

# absolute india

VOL. 10, ISSUE 348, MUMBAI | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

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Denied ticket, BJP MLA floats new party to contest in 40 Assembly seats in MP

## THE SPOILER/GAINER...!

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After failing to get a ticket for himself from his own Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or the Congress, four-time MLA from Maihar seat Narayan Tripathi has decided to contest next month's Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections on his own party.

He has floated the Vindhya Janta Party (VJP) to contest the elections.

Tripathi, who has won the Maihar seat twice on BJP ticket and once each on Congress and Samajwadi Party tickets and has been demanding a separate Vindhya region, which comprises as many as 30 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, released the first list of 25 VJP candidates in Bhopal on Friday.

Out of these 25 seats, at least 19 are part of the Vindhya region, which is also Tripathi's home turf.

Out of these 25, 18 seats were won by the ruling BJP in the 2018 Assembly polls.

The 25 VJP candidates, include local leaders of both the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress, who failed to get tickets from their respective parties to contest the November 17 polls.

Tripathi himself is contesting polls from his old seat in the newly-created Maihar district for the



sixth time. Only once (in 2008) has Tripathi lost from Maihar seat, which has a predominantly decisive Brahmin population. He had won the seat for the first time as a SP candidate in 2003, but lost in 2008 to the BJP. He wrested the seat from the BJP on Congress ticket in 2013, but quit the Congress two and half years later, to win the 2016 by-election as a BJP candidate.

He retained the seat on a BJP ticket in 2018 polls also, but quit the party after denial of ticket recently. His efforts to get Congress ticket too turned futile, leaving him with no other option, but to contest himself.

Among the other 24 candidates named in the newly created party's first list, at least two candidates were associated with the BJP, including Hari Om Gupta, a distant relative of ex-MP minister and senior BJP leader Umashankar Gupta, from Satna seat and Phoolmati Devi from Jaisingh Nagar-ST seat of Shahdol district. Phoolmati is the BJP-supported Shahdol district panchayat Vice-Chairperson, who quit the BJP recently.

Also, in Deotalab seat of newly-created Maunanj district, the VJP has decided to field Kunj Bihari Tiwari, the husband of Congress-backed Nai Garhi Janpad Panchayat chairperson. The seat is already witnessing a high-profile battle between the third time BJP MLA and current Speaker Girish Gautam pitted against his nephew Padmesh Gautam of the Congress.

"We will field at least 40 candidates, all for the cause of a separate Vindhya Pradesh. No matter whether we win or lose, or who loses or wins due to our presence in the contest, all we know is that these candidates will be the voice for a separate Vindhya Pradesh," Tripathi told the press.

## RBI fixes price for premature redemption of Sovereign Gold Bonds

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The RBI on Friday announced a price of Rs 6,079 per unit for the premature redemption of sovereign gold bonds issued by the government.

The price is based on the simple average of closing gold price of 999 purity of previous three business days from the date of redemption as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd (IBJA).

"Accordingly, the redemption price for premature redemption due on October 30, 2023 shall be Rs 6,079 (Rupees Six thousand seventy-nine only) per unit of SGB based on the simple average of closing gold price for three business days i.e., October 25-27, 2023," the RBI said.

Under the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme, premature redemption of Gold Bond may be permitted after the



fifth year from the date of issue of such Gold Bond on the date on which interest is payable. These bonds were issued October 30, 2017.

Accordingly, the next due date of premature redemption of the above tranche is October 30, 2023, the RBI statement said.

## Elite Israeli Naval unit destroys Hamas naval commando unit

Tel Aviv | Agencies

The elite naval unit of Israel, Shayetet 13, has carried out a targeted attack from the sea destroying a Hamas naval commando unit, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement on Friday.

The IDF said that additional troops were involved in the attack by Shayetet 13.

Shayetet 13 is a specialised unit of the Israel Navy primarily involved in missions to counter acts of terrorism. It's also invoked in gathering maritime intelligence and rescuing hostages at sea.



The IDF also informed that its infantry, engineering and armoured forces

entered the central Gaza strip on Thursday night and struck several Hamas targets, including anti tank missile launchers.

## ETHNIC VIOLENCE HIT MANIPUR NOW BATTLING AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Imphal | Agencies

Even as Manipur continues to deal with the devastating ethnic crisis six months after it began, there has been an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) that has killed hundreds of pigs, dealing a major blow to farmers in seven districts in the northeastern state.

The Manipur Veterinary and Animal Husbandry (VAH) department has stepped up measures to combat the ASF as the contagious disease has been reported from pig farms in at least seven districts -- Imphal West, Imphal East, Ukhrul, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Kakching and Kamjong.

The VAH department officials on Friday said that the latest outbreak of ASF has been confirmed at five piggery farms located at Lilong Chajing Mamang Leikei, Konthoujam Maning Leikai, Loitang Khunou, Luker and Sairemkhul in Imphal West district. A notification issued by the Deputy Commissioner (Imphal West) on Thursday said that particular farms have been declared as epicentres and areas



within one km radius of those farms as infected zones. Further, areas within a 10 km radius from those farms have been declared as surveillance zones, and all of them constitute controlled areas. The notification strictly prohibited movement of pigs (dead or alive) in the controlled areas along with "movement and sale of pork and feed within the infected zone and materials that could have come in contact with the infected or suspected to be infected animals." Culling of all pigs of the infected zone shall be done by the officials of Veterinary and

Animal husbandry Department, Manipur," it said, adding all equipment/tools as well as vehicles used in the farms that have pigs, either infected or suspected to be infected, shall be restricted from movement without protocols. VAH Director Ibotombi Singh said that since the ASF has been confirmed in the laboratory reports, department officials and doctors are working round-the-clock to combat further spread of the epidemic. "We have sent out four to seven teams of our department's doctors and staff in every district of the state to fight the spread of ASF. Besides taking up culling of pigs at the infected zone, they also intensified surveillance activities at the surveillance zones," he added. Awareness programmes have also been taken up at other ASF-free districts, Singh said, adding that a state-level awareness programme on it would be held soon. The highly-contagious ASF often creates havoc in various northeastern states including Mizoram every year, where during 2021 and 2022, over 33,400 pigs were killed, affecting over 10,000 families besides causing a financial loss of Rs 61 crore.

## Reliance Retail delivers strong performance with Rs 77,148 cr gross revenue

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Reliance Retail delivered strong performance with gross revenue recorded at Rs 77,148 crore for Q2 FY24, a growth of 18.8 per cent Y-o-Y led by well-rounded growth across consumption baskets.

Grocery and Fashion & Lifestyle businesses maintained strong growth momentum while Consumer Electronics had a steady performance despite festive period falling in Q3 FY24.

Business posted an EBITDA of Rs 5,820 crore, up by 32.2 per cent on a Y-o-Y basis. EBITDA before Investment Income was recorded at Rs 5,607 crore.

EBITDA margin from operations on net sales was at 8.1 per cent, up 70 bps Y-o-Y driven by operating leverage and continued focus on cost management. Depreciation increased on account of higher asset base due to addition of new stores and supply chain infrastructure.

Higher Finance cost on account of increase in



interest rate and borrowings for business expansion.

Isha M. Ambani, Executive Director, Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, said "I am delighted to report that we have delivered yet another quarter of stellar performance and achieved an all-time high across financial metrics. The performance is a testament to our customer-centric approach that defines Reliance Retail and we look forward to serving our customers this festive season with

renewed optimism and enthusiasm." The business expanded its store network with 471 new store openings taking the total store count at the end of the quarter to 18,650 stores with an area of 71.5 million sq ft. The quarter recorded footfalls of over 260 million across formats, a growth of 40.5 per cent Y-o-Y. Digital Commerce and New Commerce businesses continued to grow and contributed 19 per cent of revenue. The business acquired Ed-a-Mamma, a kids and maternity-wear brand and majority ownership of Superdry IP for India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Global marquee investors reaffirm their confidence in Reliance Retail's vision, execution prowess and value creation. The business completed equity fund raise of Rs 15,314 crore in the current round from global marquee investors.

Reliance Retail completed transfer of assets to warehouse InvIT entity for a total consideration of Rs 5,150 crore on October 25. The asset value is reflected in Other Financial Assets as on September 30.

## Ukrainian attack on Russian nuclear facility thwarted

Moscow | Agencies

A Ukrainian attack involving multiple drones has been thwarted in the Russian city of Kurchatov, home to the Kursk nuclear power plant, according to civilian and military officials.

Unconfirmed reports claimed that one of the aircraft damaged a nuclear waste storage building at the site, RT reported.

The spree of incidents happened on Thursday evening in the Kursk Region, which borders Ukraine. The Russian Defence Ministry reported intercepting a fixed-wing drone over the Russian territory on two occasions,



about two hours apart, while the power plant's press service said it was attacked by three enemy drones.

Kurchatov is located some 60 km from the Ukrainian border. The statement by the civilian authorities reported no damage or casualties on the ground, saying that all four units of the facility were operating normally.

Three of them are currently online, while one is undergoing a shutdown procedure ahead of being decommissioned, it said. The oldest reactor, which first went operational in 1976, has not been generating power since late 2021, RT reported.

The news outlet SHOT claimed that the incident was more serious than according to official statements, reporting that the third drone "fell next to a nuclear waste storage and blew up". The report said the blast caused minor damage to the infrastructure, but didn't hurt anyone.

Moscow has accused Kiev of launching multiple attempts to sabotage its crucial energy infrastructure, including nuclear power plants, amid ongoing Russian-Ukrainian hostilities, RT reported.

## Maha mass-poisoning: Accused's ex-flame procured rare poison from Mumbai, nabbed

Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) | Agencies

In a fresh twist to the sensational mass-poisoning of a five-member family from Mahagaon, the Gadchiroli police have learned that a former alleged boyfriend of one of the two accused women helped her procure a rare poison from Mumbai which she used to kill her relatives, officials said on Friday.

The man, identified as Avinash Tajne, aged around 30, made the payment to a firm from where the lethal material - the name of which has not been disclosed - was

obtained. He was arrested from Buldhana late on Thursday, and remanded to police custody for four days till Monday, said an official.

The Gadchiroli police cracked the sensational case of the mystery deaths of five persons of a single family by arresting two close women relatives who executed the gory cold-blooded crimes for vendetta and a property dispute - as IANS had reported on Oct. 18. The deceased family members were: Shankar P. Kumbhare (died September 26), his wife Vijaya S. Kumbhare, (death September 27), their son Roshan S.

Kumbhare (passed away on October 15), the couple's two daughters - Komal Dahagaonkar (died October 8) and Varsha Urade (death October 14). Two others - another son from New Delhi and family driver Rakesh Madavi luckily survived the poisonous ordeal, and lived to tell the tale to the investigating teams. Shaken by the multiple deaths in barely a fortnight, Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Neelopal sent up special investigation squads to probe the matter and cracked the case within 48 hours, nabbing the accused women duo.

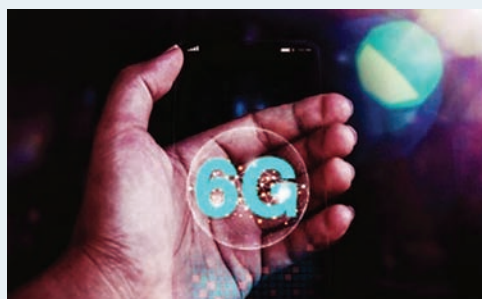
## 6G WILL REQUIRE 100% FIBERISATION OF TOWERS IN INDIA FROM CURRENT 38%: REPORT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

6G will require 100 per cent fibreisation of towers and given that the current state of fibreisation of towers stands at 38 per cent, the country will have to develop an expedited plan to meet the above targets, a new report showed on Friday.

India should continue investing in research and development activities to contribute to the advancement of 6G technology - to strengthen the global knowledge base and help shape the future of this technology, according to the report by KPMG in India, in association with India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023.

India should continue playing an active role in establishing global standards for 6G technology by leveraging its manufacturing capabilities to produce and export 6G equipment to other countries, the report added. "India's forward-looking 6G vision document has positioned its digital prowess on the global technology forefront," said Yezdi



Nagorewalla, CEO, KPMG in India. Furthermore, India's population dividend and technological progress give it a tremendous advantage and can help the country achieve its goal of becoming a dependable global digital leader with cooperative action on digital literacy, cybersecurity, new technologies, and export promotion, Nagorewalla added. India is focusing on development and adoption of cutting-edge technologies across

5G/6G, Satellite Communication (SatCom), and semiconductors. KPMG estimates these three technologies to collectively add approximately \$240 billion to the nation's economy in the next five years and estimates it to contribute an additional 1.6 per cent to the national GDP by FY2028. Recognising the potential in the semiconductor space, the government is working aggressively to enable India to be at the centre stage of the global semiconductor supply chain and is offering some of the most attractive incentives globally. In total, India is offering \$30 billion in support for semiconductors and related industries. "The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector's robust growth trajectory indicates, major industry players looking to address the needs of this customer base have also found the opportunity to be global suppliers, supported by the government's thrust on conducive policy and enabling infrastructure," said P Ramakrishna, CEO, India Mobile Congress.





# AZHARUDDIN, GADDAR'S DAUGHTER FIGURE IN CONGRESS' SECOND LIST FOR TELANGANA

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Hyderabad

Former Indian cricket captain Mohammed Azharuddin, former MPs Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, Madhu Goud Yaskhi, Ponnamp Prabhakar and revolutionary balladeer Gaddar's daughter G. V. Venella figured in the second list of Congress party candidates for Telangana Assembly elections announced on Friday.

Azharuddin will contest from Jubilee Hills constituency in Hyderabad. The former MP is the only Muslim candidate in the list of 45 candidates announced by the Central Election Commission on Friday.

With this, the Congress has announced a total of 100 candidates. The party has decided to leave two seats each for CPI and CPI-M while the candidates for remaining 15 seats are likely to be announced next week. Raj Gopal Reddy's candidature was announced hours after he re-



joined the Congress. He will contest again from Munugode, where he lost the by-poll late last year as BJP candidate. He had quit the Congress and

also resigned from Assembly membership to join the BJP in August last year.

Revuri Prakash Reddy, who had resigned from the BJP to join the Congress last week, will contest from Parkal. Former minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao, who quit the BRS to join Congress, has secured ticket from Khammam. Former MP Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, who joined the Congress in July after resigning from ruling the BRS, will contest from Palair.

Former MPs Ponnamp Prabhakar has been fielded from Husnabad. Another former MP and chairman of Campaign Committee Madhu Goud Yaskhi will contest from LB Nagar in Hyderabad.

Venella, daughter of revolutionary balladeer Gaddar who passed away last month, will contest from Secunderabad Cantonment. Former minister Konda Surekha has secured ticket from Warangal East. Another senior leader G. Chinna Reddy will contest from Wanaparthy.

# Akbar remark: Assam CM defends his statement despite EC notice

Guwahati | Agencies

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday defended his remarks made last week against a Chhattisgarh minister during election campaign in that state which goes to the polls in two phases on November 7 and 17.

Sarma defended his remarks, saying it was a "legitimate criticism" of Chhattisgarh minister Mohammad Akbar.

During campaigning at Kawardha in Chhattisgarh on October 18, Sarma had said, "If one Akbar comes to some place, he calls 100 Akbars. So, send him off as soon as possible, otherwise the land of Mata Kaushalya will get defiled."

Notably, Mata Kaushalya, the mother of Lord Ram, is believed to hail from modern day Chhattisgarh.

Sarma issued a show-



cause notice by the Election Commission on Thursday for allegedly breaking the Model Code of Conduct. The notification directed Sarma to file his reply by October 30.

Taking to X on Friday, Sarma wrote, "Congress has withheld the material information from the Hon'ble Election Commission that Mohammed Akbar is their candidate from the Kawardha constituency.

Therefore, legitimate criticism of a candidate does not amount to communal politics." The Chief Minister also asserted that the Congress will have to face legal consequences for not revealing the

crucial fact in their representation. "I have full faith in the wisdom of the Hon'ble Election Commission," he added. On October 19, the Congress had lodged a complaint with the Election Commission on Sarma's statements disparaging Akbar, who has been fielded by the party as its candidate from the Kawardha Assembly constituency.

The Congress had said that Sarma's comments demonstrated a blatant purpose to instigate disparate social groups against one another.

Meanwhile, serving the notice to Sarma, the Election Commission (EC) said, "No party or candidate shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic."

# Liking an obscene post not an offence: Allahabad HC Boost for Telangana Congress as eight BRS, BJP leaders switch loyalties

Prayagraj | Agencies

In a significant verdict, the Allahabad High Court has held that liking an "obscene" post on social media does not constitute an offence but the act of sharing or reposting such content will lead to legal consequences.

The court, in its ruling on Wednesday, explained that sharing such a post falls under the category of "transmission" as per Section 67 of the Information Technology (IT) Act, and will be subject to penalties.

Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal made these remarks as he dismissed the ongoing criminal proceedings against Mohd Imran Kazmi from Agra, who had been charged under Section



67 of the IT Act and other sections of the Indian Penal Code for liking a post related to unlawful assembly.

"I do not find any material which could connect the applicant with any objectionable post, as there is no offensive post available in the Facebook and WhatsApp accounts of the applicant. Therefore, no case is made out against the applicant."

Justice Deshwal clarified that while the IT Act considers transmitting obscene material as an offence, in this

particular case, "the applicant has liked the post of one Farhan Usman for unlawful assembly, but liking a post will not amount to publishing or transmitting the post, therefore, merely liking a post will not attract section 67 IT Act". The court also highlighted that Section 67 of the IT Act pertains to obscene material and not to provocative material.

Kazmi, faced a criminal case for liking "provocative" messages on social media, which resulted in the assembly of about 600-700 individuals from the Muslim community for a procession conducted without permission. The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) in Agra took note of the charge sheet and issued a nonbailable warrant against him on June 30.

Hyderabad | Agencies

In a major boost to the Congress in Telangana ahead of next month's Assembly elections, eight leaders from ruling BRS and BJP joined the party on Friday.

Former MP Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, who quit the BJP two days ago and former minister and BRS leader Motkupalli Narasimhulu were among the leaders who joined the Congress in the presence of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi.

General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, in charge of Telangana, Manikrao Thakre, state unit President A. Revanth Reddy and CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka were present. Other leaders who joined the Congress are former MLA Enugu Ravinder Reddy, former MLC Nethi Vidyasagar, former MLC Santosh Kumar, former MLC Akula Lalitha, former MLC Kapilawai Dilip Kumar and Neelam Madhu.



It's a home coming for Raj Gopal Reddy, who had quit the Congress to join the BJP last year. He had also resigned from the Assembly to force a bypoll but failed to get re-elected on BJP ticket. A former MP, Raj Gopal Reddy is the brother of Congress MP

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. His return will further strengthen the Congress in undivided Nalgonda district. Narasimhulu was a TDP MLA from the Tungathurthi constituency but parted ways with the party in 2018. He had joined the BJP but quit

the party in 2021 to switch loyalties to the TRS (now the BRS). Narasimhulu, who was unhappy with BRS President and Chief Minister KCR for denying him ticket, had called on Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on September 29.

At least a couple of those who joined the Congress on Friday are likely to get the tickets to contest the November 30 election. The latest joining have further boosted the morale of the party, which is confident of wresting power from BRS. Following the victory of Congress in Karnataka elections, several leaders from the BRS have defected to the Congress. They included former minister Jupally Krishna Rao and former MP Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. Both have been fielded.

The Congress has already announced candidates for 55 out of 119 Assembly seats and announced another 45 on Friday.

# MAHA TO PROMOTE 3K HELPERS AS 'ANGANWADI SEVIKAS': CM SHINDE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Empowering women under various schemes through the Central government's help, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that the state will promote 3,000 helpers to the post of 'Anganwadi Sevikas', here on Friday.

Attending an event, 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana', Shinde also distributed an amount of Rs 321.57 lakhs online to 8.14 lakh mothers under the scheme in the presence of Union Ministers Smriti Irani, Manjapara Mahendrabhai, state ministers Aditi Tatkare, Mangal Prabhat Lodhan and others.

Shinde said that the women who are the 'mother power', work to build the society and a new generation and the state government is prepared to solve their problems.

He pointed out that through Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts, the women have got reservations in parliament and assemblies, lakhs of toilets were built in households under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the names of women have appeared under homes through the Pradhan



Mantri Awas Yojana, and others. "For the first time in history, PM Modi launched a nutrition tracker to check whether mothers and children are getting proper nutrition services. In the last one and a half years, the Maharashtra government has also taken concrete steps for the welfare of women, to empower them, like the 'Lek Ladki' (Beloved Daughter) scheme and others for the women," said Shinde.

As part of the PM's 73rd birthday, the state will implement the 'NAMO 11 Point Program' to provide various government schemes' benefits to 73 lakh women, plus 50 per cent discount on ST travel, 50 hostels for working women, free health check-ups of 1.04 crore women for their good health, etc. Since the launch of the PMMVY, launched to control maternal and child mortality rates, around 35 lakh women -- against the target of 30 lakh -- have already benefited and another two crore women will be covered through self-help groups, he said.

Irani said that the Centre will pay the insurance premium for Anganwadi workers, the government will give Rs 12,800 to each for purchase of mobiles phones, and provide help for the skill development of the helpers. She added that soon the Centre will notify starting 1,000 nurseries for children of women going for employment in urban areas, and other schemes for the safety and security of the women. The occasion also saw the launch of an information booklet, a new web portal and mobile app of PMMVY.

# Himachal CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu admitted in AIIMS Delhi, condition stable

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was admitted at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here on Friday for some tests.

According to a statement from the Himachal Pradesh government, it said that Sukhu was admitted to AIIMS at New Delhi today for some tests in the Department of Gastroenterology.

The process may take about two to three days.

"He is under the observation of the team of doctors who informed that his reports are normal," it said.

"The health of Chief Minister is stable and there is



no reason to worry as Chief Minister is taking proper rest and recovering fast," the statement read.

It also said that the Chief Minister has been admitted

to AIIMS, New Delhi on the advice of IGMC, Shimla doctors. Sukhu was admitted in IGMC in Shimla on Thursday after he complained a stomach ache.

# BJP leader's SUV rams couple in Bihar's Purnea, wife dead

Patna | Agencies

A speeding SUV of a BJP leader mowed down a husband-wife couple's in Bihar's Purnea district, leading to the woman's death, police said on Friday.

Pankaj Kumar Pandit and his wife Kalpana Devi were returning home when a speeding SUV rammed their bike at 11.15 pm on Thursday near Harda Basti under Mangra police station and also dragged them around 500 metres before the occupants stopped the vehicle and fled from the spot.

Kalpana died on the spot while Pandit was referred to PMCH Patna in critical condition.

"My elder brother and his wife were returning home on a bike and were just 500 metres away from the village when a speeding vehicle rammed them. The SUV belongs to BJP leader Rajesh Yadav. He was travelling with his entire family when the accident took place. The driver of the vehicle dragged them for five hundred metres



before they left the vehicle and fled from the spot. The impact of the accident was such that all airbags of the SUV opened up," said Munna Pandit, brother of victim.

The police said that the SUV having registration number BR 11AR 0001 was coming from Gedabari in Katihar and its speed was more than 100 kmph when the accident occurred. Following the accident, local police seized the vehicle.

Contacted, Rajesh Yadav claimed that he was not in the SUV at the time of accident and only the driver and a body guard were inside.

# OVER 200 FARMERS IN HARYANA PARTICIPATE TO END STUBBLE BURNING

Chandigarh | Agencies

Over 200 farmers, government officials and industry members on Friday participated in a farmer outreach event in the Rania block in Haryana to strengthen the efforts to end stubble burning in the area.

The event was organised by the CII, which is supporting field initiatives in 430 villages in Punjab and Haryana promoting alternatives to stubble burning through awareness sessions, machinery support and technical training.

The event was supported by Apraava Energy which is partnering with CII in its crop residue management initiative in Haryana. CII and Apraava have been working on crop residue management in the Sirsa district since 2019 and have adopted 26 villages covering 33,770 acres of land and 6,795 farmers. Overall, in Haryana CII has adopted 77 villages in partnership with corporate, including Apraava Energy, SBI Card, ONGC and Birlasoft, where six custom hiring centers with 240 machines have been set up which are managed by farmer's cooperatives formed by CII.

In 2022, incidents of stubble burning were reduced significantly in the 26 intervened villages in Sirsa due to the project interventions as hundreds of farmers joined the project to create a zero-stubble burning movement.

While the focus of interventions till last year was on in-situ measures, in the current



season, village-level ex-situ interventions for the management of straw are also being promoted by CII in Sirsa.

A key highlight of the event was the inauguration of a biogas unit and a straw-based compost unit by Ranjeet Singh, Minister for Power, and Sunita Duggal, Member of Parliament, Sirsa. Three other biogas units in Sirsa and Fatehabad are already operational and can use 1.6 MT of biomass of straw and

4 MT of cow dung for a three-month cycle and turn it into cooking gas sufficient for a small family. The straw-based compost unit has a capacity of turning 16 MT of paddy straw into 32 MT of compost per month which will be ready to use by farmers in 30-35 days after a two-stage solid-state digestion. Speaking at the event, Ranjeet Singh said, "Due to stubble burning, we have lost a lot of flora and fauna from the villages and

we are harming nature and nature is reverting it in the form of earthquakes and floods. "People are moving out of Delhi due to the poor air quality and its impact on children and older generation and a new trend of farmhouses has started."

He urged farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable alternatives to stubble burning to stop the damage.

Highlighting the negative impact of stubble burning, Sunita Duggal said a soil health laboratory has been started in the district and all farmers should test their samples to get benefits from it.

Farmers shared their experiences at the event as part of a peer-to-peer learning effort to encourage other farmers to join the movement of zero-stubble burning.

To help curb the effects of stubble burning, Birlasoft, part of the \$2.4 billion diversified CK Birla Group, has set up an initiative called Project Shodhan in 2017 with the aim of achieving zero crop residue burning in villages of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Foundation and Birlasoft had signed an MoU towards the third phase of Shodhan, focused on introducing alternate solutions to manage crop residue and create awareness on the ills of stubble burning.

A notable impact from the project is that stubble burning was checked in 90 per cent farm area and there was a 5-7 per cent increase in yield as of 2020-21.





# Reliance Foundation has reached out to 70 mn people in India: Nita Ambani

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reliance Foundation has reached out to 70 million people in India and it is present in all the states of the country, Nita Mukesh Ambani said in an interview. "For me, I think a nation's development depends on women's empowerment, the well-being of its children and transformation through sports. I think these three aspects are key to a developed nation. With the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we are offering employment to one million women to ensure that they get income of Rs 1 lakh or more. So I think women's empowerment is something very dear to my heart," she said. Nita Ambani is often described as one of the most influential and prominent women in India. She is part of the Ambani family, married to Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, the multinational conglomerate that has businesses across many sectors, from energy, petrochemicals to telecommunications. Reliance is India's most valuable company and Mukesh Ambani is the richest man in Asia. The couple has been married for nearly four decades and up until August 2023, Nita Ambani sat on the board of Reliance Industries. She stepped down to focus on her role as founder-chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, a non-profit organisation, with a mission to have a positive impact on society. She weaves phi-



lanthropy into her other passions as well, including arts and sports. She co-owns the Mumbai Indians, one of the most successful franchises in the Indian Premier League. And as for arts, she is a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Nita Ambani is also a professional dancer by training. On the outlook for India hosting the Olympics, Nita Ambani said, "People are waking up to the potential of India. And I think just like we would love to have Olympics in India, Olympics also cannot ignore the 1.4 billion people of the country. So it's a win win for both. I hope in the near future, the youth of our country will be able to say proudly that we are hosting the Olympics in India." Speaking about her husband Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani said, "I tell my children all the time that the

single most important decision you make in your life is choosing the right life partner. And I am so blessed to have Mukesh, who's my best friend, and my life partner. We have learned so much from each other. Mukesh, as I say, thinks far ahead of his time." "And, you know, we've enjoyed the journey of life, raising our children and our grandchildren. I think both of us want to do the best not only for the family and the Reliance family, but for the people of India," she said in the interview. Speaking about her family, Nita Ambani said, "We are very imbibed in Indian culture and traditions. We live in a joint family, so I have my mother-in-law, my mother, my sister, my children, their wives, and their children all living under one roof. Isha calls it 'community living'. That's really sweet." "Mukesh and I

still love doing the same thing that we used to when we were young. So he takes me for a drive, we love listening to Hindi music, eating street food, I love my 'bhel' on the road and he loves his 'dosa-idli'. So, we still love doing what we used to love doing. These are the values that we kind of really live every day... loving our family, respecting our elders, being honest, humble. And not much has changed I think," Nita Ambani said. On the next generation of leadership at Reliance, Nita Ambani said, "Akash, Isha and Anant and a whole lot of the young generation are going to be the next leadership for Reliance and for India. In all three of them, I see different qualities. In Anant, my youngest, I see a compassionate young man who believes in conservatism, who believes in making the world a better place. Akash is leading the digital revolution through Jio. Isha is leading retail besides taking active interest in Reliance Foundation. All three of them are very, very committed to working in Reliance. They have their own strengths. And I always tell them to concentrate on your strengths and make them stronger. Everybody has strengths and weaknesses. Nobody's born perfect or nobody can be perfect. And it is okay to make mistakes. "You learn much more from your mistakes than you do from your successes. Be humble, be compassionate. Treat people with respect. And I'm very happy for the new young generation that is growing at Reliance."

# Jarange-Patil: Did CM discuss Maratha quotass with PM or not

Team Absolute | Jalna (Maharashtra)

On the third day of his rigorous indefinite hunger strike, Maratha leader Manoj Jarange-Patil questioned whether Chief Minister Eknath Shinde raised the issue of Maratha reservations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi or not, here on Friday. Appearing weary and fatigued, Jarange-Patil said the community was hopeful that Shinde, along with the Deputy Chief Ministers would raise the issue with the PM in New Delhi on Wednesday and in Ahmednagar on Thursday. "Did the CM discuss it with the PM or not? If yes, then despite having the information the PM deliberately did not speak about it yesterday in Ahmednagar (Maharashtra). The CM and DyCM are hatching a conspiracy against the Maratha youth on this issue," said Jarange-Patil. He said that the Marathas have high regards for the PM, "but it appears that now the PM and CM have no need for the poor and backward people of society". Jarange-Patil reiterated that they have given over 10,000 documents for declaring the Marathas as Kumbi caste and giving them quotas accordingly, but that is not yet done by the state government, "which points to a plot to deny the reservations". Earlier, he had said on several occasions that this time "either my funeral procession will be taken out or a Maratha victory march" on the quotas issue which has been simmering for the past 10 years now. The Maratha leader launched his hunger strike from October 25 to press for the Maratha reservations in jobs and education after giving a 40-day ultimatum to the state government to declare the quotas. This time, Jarange-Patil is observing a rigorous hunger-strike, not taking medication, water and even refusing medical check-ups to monitor his vitals, even the state government officials, ministers and other leaders have pleaded with him to call off the agitation.



# Ex-union and state minister Babanrao Dhakne dies at 86

Team Absolute | Ahmednagar

Former union and state minister Babanrao Dhakne died after a brief illness at a private hospital here, his associates said on Friday. Dhakne was 86 and is survived by his younger son and daughter-in-law who are both independent political leaders. He was the Minister of State for Energy in the government of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, and had also handled several key ministries in Maharashtra besides serving as Leader of Opposition and Deputy Speaker of Assembly. According to an associate, Dhakne was suffering from pneumonia and other illnesses for which he was admitted to a local hospital three weeks ago. However, during treatment, his condition suddenly deteriorated and he breathed his last late Thursday night after suffering a heart attack. The leader's mortal remains shall be kept for public 'darshan' on Friday and the funeral rites shall be performed on Saturday afternoon at Pagori-Pimpalgaon village in Ahmednagar. As a young student, Dhakne had carried out his first political agitation in



1951 and had met the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru after which he plunged fulltime into politics. Over the years, he was associated with several parties like Congress, Janata Party, Janata Dal, Nationalist Congress Party and enjoyed close rapport with former PMs like Indira Gandhi, V. P. Singh and other bigwigs in the Centre and state politics. He actively took up the causes of the Goa Liberation

Movement, peasants, workers, labourers, sugarcane farmers, unemployed youth and carried out several campaigns, sit-ins and demonstrations for them all his life. NCP Working President Supriya Sule and other leaders have expressed grief over the demise of Dhakne, describing him as "an honest leader of the common masses" and his passing has snapped the links with the old era of leadership.

# Maha man with rare blood group undergoes successful heart surgery at Lilavati Hospital

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

In what is being described as a medical breakthrough, the Lilavati Hospital, Mumbai performed a successful complex heart surgery to remove a benign Myxoma tumour in a 50-year-old patient with a rare blood group, officials said here on Friday. The patient's blood group was identified as 'Gerbich Phenotype', the first such in India, and owing to this his own blood was collected for the surgery, eliminating the need for an external blood transfusion, said the medical team of Dr. Pavan Kumar and Ruhi Mehra. The patient, Rajesh Agarwal from Yavatmal, Maharashtra, complained of chest pain and a mass was discovered in his heart, which was later confirmed as a Myxoma tumour within the right atrium of his heart. Apart from this he was suffering from severe triple vessel coronary artery diseases, necessitating a Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting surgery. The team of Dr. Kumar, Dr. Mehra, Dr. Abhay Bhawe, Dr. Nitin Chavan and others used state-of-the-art techniques and innovative approaches to ensure safe removal of the tumour while minimising potential complications associated with the patient's unique blood group. "Myxomas are extremely rare tumors that can develop in the heart and disrupt normal cardiac function. However, this case presented an additional challenge due to the patient's Gerbich Phenotype blood group, which is found in less than 0.01 per cent of the Indian population," explained Dr. Kumar. The patient underwent blood group testing prior to the operation to arrange for blood transfusion during the surgery and was found to have AB+ Blood Group, which is quite common. "However, his blood was not matching with any of the nearly 50 donor blood units tested (including O-Negative), and further extensive immuno-hematological analysis revealed that the patient possessed an



additional rare blood group antibody, posing an unexpected challenge," said Dr. Kumar. The blood of even the patient's mother, three siblings and two sons was tested but none were found compatible, worrying the medical team as Agarwal was slated to undergo a complicated heart surgery that could require blood transfusion during the operation. Accordingly, Dr. Mehra said to be absolutely sure, a blood sample was sent to the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory, Bristol, United Kingdom. "The IBGRL, UK, confirmed that the patient's cells had the rare Gerbich Phenotype due to which he had formed a clinically significant anti-Ge2 allo-antibody, and only eight such phenotype donors are registered in the international rare blood group donor registry. This made it likely that

Agarwal's case was the first-of-its-kind in the country," said Dr. Mehra. Prior to the surgery, Agarwal's blood was collected three times over three week before the surgery was performed on October 18 and the operation went off successfully. Lilavati Hospital COO Lt. Gen. (Dr.) V. Ravishankar said in this case, the multi-disciplinary approach adopted by the hospital proved that such rare cases can also be handled with utmost care to obtain the desired favourable results. On his part, Agarwal - who is recovering well post-surgery - said he was shocked to discover the series of health problems he was afflicted and then the discovery of the rarest of rare blood group, but expressed his gratitude to the Lilavati Hospital medical team for the successful surgery that has given him a new lease of life.

# Case registered against more than 200 people for defying prohibitory orders during pro-Palestine protest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The police in Maharashtra's Thane district have registered an offence against more than 200 people who defied prohibitory orders while staging a protest in support of Palestine, police said on Friday, reported news agency. Hundreds had gathered for the protest organised by the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) in the Mumbra area on Wednesday afternoon, an official said. An offence under section 188 (disobedience to an order lawfully promulgated by a public servant) of the Indian Penal Code and Maharashtra Police Act has been registered, he said. Sixteen accused have been identified in the FIR, he said, adding that no



arrests have been made. As per the first information report (FIR), protestors carried banners and shouted slogans in support of Palestine and defied the prohibitory orders in force in the commissionerate. A drone camera was also used to shoot the agitation, the official said. In another incident, an offence has been registered against six persons for allegedly manhandling a team of police personnel and preventing officials of a

state-run power company from installing an electricity meter in Maharashtra's Thane city, an official said on Friday. Based on a complaint lodged by a constable, the police on Thursday registered a case under section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code for the incident that took place in the Bhayanderpada area, he said.

# Half-burnt body of woman found in Wadala

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As per the information shared by the police official, the age of the woman is around 30-35 years and her body was cut into three pieces. "The patrolling team of BPT (Mumbai Port Trust) saw a suspicious bag in Wadala area. The team found a burnt body of an unidentified woman. After which, the information was given to Wadala Police Station, as soon as the information was received, the police reached the spot, took the body in their custody and



sent it to KEM Hospital for post-mortem," the police official said. The police estimate that the woman was murdered one to two days ago. "Her body was in a bag. On suspicion, when the bag was checked, a burnt body was found," the police official added. "The police have registered a case of murder against an unknown person and have started an investigation," added the official. "Along with this the Mumbai

Crime Branch team has also started its investigation," police said. Meanwhile, in Thane, a fire destroyed a scrap godown, a civic official said on Friday. No one was injured in the fire that broke out around 9.30 pm at Shilphata on Thursday, said Yasin Tadvji, chief of the Disaster Management Cell of Thane civic body. Civic and fire officials rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control in about one and a half hours, he said. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined, the civic official said.

# "Don't Make Promises...": Sharad Pawar's dig at Eknath Shinde on Maratha quota

Team Absolute | Raigad

Amid mounting pressure on the Maharashtra government over the Maratha quota issue, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Friday took a swipe at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, saying one should not make a promise if it cannot be fulfilled. His remark comes in the wake of activist Manoj Jarange launching an indefinite fast in his native Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district on Wednesday to seek reservation for Marathas. Talking to reporters here, Pawar said Jarange pressed for reserva-



tion for the Maratha community and other demands. "The state chief minister and his colleagues had a dialogue with them (Jarange and his supporters). I have no idea what conversation they had. But it appears that he was given an ultimatum of 30 days. The period was later extended (by 10 days). He was assured that his work would be done in that time-

frame. But that has not happened. You should not give a word if you are not able to fulfil it," Pawar said. The NCP founder added that Jarange cannot be blamed for launching an indefinite hunger strike. Jarange had earlier sat on a hunger strike from August 29 over the Maratha quota demand, but he called off the protest on the 17th day on September 14 after Chief Minister Shinde met him and assured to look into the demands. arange had set a deadline of 40 days before the government to provide reservation to the Maratha community, which ended on October 24.







## EDITOR'S SPECS

## NO U-TURN

**B**JP national vice-president D. K. Aruna on Thursday denied that she is planning to return to the Congress party. She made it clear that there is no question of switching loyalties to the Congress party. The former minister alleged that the Congress is playing mind games. Aruna said the BJP leadership recognised her by appointing her the national vice-president of the party. She considers working under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership a good fortune. The BJP leader was reacting to reports that she too was also planning a return to Congress after former MLA and BJP national executive member Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy quit the party. Some key leaders from Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and BJP defected to the Congress party during the last couple of months. Aruna had quit Congress to join the BJP on the eve of 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The party fielded her from Mahabubnagar but she lost to Manne Srinivas Reddy of TRS (now BRS). In 2020, she was appointed as the national vice-president of the BJP. She had served as a minister in undivided Andhra Pradesh in the cabinets of Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy and K. Rosaiah. Meanwhile, another BJP leader and former MP G. Vivek Venkatswamy has also denied that he is planning to quit BJP and join Congress. He said he would remain in BJP and will contest next year's Lok Sabha polls. Viveka has switched loyalties multiple times. He quit TRS in 2019 after the party denied him ticket for Lok Sabha elections. He was with Congress before joining TRS in 2013. He returned to Congress in 2014 and contested the elections from Peddapalli Lok Sabha seat. However, he suffered a crushing defeat. In 2016, he returned to TRS but again quit the party in 2019 to join the BJP.

# Oct 22, 1947: The day when Pakistan betrayed and backstabbed Kashmiris

Deepika Bhan

**A**s the world is agitated over the Israel-Hamas-Palestine issue, Kashmiris remember October 22, 1947, as the darkest day in the history of Jammu & Kashmir when Pakistan perpetrated its vile design and got thousands killed to gobble up the independent land, and changed the history in the region.

October 22 is observed as a Black Day in J&K. When Britishers divided India and allowed the making of Pakistan in 1947, J&K declared itself an independent country. On August 12, 1947, the Maharaja sought a standstill agreement with both India and Pakistan. While India did not sign, Pakistan accepted the offer and on August 15, 1947 sent a communication to Janak Singh, the then Prime Minister of J&K, confirming the same.

But Pakistan had different designs. It wanted J&K by all means and planned and executed an invasion not by its army but by tribesmen. And the raid began early October 22, 1947. Thousands of tribesmen were supplied with arms and ammunition, and transported by the Pakistan Army. The army regulars also joined the raiders in civil clothes.

The invasion was code named 'Operation Gulmarg' under the command of Pakistan's Major General Akbar Khan and the mission was to seize the land.

The tribesmen first took over the bridges spanning Neelum river linking Muzaffarabad and Abbottabad and captured the first major town, Muzaffarabad. The invaders killed Hindus, Sikhs, looted and burnt their houses. A large number of women and girls were raped and kidnapped. The raiders then moved further towards Uri, Baramulla and reached there on October 26. The mayhem of killings, rapes and plunder was repeated at every stop along the route.

Besides Muzaffarabad, Baramulla was another major town that bore the brunt of the ruthless tribals. Hindus and Sikhs were massacred. Women were raped and kidnapped. The tribals did not even spare the hospital which was run by Christian missionaries. They killed everyone there, even the Muslim patients. The loot and plunder continued for three days. When the fall of Srinagar looked imminent, Maharaja Hari Singh sought India's help and signed the Instrument of Accession on October 26.

It was then that Indian troops landed in Srinagar and a battle began to save Kashmir. By November 8, the Indian Army had taken control of Srinagar, on November 9 of Baramulla, and by



November 13 Uri was secured. However, with the Pakistani Army formally entering the battle in support of the tribesmen, the war continued for over a year until a ceasefire was declared on the night of December 31, 1948.

Kashmir was saved but Pakistan took away its slices. Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) is a part of the original Kashmir, the borders of which touch Pakistan's Punjab, Northwest, Wakhan corridor of Afghanistan, and Xinjiang region of China. A part of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Shaksgam Valley was illegally handed over to China by Pakistan in 1963 when both countries signed a boundary agreement to settle their border differences. The frontiers of the princely state of J&K comprised a total area of 2,22,236 sq kms. Upon the signing of the Instrument of Accession on October 26, 1947, the territory belonged to India. Of the territory, 78,114 sq kms are under the illegal occupation of Pakistan while 38,000 sq kms is under the illegal occupation of China; and further, 5,180 sq kms in the Shaksgam Valley, ille-

gally ceded by Pakistan to China under their border agreement of March 2, 1963.

After the failed Operation Gulmarg of 1947, Pakistan attacked India in 1965, 1971 and even in 1999, every time biting the dust. Convinced that it cannot win a war with India, Pakistan had launched cross-border terrorism since 1988 in Kashmir by playing the religion card. In the name of Jihad, terror was unleashed in the valley. Thousands have perished and minorities uprooted.

For all these decades Pakistan has been peddling false narratives about Kashmir, including its culpability in the 1947 tribal invasion. October 22, 1947 is no less than a day of holocaust for the people of J&K, including those under Pakistan and Chinese siege.

The horrors that the world is witnessing in Israel-Gaza have been long endured by the people of Kashmir at the hands of Pakistan.

Along with unleashing terror in

Kashmir, Pakistan has completely subjugated the part of PoK which is under its illegal occupation. People there are agitating for basic needs and demanding 'azadi' from Pakistan's tyranny.

Had Pakistan been sincere, it would have developed its part of occupied Kashmir, but then it was never interested. All it wanted was the land and not its people. If Pakistan had not betrayed Kashmir in 1947, history would have been different in South Asia.

This illegal occupation by Pakistan and China of Indian territory of J&K has hardly been given much importance by the powers which are today raising the Israel-Palestine issue.

History never repeats itself, but it does often rhyme, said Mark Twain. What is being witnessed in the Middle East is something like what Pakistan has been repeatedly perpetrating in Kashmir.

international

## CANADA SAYS IT EXPECTS TO PROCESS ONLY HALF OF INDIAN VISA APPLICATIONS BY DEC 2023

Toronto | Agencies

**C**anada has said that out of the 38,000 visas for Indians, it will only be able to process 20,000 by the end of December this year due to recent reduction of staff on the ground.

At a meeting of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration this week, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said there are now only five members to do the on-the-ground visa work in India, the CIC News reported.

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) which processes the visa applications, had its staff reduced from 27 to just five members this month after India, seeking diplomatic parity, asked Canada to withdraw its 41 diplomats.

The IRCC now expects there will be approximately 17,500 Indian applications in backlog at the beginning of 2024. However, signalling hope, senior officials with the country's top Immigration Department said that the government is working to return to normal processing for Indian applications by early 2024.

This can be achieved as the immigration staff



pulled from India reestablishes itself and gets back to work in Canada and the Philippines, IRCC said.

According to CIC, IRCC is trying to mitigate the impact by adjusting the work load for Visa Application Centres (VACs) that already process the majority of the applications from India. IRCC said in a statement released last week that a large majority of applications from India are already processed outside the country, with 89 per cent of India's applications processed

through the global network.

"The five Canada-based IRCC staff who remain in India will focus on work that requires an in-country presence such as urgent processing, visa printing, risk assessment, and overseeing key partners," the IRCC said.

The department aims to process 80 per cent of all applications within service standards, which vary depending on the type of application. An application is in backlog when it has not been processed within service standards.

IRCC has also temporarily suspended all in-person services at consulates in India, although applications from India will still be accepted and processed.

India, meanwhile, partially resumed visa services in Canada from October 26 onwards after they were shut down amid deteriorating diplomatic ties. The services will resume for entry, business, medical, and conference visas, the Indian High Commission said in a statement. "Further decisions, as appropriate, would be intimated based on continuing evaluation of the situation," the statement added.

## Indian-origin teen wins 2nd spot in America's Young Scientist Challenge

New York | Agencies

**I**ndian-American teen Shriprya Kalbhavi has won second place at the annual 2023 3M Young Scientist Challenge, a premier science competition for middle school students in the US.

Kalbhavi, a ninth grader at Lynbrook High School in California, received a \$2,000 prize for developing EasyBZ -- a cost-effective microneedle patch that allows for self-automated drug delivery without pills or needles.

The first prize of \$25,000 with the prestigious title of "America's Top Young Scientist", went to Heman Bekele from Virginia for his compound-based Skin Cancer Treating Soap.

Kalbhavi said in a blog post on the 3M Young Scientist Challenge website that she entered the contest because she wants to help change lives.

She also hosts a podcast called "Famous Personalities," and as part of the theme of her show, she researches women scientists and speaks about their lives, achievements, and



research.

"Scientific research and innovations have always interested me, and I find the scientists, especially doctors, all around me to be extremely inspiring because they work to help people every day," Kalbhavi, who wants to become a practicing neurosurgeon, said.

"I want to gain experience and advice from a mentor to help improve peoples' lives with my invention, BZ reaction-automated microneedle patches, by making their medication painless and more affordable," she added.

Apart from Kalbhavi, five other Indian-American teens were among the top ten finalists and each of them received a \$1,000 prize and a \$500 gift card.

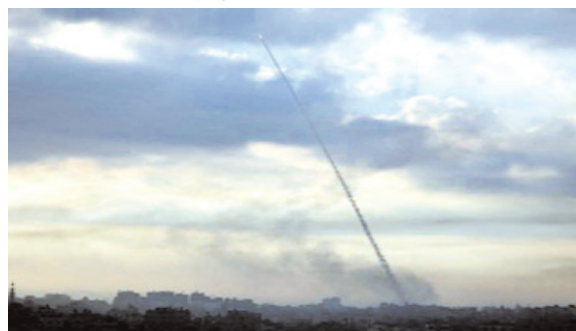
"For 16 years, the 3M Young

Scientist Challenge has exemplified our belief in harnessing the power of people, ideas, and science to reimagine what's possible. The remarkable young innovators of this competition share our determination to help shape a brighter future," said John Banovetz, 3M executive vice president.

"By asking students to think creatively and apply the power of science to everyday problems, incredible solutions and leaders arise."

Each finalist in the challenge was evaluated on a series of challenges, including a presentation of their completed innovation. America's Top Young Scientists have gone on to give TED Talks, file patents, found nonprofits, make the Forbes 30 Under 30 list, ring the bell at the New York Stock Exchange and exhibit at the White House Science Fair. The young innovators have also been named Time Magazine's first Kid of the Year, featured in The New York Times Magazine, Forbes, and Business Insider.

## Missile misfires, hits Egyptian town



Tel Aviv | Agencies

**A**t least six people were injured after a misfired missile hit the Egyptian resort town of Taba on Friday, officials confirmed. The area which came under attack is located some 130 km from the Gaza Strip. According to information, the blast was related to the ongoing fighting in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) denied that it had misfired any missile into the Egyptian territory.

Colonel (Rtd) Yitchak Bar Shabby of the Israel army told IANS that it was likely to have

been fired by Hamas.

He however did not rule out the involvement of the Iran-backed Houthi militia.

Israeli military confirmed that it was aware of such an attack outside of its border.

On October 22, several Egyptian border guards were injured after they were hit by fragments of a shell launched from an Israeli tank.

Israel had apologised for then accident.

Egypt has been playing an active role in negotiations for getting aid to the Palestinians and mediators for hostage release.

Jerusalem | Agencies

**F**or a second straight night, Israeli troops conducted "targeted raids" inside the Gaza Strip before withdrawing from the Hamas-controlled enclave, the military said in a statement on Friday.

A video published by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) showed tanks and armoured vehicles moving on a road near agricultural land as well as strikes on buildings and open areas, reports CNN.

The raid, which included aircraft and artillery strikes in the Shajay'iyah neighborhood, targeted Hamas infrastructure including "anti-tank missile launch sites, military command and control centers, as well as Hamas terrorists", the IDF said. "The troops exited the area at the end of the activity," the statement said.

On Thursday, the IDF had



said that it carried out a "targeted raid" in the northern Gaza Strip as "part of preparations for the next stages of combat", in which the Jewish nation is planning a ground offensive in Gaza, reports Xinhua news agency.

During the raid, soldiers located and struck "numerous" militants, infrastructure and anti-tank missile launch posts and "operated to prepare the battlefield", it added.

Israel has vowed to wipe out

Hamas, the militant group that controls Gaza, in response to its October 7 deadly terror attacks and kidnap rampage in which 1,400 people, mostly civilians, were killed and more than 220 taken hostage.

In a televised address on Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed that Israeli is "preparing for a ground incursion," into Gaza following nearly three weeks of airstrikes on the coastal strip.

## Hurricane Otis leaves 27 dead in Mexico

Mexico City | Agencies

**H**urricane Otis left at least 27 people dead and four missing as it hit the coast of the southern Mexican state of Guerrero as a Category 5 hurricane, an official said.

The hurricane, now weakened to a storm, left severe damage especially in the Acapulco resort area, one of the main tourist destinations in the country, Xinhua news agency quoted Secretary of State for Security Rosa Icela Rodriguez as saying on Thursday.

Rodriguez however, did not give any details about where or how the victims died.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador lamented the loss of lives during his daily press conference and his administration launched an airlift to the region with the support of the military.

He had also travelled to Acapulco and at one point had to get out of his car and walk as debris from a mudslide blocked the highway.

Meanwhile, Federal Electricity Commission personnel were at work trying to restore electricity supply and telecommunications in the region.

More than 30 per cent of the homes in



Guerrero lost power, plunging entire towns into darkness.

The Defence Ministry said 8,000 soldiers had been deployed to Acapulco and towns along the coast to help with the clean-up and provide residents with food and water.

Hurricane Otis made landfall at 12.25 a.m. on Wednesday. It had intensified from a tropical storm into the most severe category 5 hurricane in only 12 hours.





## PM MODI OFFERS PRAYERS AT KANCH MANDIR IN POLL-BOUND MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday offered prayers at Kanch Mandir (Temple) in Madhya Pradesh's Chitrakoot. The Kanch Mandir includes the temple of Citrakuta Vihari and Viharini (Lord Rama and Goddess Sita), along with the Raghav Satsang Bhavan. It is a temple with three Sikkharas. Beautiful statues of Lord Rama, Sita and Lakshmana are placed in the sanctum sanctorum, which is served every day by a priest. Shri Tulsi Peeth Seva Nyas is a religious and social service institution based at Janki Kund, Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh. The institution was established by Guruji on Tulsi Jayanti day, 1987. Tulsi Peeth is one of the leading publishers of literature on Hindu religious themes in India and the world.



Meanwhile, PM Modi visited Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust in Chitrakoot and thanked Shri Sadhguru Seva Sangh Trust for playing an important role in the medical treatment of the poor and oppressed. "I thank Shri Sadhguru Seva Sangh Trust from all the oppressed, poor, adivasi people for playing a pivotal role in the service of humanity," the Prime Minister said while addressing a rally at Madhya Pradesh's Chitrakoot.

PM Modi said that he has got the opportunity to come to the holy city of Chitrakoot which used to be the place where Lord Ram, Sita and Lakshman used to stay. "I have got the opportunity to come to Chitrakoot again. This is that holy land where our sages used to dwell. I had the opportunity to visit Sri Raghuvir Mandir and Sri

Ram Janki Mandir. I paid my homage to Kamath Giri mountain from the helicopter. I went to pay my floral tributes to Ranchhodhasji Maharaj and Arvind Bhai Mafatal," he said. PM Modi said that he cannot express how overwhelmed he feels after coming to Chitrakoot. "It is difficult to express how I feel after Lord Ram Janki's darshan, realising the ideologies of the holy men and the zeal of the students of Sanskrit Mahavidyalay," he said. Earlier in the day, the PM also offered prayers at Raghuvir Mandir in Satna district. PM Modi also visited Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust in Chitrakoot and witnessed an exhibition on the occasion. Shri Sadhguru Seva Sangh Trust was founded in 1968 by Param Pujya Ranchhodhasji Maharaj. Arvind Bhai Mafatal was inspired by Param Pujya Ranchhodhasji Maharaj and played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Trust.

## ACCOMPANIED BY FATHER DIGVIJAYA SINGH AND 6-YR-OLD SON, JAIVARDHAN SINGH FILES NOMINATION

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Madhya Pradesh minister Jaivardhan Singh, who is contesting the November 17 Assembly elections from his family bastion Raghogarh in Guna district, filed his nomination on Thursday accompanied by his six-year-old son Sahasra Singh and father and two-time former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh. Enroute the nomination centre in a large convoy of vehicles, the royal family of Raghogarh received warm welcome all through the way. The supporters were seen rushing to catch a glimpse of the family as they headed towards the district magistrate's office. When Jaivardhan handed



over his nomination paper to the magistrate, his son Sahasra Singh could also be seen holding the same. Interestingly, Sahara Singh has already started attending public gatherings and delivering speeches. Recently, he even surprised his grandfa-

ther Digvijaya Singh with his public speech on the occasion of Kevat Jayanti. Digvijaya Singh had then posted his grandson's video on his social media handle with the message: "My grandson Sahasra Singh seems to have gone ahead of his father and

grandfather!! We had never even thought of giving a speech at this age." Balbhadra Singh, who was the 12th ruler of then Princely state Raghogarh, was elected a member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1952. His son Digvijaya Singh also won several elections from his ancestral seat, and now his son Jaivardhan Singh is representing the constituency since 2013. In 2018, Jaivardhan had defeated BJP's Bhupendra Singh Raghuvanshi by a margin of 46,697 votes. He was the Urban Development and Housing Minister in the Kamal Nath-led Congress government that was toppled within 15 months.

## Children are suffering in Mama's rule: Ragini Nayak

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress national spokesperson Ragini Nayak said that in the state, a small girl is quoted for Rs 10,000. Shivraj does not have the right to be called uncle. During his tenure, crimes have increased by 337 percent. The figure increased from 4 thousand to 19 thousand. 52 serious crimes are taking place every day in the state. MP3 is at number one in the country in the highest crime under POCSO Act. Some time ago, 16 children died due to malnutrition in Sheopur. Ragini Nayak further said that between January 2016 and 2018, 57 thousand children died due to malnutrition. 78 thousand malnourished children were found in the state. According to the data of the Child Commission, 7 lakh 239 children were forced into child labor in the state. During Corona, child laborers started doing 21 lakh jobs in the state. In one year, the state government freed only 150 children from child labour. MP is number one in terms of kidnapping and human organ trafficking also happens here. Kidnapping is taking place across the country by making MP the centre. 47



girls are missing from Bhopal in a month, there is no information. The case of prostitution came to light in Neemuch and Mandasaur. Children fell ill due to contaminated food in Jabalpur's Eklavya Tribal Chataravas, 250 children fell ill in Gwalior, 10 lakh children are still malnourished.

## 7th National Autopsy Quiz Forense to be Held at AIIMS Bhopal today

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at AIIMS Bhopal proudly announces the 7th edition of the esteemed National Autopsy Quiz Forense, scheduled to take place on October 28, 2023. This national-level MBBS undergraduate quiz, initiated in 2015 under the auspices of the Medicolegal Expert Association of Madhya Pradesh, has

become a cornerstone event in the field. Despite a brief hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, the quiz has been a regular feature at AIIMS Bhopal, drawing participation from MBBS students hailing from diverse medical colleges and institutions across India. The competition has consistently delivered a stimulating platform for learning and exchange in the domain of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. This year's installment prom-

ises to be yet another intellectually invigorating event. Set against a national backdrop, the Autopsy Quiz Forense fosters healthy competition, enabling MBBS students to engage in robust learning and meaningful interactions. Professor (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Bhopal extended his best wishes for the success of this event. Dr. Arneet Arora will serve as the organizing Chairperson and Dr. Raghvendra Kumar Vidua

from the department of Forensic Medicine & toxicology will be taking on the role of Organizing Secretary for this edition of the national event. Many eminent experts in the field like Dr BP Dubey, Dr. D. S. Badkur and Dr. D. K. Satpathy will also attend the event and share their experiences. Mr Vaibhav Srivastava, Superintendent of Police, Cyber Cell, Bhopal will enlighten students on cybersecurity and cyber hygiene at work place during this event.

## Misdeed with minor daughter, rapist also arrested

Team Absolute | Indore

Two cases of rape have come to light in Indore. At one place, the real father molested the minor daughter. Police have arrested the accused at both the places. The case which tarnishes the relationship between father and daughter is from Gaurinagar of Hiranagar police station. A case has been registered against a person living here by his 17 year old minor daughter. The accused does not have a wife, his daughter lives with him. Yesterday the accused came in an inebriated state and had caught the daughter with bad intentions. Bhanwarkuan police has registered a case of rape against accused Vikas's father Anand Trivedi and detained him. The victim told the police that the accused had been playing with her dignity for three years by pretending to marry her.



## Amit Shah in action mod; will hold meetings of 230 assembly constituencies

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP has put in all its strength for the assembly elections to be held on November 17 in Madhya Pradesh. As part of the election strategy, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will camp in Madhya Pradesh for three days from tomorrow, October 28. During this time, BJP candidates will be campaigned by holding meetings and road shows in Ujjain, Jabalpur and Chhindwara. Along with this, after meeting with BJP workers and officials from across the state, what is the ground situation of the party in the elections? Will take feedback on this. According to BJP sources, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will hold a meeting of Jabalpur (Mahakoshal) division on October 28. Mahakoshal has 38 assembly seats. Senior BJP leader and MP Rakesh Singh is contesting from Jabalpur East assembly constituency, Union Minister Faggan Singh Kulaste from Niwas and Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel from Narsinghpur. The Union Home Minister will also visit Chhindwara, the home district of former CM Kamal Nath, on the same day. Here he will address the public meeting in Junnardev Assembly. The special focus of the central leadership is on Chhindwara. In this, the aim is not only to siege Kamal Nath but also to win this parliamentary seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. After this, Shah will reach Bhopal and hold a meeting with the workers of Bhopal and Narmadapuram divisions. Amit Shah will hold a meeting with



workers and officials of Sagar division in Khajuraho on 29 October. This will include workers and officials and workers of 26 assembly constituencies. Shah will hold a road show and darshan of Mahakal Baba in Ujjain on the same day. Will hold a meeting with Ujjain division workers and officials at night. Workers and officials from 29 assembly constituencies of this division will participate. There will be a meeting of workers and officials of Indore division on 30th October in the morning. Workers and officials from 37 assembly constituencies will be included in this. On the same day, Shah will reach Gwalior and hold a meeting with the workers and officials of Gwalior and Chambal divisions. Workers-officials from 34 assembly constituencies will be included in this.

## Fear of breaking friendship, school girls left home together and reached Rajasthan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

When two girls, who were studying together in school since childhood, were threatened by their parents by asking them to change schools if their marks were not good, the girls felt that changing schools would break their close friendship. They did not accept the distance in friendship, so the girls left home together and boarded a train to reach Udaipur in Rajasthan. It was fortunate that no untoward incident happened to them and the Railway Police, upon noticing them, took both of them into custody and after counseling through Child Line, sent them back safely to their families. According to the information, it was revealed in the counseling that both the girls living in Bhopal have



been studying together in the same class in a private school since childhood. There is not much distance between their houses. There is such a deep friendship between them, that they even sit together in class, and stay together all the time in school. Even after the lockdown, both of them kept meeting at each other's houses. In the counseling, the girl students further told that when both of them did not get good results last year, the family members of one girl threatened her and said that if her marks were not good in the

half yearly exams, they would get her admitted in another school. Later, both of them failed in one subject in the half-yearly examination. On this he felt that now his parents would get him admitted in another school and their friendship would break. Due to this fear, both of them talked to each other and left the house. On reaching the railway station, they saw a train in front, both the girls boarded it without thinking and reached Udaipur. It was fortunate that the Railway Police noticed him here and on being suspicious, he was rescued and handed over to Child Line and Child Welfare Committee. Along with counseling of the girl students, their families were also advised not to scare minors in this manner. Later both the girls were handed over to their family members.

## Government servants of 4 departments will be able to vote through postal ballot if they are on duty on the day of voting

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Government servants of 4 departments will get the facility of voting through postal ballot when they are on duty on the day of voting. Chief Electoral Officer Shri Anupam Rajan said that due to being busy in essential services on 17th November, the voting date of Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections-2023, government servants of 4 departments will be able to vote through postal ballot. A notification to this effect has also been issued by the Election Commission of India. According to the notification issued, due to being on duty on the day of polling, they will not be able to appear at their designated polling station. Such government servants will be eligible to vote through postal ballot. Essential services include the Public Health and Family Welfare Department, Medical Education Department, Home Department (Fire Services) and Energy Department.

**नाम परिवर्तन सूचना**

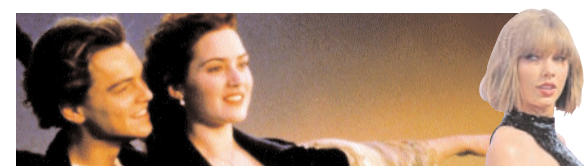
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित करती हूँ कि मैं सुहानी बंसल D/o श्री जीवन बंसल जन्म से मेरा नाम यही है। मेरे आधार, पैन कार्ड, बैंक एकाउंट भी इसी नाम से है। जबकि मेरे बैंक एफडी में मेरा नाम त्रुटिदश शिवानी कर दिया गया है। जबकि मेरा सही नाम सुहानी बंसल D/o श्री जीवन बंसल है। अतः मुझे सभी दस्तावेजों में इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जावे। निवासी : मन्. 322, विकास नगर, गोविंदपुरा, भोपाल पिन-462023

## Digvijay's mill grinded Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Panna

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan targeted former CM Kamal Nath in a program organized in Panna. Actually, CM Shivraj was responding to Kamal Nath's statement in which he said that his mill grinds finely. CM Shivraj said that 'at present there is a lot of pressure going on in Congress. Kamal Nath says that my mill grinds very finely but this time Digvijay's mill grinds only Kamal Nath. Kamal Nath used to talk about tearing the kurtas of Digvijay and Jaivardhan, but after getting the tickets of all Kamal Nath supporters canceled, Digvijay Singh tore Kamal Nath's clothes.





# Cher

## IS HER OWN BIGGEST CRITIC

Los Angeles | Agencies

Iconic pop singer and actress Cher has made a startling revelation regarding her music, as the 'Believe' hitmaker admitted to not being a fan of her voice. She bluntly stated that she feels ashamed of many of her early pop songs.

Detailing this point, Cher said: "I just never liked my voice that much. If I had my choice, I probably would have another one, but I didn't get my choice. I got my mother's voice."

The Grammy winner went on to explain that she thinks the tone of her voice is "weird."

Being her own biggest critic, the Goddess of Pop said: "It doesn't sound like a man, it doesn't sound like a woman. I'm somewhere more in between," she said.

Giving her answer to the questions asked about her upcoming album 'Christmas', Cher added: "I've made so many albums, and some of the ones I thought were as good as I could like an album of mine weren't hits. And then other ones that I was not that excited about (were)." She noted that her career has been a series of ups and downs with regard to success.

"So I like this album. I'm not a Cher fan, but I like doing it," she admitted. "When I listen to ('Christmas'), I think this worked out."

Cher then elaborated on what she doesn't like about her own catalogue. "I just never liked my voice that much," as reported by People. "If I had my choice, I probably would have another one, but I didn't get my choice. I got my mother's voice."



# Jonathan Majors calls DA's decision to not prosecute ex-girlfriend Grace Jabbari 'serious injustice'

Los Angeles | Agencies

After actor Jonathan Majors sexual harassment case was ruled out by judges, the 'Creed' star's accuser, his ex-girlfriend Grace Jabbari has also not been sued by the District Attorney. Majors through an attorney has called the decision of not prosecuting his accuser a "serious injustice."

The actor was arrested in Manhattan on March 25, and was charged with assault and aggravated harassment after an alleged domestic dispute with Jabbari, who was his girlfriend at the time. Majors' trial is scheduled to begin on November 29.

Grace Jabbari surrendered for arrest at the 10th precinct in Manhattan on October 25, on the suspicion of misdemeanor assault and misdemeanor criminal mischief. The arrest occurred in relation to a cross complaint Majors had filed against her in June, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

After the cross complaint was filed, an investigatory card, or I-Card, which is an internal NYPD document alerting officers that there is probable cause for an arrest, was issued for Jabbari in late June.

However, in court documents related to the 'Ant Man and the Wasp: Quantumania' actor's case, after prosecutors

learned of the I-Card, they said that they informed the NYPD on September 8 and September 12 that "the People would decline to prosecute any charges brought by the NYPD against Ms. Jabbari related to the belated allegations made by the defendant regarding the incident on March 25."

This was also disclosed to the defense counsel in Majors case on September 26 and to Jabbari's attorney on September 21.

On October 25, the Manhattan DA office said that it has "officially declined to prosecute the case against Grace Jabbari because it lacks prosecutorial merit." As such, the case against her is now closed and sealed.

Dustin Pusch, a civil attorney for Jonathan Majors, released a statement on the very same day on behalf of his client claiming that the DA "unilaterally and without explanation has decided not to prosecute Ms. Jabbari for her misdeeds."

"While Mr Majors is thankful that the NYPD corroborated his account, it is a serious injustice that the District Attorney continues to move forward with its case against him. These recent revelations raise grave questions about the impartiality and transparency of the prosecutors' discretion, due process, and equal protection under the law," the statement reads.



# Jack Black goes shirtless to belt out Taylor Swift's 'Anti Hero' at a SAG-AFTRA fundraiser

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor-singer Jack Black stripped up shirtless to sing Taylor Swift's song 'Anti-Hero' at a SAG-AFTRA fundraiser on October 25. Black, who had been expected to perform a stand-up set, ripped his shirt off and walked through the crowd to people's surprise and amusement, and queried for any song requests.

In fan-captured footage uploaded to X formerly Twitter, the Tenacious D singer was seen on stage, having just performed a stand-up comedy set at the 'Give Back-ular Spectacular' event held at the Orpheum Theater, which supports members of SAG-AFTRA affected by the current strike. Other performers present included Janelle James, Halle Berry, Lily Tomlin and Dax Shepard.

Black stripped off his shirt at the gig and tossed it on the ground. Relegated to his

boxers, the 'Kung Fu Panda' actor paced around on the stage surveying the crowd as they began clapping and cheering.

Holding his microphone to the crowd, Black asked if they had any requests. One audience member threw out a song suggestion Black, to which he replied: "I know that one. Everyone knows that f\*\*\*\* song!"

Initially singing the song in a more comical tone, Black soon began doing a more guttural version and started spouting gibberish once it was clear that the 'School of Rock' actor had forgotten the lyrics. But that didn't stop him from just dishing it out, to which the audience was laughing and having a great time. It was a lighthearted moment amid the seriousness of the ongoing SAG-AFTRA strikes, which have had a considerably negative impact on the economy since starting in July. The 'Give Back-ular Spectacular!' has raised emergency relief

funds for both union and non-union crew members in need, seeing that many of the crew members have gone without a paycheck during the hiatus as tension remains between SAG-AFTRA and the studios. The SAG-AFTRA strike has lasted 104 days, and combined with the recently concluded WGA strikes, the whole thing has lasted nearly six months, according to Variety.

Talks between SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) and Hollywood studios were due to re-open this week, having previously broken down earlier in the month. The action began in July when the union failed to come to an agreement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) over increased pay, a share of streaming revenue and protection against actors' images and voices being replicated by AI.

# Jonathan Majors assault case: Judge denies motion to dismiss case, trial set for Nov 29

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Jonathan Majors will face a trial on domestic abuse charges after a New York judge denied the motion to dismiss the case.

The trial date is set to begin on November 29. Majors appeared in a lower Manhattan courtroom via Zoom because he is out of state, reports Variety. During the hearing, his defence attorneys filed a motion to request that "contested evidence" remain under seal and barred from public view due to the "high profile" nature of the case and allegations against Majors.

Defence attorney Seth Zuckerman told Judge Michael Gaffey that he believes "the disclosure of sensitive information will limit Mr Majors' right to a fair trial."

As per Variety, the judge did not yet rule on the motion and told reporters in the room they could submit papers to oppose it by November 6.

Following the decision, a spokesperson for the Manhattan District Attorney's office



issued a statement saying: "We look forward to presenting our case at trial."

The actor was arrested in Manhattan on March 25 and charged with assault and aggravated harassment after an alleged domestic dispute with his girlfriend at the time, Grace Jabbari.

Variety further states that Majors has pleaded not guilty to the four charges levelled against him.



# Al Pacino, girlfriend Noor Alfalah dismiss split rumours as they step out for date

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Scarface' star Al Pacino and girlfriend Noor Alfalah dismissed rumours about their split as they headed out for a date night in Los Angeles.

The 83-year-old actor was spotted with the producer, 29, going for dinner at Pace Italian restaurant, just days after she was enjoying a playful date with Prince

Alexander von Furstenberg, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Noor, who gave birth to their son Roman in June, reportedly filed for sole custody of their child. The producer had filed a petition in Los Angeles Superior Court and along with reasonable visitation, she had also requested that the award-winning actor have "joint legal custody."

However, the couple

defied the rumours and enjoyed a romantic outing in Los Angeles, with Noor walking ahead of the veteran Hollywood icon as he ambled behind her.

As per Mirror.co.uk, she dressed casually for the occasion, rocking a pair of black drawstring trousers and a cropped leather jacket, while Al tried to keep a low profile with a dark coat and sunglasses.



Sara Sampaio





## MEN'S ODI WC: MARKRAM 91, CLINICAL BOWLING HELP SOUTH AFRICA BEAT PAKISTAN BY 1 WICKET; GO TOP OF THE TABLE



Chennai | Agencies

Adian Markram scored 91 but South Africa nearly made a hash of a modest chase as they lost three wickets for 10 runs before Keshav Maharaj (7 off 21) and Tabraiz Shamsi (4 off 6) saw through to a one-wicket victory, their first victory against Pakistan in 24 years in a nail-biting finish in Match 26 of the ICC Men's ODI

World Cup 2023 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Friday.

The nervy victory was made possible by the South African bowlers who bowled out Pakistan for 270 in 46.4 overs as the Proteas earned their fifth win in six matches and surged to the top of the table, ahead of India on a better Net Run Rate of 2.032 versus 1.353 of India, who also have 10 points from five wins.

Markram held the innings together, hitting seven boundaries and three sixes in a 93-ball knock, and with vital contributions from David Miller (29), Temba Bavuma (28) and Rassie van der Dussen (21) had reached 250/6 in the 41st over when they lost Markram to a catch by Babar Azam off Usama Mir. South Africa lost (Gerald Coetzee on the same score and when Lungi Ngidi was out for four, caught and bowled by Haris Rauf, they slumped to 260/9 with 11 runs needed for victory with the last-wicket pair of Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi, who claimed 4-60 earlier in the match, at the crease. They survived a couple of testing overs by the Pakistan pacers before Keshav Maharaj blasted a boundary to seal a memorable victory for South Africa. South Africa eventually ended with a score of 271/9 in 47.2 overs to win the match by one wicket. Pakistan, whose bowlers showed real fightback in the last few overs, slumped to their fourth defeat in the World Cup for the first time

and now have very slim chances of making it to the knockout stage. or Pakistan, Shaheen Shah Afridi claimed 3-45 in his 10 overs while Haris Rauf (2-62), Mohammad Wasim (2-60) and Usman Mir (2-45) too contributed with the ball but in the end, their effort went in vain as Pakistan slumped to defeat in a thrilling encounter.

Earlier, skipper Babar Azam and middle-order batter Saud Shakeel struck half-centuries while Marco Jansen (3-42) and Tabraiz Shamsi (4-60) as Pakistan were bundled out for a modest 270 by a strong bowling effort by South Africa.

Electing to bat first, Pakistan were reduced to 38 for two as Jansen landed a couple of early blows sending back openers Abdullah Shafique (9) and Imam-ul-Haq (23) to the pavilion by the seventh over.

### Brief scores

Pakistan 270 all out in 46.4 overs (Babar Azam 50, Saud Shakeel 52, Shadab Khan 43, Mohd Rizwan 31; Marco Jansen 3-42, Tabraiz Shamsi 4-60, Gerald Coetzee 2-42) lost to South Africa 271/9 in 47.2 overs (Adian Markram 91, David Miller 29, Temba Bavuma 28; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3-45, Haris Rauf 2-62, Mohammad Wasim 2-50, Usman Mir 2-45) by 1 wicket.

### Para Asian Games

## Pramod Bhagat clinches gold in badminton men's single SL3 category

Hangzhou (China) | Agencies

In a thrilling display of skill and determination, renowned para-badminton player Pramod Bhagat won a gold medal in the men's single SL3 category at the ongoing Para Asian Games, here on Friday.

The victory marks a historic milestone for Pramod as he completed a trio of gold medals, having previously won the Paralympic Gold and World Championships Gold.

Representing the nation for the 4th time in Para Asian Games, Pramod secured 1 gold and 2 bronze in the 3 events in which he participated.

Facing a formidable opponent and compatriot Nitesh Kumar, Bhagat displayed exceptional skill and resilience. The match unfolded in a nail-biting fashion, with both the shuttlers



engaged in a neck-to-neck battle.

In the first game, Pramod narrowly piped Nitesh with the score of 22-20. Nitesh fought back fiercely, claiming the second game 21-19. It all boiled down to the last to decide to decide who would take the gold medal.

In the third game, Nitesh started well and managed to take an early lead with Pramod trailing by almost 4 points and this was maintained throughout the last set with Nitesh poised to take the match leading the game 18-14, somehow Pramod managed to pull 2 consecutive

points with the game still being in Nitesh's favour with a score of 19-16, but the comeback king had other ideas, just like how he pulled an impossible comeback at the Paralympic finals, Pramod managed to stage a comeback and stun Nitesh, claiming the final game 21-19 to retain his gold medal.

The final score read 22-20, 18-21 and 21-19.

Talking about his win Pramod said: "Firstly a huge congratulations to Nitesh Kumar, I think he played the game of his life, but unfortunately ended up with a silver. He is a brilliant player and pushes me till the edge which he did today." "Somehow even when I was trailing, I had a belief that I would make a comeback and could win, the thought of losing never occurred to me. I focused on 1 point at a time and made it possible and I am really happy with my performance.

## Internacional beat Vasco to allay relegation fears

Rio de Janeiro | Agencies

Mauricio Prado and Enner Valencia scored either side of halftime as Internacional eased their relegation concerns with a 2-1 away victory over Vasco da Gama in Brazil's Serie A championship.

Prado opened the scoring with a cool left-footed finish after Alan Patrick's through ball.

Ecuador international forward Valencia doubled the lead by combining with Fabricio Bustos before slotting home from 12 yards.

Alex Teixeira gave the hosts a glimmer of hope when he headed into the bottom-right corner following an Erick Marcus cross.

But indiscipline cost Vasco in the final minutes.



The Rio de Janeiro outfit finished the match with nine men after Paulinho and Marcus picked up second yellow cards for rash stoppage-time fouls. The result lifts Internacional to 11th in the

20-team standings, eight points clear of the relegation zone with nine match days remaining. Vasco are further entrenched in the drop zone, falling to 18th with 30 points from 29 games.

### Asian Shooting C'ships

## ARJUN, TILOTTAMA CLAIM PARIS OLYMPIC QUOTA PLACES IN 10M AIR RIFLE EVENTS

Changwon (Korea) | Agencies

Indian shooters Arjun Babuta and Tilottama Sen have clinched 2024 Paris Olympic quota places by securing silver medals in the men's and women's 10m air rifle events, respectively, at the Asian Shooting Championships, here on Friday.

India now have successfully obtained 10 Olympic quota places in shooting, which includes the maximum allotment of two positions for each gender in the 10m air rifle events. Prior to this, Rudranksh Patil secured a quota place in the men's air rifle event, while Mehuli Ghosh did the same in the women's air rifle category.

In the men's 10m air rifle final, Babuta shot 251.2 to finish behind Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Sheng Lihao of China, who shot 252.1. Japan's Naoya Okada took bronze with 230.6.

Another Indian in the final, Divyansh Singh Panwar finished fourth with 209.6.

Earlier, the 24-year-old Arjun



topped the qualification round with a score of 633.4 while Divyansh finished third with a score of 632.3 and Hriday Hazarika with 626.7 finished 21st. Moreover, the trio of Arjun, Divyansh and Hriday, with a combined score of 1892.4, won the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle team

event, beating China to the top podium.

In the women's 10m air rifle final, 15-year-old Tilottama Sen, who finished sixth in the qualification round with 630.5 points, shot 252.3 in the final to settle for silver.

South Korea's Eunji Kwon took the

gold with 252.4 while Tilottama's compatriot Ramita, who shot 629.5 in qualifying, clinched bronze with 230.6 score. Elavenil Valarivan shot 631.5 in qualifying to finish third while Nancy placed seventh with 630.3. Both were shooting for ranking points only (RPO).

In the women's 10m rifle team event, a trio of Tilottama and Ramita Jindal and Shriyanka Sadangi took the bronze, scoring combined total of 1886.2 to finish behind China and Singapore. The Indian duo of Anant jeet Singh Naruka, an Asian Games 2023 silver medalist, and Darshna Rathore, meanwhile, bagged a gold medal in the mixed team skeet event after beating Kuwait 40-37 in the gold medal playoff.

The Asian Shooting Championships serve as a qualification opportunity for the Paris 2024 Olympics, with a total of 24 Olympic quota places available.

In each of the 12 Olympic shooting events, the top two finishers (one per country) secure a coveted spot for their national teams.

### 'I had made my entire planning'

## Dhoni reveals 2019 WC semifinal loss as turning point in retirement decision

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has shared insights into his decision to retire from international cricket, saying that he had made up his mind after India's defeat to New Zealand in the 2019 World Cup semifinal, that it would be his last game in India colours.

In the 13 months that followed India's semifinal exit from the 2019 World Cup, Dhoni conspicuously stayed away from the cricketing arena, eventually confirming his retirement on August 15, 2020.

Speaking at an event in Bengaluru, Dhoni revealed that he decided after the semifinal that it was the last game

he played for India and said: "It gets difficult to control your emotions when you have lost a close game. And inside, I had made my entire planning. To me, that was the last day I played cricket for India. I took retirement a year later but the fact is that, that day I had retired. We cricketers are given certain machines and all of that. "So every time I went to the trainer I gave it back to him. He said 'No you keep it. And in my mind, I am like 'how do I tell him I won't be needing or using it anymore'. I didn't want to announce it at that point in time." Dhoni further said: "You are high on emotions. The only thing you've done in the last 12-15 years is play cricket. And then there is no more chance of you representing the

country. There are so many people but only few get that opportunity. And sportspeople, they have that. Irrespective of which sport you play, you are representing your country. Be it the Commonwealth Games, Olympics... So, once I quit cricket, there was no way I would be representing my country. I could no longer bring any glory. All those things are going on in mind."

Despite retiring from international cricket, the former skipper remains an active player for IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings and led the side to its 5th title in 2023 during which he was marred by a knee injury which limited him to cameo appearances with the bat. But, he had promised his fans that he would return in IPL



2024. After CSK won their fifth IPL crown, Dhoni subsequently underwent surgery on his knee.

## Leverkusen ease past Qarabag to keep perfect record in Europa League

Berlin | Agencies

Bayer Leverkusen showed no mercy towards Qarabag and secured a 5-1 victory courtesy of Alejandro Grimaldo's brace to maintain their perfect winning record in the UEFA Europa League group stage.

The Werkself had a fairy tale start in front of the home crowd and opened the scoring after just six minutes when Florian Wirtz benefited from Grimaldo's deflected cross to slot home.

The visitors restored parity out of the blue in the 16th minute after Tural Bayramov kept his nerves from the spot to convert a penalty. Xinhua reports. Leverkusen remained unimpressed and pushed forward as Victor Boniface



pulled wide from a promising position while Amine Adli rattled the woodwork moments later. The hosts' efforts eventually paid off at the half-hour mark as Wirtz's assist allowed Grimaldo to make it 2-1 on the scoreboard before Boniface hammered home from 20 meters seven minutes later. Leverkusen

sparked to life again early in the second half and established a 4-1 advantage after Grimaldo wrapped up his brace following Wirtz's cut-back pass. The hosts were still not done with the scoring as three minutes later, Edmond Tapsoba finished off a counterattack to put the game to bed.

## SMAT: Tushar Deshpande claims hat-trick as Mumbai thrash Mizoram by 9 wickets

Jaipur | Agencies

Chennai Super Kings pacer Tushar Deshpande claimed a hat-trick as Mumbai thrashed Mizoram by 9 wickets in the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy match here at KL Saini ground, on Friday.

Tushar finished his spell with a figure of 4 for 13 in 3.3 overs.

Bowling first, Mumbai bowlers left no space for Mizoram batters to settle down as they struck at regular intervals. Tushar led the bowling with a fierce opening spell and achieved hat-trick in the second over.

With his swinging ability both ways, he first knocked out Vikash Kumar middle stump, and then with his fierce length bowling outside off, trapped Jehu Anderson,



and Joseph Lalthankhuma behind the wicket. Tushar's phenomenal performance in the tournament with 17 wickets in 10 matches with an economy of 6.72 has been a guiding path for Mumbai's victory. Chasing the small target of 77, dominant Mumbai batters chased the target in a mere six overs losing just one wicket.

## Pakistan's Rizwan achieves milestone of 2000 ODI runs

Chennai | Agencies

Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Muhammad Rizwan achieved the milestone of 2000 runs in the One-day international format batting against South Africa, here on Friday.

Rizwan achieved this feat in the 65th ODI innings which includes three centuries and 13 half-centuries.

Rizwan arrived at No. 4 after Pakistan were reduced to 38/2. He joined forces with skipper Babar Azam and the duo stitched a 48-run stand.

The veteran has now scored 2,026 runs at an average of 39.72, with a strike rate of 89.92.

He has scored 593 runs at

home and 776 runs away from home in ODI cricket. The Pakistan batter owns 657 runs at neutral venues.

Earlier in the tournament, playing against Sri Lanka Rizwan also became the second keeper batter to score a century in the ODI World Cup.

His unbeaten 131 helped Pakistan chase a record-breaking 345 against Sri Lanka in their second match which was also the highest score by a Pakistan wicketkeeper in ODIs.

Rizwan also leads the chart in leading run-getters in ODIs for Pakistan this year. He has amassed 961 runs in 22 matches at an impressive average of 64.06.

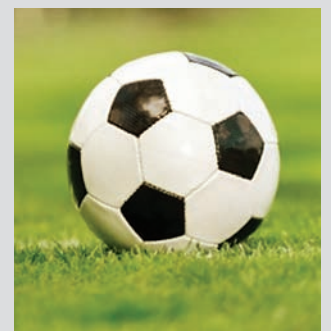


## ISRAEL TO HOST EURO 2024 QUALIFIERS IN HUNGARY

Jerusalem: Israel will host its next two home Euro 2024 qualifying matches, against Switzerland and Romania, in Hungary, the Israel Football Association (IFA) said.

The two Group I matches will be held outside of Israel due to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict and UEFA's suspension on holding matches in the country due to the security situation.

The two matches are scheduled for November 15 and 18 respectively, in addition to Israel's two away matches against Kosovo on November 12 and Andorra on the 21st, meaning that Israel will play four matches in 10 days, Xinhua reports. The IFA said in the statement that the city and the stadium in Hungary for Israel's home matches have not yet been determined.







## 'TEMPTATION IS A FOREVER CONCEPT,' SAYS MOUNI ROY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mouni Roy, who has turned into the queen of hearts in the upcoming youth-based reality show 'Temptation Island', believes that "temptation is a forever concept."

In the teaser that was released on Friday, Mouni is heard saying: "Jab temptations saamne aate hai, love khatre mein aa jaata hai."

Talking further about the concept of the show, Mouni said: "Temptation is a forever concept. From Adam and Eve's forbidden fruit to the captivating Mohini avatar of Lord Vishnu, even the gods couldn't escape it, we are still humans!"

'Temptation Island India', a Banijay Asia production, offers audiences a special chance to see the ultimate romance test. The alluring Mouni Roy will open doors for the participants to discover new connections and their own paths to self-discovery in the ultimate 'Pyaar Ki Pariksha'.

'Temptation Island India' starts November 3 on JioCinema.

## Salman Khan spotlights fight between Ankita and Vicky this weekend



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the upcoming 'Weekend Ka Vaar' of the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss' season 17, host and superstar Salman Khan gave a reality check to couple Ankita Lokhande and Vicky Jain, who have for the last two weeks indulged in frequent spats in the house.

Ankita's constant complaint is that she is not getting enough time with her husband, and Vicky is annoyed at having to explain that he is doing his best to win the game. The couple is on the receiving end of a slew of reality checks dropped by the 'Dabang' host.

Salman goes as far as asking Ankita a rhetorical question: "Are you here to lose your individuality?"

The only answer Ankita has is that she can make her own decisions, but she wants her husband by her side.

Salman doesn't spare Vicky either, grilling him with pointed questions that don't have any easy answers but are sure to keep viewers and housemates buzzing with opinions. Will this couple come out unscathed after playing the game with their hearts?

When asked to clean up his mess in the kitchen area by a few housemates, a riled-up Abhishek Pandey defends himself by accusing Mannara Chopra of being messy and not doing her part sweeping the floor.

At this point, Abhishek goes for the low blow and calls her the "duplicate Parineeti Chopra". Quick to snap back, Mannara warns him to not drag her family members into the fight.

This altercation makes it to Weekend Ka Vaar, and Salman weighs in with his trademark sense of justice. The host does not hold back in telling off Abhishek and remarks that he is a Salman fan, but he's nothing like the superstar he claims to idolise.

The question is whether Abhishek will break the pattern of provoking others and showing aggression.

The current contestants of 'Bigg Boss 17' are Jigna Vora, Sana Raees Khan, Anurag Dobhal, Munawar Faruqui, Ankita Lokhande and Vicky Jain, Navid Sole, Neil Bhatt, Aishwarya Sharma, Abhishek Kumar, Isha Malviya, Rinku Dhawan, Arun Mashetty, Sunny Arya, Firoza Khan, Soniya Bansal, and Mannara Chopra.

The show airs on Colors, and JioCinema.

## SIA ON COLLABORATION WITH DILJIT DOSANJH:

### 'Speaking Punjabi is much harder than you think'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Australian singer Sia, who has collaborated with Diljit Dosanjh for the track 'Hass Hass', said that speaking Punjabi is much harder than one thinks, and that she was sweating in order to get it right.

Internationally acclaimed artists, Diljit and Sia, have joined forces with the exceptionally talented producer, Greg Kurstin, to create a ground-breaking moment with the highly anticipated release of 'Hass Hass'.

For Sia, this marks her first-ever Indian collaboration, and 'Hass Hass' demonstrates her versatility as an artist, seamlessly bridging continents and genres.

Sia has elevated her musical prowess by mastering Punjabi lyrics, and blending seamlessly with Diljit's vocals.

Known for her powerful and emotive vocals, Sia said: "Hass Hass" was made with so much love I left in a completely saturated dress. Speaking Punjabi is much harder than you think; I sweated through my entire dress, trying so hard to get it right. I had to ask them to stop taking photos. I was completely drenched by the time I nailed it."

This collaboration is a testament to the universal language of music, forging a connection that resonates with people around the world. Greg Kurstin, a renowned producer known for a series of Grammy-winning hits, has infused his expertise into 'Hass Hass' enhancing the track's global appeal by combining Punjabi and English lyrics.

Sharing his thoughts on the collaboration, Diljit said: "It's been absolutely fantastic collaborating with Sia.

Sia lending her vocals in Punjabi is quite effortless. I'm sure the track will touch the hearts of all music lovers across the globe."

In his recent international releases, Diljit has collaborated with artists like Tory Lanez for



'Chauffeur', Diamond Platnumz for 'Jugni', and had Anne Marie featured on his fan-favorite track 'Peaches'.

'Hass Hass' boasts of a captivating melody, profound lyrics, and an engaging hook that is sure to linger in the hearts of fans worldwide. The song explores themes of happiness and resilience.

It is released by Warner Music India.

## RAVI TEJA'S PRESENCE USED TO INTIMIDATE ME: GAYATRI BHARDWAJ!

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ravi Teja recently came with the pan-India film 'Tiger Nageswara Rao'. The film marks the Telugu debut of actress Gayatri Bhardwaj. While the film is getting rave reviews from all over, the audience, industry and critics can't stop praising Gayatri's performance and her village girl look. As she is reeling in all the love that she is getting, the actress can't stop raving about his superstar co-star.

Sharing her experience of working with Ravi Teja for the first time, Gayatri says, "For the very first time in my career, I was working with a superstar. His stature is something very different over here in the south. When he walks, he walks with a stardom along with him. He commands that presence whenever he is on set."

The actress adds how their day used to go like on sets. She shares, "Our daily routine was that he used to come in and just stand beside me, and I had to say my dialogues. His presence used to intimidate me because he is a larger-than-life actor. Acting with him was hilariously difficult for me. But his acknowledgement meant a lot to me."

A former Miss India, Gayatri stepped into showbiz with music videos. She appeared in the songs including Call and Patola.

Her acting break came with Bhuvan Bam's digital series Dhindora, where she played a doctor and Bhuvan's love interest. She also was a part of 'Ishq Express' and 'Highway Love'.



Poonam Rajput