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Himachal women become agents for climate resilient farming

SETTING NEW PRECEDENT

An elated young woman farmer Harshita Rana Bhandari, 28, who is the Prakritik Kheti Mahila Khushhal Kisan Samiti president, said, "Our apple orchards were not giving good yield due to overuse of chemicals. Moreover, the expenditure on cultivation was rising every year. When we were specifically trained for natural farming and motivated to contribute significantly with knowledge, we adopted natural farming." Educated up to Class 12, she is now leading the natural farming initiative by propagating it among other women in the village.

- ▶ Even the women groups are collectively making pickles, chutneys and garlands to supplement their livelihood from agriculture.
- ▶ Officials say the knowledge imparted to the women farmers and their capacity building through trainings and exposure visits to other farms are doing more good to them than just providing them the option of healthy and sustainable agriculture for livelihood.
- ▶ The knowledge has visibly instilled confidence in women farmers in totality that has led to their inclusion in decision making even at home.



the latest information and knowledge about natural farming, discarding the conventional practices that have effects on both -- environmental and human health.

The movement, launched in the state in 2018 to adopt natural farming under the state-run Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana, is gaining ground.

This year, October 22 is being observed as 'Mahila Kisan Diwas' or Women Farmers' Day.

Project officials told correspondent that with a growing concern about the intensive usage of pesticides in farming, there is a noticeable

change as more and more women, either individually or in self-help groups, are turning up as catalysts. One such group with over 20 women farmers is in Chagaon village in Tapri block of Kinnaur district. They have adopted the low cost, non-chemical and climate resilient Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) technique being promoted under Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana on some portion of their farms for cultivation of apples, rajmash, garlic, maize and traditional crops like opla phaphra and koda.

Like other womenfolk, middle-

aged farmer Charna Devi from Chagaon village is happy after switching over to natural ways of farming as she believes it contributes significantly in saving humans and nature from the harmful effects of pesticides.

She, along with others, got an opportunity to visit Kurukshetra in Haryana, some 400 km from her remote village, for exposure to natural farming.

As per official records, the women farmers are doing natural farming individually on around 12.5 bigha of land. The SPNF technique has helped them take multiple crops alongside apples, like pulses and vegetables, which not only supplement their family income but the farm health also.

Over 1.5 lakh farmers in the state have been trained in SPNF technique. The number of women participants in all training sessions is reasonably good. The results in the field are encouraging too, he said.

Unlike her, the journey has not been not so smooth for Jaswinder Kaur, 50, from Kanshipur village in Paonta Sahib block in Sirmaur district while adopting natural farming in family farm.

She is now a part of the women farmers group and markets the produce via social media.

Juna Akhara to work for conservation of Yamuna

Mahant Hari Giri, General Secretary, Akhila Bhartiya Akhara Parishad

PRAYAGRAJ | Agencies

The Panchdasnaam Juna Akhara, one of the 13 ancient recognised Hindu monastic orders in the country, is all set to launch an initiative for the conservation of Yamuna river.

The Juna Akhara has decided to organise a 'Kalindi Utsav', under which widespread riverbank cleaning exercises and conservation awareness events would be conducted between Karela Bagh and Bade Hanuman temple in Prayagraj on November 14.

The Mahant said, "Yamuna is also a sacred river. It is worshipped as a Hindu goddess called Yamuna, also known as Yami in early texts, while in later religious scriptures, she has been called Kalindi. In Hindu scriptures, she is the daughter of Surya, the sun god, and Sanjna, the cloud goddess."



People living on the banks of the river would then be sensitised about the need to conserve the river, he said.

The next step possibly could be implementing strict measures by slapping fines on people polluting the river and its banks by dumping waste, garbage and releasing untreated sewage into it.

The Juna Akhara, the largest of all the 13 monastic orders, also plans to undertake massive tree plantation drives along the banks of

Yamuna as part of its mission. "We will involve locals residing on the river banks as well as volunteers for looking after the planted trees. Our saints and seers across the state will use their sermons and discourses to spread the message," the Mahant said.

'Deepdaan' events on the banks of Yamuna during the sacred 'Kartik' month as per the Hindu calendar would also be organised from October 21 to November 19 with cleaning the ghats as

"The efforts would be gradually scaled up to a state-level mission. Aimed at attracting the attention of people as well as the governments towards the need of undertaking Yamuna-specific initiatives to conserve the river, a demand for constructing public toilets on the river banks would also be raised by us. We want basic amenities to be developed first to conserve the Yamuna."

India's first IVF buffalo calf born in Gujarat

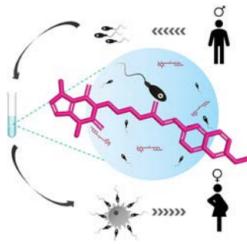
Team Absolute | New Delhi

For the first time in India, using the in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) technique, a calf was born to a buffalo from a breed named 'Banni' at a private farm in Gujarat's Somnath district.

The country's first IVF buffalo calf was born out of six Banni IVF pregnancies that were established at the doorstep of the farmer, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said in a statement on Friday.

The Ministry runs a scheme for livestock breeding through artificial insemination methods such as through IVF where a trained technician performs the technique on the buffalo. This first calf was born at the farm of Vinay Vala of Sushila Agro Farms. Government records show that one of the major challenges that India has faced for some years now is of low productivity livestock.

Artificial Insemination Training Institutes (AITI) operate under the



umbrella of state governments, cooperatives, National Dairy Development Board, NGOs and private agencies across the country.

The National Livestock Policy lays a special emphasis on improving productivity of livestock through enhanced artificial insemination coverage, improving availability of high genetic merit disease-free males for breeding and to creating an enabling environment for improving infrastructure supporting livestock production.

Our Covid vax 90.7% effective in kids aged 5-11: Pfizer

Washington: Pfizer and its partner BioNTech said their Covid-19 vaccine is safe and 90.7 per cent effective against symptomatic coronavirus in children aged 5 to 11.



The companies revealed the data in a document posted on Friday ahead of a meeting of advisers to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) scheduled for October 26. Pfizer and BioNTech are applying FDA emergency use authorization (EUA) of a two-dose regimen of their 10-microgram dose for children of the mentioned age group. The two doses would be administered three weeks apart. The data show that the two-dose primary series of the vaccine given to children from 5 to less than 12 years of age confers a high degree of protective efficacy against Covid-19 during a period when the Delta variant of concern predominates in the US. The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on October 26 to discuss whether to authorise the job. If authorised, it would be the first Covid-19 vaccine for younger children. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is currently fully approved for people ages 16 and older, and has an EUA for children aged 12 to 15.

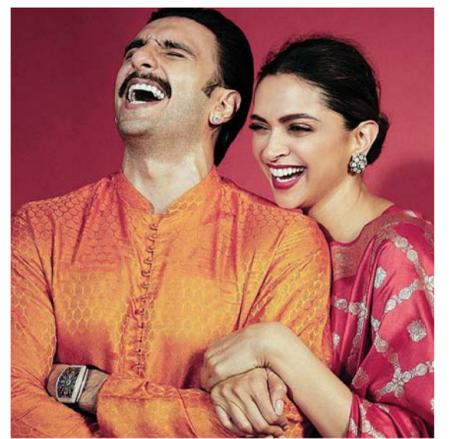
Deepika-Ranveer set to bid for new IPL team alongside others

According to a report in Outlook India, Bollywood couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh could be in the running to own a team, which suggests that the race to own the teams is now bigger than ever.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The 2022 season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) will be a ten-team affair, and Bollywood's superstar couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh are all set to join the bidding war for the two new teams along with other big players.

The IPL governing body has invited bids to acquire the rights of two new teams before the next year's mega auction of players. With the announcement date drawing closer every day, the race to buy two new IPL teams is really hotting up. A few days ago, the Adani Group and the RP-Sanjeev Goenka Groups were the 'favourites' to walk away with the new teams. But, now it seems that there will be multiple bidders. Deepika -- the daughter of former All-England badminton champion Prakash Padukone, has sport in her genes. On the other hand, Ranveer has been involved with the English Premier League and is currently NBA's brand ambassador for India. Notably, Bollywood and IPL have a long history. Shah Rukh Khan and Juhi Chawla co-own Kolkata Knight Riders, while Preity Zinta has a stake in Punjab Kings. Shilpa Shetty is also known for her association with Rajasthan Royals.



Bhawani Mandi: A railway station where trains stand in two states

▶ THE RAILWAY STATION ALSO REMAINS UNIQUE AS MOST OF THE PEOPLE COMING HERE TO GET THEIR TICKETS BOOKED INTRODUCED THEMSELVES AS MADHYA PRADESH RESIDENTS BUT THE TICKETING OFFICE IS IN RAJASTHAN.

This unique railway station in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district is situated on the Delhi-Mumbai railway line, and sees the train engine standing in Rajasthan while the guard's coach is still in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh.

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

It may sound unbelievable but there is a railway station in Rajasthan where only half of a standing train is in the state.

This station is Bhawani Mandi where the train's engine stands in one state and the guard coach stands in another state. Bhawani Mandi station, in fact, has other peculiarities due to its location on the Rajasthan-Madhya Pradesh border.

While there is a board displaying the name of Rajasthan at one point, the board on other end showcases Madhya Pradesh. Not only the rail-



way station, the area has many houses, whose front doors open into Madhya Pradesh's Bhaissodamandi town while the back door opens into Bhawani Mandi. As per officials, the drug peddlers have been cashing in on

the geographical situation of this town as they vanish from one state to the other giving a slip to pursuing police. Bollywood comedy film "Bhawani Mandi Tesan", produced in 2018, has narrated the different tale of this town.

T20 World Cup

Arch-rivals India, Pakistan eye World Cup

DUBAI | Agencies

Virat Kohli-led India will face Babar Azam's Pakistan in a high octane Group 2 clash in the Super 12 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, here on Sunday.

India last hosted Pakistan in a bilateral series in 2013 and the teams now meet only in global tournaments. The two teams last met in the group stages of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup, with India convincingly defeating the old rivals to maintain their undefeated streak in World Cups. The two arch-rivals have met each other five times at a T20 World Cup and 'Men in Blue' have won on all the occasions. However, a new day awaits



for both the teams on October 24 and they will have an equal chance to win.

Both teams come into the match with decent practice under their belt, having played two warm-up matches each. Pakistan beat West Indies by seven wickets in their first match before losing to South Africa off the last ball in the second. India, the 2007 champions, on the other hand, won both their

warm-up matches, beating England and Australia.

Both teams are full of talented T20 players who can single-handedly win games for their sides on any given day. For Pakistan, captain Babar Azam, wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan, and Mohammad Hafeez will be key in the batting while the likes of Shaheen Afridi, Hasan Ali, Imad Wasim, and Shadab Khan will look to trouble the Indian batters.



PRIYANKA GANDHI FLAGS OFF CONGRESS'S 'PRATIGYA YATRA' IN UTTAR PRADESH

LUCKNOW | Agencies

Congress general secretary and Uttar Pradesh in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra flagged off three 'Pratigya Yatras' from Barabanki today to take to the people various resolutions adopted by the party ahead of the prized election for the state of Uttar Pradesh early next year.

The Congress leader, who had earlier announced to give 40 per cent tickets to women in the elections besides smartphones to Class 12 pass girls and an e-scooty to graduate girls, also unveiled other resolutions of the party.

"Some key promises of our manifesto are free e-Scooty and mobile phones for school girls, farm loan waiver, ₹ 25,000 per year to poor families, electricity bill half for all and full waiver of pending electricity bills of Covid period," said Priyanka Gandhi Vadra while kicking off the yatra.

The three yatras - from Barabanki to Bundelkhand, Saharanpur to Mathura and Varanasi to Rae Bareilly - will run till November 1.

Former MP Pramod Tiwari will lead the Varanasi to Rae Bareilly route that will cover the Awadh region, while the Barabanki-Bundelkhand



route will be led by PL Punia and former Union minister of state Pradeep Jain Aditya.

The western front, covering the Saharanpur-Mathura route, will be led by former Union minister Salman Khurshid and senior party leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam.

During these rallies, Congress will communicate its "seven pledges" to

the people in the state, apart from its election manifesto. The yatra will cover 12,000 kilometres. Various press conferences, "nukkad sabhas", temple visits, roadshows, Jan Sabhas, etc will be held during the yatra. Priyanka Gandhi has been taking on the UP government on a number of issues, including the death of four farmers at Lakhimpur

Kheri earlier this month. This week she was detained by police (for the second time in a month) after she tried to visit the family of a man who died in police custody. Priyanka Gandhi was earlier held - illegally, she claimed - by police who were ordered to stop her from visiting the families of the four farmers who were run over in Lakhimpur.

'Kashmiri Pandits & Sikhs continuously targeted from across the border'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Kashmir is not only a majority Muslim province of India, it is also home to a distinct community called the Kashmiri Pandits & Sikhs who have been exiled from their land by forces from across the border, said Global Kashmiri Pandit diaspora in a statement on Saturday.

It said that Kashmir is home to a community which has seen the horrors of genocide, brutal assaults, and targeted killings since Oct 22, 1947.

The Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) Thailand Chapter held an event at Bangkok on Saturday to discuss how minority communities of Kashmir have been continuously targeted from across the border. The event was held under the leadership of D.K. Bakshi, GKPD Chapter Head, who held the day 22 Oct in 1947 as a black day in the history of



Kashmir. Around 50 participants from Thailand, Thai Indians and Indian Community joined the event physically and others virtually.

Sharing his personal agony and pain associated with the mass exodus, Bakshi said that the minority communities of Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs have been continuously targeted from across the border.

"The turning point in the history of Kashmir came on Oct 22, 1947 with invasion on the Indian state of Jammu

and Kashmir by 'Tribals from Pakistan with Pakistani soldiers' which opened up a chapter - the bloodiest, most brutal ethnic cleansing in South Asia's modern history, which unfortunately continues to this Day", was the view of the speakers at the GKPD.

The prominent speakers who joined virtually includes Kiran Bedi who expressed solidarity with Black Day on 22nd Oct 1947 and said that Kashmiri Pandits and Sikh Community have been victims of genocide for decades.

BJP holds minority wing meet to woo Muslim voters

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Executive meeting of the BJP's Minority wing is going to be held in New Delhi on Sunday to discuss the political strategy ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in five states and how to reach out to the minority community, especially the Muslim population in the country.

The meeting will be attended by the BJP's Minority wing National President, all national office bearers, the party presidents and state in-charges of all states of the minority wing, besides Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and D. Purandeswari, BJP Minority wing in-charge and party's National General Secretary. BJP Minority wing National President, Jamal Siddiqui told reporter the meeting will deliberate upon current political situation in the country. Siddiqui said, the future strategy of the minority wing will also be discussed in the party's executive committee meeting. Siddiqui claimed that the Narendra Modi-led Central government and the BJP governments in various states have worked tremen-



dously for the welfare of all minorities, including the Muslim community, which has never been done before by previous governments. The party's minority wing will make a strategy to take the party's achievements to every household of the minority community so that misinformation can be removed. A meeting of all national office-bearers of the party's Minority wing took place at the BJP's national headquarters on Saturday to decide the agenda for the executive meeting to be held on Sunday. Opposition parties have constantly targeted the BJP, calling it "anti-Muslim" so the major challenge before the BJP's Minority Wing is how to change the image of the party and reach out to Muslim voters, party leaders said.

FAIZABAD JUNCTION TO BE RENAMED AS AYODHYA CANTT

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath government on Saturday decided to rechristen Faizabad junction as Ayodhya Cantt, as per a tweet shared by the Chief Minister's office.

Earlier, the government had renamed Faizabad district as Ayodhya and Allahabad as Prayagraj.

After becoming Chief Minister of the state in 2017, Yogi Adityanath renamed Mughalsarai Junction railway station.

Adityanath's proposal to change the name of the station was approved by the Central government and in 2018, it was rechristened as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction. The Yogi Cabinet also renamed Mughalsarai tehsil as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Tehsil.

Rape convict J&K judge sentenced to 10 yrs imprisonment

JAMMU | Agencies

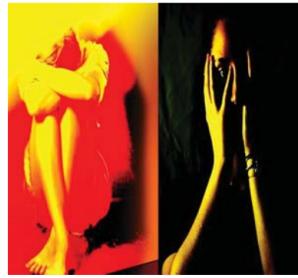
A rape convict 'judge' was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000 on Saturday by a fast track court in Jammu and Kashmir.

Two days after convicting a judicial officer for rape and cheating a woman who had sought legal help in 2018, a fast track court in Jammu on Saturday sentenced him to ten years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000.

The convict, Rajesh Kumar Arbol of Jammu, has also been sentenced to seven years of jail and a fine of Rs 20,000. Arbol was a sub-judge before being tried for rape and cheating.

Fast track court judge Khalil Choudhary said both sentences shall run concurrently.

The court in its judgement said, "It is not only the duty of the court, but social



and legal obligations are clearly enjoined upon it to impose adequate punishment according to law while taking into consideration not only the crime, but also the criminal. Furthermore, deterrence and reformation are primarily social goals. "It is the duty of the court to impose

adequate sentence, for one of the purposes of the requisite sentence is protection of the society and legitimate response to its collective conscience.

"The paramount principle that should be the guiding laser beam is that the punishment should be proportionate. It is the answer of the law to the social conscience. In a way, it is an obligation to the society which has reposed confidence and faith in the judicial system of the country to curtail the evil while imposing the sentence.

"Persons of influence, keeping in view their reach, impact and authority they wield on the general public or the specific class to which they belong owe a duty and have to be more responsible. They are expected to know and perceive the meaning of authority and law with experience and knowledge. It is reasonable to hold that they would be careful in their lives".

States asked to speed up coverage of second Covid vax dose

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Saturday asked the states and UTs to speed up the Covid vaccination programme, with focus on the second dose, across the nation.

The decision comes against the backdrop of the country achieving the milestone of administering 100 crore vaccine doses on October 21.

Highlighting the sizeable number of eligible beneficiaries who have not received their second dose, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan urged the states and UTs to focus on those beneficiaries who are waiting for this after their interval period between the two jabs got over.

Chairing a review meeting with state/UT Health Secretaries and Mission Directors of the National Health Mission, he asked the states and UTs to improve the momentum and accelerate the coverage as the country moves forward to vaccinate all the eligible population by the year-end under the mass vaccination drive.

So far, 71.24 crore first vaccine doses covering 76 per cent of the eligible population and 30.06 crore second doses covering 32 per cent of the eligible population has been administered.

The Health Secretary noted that the detailed line-lists of due



beneficiaries can be utilised for preparing a district-wise 2nd dose administration plan involving the District Magistrate for execution in a time-bound manner.

SCHOOLS FOR CLASSES 1-8 IN TN TO START FROM NOV 1

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday further relaxed the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions allowing shops, restaurants and other establishments to function beyond 11 p.m. and also allowed contact and non-contact sporting events from immediate effect.

In a statement issued here, the government also allowed use of swimming pools for therapeutic purposes from Saturday onwards. The government has allowed, from November 1 onwards, the reopening of schools for Classes 1-8 on rotational basis, 100 per cent occupancy in movie theatres, allowing cultural events in auditoriums, and operation of bars.

Terrorist associate arrested in Kashmir's Baramulla

SRINAGAR | Agencies

A terrorist associate was arrested from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday and incriminating materials, including grenades, were recovered from his possession, police said.

The Baramulla police, along with the Army and the CRPF, arrested the terrorist associate linked with proscribed terror outfit TRF (LeT) at Kitchama.

He has been identified as Farooq Ahmad Malik, son of G. Mohd Malik resident of Kitchama, Baramulla.

Police said incriminating materials including a



Chinese hand grenade, two pistol magazines, and 16 live pistol rounds were recovered from his possession.

Malik was in close contact with active terrorist Hilal

Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Shrakwara Kreeri, and was providing logistical and other material support to him, police said.

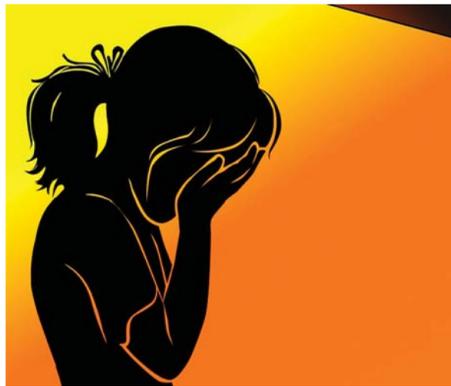
Rape-murder accused in Rajasthan sentenced to death within 24 days of crime

Jaipur | Agencies

A man accused of raping and murdering a seven-year-old girl in Rajasthan has been sentenced to death within 24 days of committing the crime.

According to information, the accused Dinesh Jat was sentenced on Friday.

DGP M.L. Lathar said that the crime was reported on September 20 when the accused took the minor from her home luring her with gifts. A complaint was lodged by the victim's father, after which an investigation started shortly and the girl's body was found hidden in a field. Looking at the gravity of the situation, the police team headed by the Ajmer Range IG and others rushed to Nagore and collected the evidence. The accused was



arrested by a special team of police on the basis of the evidence and in six days, he was presented in POCSO Court in Merta city.

The case was selected under Speak Up campaign by Ajmer Range IG and the trial

started on September 28. Each day witnesses were called and finally on October 21, Dinesh was found guilty of the crime and on Friday, he was sentenced to death, said Lathar.

NO ALCOHOL AND DRUG: CONGRESS MEMBERSHIP REQUISITES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Anyone wishing to take up the primary membership of the Congress will have to make a declaration of abstention from alcohol and drugs and give an undertaking to never criticise the party's policies and programmes in public forums.

According to the grand old party's membership form, new members have to give a declaration that they will not own any property in excess of ceiling laws and will undertake tasks including "manual labour" prescribed by the party.

"This is an old form and is part of our party constitution. And we expect all Congress members, including new ones, to follow these norms," said Madhusudan Mistry, the chairman of the Central Election Authority of the Congress. The Congress will launch a membership drive on November 1 and it will continue till March 31 next year before organisational elections.

The election of the new Congress president will be held between August 21 and September 20 next year, according to a schedule



approved by the Congress Working Committee, the highest decision-making body of the party.

The party has convened a meeting on October 26 to discuss the modalities of the membership drive and other issues. The membership form lists a 10-point declaration for those wanting to become its members.

"I am a habitual wearer of certified Khadi; I abstain from alcoholic

drinks and intoxicant drugs; I neither believe in nor practise social discrimination in any shape or form and undertake to work for its removal; I believe in an integrated society without distinction of religion or caste; I undertake to perform minimum tasks including manual labour as may be prescribed by the Working Committee; I do not own any property in excess of ceiling

laws" are among the undertakings a new Congress member must give. A member will also have to state that "I subscribe to and work for promoting the principles of secularism, socialism and democracy. I shall not, directly or indirectly, openly or otherwise, adversely criticise the accepted policies and programmes of the party, except through party forums."



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

NEW WHISTLEBLOWER ACCUSES FB OF 'PROFITS' OVER FIGHTING HATE SPEECH

Acidic pages of Facebook

A former member of Facebook's Integrity team has alleged that "the company prizes growth and profits over combating hate speech, misinformation and other threats to the public", reports The Washington Post. "Haugen, like the new whistleblower, also made allegations to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which oversees publicly traded companies," the report said. The new whistleblower has alleged in the complaint that Facebook did not warn investors about illegal activity.

▶ THE WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT ALSO CRITICISED THE SOCIAL NETWORK "FOR NOT BEING AGGRESSIVE ENOUGH IN ADDRESSING EVIDENCE THAT THE PLATFORM WAS BEING USED BY MILITARY OFFICIALS IN MYANMAR TO SPREAD HATE SPEECH DURING MASS KILLINGS OF THE MINORITY ROHINGYA ETHNIC GROUP. I, WORKING FOR FACEBOOK, HAD BEEN A PARTY TO GENOCIDE," THE WHISTLEBLOWER WROTE IN THE AFFIDAVIT.



during the last five years competed ferociously with the New York Times over the number of corroborating sources its reporters could find for single anecdotes in deeply reported, intricate stories. It sets a dangerous precedent to hang an entire story on a single source making a wide range of claims without any apparent corroboration.

Earlier this month, Haugen, a former product manager in Facebook's civic integrity group, testified before the US Congress about a trove of internal documents she gave to The Wall Street Journal. One of her main arguments was that Facebook's business of selling ads based on engagement leads it to keep users on the service at all costs, even

when it knows that the content they are engaging with is harmful.

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), chair of the Senate Commerce Committee's subcommittee on consumer protection, has demanded that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg or Instagram chief Adam Mosseri should testify before the Senate to explain how the company plans to protect kids in light of new reports that platforms like Instagram can encourage harmful behaviour in teenagers.

Billionaire tech critic Pierre Omidyar who founded e-commerce platform eBay is reportedly financially supporting Facebook whistleblower Haugen to take on the social media giant.

SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

In what could spell fresh trouble for Facebook, a new whistleblower has alleged that the social network puts profits before efforts to fight hate speech and misinformation on its platform. According to a copy of the affidavit obtained by The Post, the allegations echoed many of those made by the first whistleblower Frances Haugen. In a statement, Facebook spokesperson Erin McPike said: "This is beneath the Washington Post, which

WORLD'S LARGEST CRICKET BAT UNVEILED IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: World's largest cricket bat, certified by Guinness World Records, was unveiled here on Saturday by the former Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin.

The bat, which is 56.1 feet long and weighs 9,000 kg has been gifted by Pernod Ricard India Ltd, to the government of Telangana, will be on display on Tank Bund till November 16 and will be later kept at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium at Uppal.

Unveiled on the eve of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Pernod Ricard dedicated the bat to the Indian team. Made from poplar wood, the bat has been fabricated by BSL Events. It took almost a month to make it.

The bat, made at a cost of Rs 70 lakh, has beaten the previous Guinness Record of 51 feet long bat made at Chennai.

Azharuddin, who is the president of Hyderabad Cricket Association, unveiled the bat in the presence of Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary, municipal administration and urban development, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, industry, commerce and information technology, Udit Dugar, Zonal Head, South India and Gopal Akotkar, Regional Head, Telangana & AP, Pernod Ricard India.

Russia reports record numbers of daily Covid cases, deaths

MOSCOW | Agencies

Russia has reported 37,678 Covid-19 infections over the past 24 hours, the highest daily count, taking the national tally to 8,205,983, the official monitoring and response center said on Saturday.

The nationwide death toll from the novel coronavirus grew by 1,075, a record high since the pandemic hit the country, to 229,528. Recoveries increased by 26,077 to 7,143,137, Xinhua news agency reported.

Moscow reported 7,803 new cases, taking the city's caseload to 1,761,650.



Over 49.1 million Russian citizens have received both doses of coronavirus vaccine and 53.5 million have received at least one dose,

according to data released on Friday. The level of herd immunity in the country stands at 45.7 per cent, according to the center.

SHOP ONLINE, AVOID TRAVEL: GO'S ADVISE FOR FESTIVALS

New Delhi: States must ensure Coronavirus precautions are followed strictly during the festive season, the government said in an advisory on Saturday, listing measures like promoting online shopping and avoiding unnecessary travel to stop infection rates from spiralling as they have in some countries.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUGGESTED MEASURES LIKE:

- ▶ Promote online modes of celebrations like online shopping, discourage unnecessary travel.
- ▶ Strictly follow Covid guidelines during festival celebrations.
- ▶ No mass gatherings in containment zones and districts where more than 5 per cent of tests are returning positive.
- ▶ State government should issue directions adequately in advance.
- ▶ Gatherings that are allowed with advance permission and limited attendees should be monitored closely.
- ▶ Guidelines for malls, local markets and places of worship should be strictly followed. Follow five pillars of Covid management - Test, track, treat, vaccinate and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour.

District authorities should keep a strict watch over trajectory of cases. The guidelines come ahead of major festivals like Diwali and Eid next month. It also follows a worrying spike in Coronavirus cases in many countries such as Russia, UK and China where schools are being closed and renewed lockdowns are being announced.

Indian-origin LinkedIn engineer and blogger shot dead in Mexico drug violence

SAN JOSE (USA) | Agencies

Anjali Rytov, a San Jose, California-based travel blogger and senior site reliability engineer employed with the global job search site, LinkedIn, was killed in a drug cartel-related shooting in the ostensibly peaceful Mexican resort town of Tulum, reports the 'Daily Mail'.

The 25-year-old, who had previously worked with Yahoo, would have turned 26 this past Friday (October 22). She had arrived in Tulum last Monday (October 18) to celebrate the joyful occasion.

Her plan was tragically cut short, however, when four men suspected to be drug dealers and armed with assault rifles, shot in the direction of a table next to the one where Rytov was enjoying a joyful night out with friends.

A German woman died along with Rytov; two German men and a woman from the Netherlands were left with gunshot wounds, but survived. The incident took place last Wednesday (October 20), just two days before



Rytov's birthday.

Ironically, hours before her tragic end, Rytov had posted a video of her walking down the ramp of her hotel's sun-dappled poolside and then resting on a hammock.

Rytov's last detailed Instagram post on her travels, which she shared in late September, was about her eight-hour trek across the Grinnell Glacier Trail in Montana's Glacier National Park. Experiential posts such as these ensured a growing social media following for Rytov.

HELPLINE ESTABLISHED BY KASHMIR POLICE IN VIEW OF BAD WEATHER

Srinagar: In view of inclement weather, Jammu and Kashmir Police have set up helpline numbers for emergency across Kashmir



Valley, officials said on Saturday. "Kashmir Police established helpline services to facilitate the general public seeking help during any emergency arising due to inclement weather, rain/snowfall," police said. "On the directions of IGP Kashmir, helpline numbers have been established at district level of Kashmir Valley as well as in the Police Control Room, Kashmir. People are requested to contact their respective district/police station helplines set up by Kashmir Police, in case of any emergency or exigency."

IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar has directed all the District Police Chiefs to keep these helpline numbers functional round the clock and render all the required assistance/help to the needy.

Raj Thackeray, mom, sis test Covid-19 positive, CM calls up

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray - who never wore a face mask - has tested Covid-19 positive and has been taken to Lilavati Hospital for treatment, party officials said on Saturday. Along with him, his mother Kunda Thackeray and sister Jaywanti have also tested positive though with mild symptoms and were taken to the hospital for treatment. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray called up his aunt Kunda Thackeray and cousin Raj and enquired after their health and wished them speedy recovery this evening. Senior party leader Bala Nandgaonkar said both Raj and his sister and their mother have already taken both doses of Covid-19 vaccine sometime ago. "His mother was infected first and later Raj and sister Jaywanti also contracted the virus



and their positive reports came today. They have been taken to the Lilavati Hospital," Nandgaonkar told reporter. Dr. Jilil Parker of Lilavati Hospital, who is treating them, said that Kunda Thackeray was given treatment on Friday and sent home, while both Raj and his sister, whose symptoms are also mild, are currently taking treatment.

Another party official said that Raj Thackeray had not been keeping well since the past couple of days, suffering from mild fever and cough. As a precaution, he had cancelled all his engagements and later underwent the Covid-19 tests which came out positive.

One arrested for forging Parliament pass

New Delhi: A Man from Bihar was arrested for forging Lok Sabha pass required to enter Parliament building complex, Delhi Police said on Saturday.

According to the crime branch, it was learnt that Lok Sabha pass for the personal assistant or secretary of Member of Parliament (MP) in the name of Babloo Kumar Arya has been made without the recommendation of concerned MP. Babloo Kumar Arya was neither the PA or PS to any Member of Parliament nor his name was recommended for issuance of Lok Sabha Pass.

A case under Indian Penal Code was registered at the Crime Branch, New Delhi and investigation was taken up.

During investigation, it was revealed that the forged pass was prepared after editing the Lok Sabha pass which was already issued to Jyoti Bhushan Kumar Bharti. Babloo Kumar Arya turned out to be known to Jyoti Bhushan Kumar Bharti and belonged to the same Gopal Ganj in Bihar.

Both Bharti and Arya were interrogated in the case.

VARUN QUESTIONS CENTRAL GOVT'S AGRICULTURE POLICY

New Delhi: Tweeting a video of a farmer who set his crop on fire as he was unable to sell his produce in mandis, BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit Varun Gandhi on Saturday said the Centre should reconsider its agriculture policy as it is the need of the hour. "What has the system reduced farmers to? To do a re-think on the agri policies is the need of the hour," he said. The farmer, identified as Samodh Singh, had been trying to sell his produce in mandis for the past 15 days, Varun Gandhi claimed. Earlier, on October 21, questioning the government's relief policy regarding the floods in the lowlands in the state, Varun Gandhi had said that if people have to help themselves even during such a crisis, then what is the role of a government.



He had also questioned the steps taken by the Adityanath government in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that claimed eight lives. The BJP leader has been saying that farmers agitation cannot be suppressed by violence. The saffron party has been facing embarrassment due to Gandhi's recent statements.

Vaccine manufacturers played big role in India's success story: PM Modi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday credited domestic vaccine manufacturers for their role in the "success story of India".

Holding a meeting with seven domestic manufacturers against the backdrop of 100 crore vaccine doses being administered, he praised their efforts that have resulted in the country crossing the milestone, and said that they "have played a big role in the success story of India", an official statement said.

He appreciated their hard work and confidence given by them during the pandemic.

The Prime Minister



also stressed that the country needs to institutionalise the best practices learnt during the last one and a half years, and said that this is an opportunity to modify our practices, in

tune with the global standards. He said that the entire world is looking up to India, against the backdrop of the success of the vaccination drive, and called on the vac-

cine manufacturers to continuously work together to be ready to face future challenges. "The domestic vaccine manufacturers appreciated the vision and dynamic leader-

ship of the Prime Minister in providing continuous guidance and support towards the development of the vaccines. They also praised the never before seen collaboration between government and industry, and applauded the regulatory reforms, simplified procedures, timely approvals, and forthcoming and supportive nature of the government throughout this endeavour," the statement said.

"They noted that had the country been following old norms, there would have been considerable delay and 'we would not have been able to reach the vaccination level that we have attained till now'," it added.

KANGANA'S PLEA TRANSFER THE DEFAMATION CASE TO SOME OTHER COURT REJECTED

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The additional chief metropolitan magistrate court here has held that the Andheri metropolitan magistrate, which is presiding over the defamation case filed by lyricist Javed Akhtar against Kangana Ranaut, has acted "judiciously" and did not show any bias against the actor. Just because the court proceeds with the case by following the procedure of law, it does not mean that it is biased against the applicant, additional chief metropolitan magistrate S T Dande said in her order in which she rejected Ranaut's plea that sought transfer of the case to some other court. The additional chief metropolitan magistrate had rejected Ranaut's petition on October 21, but its detailed order was made available on Saturday. The actor had filed the transfer petition last month, saying that she had "lost faith" in the Andheri metropolitan magistrate's court as it indirectly "threatened" her of issuing a warrant if she failed to appear before it in a bailable offence. The petition also alleged that the court was biased against her. However, Dande, in her order, ruled that the metropolitan magistrate, 10th court, Andheri, has given a fair opportunity to the accused to remain absent by granting all her exemption applications.





NEARLY 20% JUDGES HAVE NO PLACE TO SIT, OTHER BASIC FACILITIES: CJI

Highlighting major concerns over judicial infrastructure in the country, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Saturday made some shocking revelations, including how almost 20 per cent of the judicial officers in the country don't even have proper courtrooms to sit and preside over justice delivery.



Aurangabad Bench's Annex Building's B and C Wings along with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and other dignitaries, CJI Ramana said good judicial infrastructure is important to improve access to justice and meet the rising demands of the people who are more aware of their rights and developing economically, socially and culturally. Citing a global research of 2018, he said that "failure to deliver timely justice can cost the country as much as 9 per cent of the annual GDP" and without adequate infrastructure for courts, "we cannot aspire to fill this gap". In his address, Thackeray said he would soon allot land for the extension of the Bombay High Court and invited the CJI to come and perform the ground-breaking ceremony for it.

Stating that delivering justice is not the responsibility of the courts along but all of us, he said the world's largest democracy has been nurtured by the executive, judiciary, legislature, and the media.

"There are pressures on it but if these columns weaken, they will collapse and it will be difficult to make them stand again... I feel the only solution is what I can do as the government to ensure speedy justice," Thackeray pointed out.

Referring to delays and "tarikh pe tarikh" (date after date) that burdens the common man, he said justice must be ensured as soon as possible, but it is also necessary to create a society free of crime so that the courts can be empty. With the Law Minister also on the dais, CJI Ramana urged him to ensure a proposal to set up the National Judicial Infrastructure Authority is taken up in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament.

"I have sent the proposal. I am hoping for a positive response soon and the Union Law Minister will expedite the process," he said.

Responding in his speech, Rijiju said that there is "no politics" when it comes to the judiciary, and "we are just different organs of the system but we are a team."

The CJI affirmed that Indian courts have repeatedly upheld the rights and freedoms of individuals, have stood up whenever people or society at large are at the receiving end of the executive's excesses and assured that the seeker of justice, however weak, "need not worry about the might of the state."

AURANGABAD | Agencies

Of the total sanctioned strength of 24,280 judicial officers in India, there are only 20,143 court halls, including 620 rented premises, and 26 per cent of the court premises have no separate toilets for women and 16 per cent do not even have toilets, while only 54 per cent courts have purified drinking water facility. In the computer-era, only 27 per cent of the courtrooms have computers on the judges' dais with video-conferencing facility, only 51 per cent courts have a library, 32 per cent have a separate record room and only 5 per cent have basic medical facilities, the CJI revealed. "Good judicial infrastructure for courts in India has always been an afterthought. It is because of this mindset that courts in India still operate from dilapidated structures making it difficult to effectively perform their function," he said. Inaugurating the Bombay High Court

Maharashtra cops seized heroin but got no publicity as there was no heroine: Thackeray

Taking a swipe at NCB, CM Thackeray said a Maharashtra police team seized Rs 25 crore worth heroin but the news did not get much attention as there was no "heroine" involved.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray took a dig at Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and said that an image is being created that Maharashtra has become the hub of narcotics where drugs are being produced.

Taking a swipe at NCB, CM Thackeray said a Maharashtra police team seized Rs 25 crore worth heroin but the news did not get much attention as there was no "heroine" involved.

"These days there is only talk and that is drugs. An image is being created that drugs are produced in Maharashtra. They think only NCB can catch them but its not true. Four days ago, Maharashtra police seized heroin worth Rs 25 crore. They caught heroin and not heroine so they didn't get any publicity," Uddhav Thackeray said.

Thackeray, who virtually attended the inauguration of the first DNA testing lab in Nagpur, said, "An impression is being created that there is a wave of drug smuggling in Maharashtra. As drugs from all over the world are being prepared in Maharashtra and only a special team can thwart this racket. But this is not true." Thackeray said that he is proud of Maharashtra and Mumbai Police for preventing the drug outbreak. He said, "A few days ago, Mumbai Police had



caught heroin worth 25 crores, but no heroine was involved in it, so no one talked about it. No one knows the names of those policemen. We should respect them.

He said that Maharashtra Police is a strong and capable force and strict action has been taken against whoever breaks the law. "An attempt is being made to malign the image of Maharashtra Police and we have to stop it," he said. At the same time, the state Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil has said that the state government is likely to present the final draft of the Shakti Act in the winter session in December. He said that in this, strict punishment has been talked about in crimes against women and children. Earlier, Nawab Malik, a minister in the Maharashtra government and leader of the Nationalist Congress Party, has also accused the NCB.

Delhi HC denies bail to CBI officer, Anil Deshmukh's lawyer in 'document leak' case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Saturday refused to grant bail to former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh's lawyer Anand Daga and CBI investigating officer Sub-Inspector Abhishek Tiwari in connection with a case alleging leaking of confidential documents to divert the probe against Deshmukh in a corruption case.

In the order, Justice Yogesh Khanna stated that the allegation in the present FIR is based on "tampering of the evidence".

"Thus, considering the initial stage of investigation, I am not inclined to grant bail to the petitioners herein, at this stage," he said.

As per the FIR, Abhishek Tiwari, who was assisting the Enquiry Officer in the preparation of the probe report, was in possession of sensitive documents.

On June 28, he visited Pune for investigation and met the co-accused Daga to pass on details regarding the inquiry and the investigation, the FIR stated. He allegedly shared copies of different documents like memorandum of proceedings, unveiling memorandum, statements, seizure memos etc. related to the investigation of the case with



Daga and also an unknown person through Whatsapp on many occasions.

The CBI had arrested Daga from Mumbai and Tiwari from Delhi. Later, Daga was shifted to a Delhi court on transit remand.

The lawyers of the duo argued that only four days of remand was given to the accused and the trial court refused to extend it.

The petitioners are in custody for 40 days and the CBI did not even file an application for interviewing them, the counsels said in their plea to grant bail.

However, the probe agency submitted that the offences committed by the petitioners are serious in nature and no investigation can proceed if the lawyer of the accused and the Investigating Officer join hands to benefit someone.

NCB officer should take action against Malik: Patil

On Ajit Pawar's statement that as many as 65 cooperative sugar mills were sold off in the State but only the sale of Jarandeshwar mill was being questioned, Patil said, "Jarandeshwar mill's case is different.

PUNE | Agencies

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) zonal director Sameer Wankhede should take "necessary action" so that the NCP leader Nawab Malik realises the "consequences", Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil said in Pune on Saturday.

Malik, who is the State Minority Affairs Minister, has been targeting Wankhede who recently led the NCB's 'drug bust' on a cruise ship in which actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan was arrested.



Asked by reporters about Mr. Malik's claim that Mr. Wankhede will lose his job within a year, Patil said, "His statement against an officer

from the Central agency will have consequences and Mr. Wankhede should take necessary action to show what these consequences can be."

Asked about Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's allegation that the aim of the NCB's recent actions was to defame Bollywood and take the film industry out of Mumbai and Maharashtra, he said the question should be asked to the Central agency and not to him.

On Ajit Pawar's statement that as many as 65 cooperative sugar mills were sold off in the State but only the sale of Jarandeshwar mill was being questioned, Patil said, "Jarandeshwar mill's case is different.

"It is related to the Enforcement Directorate which deals with money-laundering cases. If the remaining 64 sugar mills have anything to do with money-laundering, then conduct ED inquiry (against them too)." The BJP was so strong in the neighbouring Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation that the NCP chief Sharad Pawar had to visit the municipal corporation ahead of the next year's civic elections, Patil said.

CM failed to address problems faced by artists during lockdown: Shelar

After meeting the Maharashtra governor with a delegation of artists on Saturday, the BJP leader also pointed out that the CM needn't find fault with central agencies that expose corruption in the state

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A delegation of painters and sculptors led by BJP leader Ashish Shelar called on state Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at the Raj Bhawan on Saturday. Talking to media per-

sons, Shelar said every year over 10,000 painters and sculptors exhibit their art to earn a livelihood, but there have been no exhibitions since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Taking a dig at Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Shelar said, "We have a CM who is passionate about photography. Strangely, he failed to focus on the problems of artists, sculptors and photographers." The entire sector was reeling under severe hardship during the lockdown, he pointed out.

It is important that the state government reaches out to these artists, he said, adding that states like Karnataka have already extended help to artists. "The MVA government's indifference is apparent. Their slogan is 'We will

not work, we will not allow others to work," the BJP leader said.

Commenting on the MVA government's growing criticism against probes by central agencies in the state, Shelar said, "Why should the government find fault with central agencies which are exposing the corruption and drug racket in Maharashtra?"

"The minister whose son-in-law was nabbed for possessing drugs must be immediately kicked out of the cabinet. Such ministers contribute towards maligning the image of Maharashtra... There are police officers who have disclosed how the force was misused by a former minister to extort funds from liquor shops and bars. Now these are the issues which should concern the government," he said.

The BJP MLA from Bandra West added, "I would like to remind the chief minister that law and order still prevails in the country and it must prevail in Maharashtra as well." He remarked that the government was conveying that it won't allow anyone to speak up against corruption, nor will any action be taken against those nabbed in drug cases or those who talk about atrocities faced by women.

"When people's issues are raised by the Opposition, the government raises a hue and cry saying it sullies the state's image. The CM should know that he cannot cover up the wrongdoings forever. Instead, the state government should crack the whip against those indulging in wrongdoings," he insisted.

Patole hits out at BJP over 100-crore vaccine doses celebrations

He said the Narendra Modi government did not take adequate measures to stop the spread of coronavirus, adding that it was "unfortunate the BJP is now celebrating the deaths of people."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole on Saturday lashed out at the BJP-led government at the Centre for celebrating the



administering of 100 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses despite several thousands dying in the pandemic.

He said the Narendra Modi government did not take adequate measures to stop the spread of coronavirus, adding that it was "unfortunate the BJP is now celebrating the deaths of people." He said unemployment, farm distress and inflation had taken the country back by 50 years and China was

intruding into our borders time and again but the Modi government continued to maintain a silence on these issues.

"However, to divert attention, the Centre is using probe agencies such as ED but the MVA government in Maharashtra is giving it back," he said. Speaking about the cruise ship drugs bust case, in which film superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan is an arrested accused, Patole said the ruling BJP was trying to "divide Hindus and Muslims," adding that the Centre was yet to take action on a massive consignment of drugs found in a port controlled by a top industrialist.

We have case where complainant has gone missing: CM Thackeray

"Justice DY Chandrachud pointed out (during his address at the event) that a case is pending in Maharashtra since 1958 as the accused is absconding. But today we have a case where the complainant is missing," Thackeray said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an apparent dig at former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said there is a case in the state where the complainant has gone missing. Thackeray made the statement at the inauguration of two wings of the annex building at the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud and others were present on the occasion.

"Justice DY Chandrachud pointed out (during his address at the event) that a case is pending in Maharashtra since 1958 as the accused is absconding. But today we have a case where the complainant is missing," Thackeray said.

"He gave a complaint making serious allegations, but is now missing. We do not know where he is. This is something that also needs to be looked into," he added.

Although the chief minister did not name anyone, his remarks were apparently targeted at the senior IPS officer, who had levelled allegations of corruption against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh.

A few days ago, during a hearing of a plea pertaining to

Singh, the Maharashtra government had told the Bombay High Court that his whereabouts were not known.

Days after he was shunted out as Mumbai police commissioner, Singh had claimed in a letter to the chief minister earlier this year that Deshmukh used to ask the police officers to collect money from restaurants and bars in Mumbai. Deshmukh, an NCP leader, resigned as a minister in April this year, although he has denied the allegations against him.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the



Enforcement Directorate (ED) are probing the allegations made against Deshmukh by Singh.

During his address, the chief minister added that the state government is now planning to launch a project wherein a new high court complex will be built in Mumbai.

"I would like to extend my invitation to Chief Justice of India NV Ramana right now to come to the function as and when it happens. I will try to ensure that the foundation laying of the new building complex and its inauguration are both done by my government," he said.

His statement was apparently in response to minister Rijiju's remark that the foundation for this building

(Aurangabad bench) was laid by former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnis, while Thackeray has come for its inauguration.

Thackeray added that dispensing justice is a teamwork involving all the four pillars of democracy.

"We all have to work as a team to ensure that none of the pillars collapses," he added. Thackeray said that when Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was framing the Constitution, he was asked about the rights of the central and the state governments, and he answered that the except for a few rights to the Centre, the state will be equally sovereign.

"Dr Ambedkar had made it clear that the state is equally sovereign, except for a few powers to the central government. But are these rights of the states being exercised today? We should check," he said.

India has completed 75 years of Independence, he said, adding, "If we think that we should not lose our independence, I request that all the judges should guide the country about the meaning of independence." Occupying a certain position doesn't mean that your wish is your authority. Wishes and rights are two different things, someone should tell this, Thackeray said.



ADEQUATE POWER SUPPLY FOR IRRIGATION TO FARMERS WILL BE ENSURED: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that I reverence and salute such farmers who work day and night for the prosperity of the state. After God, farmers are the centre of reverence for me. Today we have adequate foodgrain due to the efforts of the farmers. Farmers are the Annadatas and Bhagya Vidhata of the state. The country is indebted to you. I have become the Chief Minister to bring happiness, peace, comfort and prosperity in the lives of farmers and change your life. There will never be any shortage of money in the government treasury for the farmers. Chouhan transferred the amount of Kisan Samman Nidhi in the accounts of farmers of 44 districts of the state under Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana. The state level programme organized at Minto Hall, Bhopal began with Kanya Pujan. Farmers, public representatives and officers of the respective districts participated virtually in the programme of Mukhya Mantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana through video conferencing. Chouhan said that Prime Minister Modi is committed to the welfare of farmers and to double their income. Consequently, three instalments of Rs two thousand each, a total of Rs six thousand are deposited in the



account of farmers on behalf of Modi thrice a year. Taking this forward, the state government has decided to release Rs four thousand per year to farmers under the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana during the Corona period. Chouhan said that before 2003, the total agricultural production of the state was only two crore 14 lakh metric tonnes. Now the farmers of the state are producing 6 crore metric tonnes of food grains. Food production has increased three fold. The average rate of agricultural growth used to be around 2 to 3 percent before 2003. Due to the hard work of the farmers and the schemes of the state government, the rate of agricultural development has now increased to 18 percent. Due to the efforts of farmers and increase in irrigation capacity, the

state has bagged Krishi Karman Award 7 times. Chouhan said that these achievements have become possible due to increased irrigation. Historic work has been done in the state under Nadi Jodo Yojana. Making the impossible possible, Narmada water was delivered to the farmers' fields in many areas of the state. For this, the Narmada water was brought to Kshipra through a pipe. Gambhir river, Kalisindh and Parvati river have also been linked. The government is also working in project mode to bring the water of Bargi to Satna through a tunnel. Recently the state government has approved Jhimra Micro Lift Irrigation Scheme of 1387 crores. Similarly, Hatpipalya Micro Lift Irrigation Project that has been approved in Dewas district, will benefit 462 villages. Chief

Minister said that every possible effort is being made to provide irrigation facility to the entire agricultural land of the state. It is our endeavor that by 2025, irrigation facility should be available in 65 lakh hectare area. Chouhan said that power crisis looms large all over the whole world, but we will not allow shortage of electricity for irrigation. Despite the increasing consumption of electricity and coal being expensive, farmers will be provided electricity at affordable rates. Our government has decided to give subsidy of Rs 21 thousand crore to the farmers to provide cheap electricity. There was a time when the availability of electricity in the state was only 5 thousand MW, which we increased to 22 thousand MW. Chouhan said that all resources are being used to ensure the availability of electricity. The Chief Minister called upon the farmers to install solar plants in their fields. He said that there is plenty of solar energy available in the state. Therefore, the scheme of setting up solar power plants has been started by the state government. With this, farmers can get additional income by selling surplus electricity after meeting their own needs. Chouhan has also requested the farmers to save electricity.

Toll plaza vandalised in Rewa after Speaker's vehicle stopped

The toll plaza was vandalised hours after Madhya Pradesh's assembly speaker Girish Gautam's son Rahul Gautam threatened the plaza manager of dire consequences as one of the employees had stopped him and had asked him not to honk unnecessarily. The vehicle bore Speaker's name plate.



The toll plaza was vandalised hours after Madhya Pradesh's assembly speaker Girish Gautam's son Rahul Gautam threatened the plaza manager of dire consequences as one of the employees had stopped him and had asked him not to honk unnecessarily. The vehicle bore Speaker's name plate. Police have registered a case against a group of unidentified persons for vandalising a toll plaza in Chorahta area of Rewa district and thrashing its employees. Police said a group of persons vandalised the office of toll plaza on a national highway (Rewa- Jabalpur) and fled from the spot. "A group of assailants reached the toll plaza on October 16 and vandalised its property. They had covered their faces, so they could not be identified. An FIR has been registered against four-five unidentified persons and further investigation is underway. No one has been arrested so far," Superintendent of Police Navneet Bhaseen told IANS on Saturday. The toll plaza was vandalised hours after Madhya Pradesh's assembly speaker Girish Gautam's son Rahul Gautam threatened the plaza manager of dire consequences as one of the employees had stopped him and had asked him not to honk unnecessarily. The vehicle bore Speaker's name plate. Speaker's wife was travelling in the vehicle when it was stopped at plaza, however, the Speaker (Girish Gutam) himself was not present. Asking for the vehicle's registration number for verification and requesting not to honk unnecessarily by a toll plaza employee did not go down well with the Speaker's son and he dialled the toll plaza manager's number and started abusing him. Rahul is also a district level BJP leader in Rewa district. An audio of the incident has now gone viral on social media in which Rahul can be heard abusing and threatening toll plaza staff of dire consequences for their act. "How dare you stop an Assembly Speaker's vehicle. Will you tell when the speaker's vehicle can honk or not? I will teach you a lesson. Be ready to face consequences, you be there, I am coming there soon," Rahul can be heard using foul language in the audio. While, during the conversation, the toll plaza manager apologized repeatedly but Rahul kept abusing him. "Called the police to send them all (toll plaza employees) to jail immediately," Rahul was heard saying in the viral audio.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Police have registered a case against a group of unidentified persons for vandalising a toll plaza in Chorahta area of Rewa district and thrashing its employees. Police said a group of persons vandalised the office of toll plaza on a national highway (Rewa- Jabalpur) and fled from the spot. "A group of assailants reached the toll

Digvijaya accuses MP govt of giving farmers low quality seeds

Singh alleged that the farmers are not being provided quality seeds. "state agriculture minister Kamal Patel is indulged in corruption and is taking money from people involved in selling unverified seeds in the state," Singh said in a letter to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday.



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday. Singh further added that he has no faith in the state agriculture minister. In his letter, Singh has urged the Chief Minister to look into the matter. "You (Chouhan) always introduce yourself as a son of farmer and then you must look into this issue immediately and stop providing unverified seeds to the farmers," Digvijaya Singh said. Singh also urged Chouhan to make state's seeds verified by the department active for the sake of farmers. Meanwhile, Singh also stated that during his tenure as agriculture minister of the state, an agency was established to ensure that farmers get quality seeds only. "Seed farm corporation was established during my tenure as agriculture minister with a purpose to provide quality seeds to the farmers. We had linked it (seeds corporation) with agriculture university so that good quality seeds could be made to improve the crops in the state," Singh added.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Veteran Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh on Saturday accused state agriculture minister Kamal Patel of providing non-certified seeds to the farmers in the state. Singh alleged that the farmers are not being provided quality seeds. "He (Patel) has indulged in corruption and is taking money from people involved in selling unverified seeds in the state," Singh said in a letter to

CM wishes Indian cricket team for success in World Cup tournament

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has wished the Indian Cricket Team for their good performance and success in the T-20 World Cup Cricket Tournament-2021. The competition has started from 17th October and will continue till 14th November. It is being organised in the United Arab Emirates and Oman. Chouhan said that I have full faith that our courageous players will lead India to a grand victory in the T-20 World Cup-2021. Expressing confidence, Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that we will surely be successful. The Chief Minister also recited inspiring poetic lines - Jhanda ooncha rahe hamara-vijayi vishwa tiranga pyara (Let our flag fly high, our beloved tricolour may be victorious in the world). Chief Minister also extended his best wishes to the players of the Indian cricket team on behalf of the people of Madhya Pradesh.

Governor gets emotional to see the bravery and hard practice of new women constables

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Human values should be sown in police training. After the training, along with the security of the society, the police personnel should also have a resolve to establish human values. Governor Mangubhai Patel said this in a programme at Police Training College in Indore. Patel also became emotional after seeing the rigorous practice and exercise of the new women constables here. He said that he was feeling happy on seeing the shining faces and brilliance of these constables. At the same time, tears are also flowing today along with the feelings of happiness and pride. He also saw the courageous and astonishing feats of the new constables. Governor Patel said that training is being imparted to the police personnel in a very good way in the



training college. "I am also seeing the bright future of Madhya Pradesh Police", he said. The police have a great responsibility of security of the society and he has full confidence that the police personnel will continue to fulfil this responsibility with full honesty and sense of duty. In the programme, the women constables also gave astonishing performances full of courage and valour. They displayed by forming a variety of fronts for security and also demon-

strated the skill of operating different types of weapons. There was also a demonstration of fighting without arms and security related tricks by the women constables. The spectators present at the event were stunned when the cops jumped through the fire balls. Not only this, the feat of breaking stones by martial arts was also demonstrated. The sight of climbing up a height of one storey with great swiftness was also thrilling. Inspector General of Police Indore Harinarayanchari Mishra, DIG Manish Kapuria and Chandrashekhar Solanki, Superintendent of Police of Police Training College Nimish Agrawal, Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Bagri and other guests were present in the programme.

BIODIVERSITY ONLINE QUIZ 2021 COMPETITION

Bhopal: National level online quiz-2021 competition has been organised by Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board on Sunday October 24. All sections of people can participate in this competition. For this, the participants will have to register themselves on mp.gov.in. Participants will be able to take part in the competition at any time between 6 am to 10 pm. The total duration of the quiz is 10 minutes. The total duration of the registration-cum-test has been kept 15 minutes. Participating schools and students are required to use 4G networks. This quiz competition, being organised at the national level, is being held with the aim of spreading awareness about important topics like biodiversity, heritage, conservation, natural resources, climate change and environment besides increasing knowledge.

5-day week work in MP govt offices till next March

"The arrangement of five-day week (from Monday to Friday) in government offices across the state has been extended till March 31, 2022 for protection and to prevent the spread of Covid-19 pandemic," the notification said.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to extend the arrangement of five-day week in its offices across the state till March 2022 in view of the coronavirus pandemic. A notification in this regard was issued by the general administration department of the state government on Saturday. "The arrangement of five-day week (from Monday to Friday) in government offices

across the state has been extended till March 31, 2022 for protection and to prevent the spread of Covid-19 pandemic," the notification said. Earlier, the state government had introduced the five-day week norm in its offices till October 31. The order was implemented from July 22 when the offices reopened after lockdown during the second wave of the pandemic. With eight new cases reported on Friday, the cumulative Covid tally in Madhya Pradesh has risen to 7,92,729.

The death toll remained unchanged for the last few days and stood at 10,523, while the recovery count was pegged at 7,82,126, leaving the state with 80 active cases, a health department official had said. However, Covid protection norms are being flouted even in the state capital - Bhopal. Wearing masks and maintaining social distance is nowhere visible in the city. With Diwali festival round the corner, people are thronging the city markets, but very few would be seen wearing masks.

CM PLANTS KACHNAR SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is planting saplings every day as per his resolve. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh was also present on the occasion. Kachnar is a beautiful flowering tree. Small or medium height trees of Kachnar are found everywhere in India. Many trees and plants are naturally full of medicinal properties. Kachnar is one of them. The leaves, stem and flowers of this tree, which is laden with flowers after mid-March, are very useful. Kachnar is considered among beautiful and useful trees. It has many species.

Make continuous efforts to make yourself a better person through introspection: Governor Patel

CM announces Mukhya Mantri Bhu-Adhikar Yojana Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's dream of Antyodaya to come true

oners living in jail should introspect and make continuous efforts to make them better human beings. Make life meaningful while discharging the responsibility towards the country and society. Nature also always helps the person who dedicates his life for others. Patel addressed the prisoners in the Central Jail Indore. He encouraged the prisoners while boosting their morale. On the second day of his stay in Indore, he reached the Central Jail Indore and visited the jail premises. Patel said that during his visit to the jail premises, he found that all kinds of resources are available in the jail for the convenience of the prisoners. E-meeting service, telephone service and medical service to the prisoners are also being provided in the premises. Various skill trainings are also being imparted to the prisoners in the jail for livelihood through public participation. The facilities which the prisoners should get from the humanitarian point of view are being given in jail premises. Governor said that the State Government is constantly striving to improve the lives of the prisoners. Efforts are being made to provide cent percent legal service to the prisoners as per the requirement. All the jails of the state are being connected with the court through video



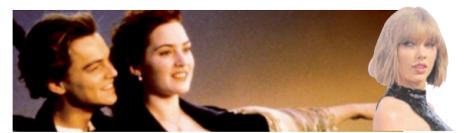
conferencing, so that the court cases of prisoners can be resolved quickly. Patel said that the prisoners living in the jail should be encouraged to read good literature, so that the people living here will be able to make their life enjoyable despite being imprisoned. Along with this, regular yoga camps should be organised for their physical and mental health. He told the prisoners living in the jail that whatever you are getting to learn in the jail premises will help in

making life more productive and improving the conduct. Member of Parliament Shankar Lalwani said that it is a direct example of the sensitivity of the Governor of Madhya Pradesh that he is visiting the Central Jail today. The history of the Central Jail of Indore is glorious in itself, from freedom fighters who participated in the freedom movement to MISA prisoners in the time of Emergency were also kept here. Various

innovations have been done in this jail from time to time to make the life of the prisoners even better. The prison administration is providing as much facilities as possible to the prisoners. Indore Central Jail is the only jail where utensils are being made by the prisoners. New efforts are being made here daily to make everyone self-reliant through public participation. During the corona virus infection in the central jail, the corona guide-line was followed completely, as a result of which the corona virus had minimal effect on the prisoners living in the jail. He said that another fully equipped big central jail was being constructed in Indore which would be ready soon. Governor Patel visited the Kanha sales centre built by the prisoners in the jail premises. He toured the entire jail complex by sitting in an e-rickshaw and listened to Jail Vani FM 18.77 being operated by the prisoners and appreciated the efforts being made by the jail administration. Patel also planted a tree of Belpatra in the jail premises. During the programme organised in Central Jail Indore, various types of cultural and Malkhamb games were presented by the prisoners. During this, the portrait of Mother Ahilya Devi, made by the prisoner of the jail, was also presented to the Governor Patel.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that the life of that person is meaningful who sacrifices himself in the service of humanity. Swami Vivekananda had said live not only for yourself but for the welfare of others. Incorporating this goal within you, the pris-



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Salma Hayek had given up hope of landing a role as a superhero, but after nabbing the part in 'Eternals', she believes "everything is possible". The actress, who plays spiritual leader Ajak in the Marvel film, had dreamt her whole career of landing such a role in a "big blockbuster" and had given up until director Chloe Zhao approached her for the movie, reports

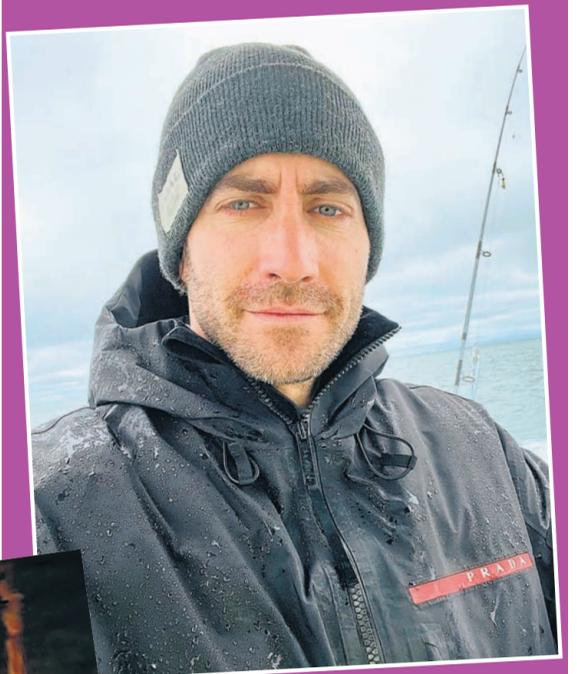
femalefirst.co.uk. Speaking at a press conference for the movie, she said: "You fight for it in your 20s, in your 30s. And in your 40s, you go 'Screw that, they don't get it. You know, they don't give me squat. I would have been great. You know the art films! I would have been a great superhero, however, they didn't see it. Screw them, we'll go do something else."

"Let's have a baby. And they didn't see her. And you give up. It's very humbling when in the middle of your 50s, a brilliant director gives you the opportunity to do something that comes from a deep place, that it's also a big blockbuster. I was wrong. Everything is possible. And, it's such a humbling sensation."

The 55-year-old star wasn't keen to even audition for 'Eternals' because she figured she'd just be playing an extra or "the old prostitute" but she snapped at the chance when she found out the filmmaker was involved.

Salma Hayek: Very humbling landing superhero role in my 50s

JAKE GYLLENHAAL DEFIES GRAVITY IN MICHAEL BAY'S 'AMBULANCE' TRAILER



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jake Gyllenhaal hangs out of a moving ambulance and shoots at a police helicopter in the explosive first trailer for filmmaker Michael Bay's actioner 'Ambulance'.

Based on the 2005 Danish film of the same name, 'Ambulance' stars Yahya Abdul-Mateen II as an army veteran down on his luck who turns to "brother" Gyllenhaal for help when he needs \$231,000 to pay for his wife's surgery. Gyllenhaal finds the solution - \$32 million bank robbery, reports variety.com.

Set in Los Angeles over the course of one day, the movie, written by Chris Fedak, also stars Eiza Gonzalez, Garret Dillahunt and Devan Long.

The fast-paced trailer shows the duo trying to outrun SWAT teams, cop cars and LAPD helicopters.

"We're not the bad guys," Gyllenhaal tries to reassure Yahya Abdul-Mateen and himself in the trailer.

"We're just the guys trying to get home. We don't get to walk off into the sunset," Yahya Abdul-Mateen counters.

Gyllenhaal told USA Today that shooting action scenes in the small, enclosed space gave him a newfound "respect for first responders".

"A lot of the movie I'm in an ambulance, so there's not a lot of space (laughs)," Gyllenhaal told the paper last month.

"There are a lot of scenes where I'm just being thrown around an ambulance and I've got to say, that gave me even more respect for first responders because there are so many sharp edges in an ambulance nobody thinks about when it's driving as fast as it is." Gyllenhaal also detailed Bay's "wild" shoot.

Tom Holland, Mark Wahlberg bring adventure video game to big screen with 'Uncharted'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The first trailer for 'Uncharted', an adaptation of the hit Playstation video game franchise, starring Tom Holland and Mark Wahlberg, has been unveiled, with the duo globetrotting and searching for treasure.

'Uncharted' is directed by Ruben Fleischer, with a script penned by 'Iron Man' duo Art Marcum and Matt Holloway and Rafe Judkins, based off of a screen story by Judkins. Holland plays Nathan Drake, a treasure hunter who is accompanied by Wahlberg's Sully and Sophia Ali as Chloe Frazer, who may have a spark with Drake. Holland recently spoke with British GQ about the challenges of playing the iconic video game protagonist.

"As soon as you start worrying about aDo I look good in this shot? acting becomes something other than playing a character," he said.



'Sex, Love & Goop' is more educational than exploitative



FILM REVIEW

TROY RIBEIRO

(Streaming on Netflix)

Creator: Not stated

Cast: Gwyneth Paltrow, Michaela Boehm, Darshana Ayila, Jaiya, Erika, Damon, Felicitas, Rama, Camille and Shandra.

Duration: Duration: 30 minutes per episode (six episodes in all).

Ratings: ***1/2 (three and half stars)

What most people do not understand is that relationships and sex are actually a skill set. And there is a difference between what makes a relationship good and what makes sex good. This is what you'll learn after watching this six-episode series

whose run-time ranges from 30-40 minutes. Yes, the show does focus on carnal pleasures as this series follows six slightly apprehensive yet impressively willing real-life couples who, with the help of experts, learn about how to enhance their relationships and explore their sexuality together. In the first episode, set in an exotic retreat-like space, we meet the couples seated in front of Gwyneth Paltrow and relationship expert Michaela Boehm telling us how they feel and what to expect from the show. In the opening montage, Paltrow emphasises, "We are having sex, it is a show about sex, and we are gonna talk about sex." And true enough, under the watchful eyes of the experts assigned to each couple, we have the couples telling us of how they are struggling with their mediocre or non-existent sex lives, then stripping down to their bare minimum, exploring their bodies through the various exercises that are prescribed to them.

The experts explain to us about the types of people who make up the universe. The Sensual are those who get turned on by all their senses (smell,

taste, sight, touch) being ignited. The Sexual are those who get turned on by what they think is sex in their culture. So, for them, intercourse, orgasms, penetration, genitals, nudity are all that matter. The Kinky are those who get turned on by whatever is taboo. So, whatever is taboo to the person becomes the turn-on and that could be psychological, or it could be more sensation-based. And the Shapeshifters are those who get turned on by all of it. So, for them, it is the entire smorgasbord as nothing is ever too much. As the episodes roll on, you feel like a voyeur watching the experts analyse the couples who work through pleasurable sex and deeper intimacy. It is like watching couples attend sex therapy where dynamics unfold, and you see partners who appear broken, gradually bond and feel connected. What is interesting about the series is that each episode is relatable. It makes you realise that this is the need of the hour if you want to enjoy a happy relationship with your partner. Overall, the series is quirky, provocative, educational, and far more informative than exploitative.



SAM RICHARDSON JOINS THE 'HOCUS POCUS' CAST

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Sam Richardson will star alongside Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Kathy Najimy in the long-awaited sequel to the 1993 fantasy film "Hocus Pocus".

The original movie told the story of three witches being resurrected in Salem, Massachusetts. And the upcoming sequel will see three young women bring the Sanderson sisters back to life, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The original film was initially viewed as a box-office flop, but has since become a cult classic. And in recent years, fans have urged the cast to reunite for a sequel, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Richardson is joining the project, which is currently in production, after making a cameo appearance in the comedy series "Ted Lasso" and starring alongside Chris Pratt in "The Tomorrow War".

Meanwhile, Bette said earlier this year that she was really excited to star in the "Hocus Pocus" sequel.

However, the Hollywood star, who turns 76 on December 1, also quipped about the challenge of shooting the film at her age.

Bette also said that she loved shooting the original movie and couldn't wait to reunite with the cast for the sequel.

She shared: "I just loved making that movie. That was one of the most fun experiences I've ever had."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Bella Thorne



T20 WORLD CUP

AUSTRALIA CLINCH A TENSE WIN IN LOW-SCORING MATCH AGAINST SA

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Australia had some nervous moments but overcame them to beat South Africa by five wickets in a tense, low-scoring Group 1 match in the Super 12 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium here on Saturday. With this win, Australia got their campaign off to a winning start despite South Africa taking the match till the final over.

Chasing a paltry 119, Australia lost openers Aaron Finch and David Warner in the power-play. While Finch sliced to third man off Anrich Nortje, Warner drove straight to point off Kagiso Rabada. After power-play, Mitchell Marsh holed out to deep mid-wicket off Keshav Maharaj.

Steve Smith and Glenn Maxwell raised 42 runs in as many balls for the fourth wicket. The duo played risk-free cricket, rotated the strike, and dispatched rare loose balls for boundaries. The pick of the shots from the partnership was Smith creating room and going inside-out on backfoot over extra cover off a short ball from Maharaj in the 13th over.

Just as the partnership looked to go big, Aiden Markram pulled off a stunning running and diving catch from long-on to send Smith back to the pavilion. In the next over, Maxwell decided to break free with a switch hit but was cleaned up by



Tabraiz Shamsi.

Matthew Wade took two fours off Rabada in the 17th over, including a dropped chance by Markram at mid-off. Marcus Stoinis thumped a back-of-the-length delivery from Nortje for four in the 19th over. He then slammed a straight drive followed by a heave over deep mid-wicket off Pretorius in the final over to seal Australia's victory with two balls to spare.

Earlier in the South Africa innings, Temba Bavuma took back-to-back boundaries on drives against Mitchell Starc in the opening over. But in the next over, Bavuma's middle stump was felled by Maxwell. Josh Hazlewood took two wickets in his two overs, a blow from which South Africa never recovered. He forced Rassie van der Dussen to nick one behind to Wade followed by taking out Quinton de Kock, with the

batter trying to scoop but the ball dropped onto the stumps.

South Africa's slide continued as Heinrich Klassen was caught at backward point off Pat Cummins. Leg-spinner Adam Zampa struck twice in the 14th over, trapping David Miller lbw followed by Dwaine Pretorius edging behind. With Keshav Maharaj run-out in a mix-up, there was no stopping South Africa's meltdown with the bat.

Markram stood tall amidst the ruins with a fighting 40. He began with a punch off Cummins followed by finding the gap through cover off Mitchell Starc, cutting Maxwell through point, and hammered Hazlewood over deep mid-wicket for the first six of the innings.

Markram looked set to give South Africa a flourish in the end. But he flicked Starc straight to deep mid-wicket in the 18th over. Despite Kagiso Rabada using the long handle, South Africa couldn't cross the 120-ark, which wasn't enough to deny Australia two points.

Brief scores

South Africa 118/9 in 20 overs (Aiden Markram 40, Kagiso Rabada 19 not out, Josh Hazlewood 2/19, Adam Zampa 2/21) lost to Australia 121/5 in 19.4 overs (Steve Smith 35, Marcus Stoinis 24 not out, Anrich Nortje 2/21, Tabraiz Shamsi 1/22) by five wickets

T20 World Cup: England hammer West Indies by 6 wickets



Dubai | Agencies

A sensational bowling performance followed by some decent batting helped England hammer West Indies by six wickets in a Group 1 match in the Super 12 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, here on Saturday.

This is the first time that England have beaten West Indies in a T20 World Cup match in six matches.

Adil Rashid (2/4), Tymal Mills (2/17), Moeen Ali

(2/17), Chris Woakes (1/12), Chris Jordan (1/7) wreaked havoc with the ball as England bundle out West Indies for just 55 in 20 overs. This was West Indies' second lowest T20I score and lowest in World T20.

Chasing a small target for victory, England looked in a bit of a hurry. They also showed some signs of nervousness and lost wickets of Jason Roy (11), Jonny Bairstow (9), Moeen Ali (3), and Liam Livingstone (1).

However, Jos Buttler (24) and Eoin Morgan (7) remained not out till the end

and helped England overhaul the target in 8.2 overs with six wickets in hand. Akeal Hosein (2/24) was the shining star with the ball for West Indies on a very disappointing day for the defending champions.

Brief scores

West Indies 55/10 in 14.2 overs (Chris Gayle 13; Adil Rashid 2/4, Tymal Mills 2/17) lost to England 56-4 in 8.2 overs (Jos Buttler 24, Jason Roy 11; Akeal Hosein 2/24)

Big wins for Jharkhand, Delhi in National women's hockey C'hip

Jhansi | Agencies

Results continued to go on expected lines as Hockey Jharkhand, Delhi Hockey, Hockey Karnataka, Tripura Hockey, and Assam Hockey registered victories in their respective matches on the third day of the 11th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship here on Saturday.

In the first match of the day, Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Rajasthan 6-2 in their Pool F match. Albelia Rani Toppo (9', 57') scored a brace, while Captain Subhasi Hemrom (5'), Betan Dung Dung (24'), Reshma Soreng (28'), and Pramila Soreng (52') scored one goal each for Hockey Jharkhand. Meanwhile, Captain Beena Pandey (46') and Keemata Meena (53') scored a goal each for Hockey Rajasthan.

In the other Pool F match, Delhi Hockey outclassed Hockey Andaman & Nicobar 21-0. Babita (9', 27', 47', 48', 50', 60') scored six goals, while Roobi (13', 31', 37', 59') and Manisha (36', 37', 57', 58') found the back of the net



four times each. Kalyani Kumari (5', 26', 39') scored a hat-trick, while Sarita (11'), Kajal (14'), Vidhi Kohli (55') and Captain Shivani (56') netted one goal each, Hockey India informed in a press release on Saturday.

Hockey Karnataka earned a hard-fought 1-0 victory over the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu in their Pool G match. Soumyashree NR (42') scored the only goal in the match.

In the other Pool G match, Tripura Hockey defeated Telangana Hockey 8-0. Arshi Parveen Siddiqui (15', 19', 51', 57') scored four goals, while Annu (11', 38', 58') scored a hat-trick and Parashdeep Kaur (26') netted

one goal for Tripura Hockey. Uttar Pradesh Hockey drew 1-1 with Kerala Hockey in their Pool H match. Aiswarya KV (5') scored for Kerala Hockey, while Sonal Tiwari (33') found the equalizer for Uttar Pradesh Hockey.

In the final match of the day, Assam Hockey defeated Hockey Jammu & Kashmir 6-1 in their Pool H game. Captain Elina Tigga (7', 28', 32') scored a hat-trick, while Phulkuwari Mundu (8'), Milka Surin (17'), and Ranju Karmakar (57') scored one goal each for Assam Hockey. Meanwhile, Bindu (50') scored the only goal for Hockey Jammu & Kashmir.

Junior hockey nationals: Salute Academy, SGPC and M.P. reach quarters

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Gaganjeet Singh and Gurnoor Grewal scored a hat-trick each as Salute Hockey Academy, Delhi thrashed Malwa Hockey Academy Hanumangarh 17-2 in a Pool E league match and qualified for the quarter-finals of the 1st Hockey India Junior Men Academy National Championship 2021 here on Saturday.

In other matches, Jai Bharat Hockey Academy, Hubli Hockey Academy, SGPC Hockey Academy, and Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy earned victories in their respective matches on day six of the competition. SGPC Academy and MP Hockey Academy also made it to the quarter-finals. Salute Hockey Academy began the day six proceedings with a monumental 17-2 win over Malwa Hockey Academy, Hanumangarh in the Pool F match. Gaganjeet Singh (22', 41', 56') and Gurnoor Grewal (42', 52', 60') registered hat-tricks to their names, while Ramkesh (9', 36'), Ankush (17', 60') and Pritam (33', 35') bagged a brace each. Sumit (19'), Manjeet (24'), Manish (28'), Vipin (50'), and Aadil Khan (54') also chipped in with a goal each to help Salute Hockey Academy seal a place in the quarter-final of the



tournament. Abinav Singh Bhadoriya (9', 49') scored the two goals for Malwa Hockey Academy Hanumangarh. Skipper Sandeep Singh scored eight goals as Vadiapati Raja Hockey Academy, Chennai registered a massive 16-2 win against Lakshmi Ammal Sports Academy, Kovilpatti (TN) in a Pool H match. Sandeep Singh (7', 15', 21', 26', 30', 50', 57', 58') was the star of the match for Vadiapati Raja Hockey Academy. Deepak (44', 45', 55') registered a hat-trick while Ashutosh Sharma (4', 40') and Harmandeep Singh (29', 59') each bagged a brace for the winners. Chandan (36') also contributed a goal in the team's big win. Dheenadayalan (14', 19') scored both

the goals for Lakshmi Ammal Sports Academy.

Hubli Hockey Academy ended their campaign with a thrilling come-from-behind 2-1 win against Republican Sports Club. Prajwal Shashikanth Bekkannavar (26') and Niketh Chandan Gadage (38') were the goalscorers for Hubli Hockey Academy, while Aryan Nitin Pagare (23') scored for Republican Sports Club in what was the final Pool F match of the tournament.

In Pool G, Jai Bharat Hockey Academy also ended their tournament with a stunning 4-3 comeback win over Thirumalvalavan Hockey Academy. Captain Naveen Narwal (26', 59') led his team Jai Bharat

Hockey Academy to victory by scoring two important goals in the match. Abhijeet Singh (38') and Sunny (42') also got on the scoresheet for Jai Bharat Hockey Academy. On the other hand, Dharaneesh P (10', 57') netted twice and Sri Hari Raam (24') scored a goal for Thirumalvalavan Hockey Academy.

In another Pool G match, SGPC Hockey Academy registered a clinical 4-1 win against Maharaja Ranjit Singh Hockey Academy to advance to the quarter-finals of the tournament. Onkar Singh (37', 55') started with two goals, while Arshdeep Singh (13') and Jassimran Singh (50') scored a goal each for SGPC Hockey Academy. Gurpreet Singh (15') scored the only goal for Maharaja Ranjit Singh Hockey Academy. In the final group stage match of the tournament, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy eased past Tamil Nadu Hockey Academy with a remarkable 9-1 win to finish on the top of Pool H. Love Kumar Kanjoiya (14', 37'), Shreyas Dhrupe (6', 22') and Himanshu Sanik (23', 30') each bagged a brace, while Rajat (18'), Talem Priyobarta (53') and Abdul Ahad (57') scored a goal each for Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy. Anantharaj (41') scored the only goal for Tamil Nadu Hockey Academy.

I-League: Delhi FC outclass Madan Maharaj FC 6-0 in Qualifiers

Bengaluru | Agencies

Delhi FC finished their I-League Qualifiers 2021 campaign in style as they outclassed Madan Maharaj FC 6-0 at the Bangalore Football Stadium, here on Saturday.

Delhi FC scored three goals on either side of halftime with Nikhil Mali and Gagandeep Bali netting a brace each, while Sergio Barboza and captain Anwar Ali added one goal each to end the capital side's maiden Qualifiers campaign on a high.

Delhi dominated proceedings from the starting whistle, having an early chance to take the lead when Brazilian Barboza ran clear through on goal with only the goalkeeper to beat. Barboza was caught up by a retrieving Pranendra Singh Thakur, but the latter's last-ditch tackle on the Delhi attacker was deemed a foul inside the box by the referee.

Having earned the penalty for the second time in successive matches, Sergio Barboza stepped up to take the spot-kick and calmly converted from his third attempt in the 5th minute. In the 13th minute, Jagannath Sana produced Madan Maha'aj FC's only shot on target in the first half as he embarked on a wonderful individual run, twisting and turning to evade tackles from the chasing Delhi FC



players before hitting a low drive and drawing a fine save from goalkeeper Suraj Mallick.

Delhi FC doubled their lead in the 19th minute through winger Nikhil

Mali. The goal came from a well-worked set-piece routine that came right out of the Delhi FC training ground. With the MMFC players anticipating a shot from Anwar Ali's

free-kick from a promising position, Delhi FC caught them off guard as Ali played in Sergio Barboza who drilled in a low cross that was tapped in comfortably by Nikhil Mali at the edge of the 6-yard box.

Nikhil Mali soon doubled his personal tally and made it 3-0 for Delhi FC in the 21st minute. He could have had a quickfire hat-trick within five minutes, but he missed a glorious chance to bag his third goal in the 24th minute.

Delhi FC resumed the second half just as they had played all through the first, and made it 4-0 through substitute striker Gagandeep Bali. The second-half substitute grabbed a brace seven minutes later and made it 5-0 for Delhi FC in the 63rd minute.

Delhi compiled further misery on MMFC ten minutes later in the 73rd minute as the side from the capital racked up half a dozen goals. Delhi had many more chances to add to their sizeable advantage over the remainder of the game, but could not do so as the likes of Laiwang Boham, Himanshu Jangra, and Samuel Shadap all missed relatively easy chances. The result ensured that Madan Maharaj remain winless in the final round of the Hero I-League Qualifiers, while Delhi FC finish on four points.

World snooker qualifiers: Rawat strikes form as Advani, Mehta win

Mumbai | Agencies

India No. 3, Laxman Rawat (PSPB) was in good nick and scored twin victories, defeating Neeraj Kumar (RPSB) and Dhavaj Haria (PSPB) by identical 4-1 margins in the Men's Z' Camp (2nd leg) round-robin league matches of the World Snooker Qualifiers, a BSFI National Selection Tournament, here.

The 29-year-old Rawat was in full flow and compiled three notable breaks of 47 (2nd frame), 82 (3rd), and 49 (5th) to outshine teammate Dhavaj Haria (PSPB) and clinch a satisfying 70-13, 57(47)-17, 113(82)-00, 62-75 and 67(49)-01 victory.

Earlier on Friday night, Rawat had produced another steady performance to overcome Neeraj Kumar (RSPB) 4-1 (50-37, 58-43, 35-75, 80-20, and 68(66)-26), the organisers informed in a press release on Saturday.

In the women's section, National Champion and India No. 1 Vidya Pillai of Karnataka got back on the winning track after three consecutive defeats, beating Tamil Nadu's strong challenger and third-ranked Indian Varsha Sanjeev 3-1



(45-83, 58-20, 64-28, 61-49). Madhya Pradesh's Indian No.2 Ameer Kamani (MP) also tasted success, getting the better of Mah'rashtra's Arantxa Sanchis (MAH) 3-1 (10-46, 97-52, 67-28, 59-43).

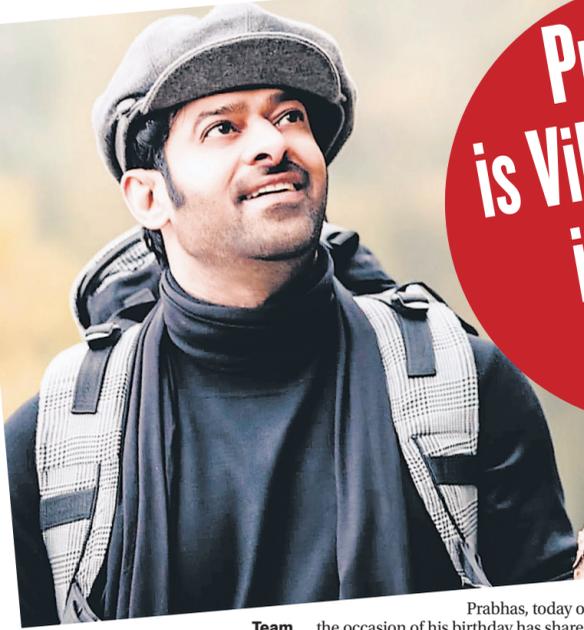
Meanwhile, the top two Indian men players Aditya Mehta and Pankaj Advani both recorded victories. India No. 1 Mehta defeated Himanshu Jain (TEL) 4-1 (92-16, 62-43, 32-79, 62-44, 109(65)-01), while Advani outplayed Haria (PSPB) 4-0 (71(44)-16, 74-38, 72(54)-18, 56-48).

Results: Women's Z-camp (2nd leg): Ameer Kamani (MP) beat Arantxa Sanchis (MAH) 3-1 (10-46, 97-52, 67-28, 59-43); Anupama Ramchandran

(TN) beat Keerath Bhandaal (DEL) 3-2 (58-21, 65-74, 60-74, 91-39, 64-32); Vidya Pillai (KTK) beat Varsha Sanjeev (TN) 3-1 (45-83, 58-20, 64-28, 61-49). Men's Z-camp (2nd leg): Laxman Rawat (PSPB) beat Neeraj Kumar (RSPB) 4-1 (50-37, 58-43, 35-75, 80-20, 68(66)-26); Pankaj Advani (PSPB) beat Dhavaj Haria (PSPB) 4-0 (71(44)-16, 74-38, 72(54)-18, 56-48); Pushpender Singh (RSPB) beat Himanshu Jain (TEL) 4-1 (92-16, 62-43, 32-79, 62-44, 109(65)-01); Rawat (PSPB) beat Haria (PSPB) 4-1 (70-13, 57(47)-17, 113(82)-00, 62-75, 67(49)-01); Mehta (PSPB) beat Pushpender (RSPB) 4-3 (25-68(54), 42-59, 82-69, 72-22, 77(73)-09, 31-64, 63-25).



Prabhas is Vikramaditya in Radhe Shyam



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The wait is finally over for the fans of Prabhas. Prabhas's much awaited return to romantic genre has been some ride for the fans. After a lot of poster and asset reveals the fans have finally made it to the day where Prabhas's character, Vikramaditya, gets an introduction and it will surely leave the fans excited.

Prabhas, today on the occasion of his birthday has shared the teaser of his film Radhe Shyam. In the teaser Prabhas reveals to us in a riddle that who and what his character is and it has now clear that the actor is all set to play the role of a Palmist which is a first for any actor.

There is no doubt that Prabhas's role is a very unique one. No actor comes to mind when recalling last time an actor took on such an interesting and unique role. Prabhas fans are surely in for a treat.

A few days earlier a special poster of Prabhas was unveiled and prior to that a special poster of his co-star Pooja Hegde was unveiled on her birthday. The duo has got the fans excited and they can't wait to watch them pair up onscreen and create magic.

The film will hit the screens on January 14th 2022. Radhe Shyam will be a multi-lingual film and is helmed by Radha Krishna Kumar, presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series. It is produced by UV Creations. The film is produced by Bhusan Kumar, Vamsi and Pramod.



'BIGG BOSS 15':

Donal Bisht says ex-housemates pulled her down

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress-model Donal Bisht, who recently got evicted from 'Bigg Boss 15', says she is overwhelmed with the love coming her way and that she gave her hundred percent in the controversial reality show.

Donal said: "I am just overwhelmed with the hashtags going around on social media, it is more than enough for me and I am sure it is going to help me a lot in my career."

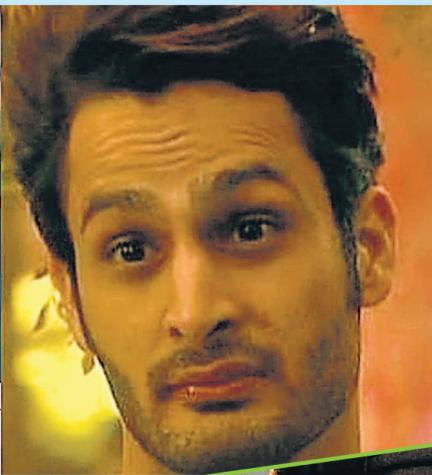
During the game, contestants pointed out that she lacked in making connections. However, Donal feels that that although she "gave her hundred percent to make connections," the other contestants pulled her down. Donal asserted that she can't be a follower.

She said: "I have my own thinking and this is what the housemates were not liking about me. Many follow Vishal Kotian who himself is toxic and if you follow the toxicity, it will obviously spread around."

According to Donal, there was a lot of planning inside the house to sideline her.

"Vishal Kotian, Karan Kundrra, Jay Bhanushali and Tejaswi Prakash were completely against me and in fact Afsana Khan with whom later I developed a good bonding, told me that initially they all had decided to sideline me. They never wanted me to shine in the house."

"Afsana was also with them in all their games. But afterwards we became friends. Afsana also revealed to me that they said there should be only one girl in the house and that is Tejaswi. And for Tejaswi, I was the biggest threat."



NEW MOTION POSTER OF SALMAN, AAYUSH-STARRER 'ANTIM' IS MENACING

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The excitement over the Salman Khan

and Aayush Sharma-starrer 'Antim: The Final Truth' is reaching new levels with each passing day. The audience, who are eagerly waiting for the film, were in for a sweet surprise as Salman Khan released a new motion poster of himself.

Salman took to Instagram to share the

pulsating poster from the film which features him in an all black avatar. Salman, who plays a Sikh cop in the film, can be seen wearing a black shirt and a black turban and is rolling up his sleeves.

His character in the film is named 'Rajveer' and by the look of it, he is in for serious business in the film with his vengeful side on display as he mouths the lines, "Jis din ae Sardar di hategi, sab di fategi" (the day this Sardar loses his cool, everyone will run for cover) backed by a powerful background score.

Salman captioned the motion poster, "Enjoy #Antim releasing on November 26 in theatres near you... #SalmanAsRajveer." The motion poster also announces the release date of the trailer as October 25.

'BIGG BOSS 15' TO SEE SIMBA, UMAR SLUG IT OUT IN THE 'SULTANI AKHAADA'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Invited by their superstar host, Salman Khan, to fight it out in the 'Sultani Akhada', Simba Nagpal and Umar Riaz, both 'Bigg Boss 15' contestants who seem to be getting on each other's nerves all the time, engaged in a verbal joust.

And, sources say, Simba, who's a model and actor, emerged as the winner, having secured the most number of votes from his housemates. His witty replies apparently tilted the balance of opinion in his favour. And in the second round, where the two of them had to literally wrestle with each other, Simba managed to pin Umar down to the ground for the maximum number of times.

The truth about the story doing the rounds will only be known once the episode goes on air later on Saturday night.



MEENAKSHI CHOWDHARY IS MAHESH BABU'S HEROINE FOR TRIVIKRAM'S FILM

Hyderabad | Agencies

Actress Meenakshi Chowdhary, who got onto everyone's radar with her appearance alongside Sushanth in his recent movie 'Ichata Vahanamulu Nilupa Radu', has grabbed a huge offer. She is to star as the second heroine in Mahesh Babu's upcoming movie. Mahesh Babu has been roped in to play the hero in Trivikram Srinivas' upcoming movie. So, the makers have zeroed in on Meenakshi Chowdhary to play one of the female leads in the movie. The makers are busy with the casting for the movie, and the main heroine is not yet finalised. This yet-to-be-titled movie is to get on the floors soon, as Mahesh Babu is currently busy wrapping up shooting for his upcoming movie 'Sarkaru Vaari Paata' alongside Keerthy Suresh. Meenakshi is to share the screen with 'Baahubali' fame Prabhas in his upcoming movie 'Salaar', which is helmed by 'KGF' fame director Prashanth Neel. While Shruthi Haasan plays the female lead in 'Salaar', Meenakshi has an important role in the movie. Meenakshi got instant fame after she grabbed the 'Miss India' title in 2018. Her recent appearance in 'Ichata Vahanamulu Nilupa Radu' has got her noticed by the biggies. Now that the lady is being offered good chances opposite Tollywood biggies, analysts believe she is set to grab many more opportunities.

SAIF PUTS ON WEIGHT TO PLAY RAILWAY TICKET COLLECTOR IN 'BUNTY AUR BABLI 2'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Saif Ali Khan had put on several kilos to play the role of a railway ticket collector named Rakesh for his upcoming film 'Bunty Aur Babli 2'.

Talking about his character, Saif said: "Not a day goes by without Rakesh missing the thrill he felt when he was the legendary conman Bunty. Though he has kept his identity a secret and enjoys his marriage with Vimmy (Rani Mukerji's character), he misses the action, misses strategising for cons that became the talk of the nation. Suppressing who he truly is and wants to be, impacts his health." Saif as Bunty has retired from being a conman and has settled into family life with Babli also known as Vimmy, played by Rani. Despite being in love with his wife and appre-



ciating his family to the core, Rakesh is bored. The slow life in a small town has impacted his fitness. He craves thrill, he craves the adrenaline rush he felt while pulling off incredible cons across India.

Saif added: "I had to put on several kilos and then lose it quickly because of my packed shooting schedule. Now, when I look back, I'm glad I went through the process because Rakesh aka the OG Bunty looks believable in the film."



Esshanya Maheshwari