzhin being bludgeoned to death.

Since Putin's war began, his allies like Prigozhin and Chechen warlord Ramzan Kadyrov have begun jockeying for power and prominence, suggesting that they could one day want to supplant him, Daily Mail reported.

Potential new unmarked graves found at Indigenous school in Canada

Ottawa | Agencies

More than 2,000 anomalies and a child's remains were found during radar search at the site of a former residential school for Indigenous members in Canada, local media reported. Star Blanket Cree Nation, a First Nations band in Saskatchewan, Canada, said it has located the anomalies after completing phase one of a ground-penetrating radar search at the site of the former Qu'Appelle Indian Residential School, operated from 1884 to 1998 in the village of Lebret, Saskatchewan, about 80 km northeast of Regina, Xinhua news agency quoted CTV News as saying in a report. The anomalies found have not been confirmed to be human remains and could be stones, soil or pieces of wood, however, a



jawbone fragment was discovered which was believed to be 125 years old from a child who was five or six years old at the time, the report said. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Thursday in a statement that he was 'profoundly saddened and disturbed' to learn of the findings. 'Residential schools are part of the historic and ongoing racism, discrimination, and injustice that Indigenous Peoples face. We all have a

SPACEX GEARS UP TO LAUNCH INTERNET SATELLITE SERVICE STARLINK IN S.KOREA

Seoul: Elon Musk-run SpaceX has applied for business registration with South Korean authorities to roll out its network of satellite internet service Starlink, sources said on Friday. SpaceX filed the request with the Ministry of Science and ICT earlier this month to launch Starlink in the country, according to the sources.

SpaceX is expected to set up a subsidiary here to qualify for registration, reports Yonhap news agency. Starlink uses a range of radio frequencies known as the 28 GHz band to provide high-speed broadband to remote and rural areas. It is not yet known whether the company will use the same range once it begins service. It might not apply for frequency and instead offer service using ground stations in China and Japan. Starlink said on its website it will start its internet service in the country sometime during the second quarter of this year. Musk-run affordable satellite internet service Starlink has reached 1 million active paid subscribers, which now includes private jets, cruises, boats and more.

Philippines rain, floods kill 17

Manila | Agencies

Heavy rain which have triggered floods and landslides in the Philippines since January 1 have killed 17 and affected over 500,000 people, a government disaster agency said on Friday. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said in a report that it has tallied 17 deaths in five regions from rains brought about by the combined effects of low-pressure areas, the northeast monsoon, and the shear line, reports Xinhua news agency.

The authorities were looking for two more missing people.

The weather has affected 13 regions, mainly in central and southern Philippines.

These areas have been grappling with flooding over the Christmas weekend that persisted after the New Year.

The agency said the disaster displaced more than 70,000 people who



were temporarily housed in over 120 evacuation centres.

An area in the southern Mindanao region and four areas in central Philippines were under a state of calamity.

In a statement released on Friday morning, the state weather bureau warned that a low-pressure area, now located 85 km east of Surigao del Sur province, will bring more rain in Bicol region and central and southern Philippines.

A SCAM CALLED FILM REVIEWS

Japan's plan to dump Fukushima radioactive water into sea to start this yr

Tokyo | Agencies

The Japanese government on Friday said a controversial plan to release radioactive wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean will start in the spring or summer.

The schedule of the plan was confirmed during a meeting of cabinet ministers at the Prime Minister's office earlier in the day, reports Xinhua news agency.

During the meeting, financial support for fishing communities which will suffer reputational damage when the radioactive water is dumped into seas where they fish, was endorsed, as stipulated by a revised policy on the disposal of the treated water.

Japan's fishing industry has vociferously made clear its ardent opposition to the plan, as it will almost certainly cause further damage to the industry's reputation in the already



maligned region. The government believes a new 50-billion-yen (\$388 million) fund

the toxic water in their fishing areas, will almost certainly be considered tainted, regardless of to what degree the toxic water is treated.

Under the plan, the water, which contains hard-to-remove radioactive tritium as a result of being used to cool down melted nuclear fuel at the stricken plant, will be discharged through an underwater tunnel into the Pacific Ocean after being treated.

The plant had its key cooling functions knocked out after being battered by a massive earthquake-triggered tsunami in 2011, resulting in the worst global nuclear crisis since Chernobyl in 1986.

The tainted water being stored in tanks at the plant is expected to soon reach capacity and the lengthy process of then dumping the radioactive water into the ocean is projected to take several decades.

Previously, the government had considered a number of alternatives to simply releasing the radioactive water into the Pacific.

SHARAD YADAV'S LAST RITES TO BE PERFORMED AT HIS ANCESTRAL VILLAGE IN MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The last rites of veteran socialist leader and former Union Minister Sharad Yadav will be performed at his ancestral village Ankmau in Madhya Pradesh's Narmadapuram district on Saturday. Sources said that mortal remains of former Janata Dal(U) president Yadav (75) will be brought to his ancestral village called Ankmau in Narmadapuram district, around 6 km from state capital Bhopal. The last rites will be performed around 3 p.m.

Political leaders from across the party lines condoled the demise of Yadav, and a large number of people and politicians are expected to visit Ankmau village to pay homage to the departed soul.

Expressing his condolence, senior advocate and Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha said Yadav's demise is a big loss for Mahakaushal division. Jabalpur district, where Yadav won his first general elections, falls under Mahakaushal division in Madhya Pradesh.

"Mahakaushal has suffered a great



loss due to the demise of Sharad Yadav. In the 70s, Sharad started the political transformation of Jabalpur and the country by providing leadership to the youth. Later, even though Jabalpur did not support him, Sharad

always fought for it. Be it the facility of air services or the establishment of Qutub Express for Delhi, the railway zone has always been in the interest of Jabalpur. Jabalpur and Mahakaushal have lost their well-

wisher and advocate," Tankha tweeted on Friday.

In his long political career, Yadav won Lok Sabha election seven times and was Rajya Sabha MP four times. Besides Jabalpur, he also won Lok Sabha polls from Badaun in Uttar Pradesh and Madhepura in Bihar, which was a rare achievement for any politician.

Madhya Pradesh Congress head and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath recalled Yadav saying the former Union Minister was his companion in public life. "Sharad Yadav's demise is an irreparable loss in the fight for social justice... I deeply condole his demise. May God give his soul a place in his holy feet and give strength to his family members to bear this loss," Nath said.

State BJP president and Khajuraho MP V. D. Sharma tweeted, "Received the sad news of the demise of senior socialist leader, former JD(U) President, former Union Minister Sharad Yadav."

He worked for the interests of the weaker sections throughout his life...RIP."

Vyapam Scam 'Whistleblower' Gets Bail In Criminal Case

Team Absolute | Bhopal | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to a medical practitioner, who also claimed to be a whistleblower in the sensational Vyapam scam, in a case of alleged violence during a protest in Madhya Pradesh.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha took note of the submissions made by senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Vivek Tankha that accused Anand Rai, an ophthalmologist, is in jail for the last 60 days in connection with a criminal case lodged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

"This man is an ophthalmologist. He says he is also the whistleblower in the Vyapam scam. The allegation is that he was part of a mob which attacked the (district) collector. How long will you keep him in jail?" the bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared in the matter on behalf of the Madhya Pradesh government. It also took note of the fact that the chargesheet has not been filed by police in the case and granted bail to Anand Rai, subject to the conditions to be imposed by the trial court. "To remove the impression, there were four-five FIRs against him prior to this so-called whistleblower blew



the whistle," Mehta said. Kapil Sibal, assisted by lawyer Sumeer Sodhi, said the accused was kept in solitary confinement during his judicial custody. The submission was refuted by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. The law officer said Anand Rai, being a government employee, was directed not to take part in such dharma as one of the bail conditions. Anand Rai was arrested on November 15, following the registration of an FIR. The trial court and the high court had dismissed his bail pleas. Vikas Pargi of Ratlam district in Madhya Pradesh had lodged a complaint against Rai and others in relation to a protest during which stones were allegedly pelted on a convoy of the local MP, a few MLAs and the collector, who had gone to attend events in the memory of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda.

VHP ALLEGES CONGRESS FOR DIVIDING COUNTRY THROUGH BHARAT JODO YATRA



Bhopal: Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) central joint general secretary Surendra Jain, on Friday, alleged Congress for dividing the country through Bharat Jodo Yatra. Jain, in a statement, said that people should remember that Congress has a heinous history of spreading hatred, dividing the society and causing massacres. Instead of blaming Hindu organisations, they should apologise for the great sins committed by the Congress to break the country.

Jain recalled that the Moplas, who killed 20,000 Hindus in Malabar, Kerala in 1920 due to the Khilafat movement, were not only promoted by the Congress, but declared them freedom fighters, even after 70 years of independence. Pensions were given to the families, the VHP leader added.

In 1948, it was this Congress that committed the heinous crime of attacking thousands of Chittavani Brahmins, brutally killing hundreds and burning many Sangh workers alive by making baseless and false allegations against the Sangh for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

It is a well-known fact that in the 1980s, the Congress was responsible for giving rise to the Khalistani terror that was responsible for the killing of more than 22,000 Hindus and the displacement of lakhs of Hindus. Evidence is now being found that in 1984 more than 20,000 innocent Sikhs were mercilessly murdered at the behest of the Congress. Congress has been doing the work of honouring the terrorists who mercilessly killed hundreds of Hindus and made lakhs of refugees in the Kashmir Valley, Jain added.

Even today, be it the "Tukde Tukde Gang" or the "Sar Tan Se Juda Karne Wale Gang" who spread hatred, they all work on the instigation of Congress leaders. How can lawyers associated with Congress stand with Love Jihadis and terrorists without asking the Congress leaders? VHP joint general secretary added.

MP to tax pet dog owners for "security, cleanliness"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Dog owners in Sagar city will soon be taxed, a first in the state, after over 40 councilors unanimously decided to do so for the "security and cleanliness" of the city residents.

Once framed by the Sagar Municipal Corporation, in consultation with legal experts, the new law will come into effect as early as April this year.

Sagar municipal commissioner Chandrashekhar Shukla backed the decision claiming a "rising stray dog menace" in the city.

"In the wake of rising stray dog menace and dirtying of public places by defecation of pet dogs, all the municipal wards of Sagar have unanimously resolved for strict registration, vaccination of dogs as well as levying tax on those owning the pet dogs," Shukla said.

Pet dog owners however feel that the tax is unjustified. Lavesh Chowdhary, who has a rottweiler, argued that the city



should provide dog owners with a space to relieve the dogs instead. "This is wrong. We keep dogs for safety. If the corporation wants us to pay tax for keeping dogs, they should give us a garden or space where we can relieve them."

Another resident who owns a labrador called the tax "ridiculous". "The owner keeps the dog in his house and gets it vaccinated. The municipal corporation should look after the stray animals. For those who are already domesticated, it's

unfair to ask for tax for them," Vinod Sen said.

In the general meeting of the Sagar Municipal Corporation, 48 councilors unanimously decided to impose the tax for "security and cleanliness".

Sagar Municipal corporation chairman Vrindavan Ahirwar said, "The councilors of the city unanimously decided to impose tax on dog owners. The tax is not a big thing for the municipal corporation but it's essential for the safety and health of the people."



People of the state celebrated Lohri with great zest & zeal. Shared the joy and warmth of the bonfire, dance and sing together, share stories and memories and created new memories together. On the occasion Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has extended greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Lohri, Makar-Sankranti, Pongal, Bhogali, Bihu and Paush.

ABVP AND NSUI STUDENTS CLASHES IN THE PREMISES JIWAJI UNIVERSITY

Team Absolute | Gwalior

The students of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and National Students Union of India (NSUI) clashed with each other on Friday in the premises of Jiwaji University, Gwalior. Students of both the organisations went to meet the vice chancellor of the university. The students had a face to face confrontation after which a fight broke out.

Four days ago the Vice Chancellor of Jiwaji University, Dr. Avinash Tiwari had unveiled the poster of ABVP. NSUI alleged that the Vice Chancellor is an ABVP worker. With this allegation, after giving prior information, the students of NSUI had reached the University to protest. Whereas, the matter was related to ABVP, they had already gathered



there. After this there was a fierce fight between the two groups.

NSUI activist Pawan Sharma said that they had come to give a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor and ABVP interrupted. It is clearly visible from this that the Vice Chancellor is the patron of ABVP. Our

them on the instructions of the vice chancellor. We reached to give a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor and ABVP interrupted. It is clearly visible from this that the Vice Chancellor is the patron of ABVP. Our

workers have been beaten up. But they will not sit quietly."

ABVP activist Manavta Sahu said that the language competition was being organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad. That's why all the people had come to the Vice-Chancellor's place. But at the same time the people of NSUI, who do not even belong to a university, came together and started fighting. They also had an argument with the girl students.

Regarding the matter, the university police station in-charge Manish Dhakad said that NSUI and ABVP student organisations had come for their respective demands, both had some objection and after that the dispute started. Both the parties have been released after making them understand.

On Thursday, the girl

4-yr-old girl molested by school bus driver in Narsinghpur

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A school bus driver in Madhya Pradesh's Narsinghpur district was arrested on Friday for allegedly sexually assaulting a four-year-old girl student, police said.

When the minor girl was coming out of her school on Wednesday, the accused stopped her at the gate and took her into a bathroom where he allegedly molested her. As per police, he also threatened the girl of dire consequences if she told anyone.

On Thursday, the girl



refused to go to school complaining about pain in her private parts. The frightened girl initially did not tell her parents anything, but then revealed the incident after she was convinced by her mother. She told her parents that "Sir had done a bad touch" with her, according to the police. Subsequently, parents reached the local police station and filed a complaint. A police team reached the school for investigation. Subsequently, the accused, associated with the school as a bus driver for the last few years, was identified by the victim. Additional Superintendent of Police, Narsinghpur, Sunil Shivhare told that the girl was sexually assaulted on when she was returning home. "During the investigation, the accused was identified by the victim and he has been arrested," he said, adding that charges under the Indian Penal Code and the POCSO Act have been slapped on him.

Team Absolute | Indore

50 copies of Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhism, were removed from Sindhi Temples and placed at Gurdwara in Indore. The incident took place after a group of Nihang Sikhs from Punjab took objection to the Holy Scripture being placed beside idols in the Temple. The copies of Guru Granth Sahib were shifted with full respect to Gurdwara Imli Sahib by members of the Sindhi community. The Gurdwara Managing Committee also gave a receipt of the same to the Sindhi community people.

Talking to the media, Prakash Rajdev and Naresh Fudwani, members of the Sindhi community said, "The group of Sikhs that came from Punjab said that you people are not maintaining the Guru's dignity. According to tradition, other deities and religious texts should not be kept together. After this, the Sindhi Saints held a meeting and decided to



return Sri Guru Granth Sahib. So far, 50 temples and darbars have returned Guru Granth Sahib and placed them back in the Gurdwara.

They also said that love and companionship between both the communities remain the same as before.

Guru Singh Sabha secretary Jasbir Singh Gandhi said, "The committee members had come to Indore and visited

several places where the 'Guru's maryada' was not being followed. They asked for support and time on the matter but some people came forward with the proposal of returning Guru Granth Sahib, which we have accepted."

He further added that even if now someone wants to keep Guru Granth Sahib but following the traditions then we are ready to return the Holy Scripture.

WOMAN RAPED ON PRETEXT OF MARRIAGE IN RATIBAD, ACCUSED BOOKED

Bhopal: The Ratibad police of Bhopal have registered a case against a man for raping a woman for two years on pretext of marriage, the police said on Friday. Ratibad police station-in-charge, Manu Dave said that the survivor is a 35-year-old divorced woman, who had parted ways with her husband around eight years ago. She came in contact with a man named Kamlesh Sharma two years ago.

Sharma used to visit her at her house frequently and violated her for the first time on March 15, 2021. When the survivor protested, the accused promised to marry her and kept outraging the modesty for two years. Whenever the survivor used to ask him to marry her, he used to avoid the topic.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266
Branch Office- G Corporation Tech Park, Kasarvadavali, Ghodbunder Road, Thane -400607 (MH)

DEMAND NOTICE

(under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE BORROWER AS MENTIONED BELOW THAT SINCE 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 SECURITIZATION 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 ABHFL, their loan accounts have been classified as "Non-Performing Assets" in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereeto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereupon 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).

Sl. No Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No. NPA Date Date of Demand Notice Amount due as per Demand Notice / on Date

1. NARENDRA SINGH THAKUR, Plot No. C-47, Gram Sinhasa, Tehsil Anhant Nagar, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 453112. 2. RAMFTI RAI Plot No. C-47, Gram Sinhasa, Tehsil Anhant Nagar, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 453112. 3. NARENDRA SINGH THAKUR 148, Dhar Road, Jawahar Tekri Sihasa, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452002. 4. RAMFTI RAI 148, Dhar Road, Jawahar Tekri Sihasa, Sirpur B.O. Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452002. 5. NARENDRA SINGH THAKUR, G-1 Panama Tower 75 Manoram Ganj (Kanchan Bagh) Near Hotel Crown Palace, Indore, 452001.

Loan Account No. LNIND00HL-06190051238

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All that piece and parcel of plot no. C-47 admeasuring 800 Sq. Ft. situated at Arinhat Nagar, Gram Sinhasa Teh. & Dist. Indore, M.P. And Bounded As: North: Plot No. 46 Block C South: Plot No. 48 Block C East: Plot No. 30 Block C West: Colony Road.

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s) together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto failing which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at your risk as to the cost and consequences.

Please note that as per section 13(3) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforementioned secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard.

Please note that as per sub-section (8) of the SARFAESI Act or if the dues of ABHFL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 14.01.2023 Place: INDORE

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

TAYLOR SWIFT SHOCKS FANS

The singer performs Anti-Hero for the FIRST time during surprise appearance at The 1975 gig in London

Los Angeles | Agencies

Taylor Swift shocked fans as she performed chart-topper Anti-Hero for the first time during a surprise appearance at The 1975's London gig on Wednesday.

The singer, 33, showed off her polished vocals while clad in a glittering mirror dress during an acoustic performance of the track at the city's O2 Arena.

Swift walked onstage during the band's set to perform and also covered their 2013 song, The City.

Healy, 33, previously revealed the band worked with Swift on her latest album Midnights, but their tracks didn't make the cut.

He told KROQ's Klein/Ally Show for Audacy's DTS Sound Space: "We actually worked a bit on that but then the version of it never came out."

The star was then booed and he responded: "That's not how it works. It was for reasons that are not to be criticized. She's amazing."

Swift and The 1975 have been friends for years, with the songwriter spotted at their concerts and sharing producer Jack Antonoff.

Back in 2015, Healy was forced to deny the pair were dating after it was revealed they had exchanged numbers.

"It's fake. It's all bloody fake. It's a farce!" he said with animation. "Yeah, we met each other, we exchanged numbers in the same way that a lot of people in this kind of world do and we spoke occasionally," he told the pair before stomping on the dreams of hopeful fans.



Kanye West 'ties the knot with Yeezy designer in private ceremony'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kanye West has 'married' Yeezy architect Bianca Censori two months after his divorce from Kim Kardashian was finalised. The rapper, 45, is said to have held a private ceremony with Bianca and the pair have been spotted wearing wedding rings. According to Daily Mail, Kanye was first pictured wearing his band last week, with sources saying the ring symbolises his commitment to her following the ceremony.

Despite the wedding ceremony, the union isn't legal because the pair do not appear to have filed a marriage certificate, TMZ reports.

It's not clear how long they have known each other or how long they had been dating, but Bianca joined Kanye's Yeezy company in November 2020.

She is listed as Head of Architecture and secured the position after obtaining a Master's in building design at Melbourne University in Australia.



Ashley Tisdale suffers from alopecia

Matt Reeves to meet James Gunn, ensure BatVerse, DC Universe 'don't crash' together

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Matt Reeves confirmed in an interview that he has an upcoming meeting with new DC Studio bosses James Gunn and Peter Safran to go over their overhauled DC Universe and his ongoing BatVerse.

He told Collider that the goal is to ensure that both universes "don't crash into each other" in terms of storytelling. As Reeves put it, "We want to support each other," reports Variety.

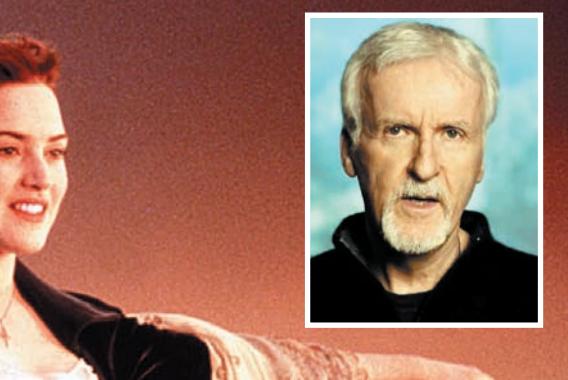
Reeves' BatVerse kicked off last year with his Robert Pattinson-starring "The Batman," which earned critical acclaim and grossed \$770 million at the worldwide box office. The universe will continue with a Colin Farrell-starring Penguin series on HBO Max and a

DiCaprio's arm, reports Variety. "He didn't want to do a leading man," Cameron said. "I had to really twist his arm to be in the movie. He didn't want to do it."

He thought it was boring. (He) accepted the part only when I convinced him that it was actually a difficult challenge."

As revealed to GQ magazine earlier this year, Cameron and DiCaprio hit another speed bump on the road to "Titanic" when DiCaprio refused to screen test for the movie. Kate Winslet had already landed the role of Rose, and Cameron wanted DiCaprio to screen test with her before officially giving him the role of Jack.

"I had the camera set up to record the video," Cameron said. "Leo didn't know he was going to test. He



Leonardo DiCaprio thought 'Titanic' was 'boring': James Cameron

thought it was another meeting to meet Kate.

So I said, "Okay, we'll just go in the next room, and we'll run some lines and I'll video it." And he said, "You mean, I'm reading?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Oh, I don't read." I shook his hand and said, "Thanks for coming by."

Cameron was ready to turn away DiCaprio, but the actor came back to him and said, "Wait, wait, wait. If I don't read, I don't get the part? Just like that?" Cameron responded, "Oh, yeah. Come on."

"This is a giant movie that is going to take two years of my life, and you'll be gone doing five other things while I'm doing post-production. So, I'm not going to fuck it up by making the wrong decision in casting. So, you're going to read, or you're not going to get the part." DiCaprio eventually did a screen test and the rest is history.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Ashley Tisdale has been losing patches of hair because of autoimmune disease alopecia. The 'High School Musical' actress has found over the years that her hair starts falling when the autoimmune condition flares up during times of stress, most recently when moving house and starting a new job, reports femalefirst.co.uk. She wrote on Instagram: "Alopecia and hair loss are fairly common, but a lot of people feel embarrassed to talk about these issues. Any type of hair loss can affect your self-esteem, especially if you feel like you're the only one going through it." "That's why I want to talk about it openly, because it's nothing to be ashamed of." "Sometimes it's connected to hormones, other times to heredity, and for me, it's connected to stress overload. Today on @frenshe I'm sharing what I've learned about my alopecia and how I help manage it." On the website for her Frenshe skincare, the 37-year-old star who has 21-month-old daughter Jupiter with husband Christopher French, went into more detail about what had happened a few months ago. She explained: "A couple of months ago, while simultaneously moving, starting a home renovation, and kicking off a TV project, I noticed that a patch of my hair was starting to fall out." "Nothing major - just a small section behind my ear - but still, it was happening, and not for the first time. A few years ago, the same thing happened when I was overly stressed, so I knew exactly what I was experiencing: alopecia." Tisdale finds her hair eventually grows back and she tries to tackle it with yoga, meditation and therapy.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY




THE BEST FIFA FOOTBALL AWARDS

MESSI AND MBAPPE NOMINATED, RONALDO MISSES OUT

Zurich | Agencies

World Cup finalists Lionel Messi (Argentina) and Kylian Mbappe (France) have been nominated for FIFA's Best awards while Cristiano Ronaldo is a notable omission from the list.

The list of candidates for the 2022 award has been released by FIFA on Thursday night where Messi and Mbappe feature alongside Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema and Neymar in the Best FIFA Men's Player category.

Julian Alvarez also joined teammate Messi among the nominees in the 14-member list. Alvarez, playing his first World Cup, scored four goals while skipper Messi topped the scoring charts for his country with seven goals in Argentina's first World Cup triumph in 36 years.

Real Madrid's Carlo Ancelotti, France's Didier Deschamps and Argentina's World Cup-winning manager Lionel Scaloni are nominated for best Men's Coach. Morocco's Walid Regragui also features on the shortlist after his side became the first African nation to reach a World Cup semifinal.



England's Leah Williamson, Beth Mead and Keira Walsh are nominated in the Women's Best Player category. Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez and Champions League winner Thibaut Courtois are among the five nominees for The Best Men's Goalkeeper.

Mbappe's late equaliser and Alessia Russo's goal in England's Euro 2022 semifinal win over

Sweden are among the 12-goal list of nominees for the FIFA Pusk's Award for best goal of the year.

Two expert panels - one for women's football and one for men's football - selected the candidates for the players', goalkeepers' and coaches' categories.

The three finalists in each of the seven categories will be announced by FIFA in early February 2023.

THE BEST FIFA WOMEN'S PLAYER:

Aitana Bonmatí (Spain / FC Barcelona)
Debinha (Brazil / North Carolina Courage)
Jessie Fleming (Canada / Chelsea FC Women)
Ada Hegerberg (Norway / Olympique Lyonnais)
Sam Kerr (Australia / Chelsea FC Women)
Beth Mead (England / Arsenal WFC)
Vivianne Miedema (Netherlands / Arsenal WFC)
Alex Morgan (USA / Orlando Pride / San Diego Wave)
Lena Oberdorf (Germany / VfL Wolfsburg)
Alexandra Popp (Germany / VfL Wolfsburg)
Alexia Putellas (Spain / FC Barcelona)
Wendie Renard (France / Olympique Lyonnais)
Keira Walsh (England / Manchester City WFC / FC Barcelona)
Leah Williamson (England / Arsenal WFC)

THE BEST FIFA MEN'S PLAYER:

Julien Alvarez (Argentina / River Plate / Manchester City FC)
Jude Bellingham (England / BV Borussia 09 Dortmund)
Karim Benzema (France / Real Madrid CF)
Kevin De Bruyne (Belgium / Manchester City FC)
Erling Haaland (Norway / BV Borussia 09 Dortmund / Manchester City FC)
Achraf Hakimi (Morocco / Paris Saint-Germain)
Robert Lewandowski (Poland / FC Bayern München / FC Barcelona)
Sadio Mane (Senegal / Liverpool FC / FC Bayern München)
Kylian Mbappé (France / Paris Saint-Germain)
Lionel Messi (Argentina / Paris Saint-Germain)
Luka Modrić (Croatia / Real Madrid CF)
Neymar (Brazil / Paris Saint-Germain)
Mohamed Salah (Egypt / Liverpool FC)
Vinicius Junior (Brazil / Real Madrid CF)

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

India begin campaign with 2-0 win over Spain

Rourkela | Agencies

The Indian hockey team began their FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 campaign with an impressive 2-0 win over Spain 2-0 in their opening Pool D match of the tournament at the Birsia Munda Hockey Stadium, here on Friday.

Amit Rohidas (13') scored India's opener in the first quarter while Hardik Singh (27') netted India's second goal. The win takes India up to the second place in Pool D standings behind England, who beat Wales 5-0 in the other Pool fixture earlier in the day.

Both teams started the match on equal footing and the first 10 minutes ebbed and flowed with the two teams dominating phases of the game. However, the final few minutes of the first quarter saw India take control and capitalise with an all-important first goal.

It was also India's



about snuffed on the line by Adrian Rafi. India came close to scoring a third on several occasions in the third quarter, including from two Harmanpreet PCs, but the scoreline remained 2-0 heading into the final quarter.

India were dealt a blow early in the final quarter after Abhishek was shown a yellow card. The 10 minute suspension reduced India to 10-men and allowed Spain some leeway.

However, the Indian team defended diligently to see the match off. India will play England next on Sunday.

Spanish Super Cup final

BARCA BEAT BETIS ON PENALTIES TO SET UP 'CLASICO'

Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) | Agencies

FC Barcelona will play arch-rivals Real Madrid in the final of the Spanish Super Cup on Sunday after beating Real Betis on penalties.

The two sides ended 2-2 after 120 minutes before Marc-André ter Stegen saved from William Carvalho and Juanmi in the shootout to see Barca through, but just as Valencia made Real Madrid suffer on Wednesday night, Betis pushed Barca to the limit.

Barca began in control on Thursday with Betis struggling to get a touch of the ball, and it was no surprise when Pedri had the ball in the net in the 23rd minute after an excellent curling ball from Raphinha.

Pedri timed his run perfectly between the defenders, but VAR intervened and it was ruled out for a tight offside from Raphinha before his cross. The goal woke Betis up and they began to create better chances, with Sergio Canales' shot from outside the area deflected out for a corner. German Pezzella



got a powerful header on the corner but was denied by a low reflex save from Ter Stegen.

Sergi Roberto was Barca's next saviour, just clearing ahead of Rodri as Luiz Henrique's low cross deflected across the goal.

Robert Lewandowski put Barca ahead in the 40th minute after Pedri had set Ousmane Dembele clear down the left. Dembele rode one challenge and squared to Lewandowski, and although his first shot was blocked, the ball fell for him to score from a narrow-angle.

Ter Stegen was in action again before the break, saving from Rodri and then getting down to frustrate Henrique, whose low effort looked bound for the bottom corner.

After the break, Betis took control of midfield, despite Sergio Busquets coming on to make his 700th appearance.

ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL 2

Kwon shocks Draper to book final berth

Adelaide | Agencies

South Korea's Soonwoo Kwon delivered a high-quality display of baseline hitting on Friday at the Adelaide International 2 to clinch a spot in the championship match with a 7-6(6), 6-7(2), 6-3 semi-final victory against Britain's Jack Draper, here.

Kwon awaits home favourite and 2022 Adelaide International 2 champion Thanasi Kokkinakis or fourth seed Roberto Bautista Agut in Saturday's championship match.

Aiming to add to the title he collected in Astana in 2021, Kwon entered the Adelaide International 2 main draw as a lucky loser

and has capitalised superbly. After victory over Tomas Machac in the first round, the South Korean defeated Pablo Carreno Busta and Mikael Ymer to reach the final four. For Kwon this was a reversal of last week's result where Draper beat him convincingly 6-2, 6-1 on the same court, and it earned him a spot in his second career ATP final, having previously won the Astana Open in Kazakhstan in 2021.

KASATKINA, BENCIC ADVANCE TO FINAL VIA WALKOVERS

Adelaide: Daria Kasatkina and Belinda Bencic will square off for the Adelaide International 2 title on Saturday after both the players advanced via walkover in the semifinals. No.9 seed Paula Badosa withdrew from her match against Kasatkina due to a right thigh injury, and No.6 seed Veronika Kudermetova pulled out ahead of her clash with Bencic due to a left hip injury on Friday. The rivalry between Kasatkina and Bencic goes back to their junior days. At the pro level, Kasatkina leads the head-to-head 3-2, including their most recent meeting 6-2, 6-2 in the second round of Roland Garros 2021. However, Bencic was the victor in their only previous outdoor hardcourt encounter -- also in Adelaide, when she won 6-4, 6-4 in the 2020 first round and went on to reach the final.



Malaysia Open: Prannoy loses to Kodai Naraoka, bows out in quarterfinals

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

India's No. 1 shuttler H.S. Prannoy on Friday bowed out of the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament after suffering a quarterfinal loss at the hands of Kodai Naraoka of Japan.

Playing on court 2, World No. 8 Prannoy lost 16-21, 21-19, 10-21 to Naraoka here at the Axia Arena. The unseeded Japanese will square off with No. 8 seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand for a spot in the last four.

Naraoka started the proceedings on a high note and took an early advantage with five back-to-back points. The Indian badminton player got his way back into the game and levelled it at 7-7. The Japanese shuttler maintained a



slender lead throughout the game and in the end, comfortably pocketed the first game. The second game witnessed an intense contest between both the

players but it was the Indian who eventually emerged as the victor of the battle and took the match into a decider. Naraoka completely dominated the final game and hardly gave Prannoy a chance to claw his way back in and finally wrapped up the match in 84 minutes of play. Heading into the match, the Japanese shuttler was leading 2-0 in the head-to-head stats against Parthiv, having won both their meetings last year - Singapore Open and then at the World Tour Finals. Later in the day, world championships bronze medallists men's pair Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, ranked fifth in the world, will take on the Chinese pair of Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi in the men's doubles quarterfinals.

Rashid Khan threatens to quit BBL after Australia pull out of Afghanistan ODI series

Canberra | Agencies

Afghanistan's top spinner Rashid Khan is likely to withdraw from the Big Bash League, the franchise-based domestic T20 league after Cricket Australia decided to pull out of an ODI series with his country in March this year. Rashid Khan has threatened to quit playing in the BBL, highlighting Afghanistan's furious response, said he would be "strongly considering my future in that competition" after Australia refused to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Australia decided to withdraw from the ODI series after Afghanistan's Taliban government banned women and girls' education and employment in Afghanistan. Cricket Australia stated the decision to opt out of the tour was made in consultation with the Australian government and other stakeholders. Afghanistan is the only ICC full-member nation without a women's team and will be the

only full-member without a side at the inaugural Women's U19 T20 World Cup starting on Saturday.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) announced that it will take up the matter with the International Cricket Council. In response, Rashid Khan expressed his disappointment over CA's decision.

"If playing vs Afghanistan is so uncomfortable for Australia, then I wouldn't want to make anyone uncomfortable with my presence in the BBL. Therefore, I will be strongly considering my future in that competition."

A DIFFERENT ROLE HELPS ME UNDERSTAND MY GAME A LITTLE BETTER: RAHUL

Kolkata | Agencies

Kolkata: After taking India to a tense four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka through a match-winning unbeaten 64, K.L. Rahul stated that the dual role of keeping wickets and batting at No. 5 in the ODIs has helped him understand his game a little better.

Chasing 216, India were in a precarious situation at 86/4. That's when Rahul came in and stepped up in an under-pressure situation to take India over the line to secure an unsailable 2-0 series lead. In his 64 not out at Kolkata, Rahul played out 60 dot balls and hit six fours, while taking 34 singles and three twos. It was a knock in which Rahul had to be cautious and then open up with a calm head to chase down the target with 40 balls to spare.



Benoni (South Africa) | Agencies

After 14 editions of Men's U-19 World Cup, January 14, 2023 will finally see a Women's U-19 World Cup come into existence albeit in the T20 format, giving a chance to the future stars of women's cricket to shine on a global platform. The 16-team event, comprising 41 matches played across four venues in Benoni and Potchefstroom, was supposed to be held in 2021. But the event was pushed back to 2023 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and now, as time stands, the U19 Women's T20 World Cup is finally turning into reality. From four teams in Groups A, B, C, and D, top three teams from each group will progress to the

Super Six round, where teams will be pooled into two groups of six 1 and 2. The top two teams from each group will then progress to the semi-finals, which will be played on January 27 at JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom. The final will take place at the same venue on January 29. For India, it is a chance for Shafali Verma & Co to announce themselves on the biggest global stage for young female cricketers. Co-incidentally, India's first appearance in the final of a Women's World Cup came in South Africa 18 years ago in the 2005 ODI World

U19 T20 Women's WC

India's future stars finally get a chance to shine on a global platform

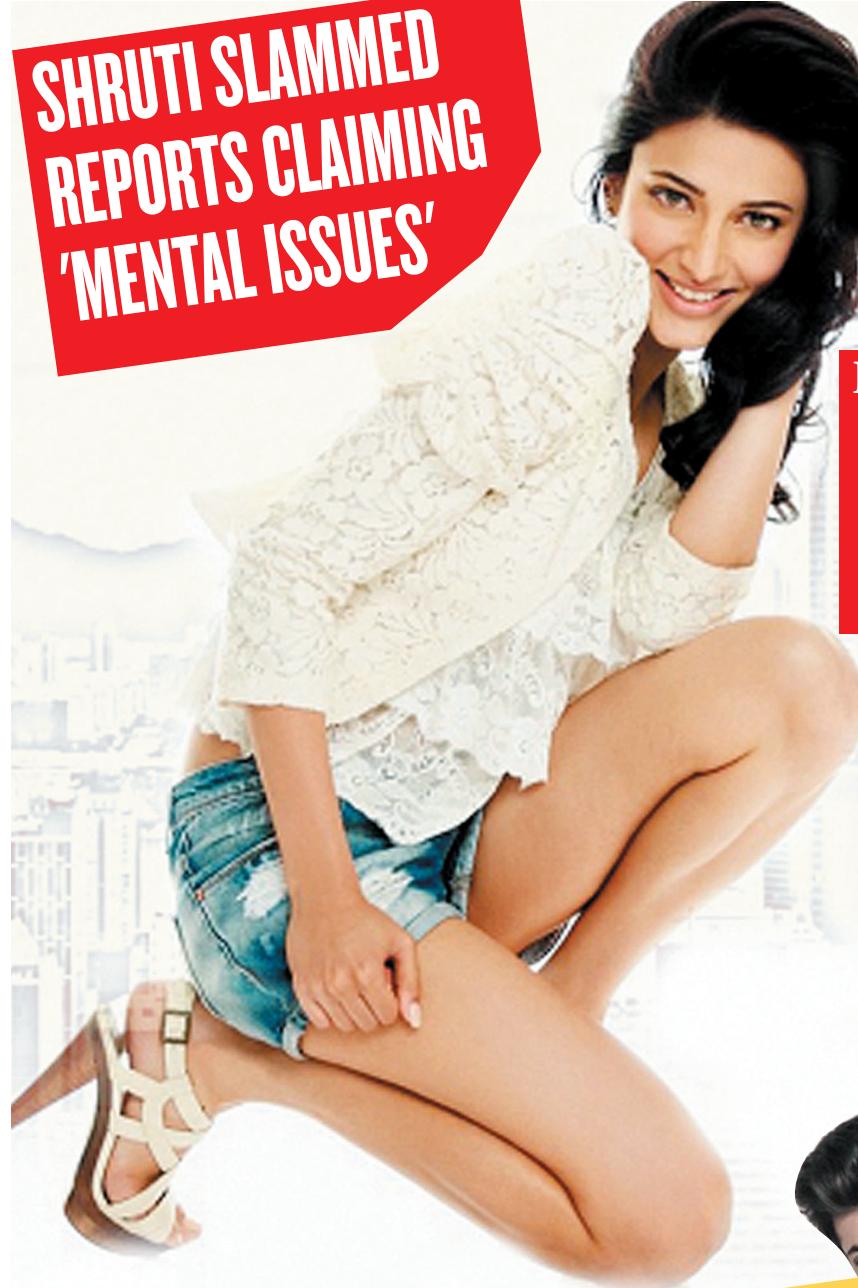
Cup final. There are strong reasons behind India being seen as favourites to lift the inaugural U19 Women's T20 World Cup trophy. In the lead-up to the tournament, the inter-state Under-19 T20 Trophy and four team U-19 Challengers Trophy were held by the BCCI. Apart from Shafali and Richa, who have made heads turn with their scintillating performances at the senior level, one can expect great performances from batters Shweta Sehrawat and Soumya Tiwari, all-rounders G Trisha, Hurley Gala, and Sonia Mehdya, as well as wicketkeeper-batter Hrishita Basu. In the bowling department, one can expect wonders from off-spinner Archana Devi, leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra, left-arm spinners Sonam Yadav and Mannat Kashyap, and right-arm pacers Shabnam MD, Falak Naz, and Titas Sadhu.

Overall, India looks like a well-rounded unit and have a very promising pool of players in their squad. They look very strong and one wouldn't be surprised if they win the first global women's cricket trophy by an Indian team.

India Squad: Shafali Verma (Captain), Shweta Sehrawat (Vice-Captain), Richa Ghosh (WK), G Trisha, Soumya Tiwari, Sonia Mehdya, Hurley Gala, Hrishita Basu (WK), Sonam Yadav, Mannat Kashyap, Archana Devi, Parshavi Chopra, Titas Sadhu, Falak Naz, Shabnam MD.



SHRUTI SLAMMED REPORTS CLAIMING 'MENTAL ISSUES'



Missed event due to viral fever

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shruti Haasan has slammed a report claiming that she missed the 'Waltair Veerayya' event due to "mental issues".

Directed by K. S. Ravindra, the film stars Shruti with Chiranjeevi, Ravi Teja and Catherine Tresa.

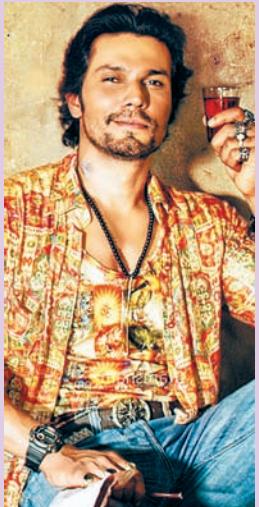
The daughter of actor-politician Kamal Haasan shared that she had viral fever, due to which she skipped the event.

Sharing screenshots on social media of several media reports which claimed Shruti Haasan has "mental problems" and is undergoing treatment, she wrote: "Ok so here's the thing, misinformation like this and the over dramatisation or flippant handling of such subjects is what makes people afraid to talk about mental health. Guess what? It doesn't work."

"I will always be a mental health advocate. I will always promote taking care of myself in all aspects. Oh and I had a viral fever so nice try get over yourselves and while you are at it please talk to a therapist. No really, please do," she added.

"Waltair Veerayya" is set to release on January 13. The Telugu original and the dubbed Hindi version will be out on the same day.

RANDEEP HOODA FAINTS WHILE HORSE RIDING, MAY REQUIRE SURGERY



Abhishek Nigam to replace Sheezan Khan as Ali Baba

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Hero Gayab Mode On' actor Abhishek Nigam is all set to replace Sheezan Khan in the show 'Ali Baba: Dastaan-e-Kabul'. He will start shooting from next week for the role of Alibaba which was played by Sheezan. However, no official announcement has been made. A source close to the show said: "Abhishek has been roped in for the role of Ali Baba and he will be starting shooting for the show from next week." The makers and the casting team have not given any confirmation on how they are going to introduce Abhishek in the show.

As far as Tunisha's replacement is concerned nothing is yet finalised: "We are thinking of removing her character Mariam from the show for the time being until we get a new face," the source added.



No new face for Tunisha's character

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Randeep Hooda was reportedly hospitalised at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai for treatment after he fainted while riding a horse and got severely injured.

The actor was injured in the incident that occurred few days back and rushed to the hospital immediately; he has been advised complete bed rest for now.

Last year, Randeep suffered an injury while shooting an action sequence for 'Radhe' with Salman Khan for which the Highway actor had to undergo knee surgery on his right leg. The surgery happened during the shoot of his series 'Inspector Avinash'.

Randeep had also posted pictures from the hospital to keep his fans updated with his health developments.

Now, the actor was drastically losing weight for 'Savarkar' for a long time. While during the promotions of his recently released Netflix original 'CAT' which garnered him a lot of praise, the actor went easy on his diet. As soon as he was back on the sets of 'Savarkar', to fit in the role of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, he went back to follow a strict and maintained diet.

As he has lost 22 kg for his role, there is hardly any muscle left around his knee due to which the fall had a major impact on his knee and leg. The actor injured his left leg which may require surgery.

Don't have that equation with parents that we'd discuss sex: Sumeet Vyas

Team Absolute | Mumbai



English Vinglish' actor Sumeet Vyas revealed why he decided to do the film 'Chhatriwali' which focuses on male contraceptives and safe sex. He said that people including him are reluctant to talk about sex education. He revealed why he said yes to this project: "It was one of the most exciting and lovely scripts. It also deals with a sensitive topic but still maintains grace. 'Chhatriwali' is funny and entertaining, that's very hard to achieve." It talks about a subject which is sensitive in some cases and a taboo. With today's age and time, it is very important to speak about safe sex education and the repercussions."

The actor also featured in web series 'Permanent Roommates', 'Jugaadistan', and worked in movies like 'Aurangzeb', 'Oye Teri', 'Veere Di Wedding', among others. He also appeared on the small screen and was seen in 'Kasam Se', 'Chandragupta Murya' and many more.

He added that sex is a topic which he has seen since school days, something that people are not so keen to share or discuss. Sumeet said that even he is not that open to talking about sex and all with his parents. "While growing up, in our schools and homes, it was not a topic that was widely discussed. In fact, it was not discussed at all. Even today I don't think I have that equation with my parents where I could discuss sex and everything."

Of course, safe sex is something they wouldn't discourage me from but this is just a regular middle class household where I grew up and we weren't so liberated when we talk about sex," he concluded.

Produced by Ronnie Screwvala and directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar, 'Chhatriwali' features Rakul Preet Singh and Sumeet Vyas. It will be released soon on ZEE5

I WAS VERY EXCITED, TO IMPERSONATE, TURBAN-CLAD SARDAR: SHRADDA ARYA

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Kundali 'Bhagya' actress Shraddha Arya talked about the entire sequence for which she will be donning the look of a sardar in the show and she also added that it was quite challenging to get into the look. She shared: "Kundali Bhagya" has been a challenging show for me since the start, and there's no doubt that I'm enjoying every bit of it and learning a lot. When I got to know that Anjum Fakhri and I will be impersonating as turban-clad sardars, I was very excited." In the recent episodes, Preeta (Shraddha Arya) and Srishhti (Anjum Fakhri) decided to disguise themselves as sardars so that they can enter Arjun's (Shakti Arora) house and find out his real identity. The actress, who worked in TV shows such as 'Main Lakshmi Tere Aangan Ki', 'Tumhari Paakhi' and 'Dream Girl' shared further about the challenges they faced while getting into the look of Sikh men. "In fact, initially, it was a little difficult and uncomfortable for me to act wearing a turban and stick on a fake beard and moustache for so many hours, but I must say it was a very different experience altogether. But I am sure we also looked really delightful in this disguise," she concluded.



Lakadbaggha : dazed with lazy execution

FILM REVIEW

BY AAKRUTI BAGLA

Directed by: Victor Mukherjee
Cast: Anshuman Jha, Ridhi Dogra, Paresh Pahuja, Eksha Kerung and Milind Soman
Duration: 128 minutes
Ratings: 2/5

Story: The film revolves around an animal loving vigilante Arjun Bakshi, who learns from his father to fight for those who don't have a voice - the animals, especially dogs. He is a delivery boy and martial art trainer by profession. In pursuit of searching for his indie dog shonku, he finds out several dogs going missing and uncovers the illegal animal trade industry at Kolkata port. Arjun does not shy away from breaking bones of those who trouble animals. Due to which, crime branch and police forces are in search of him. On investigating he chances upon a rare species of the Indian Striped Hyena (Lakadbaggha). Will Arjun be nabbed by the police? What tactics will he use to protect the animals? The answer to these questions lies in the films.

Review: Lakadbaggha begins on a promising note with Arjun Bakshi showing his action chops towards those ridiculing stray dogs. It then shows his daily life routine, search for shonku, to police in search of him, falling in love with Akshara D'souza, and encountering a hyena



to then unearthing the illegal activity. Well, reading this one might think that the film has a lot to offer in the 128 minutes. But, as it progresses it turns out to be a tepid fare. Initially it does touch a nerve and your heart lurches as you see the poachers greedily and heartlessly attack these creatures.

The wafer-thin plot gives no scope to director to chalk out an interesting narrative. The audiences need entertainment along with enlightenment and that's where this film falters. The background story of vigilante hiding

his face and crime branch being behind him is not explained well. Instead, time is dedicated twice to point out the past of illegal activist (Paresh Pahuja).

The screenplay turns out to be stretched with various unnecessary elements and repetitive dialogues. The build-up overall appeared staged and unconvincing.

The cinematography of Jungle has nothing new to offer. The action sequences are astutely choreographed but they lack gravity. Lacking songs, the backgrounds is in

sync with the theme.

When it comes to performances, Anshuman Jha fails to pack a punch. Milind Soman is sincere, in a special appearance. Ridhi Dogra fails to make a striking Bollywood debut as her character is poorly written. Newbie Eksha Kerung too suffers a similar fate. While Paresh Pahuja played his part well as there was not much that his character could offer.

Overall, Anshuman Jha's action adventure has the right intention, but much is lost between intent and execution.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Deepika Padukone