

absolute india



VOL. 7, ISSUE 250, BHOPAL | WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

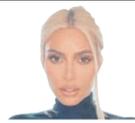
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HERE IS THE EXPLANATION, HOW GST RATES WILL AFFECT THE MONTHLY BUDGET

EARN MORE TO SURVIVE

No GST on food items when sold loose, clarifies Sitharaman

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Foodgrains and pre-packed food items will now cost more after 5 percent GST was levied on them. All the products for which GST rates have been revised upwards are items that are consumed daily.

As per the available data it is estimated that household budgets are likely to increase by more than Rs 1,000 per month.

The Congress held protests against the GST hikes at the Gandhi statue and later in both Houses of Parliament on Tuesday and forced adjournments till 2 p.m. in both Houses. The Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha were adjourned till 2 p.m. after opposition members continued to protest demanding a discussion on GST, price rise, Agnipath and other issues.

The Congress said that the CPI inflation in May 2022 stood at 7.04%, and was as high as 7.79% in April 2022. These are way higher than the maximum limit of 6% set by the RBI.

Flour, rice, dals to be costlier

For example a 20 kg bag of flour will cost Rs 630 to Rs 650 which was earlier Rs 600 per bag, and refined flour will cost Rs 5 to Rs 6 per kg. Similarly rice which cost Rs 1300 to Rs 1600 for a 25 kg bag will cost Rs 1400 to Rs 1800.

Pulses will cost Rs 5 to Rs 7 more per kg. Flour mill owners say that prior to GST the one quintal cost was around Rs 2600 but now it will cost Rs 2730 to the retailer.

The 5 percent rate hike will affect each household as per rates com-

WALLET BURNER: HOW RAISED GST RATES WILL IMPACT YOUR BUDGET

GOODS AND SERVICES THAT'LL GET COSTLIER	REVISED GST RATES	
	EARLIER	NOW
CURD, LASSI, BUTTERMILK, PANEER	0%	5%
RICE, WHEAT, RYE, BARLEY, OATS	0%	5%
JAGGERY, NATURAL HONEY	0%	5%
HOSPITAL ROOMS (>₹5,000)	0%	5%
HOTEL ROOMS (<₹1,000)	0%	12%
SOLAR WATER HEATERS	5%	12%
LED LAMPS & LIGHTS	12%	18%
BANK CHEQUES	0%	18%



pared to March 2014. Flour which cost Rs 20 per kg will now cost Rs 28, similarly 400 gm curd will now cost Rs 40, desi ghee is likely to cost around Rs 650 per kg. It was Rs 350 per kg around 2014.

Not only food items. Soaps -- for bathing and detergent, mustard and sunflower oil will also cost more

now. The rate has been increased as exemptions have been withdrawn for pre-packed and pre-labelled foodgrains, fish, paneer, lassi, honey, jaggery, wheat flour, buttermilk, unfrozen meat/fish, and puffed rice (muri). These will now be taxed at 5%, at par with branded items.

Hotel & hospital bills to increase

The new revised rates has withdrawn exemption for hotel accommodation up to Rs 1,000 per day. This will now be taxed at 12%. So now the consumer has to pay Rs 120 more on a hotel bill of Rs 1000. Non ICU beds which exceed Rs 5000 per day will be costlier.

Beverages

Tetra packs used for packaging liquid beverages and dairy products will now attract 18% GST instead of 12%.

Financial services & work contract

The other things which are going to be costlier include work contract for roads, bridges, railways, metro and crematoriums which will now attract 18 per cent tax. There will be a hike in GST on RBI, IRDA and SEBI services.

Rates slashed

The GST on the transport of goods and ropeways has been reduced to 5 percent from 18 per cent. Renting of trucks or goods carriage where the cost of fuel is included will cost less as the tax has come down from 18 per cent to 12 per cent. GST on ostomy appliances and orthopaedic appliances reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent.

Ink, knives, pencils will also cost more

GST has been increased from 12 percent to 18 percent on printing, writing or drawing ink, knives with cutting blades, spoons, forks, paper knives, pencil sharpeners and LED lamps. Solar water heaters will attract 18% tax.

Machines for agriculture

The rate of machines used for agriculture purposes specifically for cleaning, sorting and grading seed, machines used in cottage industry atta chakki which is operated with wind power and wet grinders will attract 18% GST which was 6 percent earlier.

GST on other equipment used for cleaning, sorting eggs, fruit and milking machines and dairy machinery has been increased by 6 percent to 18 percent. Power driven pumps such as centrifugal pumps, deep tubewell turbine pumps, submersible pumps, will be costlier by 6 percent.

GST on casinos being reviewed

The Group of Ministers had finalized a uniform 28% GST on casinos, horse racing and lotteries. This decision has been reviewed, and the GoM has been given a 15-day period to review its decision.



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
FINANCE MINISTER

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Following uproar in the Parliament over GST on food items, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday defended the imposition of 5

per cent GST on food articles such as cereals, rice, flour and curd, which are pre-packaged and labelled, saying that it was a unanimous decision of the GST Council last month in which even non-BJP ruled states were present. The Finance Minister released a list of items that will not attract any GST, when sold loose, and not pre-packed or pre-labelled.

In a series of tweets, she said: "Recently, the GST Council in its 47th meeting recommended to reconsider the approach for imposition of GST on specified food items like pulses, cereals, flour, etc. There have been a lot of misconceptions about

this that have been spread. Here is a thread to lay the facts. Is this the first time such food articles are being taxed? No. States were collecting significant revenue from foodgrain in the pre-GST regime. It is in this context that the GST Council in its 47th meeting took the decision. With effect from July 18, 2022, only the modalities of imposition of GST on these goods was changed with no change in coverage of GST except 2-3 items. It has been prescribed that GST on these goods shall apply when supplied in 'pre-packaged and labelled' commodities attracting the provisions of Legal Metrology Act. For example, items like pulses, cereals like rice, wheat, and flour, etc, earlier attracted GST @ 5% when branded and packed in unit container. From 18.7.2022, these items would attract GST when 'pre-packaged and labeled'," Sitharaman tweeted.

Maha CM Eknath Shinde says 12 Shiv Sena MPs joined him

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday announced that 12 Shiv Sena MPs have joined him in the interest of the people of the state.

Speaking to mediapersons, he said that the 12 MPs met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and submitted a letter to the effect as a Shiv Sena Party Group in the Lower House.

"While Rahul Shewale is the new Shiv Sena Group Leader, Bhavana Gawali is the Chief Whip of the party in Lok Sabha," said Shinde.

The developments came a month after a Shinde-led revolt by around 40 Shiv Sena MLAs plus 10 independents and others on June 20, which



brought down the Maha Vikas Aghadi government of Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress headed by then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

The latest development comes as a huge setback to Thackeray, though party's Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut had trashed the upcoming developments in the past

two days. The MPs who have entered the Shinde camp include -- Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Rahul Shewale, Bhavana Gawali, Hemant Godse, Rajendra Gavit, Sadashiv Lokhande, Hemant Patil, Sanjay Mandlik, Dhairyashel Mane, Shrirang Barne, Krupal Tumane and Prataprao Jadhav.

DSP CRUSHED TO DEATH BY MINING MAFIA IN HARYANA'S NUH, ONE ARRESTED

Nuh (Haryana) | Agencies

A DSP rank police official was crushed to death by the mining mafia in Nuh district of the state on Tuesday.

One of the accused in the murder of Haryana Police Deputy Superintendent of Police Surender Singh, who was killed when a dumper he signalled to stop in Nuh district ran him over on Tuesday, has been arrested, police said. A police spokesperson said the arrested accused, Ikkar, was a cleaner on the dumper and is a resident of Panchgaon village. According to sources, DSP Surender Singh Bishnoi of the Haryana Police had gone out on a raid after



receiving information about illegal mining operation. He reportedly had an altercation with the accused at the incident spot who ran over a dumper truck on him. The mining mafia is very active in the Gurugram and Nuh districts. The felling of trees in Aravalli remains a threat to the environment. Along with this, there is a possibility of a loss of species of animals due to illegal mining. After the tragic incident, Haryana Police issued a statement extending condolences to the bereaved family. The state police further assured that the guilty would be brought to justice.

Cloudburst in Himachal's Kinnaur, houses submerged in flood water

Team Absolute | Shimla

A cloudburst was reported at Shalakh village under Pooch block of Kinnaur district in Himachal Pradesh after which eight drains were flooded, creating panic in the area. Many vehicles and houses were submerged in water.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur described the cloudburst as worrying and gave directions to the administration for relief and rescue work.

Thakur said that the administration has been asked to be on alert across Himachal even before the rainy season. "Such incidents are continuously happening in Kinnaur which is a cause for concern," he added.

The people of the area are unable to move to a safer place as all the roads have been closed. In view of this, the villagers have appealed to the disaster management authorities, district administration and the state government to start rescue work.

According to information, as heavy rain continues in the area, the cloudburst occurred in the higher reaches on Monday



evening, flooding the eight drains. Water entered the village of Shalakh. Vehicles parked on the road and houses were submerged due to the strong flow of the water.

Rupee depreciates to 80 against US dollar

Team Absolute | Chennai

As predicted earlier, the Indian rupee on Tuesday crossed Rs 80 for a US dollar. The fall in rupee's value is owing to multiple factors like



Russia-Ukraine war, outflow of foreign institutional investors and others, said experts. Experts also said though the rupee has depreciated against the dollar, it has appreciated against other currencies. Global risk aversion has led to rupee depreciation against the dollar; however, the decline is pretty tolerable. Even though rupee touched the psychological mark of 80 per dollar, rupee has indeed appreciated against the majority of leading currencies like Euro, GBP and Yen, said Aishwarya Dadhech, Fund Manager, Ambit Asset Management. "The major reasons for the weakening of Indian Rupee against the US Dollar are global factors that include Russia-Ukraine war, rising crude oil prices, tightening of global liquidity and significant FII outflows," Arun Kumar, Head of Research, FundsIndia.

▶ IN AN OP-ED IN THE WASHINGTON POST, THE EPIDEMIOLOGIST ALONG WITH OTHER EXPERTS WROTE AN OPEN LETTER CALLING FOR AN EARLY GLOBAL RESPONSE TO MONKEYPOX INFECTIONS TO AVOID ECHOING THE MISTAKES OF COVID.

▶ WHILE THE WHN DECLARED MONKEYPOX A GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IN JUNE, THE WHO'S INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005) EMERGENCY COMMITTEE, HELD ON JUNE 23, RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS THAT, AT THIS STAGE, THE OUTBREAK DOES NOT WARRANT A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN (PHEIC).

▶ MEANWHILE, THE WHO HAS PLANNED TO 'RECONVENE THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE' ON JULY 21 TO DELIBERATE ON DECLARING THE VIRUS A GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY.

Monkeypox on track to hit 1 lakh cases globally by August: US expert

Monkeypox infection is not showing signs of slowing down and is on track to hit 100,000 cases by August as per an earlier forecast, top US epidemiologist and health economist Eric Feigl-Ding warned. About 60 countries have to date reportedly confirmed more than 11,500 cases of the viral disease.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

According to Feigl-Ding, the infections soon are likely to see an "exponential surge" of 13,000 cases. In light of this, the World Health Organization (WHO) should declare the disease a public health emergency, he noted.

"Exponential surge to almost 13,000 monkeypox cases globally -- with no signs of slowing -- on track to hit 100,000 in August (per earlier forecast)," Feigl-Ding wrote on Twitter.

He also lamented that the response to monkeypox -- both in terms of testing and vaccine roll out -- is "vastly inadequate" in many countries like the US. These problems have led the monkeypox virus to spread unchecked, he noted.



"Testing had been slow -- and with it -- slow mitigations and vaccination rollout," said Feigl-Ding, also a co-founder of the World Health

Network (WHN) -- a global collaboration of scientific and citizen teams.

"This is why we must demand the @WHO to acknowledge at minimum the public health emergency that #monkeypox represents -- and declares a pandemic asap."

"It is time for the global public health community to recognise a growing reality: #Monkeypox is now a pandemic -- unless we declare an emergency and act quickly to combat it, we risk repeating the same mistakes we made with Covid," he said. "The lessons of not declaring Covid-19 a PHEIC immediately in early January 2020 should be remembered as a history lesson of what acting late on an epidemic can mean for the world," Feigl-Ding had said.



SC PROTECTS NUPUR SHARMA FROM ARREST FROM FIRS OVER HER REMARKS ON PROPHET

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A two-judge bench of the Supreme Court, which slammed suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her remarks on Prophet Mohammad during a TV debate on July 1, on Tuesday said it never wanted her to go to every court and said no coercive action should be taken against her in FIRs registered so far and also cases, which could be registered in the future.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and J.B. Pardiwala said: "Meanwhile, as an interim measure, it is directed that no coercive shall be taken against Nupur Sharma pursuant to the impugned FIRs."

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing Sharma, contended that new FIRs are being registered, and added that they will pick her up. The bench said: "No coercive action to be taken against present or future FIRs in relation to the same telecast..."

The Supreme Court will take up Sharma's plea to club/quash all nine FIRs against her on August 10.

At the outset, Singh said after the top court's July 1 order, the petitioner has received life threats and it is not possible for her to travel outside Delhi to pursue these cases. He added that there is real threat to life and there are reports that someone was travelling from Pakistan to kill her and some were apprehended in Patna who were plan-



ning to execute her.

The bench told Sharma's counsel, "We will correct it to a small extent. We never wanted you to go to every court... Maybe we could not convey this." Singh emphasised that there are ever increasing serious threats to her life. "We have seen in the past how these situations pan out. Whatever has happened has happened... you are protector of Article 21," he said. The bench noted that in her support, the petitioner in the miscellaneous application has stated that after July 1 order of this

court, various incidents, like threats have been made by one by Salman Chishti claiming to be Khadim of Ajmer Dargah who has called upon to cut her throat, and another by a man from Uttar Pradesh, who made a viral video threatening to behead her.

Singh cited an order by another bench of the top court, where it had granted the ad interim relief by staying the similar FIRs.

The bench agreed to ensure that Sharma can avail of remedies available in law. "As any other citizen, you should also be able to

avail of alternative remedies," said Justice Kant. The top court noted that the petitioner says it has become impossible for her to avail the alternate remedy granted by this court and that there is an imminent necessity to protect her life and liberty as guaranteed under Article 21. It also issued notice to Delhi, West Bengal, and Maharashtra Police and others on Sharma's plea for clubbing of multiple FIRs

The top court, in its July 1 order, said: "Senior counsel for the petitioner seeks and is permitted to withdraw the present writ petition with liberty to avail the alternate remedies available under the law. The writ petition is dismissed as withdrawn."

Sharma had once again moved the Supreme Court seeking stay on her arrest in the nine FIRs against her for her remarks on Prophet Muhammad and also sought clubbing/quashing of the FIRs with the FIR registered at Delhi. In the fresh plea, Sharma cited the top court's judgments saying that a person cannot be subjected to multiple FIRs in several parts of the country for the same offence.

On July 1, the top court had minced no words in slamming Sharma, whose remarks on Prophet Muhammad sparked a controversy. The top court said her loose tongue has set the entire country on fire and her irresponsible remarks shows that she is "obstinate and arrogant".

12 RESCUED AFTER 4-STOREY BUILDING CATCHES FIRE IN DELHI

New Delhi: Twelve people were safely rescued by the Fire Department after they were briefly trapped inside a four-storey building here that caught fire on Tuesday, officials said.

No casualties or injuries, however, were reported.

According to a Fire Department official, a call about the fire incident was received at 3.34 p.m. after which as many as five fire tenders were immediately pressed into service. "We rescued 12 people from the building," Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg told

Visuals from the spot showed thick plumes of smoke billowing out of the building.

The fire was brought under control within an hour and was completely doused by 5.15 p.m.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East District) Priyanka Kashyap said an initial enquiry has revealed that the fire started from the storage area of lithium batteries situated on the first floor of the building.



Over 1.63 lakh renounced Indian citizenship in 2021, US top choice

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Over 1.63 lakh Indian nationals renounced their Indian citizenship during 2021, the highest during the last three years, the Parliament was told on Tuesday.

Data provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Lok Sabha disclosed that the US was the top choice with almost half of Indians - 78,284 - preferring to become US citizens.

In 2021, as many as 1,63,370 Indians gave up their Indian passports. The corresponding number in the year 2019 and 2020 was 1,44,017 and 85,256, respectively. Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, in a written reply, said that the reasons for these Indians renouncing their citizenship,



which also means they have to surrender their Indian passport, is "personal to them". As per the data, shared in response to a query by Bahujan Samaj Party member Haji Fazlur Rehman, showed that after the US, Australia (23,533), Canada (21,597), the UK (14,637), Italy (5,986), New Zealand (2,643)

and Singapore (2,516) were where Indians preferred to get citizenship. So far as US citizenship is concerned, 78,284 Indians took up US citizenship in 2021, 30,828 in 2020, and 61,683 in 2019. All of them were based in the US itself while renouncing their Indian nationality.

A total 41 Indian nationals based in Pakistan also gave up their Indian citizenship last year, compared to only seven in 2020. Total 326 Indians renounced their citizenship while being in the UAE last year and applied for citizenship in countries such as Albania, France, Malta, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Belgium, Cyprus, Ireland, Grenada, Jordan, Mauritius, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu, among others.

"Take Bra In Hand And Leave": Kerala girl describes NEET exam horror

Kollam | Agencies

A teen in Kerala's Kollam, one of the many allegedly forced to remove her bra before the NEET medical entrance exam on Sunday, described her humiliation as she sat for the exam using her hair to cover her chest.

It was a "very bad experience", said the 17-year-old, choking up as she shared what happened at the centre for NEET (National Eligibility and Entrance Test), the nationwide exam for medical admissions.

"They called me and said there would be scanning. We thought they would let us go after the scan but they made us stand in two queues - one for girls wear-

ing bras without metal hooks, and the other line..." she said.

"They asked me, are you wearing underwear with a metal hook? I said yes, so was asked to join that line."

The girl said she could scarcely understand what was happening and why.

"They asked us to remove our bra and put it on a table. All the bras were bunched together. We didn't even know if we would get ours back when we returned. It was crowded when we came back. It was a scramble, but I got mine," she said, describing endlessly mortifying moments before one of the most important exams any medical aspirant can take.

Some girls wept in shame. One

of the women security employees reportedly asked, "Why are you crying?"

With disturbing callousness, the security personnel instructed the girls to pick up their bras and move on.

"They said take your bra in your hand and leave, no need to wear them. We were very embarrassed to hear that. But everyone waited to change. It was dark and there was no place to change...it was a terrible experience. When we were writing the exam, we put our hair in front as we had no shawl to cover ourselves...There were boys and girls and it was really difficult and uncomfortable," the girl alleged.

The shocking incident surfaced when the father of one of

the girls, a 17-year-old, complained to the police. He said, "90 per cent of the girls had to remove their inners" before writing the exam and were sobbing.

"Is your future or innerwear big for you? Just remove it and don't waste our time (sic)," the father's complaint quoted security personnel as saying.

Two more complaints were filed on Tuesday.

The National Testing Agency has ordered a fact-finding team to investigate the incident. The agency had earlier denied the allegations and had said it was told the complaint is "fictitious".

The National Commission for Women has called the incident "shameful and outrageous to the modesty of young girls."

K'taka Congress lodges complaint against Draupadi Murmu with EC

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee lodged a complaint against the NDA's Presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu and others with the Election Commission in Bengaluru on Tuesday for violation of the provisions of law in the Presidential election held on July 18.

The Congress has asked the EC to direct the Returning Officer for the Presidential election to treat all the votes cast in favour of Draupadi Murmu at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru as invalid in the interest of a free and fair election.

The Congress has charged that at the instance of Draupadi Murmu, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj



Bomma, BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kaitl, BJP senior leader B S Yediyurappa, BJP chief whip Satish Reddy, the ministers and other senior leaders of the BJP joined together and summoned all the BJP MLAs to a five star hotel in Bengaluru on July 17.

They were provided luxurious rooms, food, liquor, beverages, entertainment in the guise of training sessions for MLAs for voting in the Presidential election, the complaint stated. On July 18 morning almost all ministers, MLAs, and other BJP leaders came in BMTC air conditioned buses from the hotel to the Vidhana Soudha to cast their votes. All this has been reported both in the print and electronic media. All these actions of the BJP leaders are nothing but bribery and exerting undue influence on voters who are MLAs at the behest of Murmu, the Congress stated.

Over 150 duped on pretext of giving Pradhan Mantri Mudra loan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the arrest of 7 persons including five women, the Delhi Police has busted a fake call centre that used to cheat people on the pretext of providing "Pradhan Mantri Mudra loan at lower interest rates", an official said on Tuesday.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Sandeep Kumar (29), Sumit (32), Rakhi (22), Jyoti (24), Manisha (20), Kajal (20) and Jyoti (22). They mainly targeted poor people in the name of the government loan offer and cheated more than 150 innocent people in the last

one year. DCP (northwest) Usha Rangani said a complaint was lodged by a man at Cyber North West police station who alleged that he received a message from one unknown mobile number that he can get Pradhan Mantri Mudra Loan of Rs 2 lakh, and was asked to submit documents through WhatsApp along with a registration fees of Rs 2,499. When the complainant transferred the requisite amount, the accused induced the complainant to transfer Rs 15,500 in the name of insurance. Eventually, the complainant realised that he had been duped and subsequently, went to the police.

OVER 500 NSUI WORKERS LIKELY TO JOIN BJP IN GUJARAT

Ahmedabad: In a setback to the Congress in Gujarat, more than 500 workers of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of the party, are likely to join the BJP.

The Congress had recently appointed Narendrasinh Solanki as the President of the state unit of NSUI. However, the NSUI workers and senior members of the organisation seem to be unhappy with his leadership. "Narendrasinh is not much experienced and has lesser knowledge as to how the party functions," they said. Former NSUI general secretary Parth Desai told IANS, "There are many deserving NSUI workers who have been actively working for the Congress for a long time now. They have even gone to jail for the party. But the party appointed Narendrasinh as NSUI chief ignoring all other senior workers, which is nothing but a result of groupism." "We tried to convey our disappointment to the senior leaders, including Jagdish Thakor, but no one listened to us. So I have resigned from the NSUI along with more than 300 members. Many NSUI leaders from north Gujarat, Surat and Rajkot are also going to resign soon. We all will be joining the BJP."

K'taka family announces reward of Rs 50K for finding missing parrot



Tumakuru | Agencies

A family that rears parrots at home here have announced Rs 50,000 cash for those who can find their favourite bird which went missing.

According to Ravi, an animal activist and the owner of the bird, their family nursed two African grey parrots at their

home in Jayanagar locality of Tumakuru district. One of the parrots named 'Rustuma' had gone missing since July 16.

The family had made posters, and launched hunts in the surrounding areas. "By mistake it has flown away. I request the people here to observe their surroundings in balconies, terraces and on the branches of trees. It cannot go

far," he said. The family members are closely attached to 'Rustuma'. "We have not been able to take the pain. I request everyone to give information or if anyone returns the bird they will be given Rs 50,000 cash on the spot," he said.

"I have been associated with animal rights organisations. Me and my family share a special bond with the parrot," he said.

"We have been missing it very much. We have spent wonderful times with the bird," he added.

The family celebrated the birthday of the two parrots every year grandly. The bonding of the family with the parrot and their endeavour to discover and get back the lost parrot has moved people and animal lovers in the state.

Delhi woman delivers baby on road after hospital denies admission

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 30-year-old woman was forced to deliver her baby just outside the Safdarjung Hospital in the national capital after the said hospital allegedly denied admission, an official said on Tuesday.

"As per the allegations, she was not admitted in the hospital and she delivered a baby girl in the hospital premises itself," Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Manoj C. told reporter.

The DCP further informed that now the woman and the baby both have been admitted to the hospital and are doing well.

"They are being treated by a senior doctor of the Gynaecology Department," the senior official said. No complaint was lodged by the aggrieved party against the hospital. "We have received no complaint in the present matter," the official added. In a video accessed by reporter, the relatives of the woman could be seen covering the woman with the help of a saree (Indian traditional wear) as she gave birth to a baby girl on a footpath inside the



premises of the Safdarjung hospital. The relatives, infuriated over the treatment, alleged that the said woman was for the whole night writhing in pain outside the hospital but it did not admit her.

CHANGE OF NAME

I KALPANA SAHU is legally wedded spouse of No. JC703061P SUB RAMSWAROOP SAHU residing at Ward No. 21 Shivnagar colony near gaade baba Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh Pin-472001 have changed my name from KALPANA to KALPANA SAHU vide affidavit No. BC 583914.



IT IS STATE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY TO PROVIDE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY TO PEOPLE: CM

▶ CAMPAIGN STARTED TO PROVIDE BENEFITS OF SCHEME TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS

▶ CHOUHAN HOLDS DISCUSSION IN 12 NUMBER MULTI SECTOR OVER TEA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that if the public is suffering, then what is the government doing. It is the duty of the state government to provide good governance and security to its people. To ensure that every eligible person gets the benefit of every scheme, a campaign is being started in the state from today. Our government is committed to change the lives of the people. The state government is working for the betterment of all sections of the society. Chouhan interacted with the local residents in the 'Chai Pe Charcha Programme' in multi area



located near 12 number bus stop in Bhopal. Chief Minister Chouhan distributed benefits to the beneficiaries of Ladli Laxmi, Ayushman Bharat, Swanidhi, Sambal and Social Security Pension Scheme.

Chouhan started the programme with Kanya Pujan. He had tea and snacks with the local residents. Medical Education Minister Shri Vishwas Sarang, Bhopal's newly-elected Mayor Malti Rai, former MP Alok

Sanjar, former Mayor Alok Sharma, social worker Sumit Pachauri and Rahul Kothari were present. Chief Minister said that this is not a general meeting but a Vishwas Sabha. Our government is acting on everything that we said. The state government is in constant contact and dialogue with the people. Today's discussion on tea is an expression of the commitment of the state government. Chief Minister Chouhan received information about

the problems of the area from the local residents during the discussion. Residents told that there is no water in the top floor flats in the multi-storey.

Chouhan instructed for construction of overhead tanks in the area immediately. He also directed to start the work of repair, renovation and white washing of multi-storey buildings immediately. He said that strict action should be taken against goons, miscreants and anti-social elements in the area. Chief Minister also directed to establish a permanent police post in the area. Chouhan sought information about distribution of ration, availability of Ayushman Bharat cards to local residents, arrangements for electricity and sanitation. He said that special camps are being started in the area from today to provide benefits of various public welfare schemes to all the eligible persons of multi sector. There is facility to apply for various schemes like Ration Distribution, Garib Kalyan Yojana, Housing, Ujjwala Yojana, Street Vendor etc. in the camp. The applications received will be processed within a week.

BALANCE BETWEEN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY IS ESSENTIAL

PS Sanjay Dubey launches ultra modern technical training in power generation

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Principal Secretary Energy and Renewable Energy Sanjay Dubey launched ultra modern technical training in the Paryavaran Parisar for the control of pollution arising from energy production. Dubey said that India is a developing country. We are constantly moving ahead while meeting the challenges of environmental security with energy security. Along with the use of ultra modern technologies of environmental protection, we should also keep in mind that in view of the economic condition of the country, these techniques are effective and not too expensive.

Principal Secretary Environment Aniruddha Mukherjee, Member Secretary Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board Achyutanand Mishra and Project Manager of International Centre for Sustainable Carbon Lesley Sloss also addressed. People connected to thermal power, energy and environment of the state are also participating in the training being given by international subject experts. In the first session, Lesley Sloss presented the role, report and research of CEMS in coal based power plants, ICSC Principal



Consultant Sanjeev Kumar Kanchan delivered a lecture on the basics, experiences and challenges of CEMS in the context of India. JS Kamyotra, former Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, delivered a lecture on CEMS guidelines in India, equipment selection, suitability etc. In the second session, Dr. R. Sean Warden provided information on the Quality Assurance and Control USA System of CEMS and Ronald Zetec on the European System. In the third session, Kamyotra gave information about the role of laboratories in CEMS, jobs, accreditation, David Graham about the experience, regulation, new trends, implementation etc. of CEMS. Jeff Ryan also briefed on the experience, regulation, technology and implementation of the plans.

Man kills partner, dies by suicide after chat on revealing same-sex relation

■ The Madhya Pradesh police said that the mobile phone calls and messages revealed that the partner of the accused was threatening him of informing others about their same-sex relationship

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 32-year-old man strangled his partner to death and then died by suicide in Betul after the latter allegedly threatened him of revealing their same-sex relationship, police said on

Tuesday.

"Police on Saturday found the body of a man hanging in a nursery that he used to run. Three days later, the police found a body in a semi-decomposed condition near the nursery. In the investigation, the man was identified as a resident of Nagpur, who had been missing for the past three days," said Roshan Jain, sub-divisional officer of police, Sarni, Betul.

"The men had been in a relationship for a long time. The mobile phone calls and messages revealed that the Nagpur-based man was threatening the accused of informing others about their relationship. On Friday night,

the Nagpur-based man called 'Dial 100' (police emergency services) and took the name of the accused and said he was beaten up by him. However, he didn't share the address and disconnected the call," said Jain. "Later, the accused was found hanging. The accused used the same rope to die by suicide which he had used to strangle his partner to death," he added.

Police are investigating the matter to know whether the couple was under pressure. In messages, it was found that the Nagpur-based man had a relationship with other men too. Police will interrogate them too, said the police officer.

MAN WASHED AWAY IN RUPAVEL RIVER

■ **Khargone:** A 40-year-old man washed away in the Rupavel River while moving towards the store for acquiring some grocery items in Khargone. The deceased's body was found 1.5 kilometers away from the spot of the incident.

The deceased was identified as Kahaniya Singh (40), son of Gulab Singh, native of the Rajpura region. The river got overflowed due to heavy rains during past few days.

According to the police officials, "The victim was heading towards a shop by crossing an overflowed Rupavel River, his foot slide and he washed away, his body was found 1.5 kilometers away from the spot of incident, the locals witnessed him and tried to help him but they couldn't save his life as the body drifted away along with the heavy flow of water." The local rushed to him 1.5 kilometers far, he was taken to Zirmia hospital by the locals and was found brought dead. A native of Rajpura was capturing a video of overflowed Rupavel River, during that he spotted the victim through his camera. When he spotted a man drowning, he screamed and locals united to help the needy. The incident occurred at Rajpura, 70 kilometers away from Khargone.

Man stabs wife, her lover to death in Bhopal, arrested

■ A husband stabbed his wife and her live-in partner to death in a market in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal. He stabbed the woman and her live-in partner with a knife.

▶ A man stabbed his wife and her lover to death in Bhopal on Monday

▶ The husband was unaware of the live-in relationship situation

▶ Police have arrested the accused and registered several cases against him.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A man stabbed his wife and her live-in partner to death in a market in

Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal. He stabbed the woman and her live-in partner with a knife.

The station in-charge Alok Srivastava, while talking to AajTak, said, "A man stabbed his wife and her lover to death on Monday night in Kailash Nagar Semra. The deceased woman was living with her lover, leaving behind her husband. The woman was living separately with her 5-year-old daughter with her lover."

The husband was unaware of the live-in relationship situation, but when he came to

know about it, he used to do reiki in the area to keep an eye on both of them. On late Monday evening, he saw his wife and her lover along with the woman's daughter on a bike, ambushed husband and attacked them.

The man did not attack his daughter but killed the woman and her lover. The woman and her lover died on the spot.

Nearby people informed the police about the incident and nabbed the killer.

Police have arrested the accused and registered several cases against him.

Indore records over two inches rainfall in 24 hrs, Yeshwant Sagar lake full, one gate of dam opened for an hour



Team Absolute | Indore

Rain continued to lash the city for the second consecutive day on Tuesday. The intermittent rains started from Sunday night continued till Tuesday noon.

With this, Indore's one of the major sources of tap water supply Yeshwant

Sagar Lake filled to its capacity and Indore Municipal Corporation had to open one gate of its dam to maintain the level of the overflowing lake.

The dam's gate was opened for one hour at 7.30am on Tuesday morning.

Around 67 mm (2.63 inches) rainfall was recorded throughout since Sunday night including 53.8 mm (2.11 inches) in

last 24 hours. With this, the total rainfall of the season to 435.4 mm (17.4 inches) so far.

The Regional Meteorological department said that weather conditions will remain the same for the next couple of days. Citizens woke up to dark clouds and a misty morning and could not see the sunshine for last two days.

"Monsoon is active across the state and the conditions will remain the same for next couple of days," met officials said. The showers brought smiles on the faces of residents but water logging and traffic jams at various places posed problems for the commuters. However, with the weather turning pleasant on Monday evening people went on long drives. A large number of people could be seen thronging at corn stalls across the city to celebrate the weekend.

The maximum temperature on Monday was 25.3 degrees Celsius (five degrees below normal) while the minimum temperature 21.6 degrees Celsius (One degree above normal).

With continuous rainfall in city, not only Yeshwant Sagar but other lakes like Sirpur, Bada Bilawali and others are also filling fast as the water level is increasing in these lakes swiftly.

CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO AMAR SHAHEED MANGAL PANDEY

■ **Bhopal:** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Amar Shaheed Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary. CM Chouhan offered garland at his portrait in the auditorium at the residence office. Amar Shaheed Mangal Pandey, who blew the bugle call of the freedom struggle in the country, was born on July 19, 1827 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. Martyr Mangal Pandey played an important role in India's first freedom struggle in 1857. He was a soldier of the 34th Bengal Infantry of the East India Company. He is respected as a hero of the freedom struggle. In 1984, a postage stamp was issued by the Government of India in honour of the martyr Mangal Pandey for his significant role in India's freedom struggle.

CM plants Neem, Banyan and Moulshree saplings



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Neem, Banyan and Moulshree in the Smart City Garden. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, former Mayor Alok Sharma and social worker Sumit Pachauri also planted saplings. Besides, Ajay Singh Sisodia, Ayush Mishra, Subhash Tiwari, Prerna Pandey and Abhishek Khare of TRAI Foundation also participated in the plantation. TRAI Foundation is working in different parts of the state

including Bhopal for the last two years. The foundation is particularly active in raising awareness for plastic free Madhya Pradesh. Various activities are conducted by the organisation for the protection of environment.

Banyan has religious and medicinal importance. According to Ayurveda, the treatment of many diseases is possible with the help of Banyan leaves, bark etc. Consumption of its decoction boosts the immunity. Similarly, Neem abounding in antibiotic elements is acknowledged as the supreme medicine.

JEEP WASHED AWAY IN HEAVY RAIN

■ **Bhopal:** Their car got stuck as they were crossing a bridge amid heavy rains. They stepped out and tried to pull the jeep to safety. They tried to pull it using a rope, but to no avail. The car gets swept by the strong current.

The incident occurred in Narayana Baloda Khal village of Mahidpur tehsil in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain. All the passengers in the vehicles are safe.

A video of the incident shows the jeep get caught in a strong current and washed away off the bridge. Ujjain has received over 300 mm of rainfall this year. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall in several districts of Madhya Pradesh.

NEWLY-ELECTED MAYOR CALLS ON CHIEF MINISTER



■ **Bhopal:** Newly-elected Mayor of Bhopal, Malti Rai made a courtesy call on the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his residence office. Chief Minister offered sweets to Rai and congratulated for her victory. He expressed confidence that Rai would serve the public and work for city development and for fulfilling all her resolutions relentlessly. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Former Minister Ajay Vishnoi and Social Worker Hitanand Sharma were present.

FREE FACILITIES TO FINANCIALLY WEAK PLAYERS AT TT NAGAR STADIUM

■ **Bhopal:** Players are trained in various sports by national and international level coaches under 'Pay and Play' scheme operated at TT Nagar stadium. Director Sports and Youth Welfare Ravi Kumar Gupta informed that the department has decided to provide free training facility for one session a day to the children of economically weaker families dedicated to sports.

Will have a dedicated cell number for women to share their problems with me: Rai

■ The mayor elect from the state capital Malti Rai says she doesn't distinguish between Old and New Bhopal and will try to make capital cleanest city in country

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Malti Rai, 58, won the recent Mayoral elections in the city with a massive margin. She will soon be formally taking charge as the city's First Citizen.

Rai while talking with media persons here on Tuesday said that she will keep a cell number reserved only for women in the city, who will be able to communicate with her directly regarding their problems. She also talked about her plans to preserve Bhopal's greenery and for making the capital the cleanest city in the country - a title Indore has been winning for many years now. The mayor elect responded all the queries of the media on the side-lines of a program. Here are the excerpts of her views: Congratulations on your victory. Whom do you credit



for your success in the elections?

Rai-My victory is the victory of the workers of the BJP. I dedicate my victory to them. I am also indebted to the voters of Bhopal, who gave massive support to the BJP - in both Mayoral as well as corporator elections. It is often said that the Old City is lagging behind in development. You are yourself a resident of the Old City. What will you do to bring the Old and New cities on a par? Rai-I don't distinguish between the Old and the New Cities. For me, Bhopal is one. I will do whatever I can for the progress and development of the entire city. As a woman, do you have any specific plans for the women of the city?

Rai - I plan to do many things for the women. I will talk about them once I have concretised my plans. But one thing I have decided. I will reserve a cell number only for the women in the city. They will be able to talk with me directly on that number regarding any problems they are facing, whether related to security or anything else. I will also request all the women corporators to do the same. Bhopal is known for its greenery. But in the name of Smart City Project, thousands of trees have been felled. Do you have any plans for restoring the city's green cover? Rai - You must be aware that the chief minister Shivraj ji is planting one sapling every day. So, our government is committed to preserving Bhopal's greenery. As the Mayor, I will try to ensure that Bhopal retains its reputation as a green city. Indore has been topping the Swachhta Sarvekshan for the past many years. Any plans for making Bhopal the cleanest city in the country? Rai - This is something for which we will need the cooperation of the people of Bhopal. The people and the people's representatives will have to work together to make and keep Bhopal clean. The Bhopal Municipal Corporation is not very happily placed in financial terms. What do you propose to do to improve the finances of the corporation?

MEET & GREET OF CM TO GOVERNOR



■ **Bhopal:** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made a courtesy call on Governor Mangubhai Patel by reaching Raj Bhavan on Tuesday. The Chief Minister felicitated the Governor by presenting him a bouquet.



EDITOR'S SPECS

China's illogical and political twist to Dalai Lama's Ladakh visit unacceptable

Despite political objections in China and some skirmishes on the Chinese side of our border, the Ladakhis accorded a grand welcome to the 14th Dalai Lama on July 15. This is his first visit to Ladakh after it became a Union Territory in 2019. More than 10,000 Ladakhis and Tibetans, monastics and lay people, young and old, school children in uniform among them, created a human chain to greet the Dalai Lama as he returned to Ladakh after at least three years due to the pandemic. At the Leh market, many shops have decorated their outlets with lights, candles and/or flowers to express their happiness in having the Dalai Lama return to Ladakh. Interestingly, it was a Friday when the Dalai Lama landed in Ladakh and on that day a special make-shift market is formed at the centre of the Leh market, mainly for the Jummah crowd. Irrespective of being a Muslim or Buddhist, shopkeepers and other locals were in t-shirts with pictures or quotations of the Dalai Lama. Conversations with local Ladakhis and tourists from different parts of India and abroad over the weekend indicated irritation towards China for its "illogical and political" take on the Dalai Lama's visit to Ladakh. While speaking to local security forces, they made it amply clear that notwithstanding the tight security, should there be any ugly incident or clashes in connection with the visit of the Dalai Lama to Ladakh, the locals here are united beyond imagination to protect him and give their life for him, if required. Large number of Tibetans living and working in different parts of the county have been returning to Leh to attend to the teachings of the Dalai Lama and also use the opportunity to be with their families.

BIDEN'S TOUR DE SAUDIA ARABIA

Asad Mirza

Joe Biden's west Asian tour should have been utilised to reset the American ties with different regional players and lay foundations for a more robust engagement but the results seem to be rather disappointing.

American President Joe Biden was on a four-day trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia, his first trip to the Middle East since taking office last year, with a lot of expectations about resetting the ties with Saudi Arabia and also giving a new direction to US policies in the Middle East.

The visit started with meetings in Israel to expand security ties and discuss Iranian belligerence in the region. He next went to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he attempted to reassure regional leaders - and the rest of the world - that his administration remains committed to actively engaging in the Middle East and counter any Russian or Chinese plans to expand their geopolitical influence.

US-Saudi ties

Coming in the backdrop of the continuing Russia-Ukraine war and spiralling global oil prices, the visit was also seen as a rapprochement by the US President to the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MbS), whom he blamed for the assassination of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and thus pave the way for softening the Saudi stance on increased oil production.

However, the manner in which the two leaders greeted each other with a fist bump has been criticised both by fellow Democrats and Republicans, due to its undiplomatic nature and also as a middle ground to thaw the ice, perhaps on the advice of their key lieutenants.

Also the version given by Biden and Saudis as to whether the President admonished MbS seem to vary, thus indicating that the President was ready to give up his old stance for the Saudi agreement to increase its oil production, though ultimately he got no such assurance.

The meetings in Jeddah largely seemed to go along with the planned reset of the US

relationship with the kingdom, and Biden announced several new areas of cooperation aimed at reshaping US-Saudi relations.

However, the President did strike an optimistic note that regional leaders would soon take action given that the next OPEC meeting will take place in early August, after his parley with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders in Riyadh.

US-Iran Ties

Biden is also under pressure to counter Iran's growing influence in the region, and during the visit he made a commitment to the U.S. playing a large role in the Middle East for years to come.

In Israel, Biden repeatedly vowed to ensure that Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapon and said he believed diplomacy remained the best avenue to keep Tehran from obtaining one.

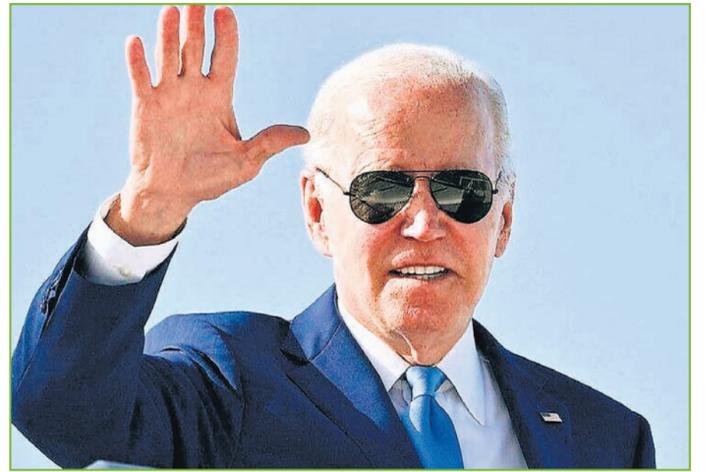
Biden has pushed for a revival of the Iran nuclear deal, which former president Donald Trump withdrew the US from in 2018, as he faces increasing pressure from key Middle East allies to produce a plan to contain Iran. But hopes appear to be fading that a deal will materialise, and the President acknowledged that the US is not going to wait forever; for a response from Iranian leadership.

US-Israel ties

America's relationship with Israel has also been strained in recent years. Obama and former Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu shared a strained relationship over Palestine, and the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran also soured the relations.

But the Biden administration's renewed efforts to re-implement the Iran nuclear deal, coupled with warnings over Israel's expansion of settlements in the West Bank, have further complicated US-Israeli relations again.

In addition, US is also worried about the growing Russian and Chinese influence in the region. Iran has cosied-up to Russia significantly in recent years and the Chinese have made themselves more useful both to the Saudis and Emiratis in defence and trade sectors.



The new approach

His critics say that Biden to an extent continued with the old American baggage. And if he really wants to rest the American foreign policy for West Asia and its Arab allies, it will have to adopt a more proactive and less preaching stance with a new perspective, too.

Biden himself said during the trip that he continues to believe that diplomacy is the best way to achieve a new outcome. But to achieve that outcome, he'll have to pursue soft-diplomacy also.

Additionally, the US should try to give-up the mentality to solve every problem or conflict with military means and tactics, instead it should try to focus and see the alternative opportunities available to help the people of the Middle East achieve greater freedom and prosperity which they desire.

For this, the renewed American focus should prioritise its interests through better security management for itself and its allies. Ensuring that terrorist threats from the Arab world should remain a focus of US engagement in the region.

Further, it should focus on economic welfare of the region. The Middle East's energy resources remain critical to the global economy. In addition, the US should try to foster lasting economic ties with emerging centres of innovation in the region.

Additionally, it should focus on values and rights, which the United States supports i.e. religious freedom, women's rights, and freedom of expression.

These should be promoted through its soft diplomacy or public diplomacy channels. There is a huge aspiration amongst the people of the region to fill-up the chasm between what is available and

what they wish for, ensuring dignity and prosperity for all.

At the same time, it should try to engage more with the young generation amongst the Arabs, the 13th edition of the Arab Youth Survey found that over 90 per cent of Saudi youth, who form nearly two-thirds of the country's population, see the US as an ally. This should be its target audience.

It should focus on boosting bilateral ties in new areas such as tourism, information technology, and clean energy and focus less on energy sector.

It should launch joint initiatives on human security challenges such as in the health sector, economic security, human rights, and climate change. It should engage in renewed diplomatic efforts to end conflicts in Syria, Yemen, and Libya.

It should try to contain and engage Iran with diplomacy backed by a balanced regional security strategy.

Renewed diplomacy with Iran must include America's regional security partners in order to produce lasting results. It should strive for greater regional integration with renewed and inclusive diplomacy on the Arab-Israeli front, too.

Overall, the visit failed to accomplish what Biden wanted to achieve in the region, and for any success the US will have to fully recalibrate its policy towards the Middle East, Iran and Israel in the short-term for long-term gains and keeping the Russians and Chinese at bay in the region.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Muslims, educational, international

international

CONSERVATIVE PARTY MPS TO VOTE AGAIN WITH SUNAK CLOSE TO SECURING PLACE ON FINAL BALLOT

Rishi Sunak, the former UK Chancellor, is now all but certain to be one of the two candidates on the final ballot for Conservative party members, media reports said.



London | Agencies

Rishi Sunak, the former UK Chancellor, is now all but certain to be one of the two candidates on the final ballot for Conservative party members, media reports said.

He is now on 115 votes and once a candidate gets 120 (just over a third of the total), it is mathematically impossible for two other candidates to get more votes. Sunak is

also particularly well placed to pick up many of the 31 Tom Tugendhat votes now up for grab; Sunak, like Tugendhat, presents as a mainstream pragmatist, not an ideological rightwinger, the Guardian reported. Liz Truss and Penny Mordaunt are now the two strongest candidates in the contest to be the second person on the final ballot. One recent survey suggested both would beat Sunak in the final poll, but Truss more comfortably than Mordaunt, it said.

Almost certainly, Sunak's chances would be better against Mordaunt; her lack of experience means the risk of her campaign imploding under scrutiny remains high (over the last week her popularity has already fallen significantly), and Truss, unlike Mordaunt, would be guaranteed the support of the Tory right en masse. Kemi Badenoch looks likely to be eliminated on Tuesday afternoon. It is not inevitable - she has defied expectations already - but she remains 13 votes behind Truss, and may struggle to get much of the Tugendhat vote. If she does fall out, her votes will be for grabs on Wednesday - and would decide whether Sunak faces Truss or Mordaunt, which could in turn determine who gets elected as the next PM. The Guardian reported.

S Korea, US agree to supply FX liquidity, if needed

South Korea and the United States agreed on Tuesday to implement liquidity facilities, if needed, as part of efforts to cooperate in stabilising the foreign exchange market.

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea and the United States agreed on Tuesday to implement liquidity facilities, if needed, as part of efforts to cooperate in stabilising the foreign exchange market.

Seoul also expressed its willingness to join a proposed price cap on Russian oil, after Finance Minister Choo Kyung-ho and US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen held talks in Seoul to discuss global and bilateral economic issues.

Choo and Yellen agreed to closely cooperate in helping stabilise the foreign exchange market, Yonhap news agency reported quoting Seoul's finance ministry. The two sides "have the ability to implement various cooperative actions, such as liquidity facilities, if necessary," the ministry said in a statement after the talks.

The move appears to leave open the possibility of opening a currency swap line between South Korea



and the US, if needed.

South Korea's US\$60 billion currency swap line with the US expired at the end of last year. The Bank of Korea and the Federal Reserve signed the swap facility in March 2020 to ease market routs caused by the pandemic and had extended the deal three times.

Volatility in the financial market has heightened, as demand for the dollar increased due to the Fed's aggressive monetary tightening. The won has slid more than 9 per cent against the US dollar so far this year.

Choo said South Korea's foreign currency liquidi-

ty conditions currently remain "stable," but the government plans to recalibrate its contingency plan to better tackle emergency economic situations.

Meanwhile, Yellen appreciated South Korea for expressing its intent to join the proposed price cap on Russian oil, according to the finance ministry. The US has asked South Korea to join the price cap in a bid to help stabilise high energy prices and prevent Russia from funding its war chest with revenue from oil exports.

Choo stressed the price cap scheme should be effectively designed to help stabilise global oil prices and ease inflationary pressure.

The finance chiefs agreed on the need to deepen economic cooperation and policy coordination between the two nations amid heightened economic uncertainty from the protracted war between Russian and Ukraine, and global monetary tightening drives.

Yellen arrived in South Korea late Monday for a three-day visit as part of her first trip to Asia that included stops in Japan and Indonesia. It marked the first visit by a US treasury secretary to South Korea since 2016.

Earlier in the day, she toured a research and development complex run by LG Group in western Seoul to call for building resilient supply chains with South Korea on semiconductors, batteries and other key materials.

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT S KOREA IN JULY



Seoul: Indonesian President Joko Widodo plans to visit South Korea late this month (July) for summit talks with President Yoon Suk-yeol.

South Korea and Indonesia have been in consultations about the summit's agenda and the itinerary of Widodo's planned visit to Seoul, according to the presidential office on Monday. Yoon and Widodo are expected to hold in-depth discussions about economic security, defence industry and other issues, Yonhap news agency reported.

Widodo, current chair of the G-20, visited South Korea in 2019 for a special summit between South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

MI5 received information on money flowing into UK political system with its true origins in China

British security services issued an alert earlier this year stating that a UK-based lawyer had been engaged in "political interference activities" for the Chinese state.

London | Agencies

British security services issued an alert earlier this year stating that a UK-based lawyer had been engaged in "political interference activities" for the Chinese state.

MI5's public naming of Christine Lee, and a recent unprecedented news conference with the FBI, mark a shift in the approach being taken against the security threat posed by China, BBC reported.

The events throw a spotlight not just on one woman's path into the highest political circles, but also the changing relationship between the UK and China - and a growing alarm from security officials. At the start of July, the heads of the UK's MI5 and America's FBI made an unprecedented joint appearance in London to publicly warn of the threat from China.

MI5 had gradually received new information suggesting money was flowing into the UK political system with its true origins in China hidden, BBC reported.



Specifically, they believed it was linked to the United Front Works Department (UFW). The UFW has been referred to by the Chinese Communist Party as a "magic weapon" - not a

secret intelligence agency so much as an influence agency. It is one of the organisations that the head of MI5, Ken McCallum, named in his 6 July speech as "mounting patient, well-funded, deceptive campaigns to buy and exert influence".

Christine Lee was involved in a "seeding operation", multiple officials claim, reflecting the way the Chinese state operates - a willingness to wait years for efforts to pay off, BBC reported. Without naming individuals, security sources say there were a handful of candidates across all major parties.

In remarks to journalists after his July 6 speech, the head of MI5 also emphasised this danger: "It's not always the case of seeking to influence a national leader or someone at cabinet level. One of the things that is very striking is that they are prepared to invest in cultivating people at local level potentially and at the outset of their political career." US intelligence officials have also warned that local officials are increasingly targeted by China.

UAE President visits seat of French National Assembly in Paris

Paris | Agencies

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited the Palais Bourbon in Paris, the seat of the French National Assembly.

He was received by Yael Braun-Pivet, the President of the French National Assembly, and several other officials, WAM news agency reported.

He discussed common areas of interest between the UAE and France, noting an interest in continuing to build the deep, collaborative relationship that developed through several decades of partnership through shared values of peaceful coexistence and intercultural dialogues.

The meeting came on the second day of the UAE President's state visit to France, during which both the nations explored partnerships and collaborations in



several areas including energy and sustainability, advanced technology, education, and culture.

Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan signed the Palais Bourbon visitors log, writing, "I was pleased to visit the French National Assembly. We emphasise the importance of parliamentary relations as an important pillar of our close ties and one of the main tributaries for enriching the common and friendly interests between our two nations. We are keen to build upon this to further serve the needs of our people."

He was accompanied by a number of members of the official delegation accompanying him during the visit.



MONTH AFTER REVOLT BY MLAS, 12 SHIV SENA MPS JOIN CM EKNATH SHINDE

Eknath Shinde in Delhi to discuss OBC reservation in Maha

Exactly a month after a rebellion among Shiv Sena MLAs on June 20, 12 party MPs on Tuesday expressed support to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's group, dealing another massive blow to party president Uddhav Thackeray.

Team Absolute | Mumbai/New Delhi

Exactly a month after a rebellion among Shiv Sena MLAs on June 20, 12 party MPs on Tuesday expressed support to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's group, dealing another massive blow to party president Uddhav Thackeray.



office in Parliament House to them. They also requested the Speaker to approve the name of MP Bhavana Gawali as the new Chief Whip in Lok Sabha and MP Rahul Shewale as the party leader in place of current Shiv Sena Party leader and MP Vinayak Raut -- who is still with Thackeray.

Among the MPs who are said to be with the Shinde camp include -- Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Rahul Shewale, Bhavana Gawali, Hemant Godse, Sadashiv Lokhande, Hemant Patil, Sanjay Mandlik, Dhairyashel Mane, Shirang Barne, Krupal Tumane and Prataprao Jadhav. Shinde will address the media soon along with the MPs to announce the developments and on his other engagements in New Delhi.

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER EKNATH SHINDE HAS ARRIVED IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TO DISCUSS OTHER BACKWARD CLASS (OBC) RESERVATIONS IN THE STATE.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has arrived in the national capital to discuss Other Backward Class (OBC) reservations in the state.

This is Shinde's second visit to Delhi after being sworn in as chief minister of Maharashtra on June 30. Earlier, he visited Delhi with deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief J.P. Nadda and others.

Talking to the media on his arrival, Chief Minister Shinde said that he came to the national capital to hold a discussion regarding OBC reservations as the Maharashtra government is committed to providing justice to OBCs. "We held discussion with lawyers on our preparation for the OBC reservation case in the Supreme Court," he said.

Asked about the plea in the apex court by the Uddhav Thackeray camp challenging disqualification, which will be heard on July 20 with other related pleas, Shinde said he has faith in the judiciary and in a democracy majority in Assembly is important.

Sources said that Shinde will also ensure that 12 MPs of Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction switch to his camp. "All the 12 MPs are likely to make an announcement about their probable switch today. Shinde is already in Delhi and expected to meet BJP leaders also," sources said.

The Shiv Sena has 18 MPs in the Lok Sabha of which 12 are in touch with Shinde. The Shinde camp is also likely to approach Lok Sabha Speaker to recognise them as real Shiv Sena.

NCP warns Shiv Sena rebels against criticising Pawars

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has warned the Shiv Sena rebels to watch their tongues while criticising its party President Sharad Pawar and senior leader Ajit Pawar, or "it will be difficult for them (rebels) to move around," here on Tuesday.



ing anything ill about the Pawars. "They should be careful what they speak... Otherwise, it will become difficult for them to move around," Chavan warned, even as the state government and the Centre beefed up security for around a dozen Sena MPs who are all set to join the Shinde Group.

Mitkari hit out at Kadam, asking him what he was doing in the party for so long that he is now hurling allegations at the NCP accusing it of destroying the Shiv Sena and asked them to watch out before targeting the Pawars.

The NCP leaders have slammed the rebels, especially the senior leaders who "grew big with the support of Balasaheb Thackeray and Uddhav Thackeray" but now have dumped the Shiv Sena overnight.

Certain leaders of the Shinde Group have launched an attack on the NCP and the Pawar uncle-nephew duo, and charged them with ruining the 56-year-old Shiv Sena.

NCP Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase, NCP Youth President Suraj Chavan, and MLC Amol Mitkari strongly slammed former minister Ramdas Kadam, who was sacked as a Deputy Leader by Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray on Monday.

At a media briefing, Kadam, weeping uncontrollably before the mediapersons, alleged that he was "deeply grieved" to witness the Sena collapsing in this manner and squarely blamed NCP's Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar for its decimation. Kadam claimed that it was the machinations of the Pawars that has

led to the current scenario and demanded to know "why Thackeray still wants their support" or remains with the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance. Reacting to this, Tapase said the whole state and country knows "what are the compulsions, whose files were pending where, the investigations they were apprehending, the allurements or who is behind the Sena rebellion."

In a sharp retort, Chavan warned the Sena leaders supporting Chief Minister Eknath Shinde group to 'mind their language' before speak-

MUMBAI AIRPORT RECORDS REVIVAL IN PASSENGER FOOTFALL

As the first half of the year 2022 comes to an end, Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has witnessed robust growth in passenger movements with nearly 17 million passengers travelling between January to June 2022.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

As the first half of the year 2022 comes to an end, Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has witnessed robust growth in passenger movements with nearly 17 million passengers travelling between January to June 2022.

One of the busiest airports across the globe, CSMIA recorded a significant jump in traffic for the H1 (first half) 2022 of

close to 132 per cent as compared to H1 2021. The strong revival of operations in 2022 signals the sector steadily moving towards healthy operations as observed in the pre-Covid times. In the first half of the year, CSMIA played host to a total of approximately 16.84 million passengers. Approximately 1,30,000 flight movements were recorded across domestic and international destinations and 13.36 million domestic passengers travelled through 97,460

flights. Over 3.48 million passengers flew across 24,910 flights internationally, which is 97 per cent more than that of H1 2021 when close to 1.76 million passenger footfalls were registered.

Moreover, CSMIA catered to the highest international load in June '22 with 8,30,000 passengers observing 124 per cent rise since January '22.

To further amplify the growth in passenger traffic, CSMIA has introduced Abu Dhabi, Najaf,

Phuket, Warsaw, and Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to its extensive global connectivity. Air Arabia Abu Dhabi, Fly Baghdad, IndiGo, LOT Polish and VietJet commenced their operations on this route with their maiden flights taking off from CSMIA in the first half of 2022.

With the aim of constantly working towards expanding its connectivity, CSMIA is set to add nine new destinations to its portfolio including Bahrain, Ras Al-Khaimah, Toronto and Helsinki among others.

Moreover, charter flight movements have witnessed a drastic rise in demand as CSMIA facilitated the movement of a total of 17,552 passengers via the General Aviation terminal (GA Terminal) out of which 15,588 accounted for the domestic traffic and 1,964 accounted for the international passenger traffic. With approx. 44 per cent jump in traffic through the GA terminal juxtaposed with the traffic observed in the same period in the year 2021.

PUNE BJP LEADER CHEATED; CASE REGISTERED

Speaking to reporters, Misal said that she had received a call from a person who claimed that his mother was in the hospital and he needed Rs 3,400 for medicines.

Team Absolute | Pune

An offence has been registered against a man for allegedly duping a BJP MLA from Pune of Rs 3,400 by claiming that he needed money to buy medi-

cines for his ailing mother, police said on Tuesday. Based on a complaint lodged by BJP MLA Madhuri Misal's daughter, the police have registered a case against one Mukesh Rathod at Bibwewadi police station, an official said.

It is suspected that apart from Misal, who represents the Parvati Assembly constituency in Pune, Maharashtra the accused has allegedly duped three other MLAs Meghana Bordikar Sakore, Devyani Pharanade and Shweta Mahale using a similar modus operandi.

Speaking to reporters, Misal said that she had received a call from a person

who claimed that his mother was in the hospital and he needed Rs 3,400 for medicines.

"I then told my daughter to pay the money on the given mobile number (through an online application). At that time, I did not realise that it was a fraud. During a casual discussion with other MLAs on the sidelines of a meeting, the issue cropped up and I realised that three other MLAs had received a similar call and we had been duped," the legislator said.

Misal said she decided to lodge a complaint so that no one gets cheated in a similar fashion in the future.

3 HELD FOR STEALING RS 12.20 CR FROM BANK

Mumbai: Police have arrested three persons for allegedly stealing Rs 12.20 crore from a private bank in Thane district, an official said on Tuesday.

The theft took place on July 9 at the bank's branch in Manpada area of Dombivli town.

Based on a tip-off, sleuths of the Thane crime branch's property cell laid a trap and nabbed three of the accused from Mumbra area here on Monday, senior police inspector Anil Honrao said in a release. The police recovered from them Rs 5.80 crore out of the stolen cash and property worth Rs 10 lakh, he said. Efforts were on to recover the remaining amount from them. The police were also searching for the main accused and others involved in the crime, including an employee of the bank, the official said. Those arrested have been identified as Israr Abrar Hussain Qureshi (33), Shamshad Ahmed Riaz Ahmed Khan (33) and Anuj Premshankar Giri (30). The Manpada police have registered a case against the accused under Indian Penal Code Sections 381 (theft) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), the official said.

Solapur BJP leader Shrikant Deshmukh booked for rape

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra BJP leader Shrikant Deshmukh, 52, was booked on charges of rape following a complaint filed by a woman with the Pune city police. The case was transferred to Solapur city police for further investigation, officials said.

A video of the woman and Deshmukh, in which she is seen accusing him of cheating her, recently surfaced after which he resigned as the president of the BJP's Solapur district unit last

week. Officials said that the complainant, who is in her early 30s, said she came in contact with Deshmukh in the past. She alleged Deshmukh promised to marry her and on that pretext raped and sexually abused her on multiple occasions in Solapur, Pune, Mumbai and Sangli. She also alleged that he threatened to harm her and her family.

A first information report (FIR) was registered against Deshmukh at Deccan Gymkhana police station under Indian Penal Code

(IPC) sections pertaining to rape, unnatural offences and criminal intimidation in the case of sequence of events from December 2021.

When contacted, a senior official from the Deccan Gymkhana police station confirmed that an FIR was registered against Deshmukh and transferred to Sadar Bazar police station in Solapur.

Commissioner of police of Solapur city Rajendra Mane said: "We have been intimated that the case was being transferred to our jurisdiction for further probe."

Maharashtra Cabinet Allocation: 5 Names To Watch Out For Ahead of Eknath Shinde-Fadnavis's Balancing Act

OF THE 28 BJP MINISTERS, 20 ARE EXPECTED TO BE CABINET MINISTERS AND 8 MINISTERS OF STATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, OF THE 15 MINISTERIAL BERTHS OF SHINDE CAMP, THERE WILL BE 11 CABINET MINISTERS AND FOUR MINISTERS OF STATE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two weeks after high political drama unfolded in Maharashtra leading to Shiv Sena rebel Eknath Shinde becoming the Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party's Devendra Fadnavis his deputy, the next challenge will be cabinet allocation.

The duo successfully elected a speaker of their choice and sailed through the trust

vote with 164 votes against the Opposition's 99.

According to sources, the BJP and Shinde camp have reached a consensus on the cabinet expansion, wherein the BJP will get 28 ministerial berths, while 15 will go to the Shinde camp. Of the 28 BJP ministers, 20 are expected to be cabinet ministers, including deputy chief minister, and 8 ministers of state. On the other hand, of the 15 ministerial berths of Shinde camp, there will be 11 cabinet ministers, including the CM, and four ministers of state.

Reports suggested the date set for announcing the portfolios was July 11, the day the Supreme Court heard a plea filed by Uddhav Thackeray challenging the appointment of a new speaker of the state Assembly. However, the announcement was later deferred to until after the Presidential polls. While the BJP sprang a surprise by making Shinde the CM, the safe party is now likely to push for plum portfolios such as home, finance, water resources, etc. At the same time, the coalition will have to juggle between accommodating independents and smaller party MLAs from either party's quota, besides

keeping their own flock happy. Along with this, the distribution will also hinge heavily on the dynamics for the upcoming civic body polls in Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, etc.

The Maharashtra cabinet can have a maximum of 42 ministers - 15% of the total strength of 288 MLAs in the Assembly.

Here are the five names to watch out for in the Maharashtra cabinet allocation: Hitendra Thakur: Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA)

An MLA and strongman from the Vasai constituency in Palghar district, Thakur has three MLAs, including himself, from Vasai, Nalasopara and Boisar. An ex-Congressman, he is known to be close to Nationalist Congress Party supremo Sharad Pawar. The BVA had, in 2019, pledged support to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi after the 2019 Assembly results.

Ravi Rana A three-time independent MLA from Badnera seat in Amravati district, Rana shot to national fame recently after he and his wife Navneet Rana threatened to read the Hanuman Chalisa outside then CM Uddhav Thackeray's private residence, Matoshree.

Bachchu Kadu: Prahar Janshakti Party (PIP)

Former Minister of State for Water Resources and Guardian Minister of Akola district in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, Kadu was one of the first to offer support to the MVA amid the 2019 political turmoil in the state.

Chandrakant Patil State BJP chief and a former PWD minister in the 2014 Fadnavis regime, Chandrakant Patil is known to be a close aide of Fadnavis. Being an OBC face, originally from Kolhapur and an MLA from Pune, the BJP will have an eye on getting the caste dynamics right in the cabinet and Patil's eagerness on a cabinet berth is likely to help the cause.

Sanjay Kute An MLA from Jalgaon, Kute is known to be close to Fadnavis, along with other leaders like Pravin Darekar, Prasad Lad, Sudhir Mungantiwar, etc. Kute played a pivotal role in the CM's rebellion, staying at the Surat hotel with Shinde and his MLAs first, charting out strategies and the way ahead. Subsequently, he accompanied the rebel MLAs to Guwahati.

'Digital University Of Skill' In Maharashtra Is Fake, UGC Warns Against Taking Admission

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Claiming it to be a "self-styled institution", UGC has issued a statement in public domain that the Digital University of Skill Resurgence, Wardha (Maharashtra) is fake. They warned students not to take admission to 'Digital University of Skill Resurgence', Wardha (Maharashtra). The university offers various courses/programs in gross violation of UGC Act 1956. The Digital University of Skill Resurgence is neither enlisted in the list of universities, nor is it empowered to award any degree, he noted.

"It has come to the notice of the University Grant Commission that 'Digital University of Skill Resurgence (A Virtual Meta University)', 54, Samarat Nagar Near Hindi University Ring Road, Wardha (Maharashtra) - 442001 is offering various courses/programmes in

gross violation of the UGC Act, 1956", the UGC said in the official notification," UGC said

"The general public, students, parents, and other stakeholders are cautioned through this public notice NOT TO TAKE ADMISSION in the above-mentioned self-styled institution, taking admission in such self-styled institution may jeopardies the career of the students," reads the official notice."

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on June 28 said that technology-driven approach and initiatives such as digital universities in line with the new National Education Policy (NEP) will be key to enhancing access to quality education. "There is a need to adopt innovative and out-of-the-box methods to enhance access to quality and affordable education and to bring our vast population under the formal education and certified skills structure.



KIM KARDASHIAN 'TELLS PETE TO STOP EATING JUNK FOOD' AFTER HER WEIGHT LOSS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality star Kim Kardashian is reworking on her boyfriend Pete Davidson's diet, over fears his pizza and pasta guzzling habits could tempt her. She has lost 9 kilos since having to fit into Marilyn Monroe's iconic birthday dress for this year's Met Gala, reports [mirror.co.uk](#).

The reality TV star reportedly wants Davidson, who she has been dating since October, to cut out his love of junk food as she is determined to be in the best shape for her swimwear line.

"Kim has told Pete he has to stop eating junk, it kills her because he is tall and skinny. He can eat whatever he wants thanks to his metabolism and it drives her mad," a source told Closer.

"She doesn't want that food around to tempt her away from her strict regime, he's made no secret of loving his late night pizza and pasta binges. Kim has told him he needs to curb them because she wants to be even trimmer to promote her metallic swimwear and the material is very unforgiving. She can't afford to look lumpy or dumpty."

Kim's workout regime is well documented, but the insider claims it drives the mother-of-four "insane" that Davidson can eat fast food and doesn't have to exercise. Last month, Kim revealed she's lost 9 kilos in total due to the fact she has cut out all junk food and sugar.

Kristen Bell breastfed husband Dax Shepard!

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Kristen Bell breastfed her husband and actor Dax Shepard to cure her mastitis.

The actress will always be "grateful" to her husband for helping her relieve the infection she'd acquired while nursing their younger daughter Delta, now seven, by unblocking her milk duct when she was unable to seek medical assistance for the problem, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

She said: "One time I was particularly grateful for Dax when I was breast-feeding our second girl and got mastitis. I'd had it before with my first daughter and learnt how dangerous it can get. It can go septic."

"I was standing in the shower trying all the homeopathic things but they didn't work. We were away from home so I couldn't see a doctor," she shared.

"Our daughter wasn't latching well and preferred the bottle. So I pulled down my shirt and turned to Dax and said, 'I'm going to need you to take care of this.'"

Bell said: "And he nursed and sucked out whatever was blocking my duct and spat it into a mug. I woke up the next morning and it was gone. I'm glad I have a husband who would step up to the plate and do what needed to be done."

The 42-year-old actress' "favorite bit" about watching Shepard, 47, raise their girls is seeing how affectionate he is with them.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star couple Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are said to be planning a bigger second wedding at the actor's home in Georgia. After their low-key nuptials in Las Vegas, the happy couple are reported to be going to hold the ceremony and party with family and friends.

A source told People that the newlyweds "plan on having a bigger party so they can celebrate with family and friends."

The insider added: "They don't have a honeymoon planned yet. Jennifer says that every day with Ben is a honeymoon."

"Ever since they started dating again, Jennifer has truly believed that this is it," the so-called inside source went on. "She is looking forward to growing old with Ben. She is very happy and content with Ben. She couldn't ask for anything else. She thinks it's all perfect."

Lopez's closest family members include her 14-year-old twins Max and Emme, whom she shares with ex-husband Marc Anthony, as well as her mother Guadalupe, her father David and her sisters Lynda and Leslie. Her closest celebrity friends include Leah Remini, Jane Fonda and Renee Zellweger, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

Affleck's family includes his three kids, 16-year-old Violet, 13-year-old Seraphina and 10-year-old Samuel, with ex-wife Jennifer Garner.

He is close to his famous brother Casey Affleck and mother Chris, whereas his other famed pals likely to be invited to the second ceremony include Matt Damon and George Clooney.



JLO, BEN AFFLECK SET FOR BIGGER SECOND WEDDING AFTER LAS VEGAS CEREMONY

John Wick was 75 yrs old but Keanu made character his own

Los Angeles | Agencies

Originally, the character of John Wick was an elderly man of 75 who was supposed to be essayed by the likes of Harrison Ford or Clint Eastwood, but Hollywood star Keanu Reeves took the character and changed it, played it and turned it into one of cinema's most iconic characters, reports Variety.

Franchise producer Basil Iwanyk confirms in the new book 'They Shouldn't Have Killed His Dog: The Complete Uncensored Ass-Kicking Oral History of John Wick, Gun Fu, and the New Age of Action'.

Quoted by Variety, Iwanyk in the book (via Entertainment Weekly): "One of my best friends is Charlie Ferraro at UTA, who sent me this script from Derek Kolstad called

'Scorn'. The lead was a 75-year-old man, 25 years after being retired. It was the fun of watching Clint Eastwood kick ass. I thought, 'Okay, there's probably one or two names you could do this with: Clint Eastwood, Harrison Ford.'"

"My other best friend in the world, this guy Jimmy Darmody, is an agent at CAA, who at the time represented Keanu," continues Iwanyk, "And he said, 'Do you have any action movies for Keanu Reeves?' I remember thinking to myself, 'Keanu is one of the great action stars of the last 25 years, what happened to him? What's he been doing?' And he was directing his movie, 'Man of Tai Chi,' and doing '47 Ronin'. We give him the script, we tell him, 'Clearly, you're not 75.'"



Helen Mirren shares her thorough skincare regime

Los Angeles | Agencies

Los Angeles: Veteran Hollywood star Helen Mirren takes her skincare routine beyond her face and neck, though she rarely wears low-cut outfits these days.

The 76-year-old actress rarely wears low-cut outfits these days but on the occasions she does, she's confident any exposed skin is in good condition thanks to her regular regime, reports [femalefirst.co.uk](#).

Referring to the blue velvet Elie Saab gown she wore to the Cannes Film Festival in 2018, she said: "With this blue gown at Cannes in 2018, I had decided I'd had enough of frills and sequins and I didn't want to sparkle that year - I just wanted something sculptured and tailored, and I loved the slightly medieval feel



of the dress."It was low-cut, so my make-up artist took my make-up down to my neck. I always take my skincare right down to my décolletage, even though I don't tend to go so low-cut any more." The 'Red' actress never takes too long choosing her outfit for a big event because she doesn't like to "fuss around".

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Usher has opened up about how his pal pop-singer Justin Bieber is getting on after his Ramsay Hunt syndrome diagnosis prompted the pop star to postpone his world tour.

Bieber recently postponed his 'Justice' world tour after revealing he's been suffering facial paralysis due to Ramsay Hunt Syndrome and now Usher has revealed the singer seems to be ok and is being supported by both his family and his fans, reports [femalefirst.co.uk](#).

Speaking to Extratv.com, Usher said of his friend: "He is doing great. Seeing him on vacation, we managed to hang out with each other, and I think that whatever he may be experiencing right now it's actually really great to see that he has the support from his fans and his family."

The 'Yeah!' star added of Bieber: "As an artist, I think we are all going to experience some things that people may not necessarily understand ... (a performer's life is) a life that comes with a great deal of pressure ..."

"I think (Justin) has obviously taken the world on a journey. I am happy that I was at the beginning of and I am still a part of to this day, as a friend." An insider recently told PEOPLE that the 'Baby' star Justin is being supported by his wife Hailey and he "can't wait" to eventually get back to work again.

The source said: "Hailey has been so supportive of Justin ... " while another added: "They are a great team and will get through it together. Justin can't wait to recover and continue working."



USHER SAYS JUSTIN BIEBER IS 'DOING GREAT' AFTER HEALTH SCARE

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Daisy Edgar-Jones



IPL FRANCHISE OWNERS BUY ALL SIX TEAMS IN CSA'S NEW T20 LEAGUE: REPORT

New Delhi | Agencies

The Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises have bought all six teams in Cricket South Africa's upcoming new T20 league, the inaugural edition of which is scheduled for January 2023.

It has been learnt that Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings, Lucknow Super Giants, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals and one of the owners of Delhi Capitals have successfully bid for the franchises during the team's auction.

According to the ESPNcricinfo report, CSK, through parent company Chennai Super Kings Sports Limited, made the highest bid to buy the Johannesburg franchise. Mumbai Indians, owned by Reliance Industries, bought the Cape Town franchise, while the Sun TV Group, which owns Sunrisers, bought the Port Elizabeth franchise. The RP Sanjeev Goenka group,



which paid a record sum of Rs 7090 crore to buy the Lucknow IPL franchise late last year, picked up the Durban team, while Rajasthan Royals bought the Paarl team. Pretoria has been taken by Jindal South West Sports, which is headed by Parth Jindal, co-owner of the Delhi Capitals in IPL. The league will

be run by Cricket South Africa in partnership with television broadcaster SuperSport. The board is expected to make a formal announcement of the new owners and the cities they will represent once the paperwork is completed. Notably, this new tournament is CSA's third attempt to

start a sustainable franchise-based T20 league after the failure of Global League T20 and the Mzansi Super League due to various reasons.

The new T20 league was set up as "top priority" by the CSA, which has risked South Africa's direct qualification for the 2023 ODI World Cup after they forfeit a three-match ODI series in Australia, last week.

As per CSA, it had made the radical move for the "long-term sustainability of the game" in South Africa. Going ahead, the board will not organise any international cricket in South Africa after the New Year Test to create a window for the T20 league.

"This new league promises to make a significant investment into both professional cricket and development in South Africa, along with a positive socio-economic and tourism injection into the country," CSA's chief executive officer Pholetsi Moseki said.

India still on top at Changwon World Cup with a day to go

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India won a bronze on the penultimate day of competitions at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun stage in Changwon, Korea, consolidating at the top with a haul of 14 medals including five gold and with two clear chances to go higher, come the final day on Wednesday.

Anish and Rhythm Sangwan won bronze in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol (RFP) Mixed Team event, getting the better of the Czech Republic 16-12 in the bronze medal match.

That took India's haul to five gold, five silver and four bronze medals with Korea breathing down their neck with one less gold, the same number of silver and two less bronze medals in their collection. Wednesday has the 25m



RFP Team Men and the Skeet Mixed Team finals lined up to culminate the 10-day competition which saw over 400 athletes from over 40 nations compete. Two other Indian pairs in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Mixed Team event - Sanjeev Rajput and Anjum Moudgil and Aishwary Prasad Singh Tomar and Ashi Chouksey narrowly missed the medal matches finishing fifth and sixth respectively in stage two of qualification.

Also on day nine, Vijayveer Sidhu and Simranpreet Kaur Brar finished sixth in the 25m RFP Mixed Team event.

Anish, Vijayveer and Sameer will be in contention in the RFP Team event on Wednesday after having shot well on day nine to rank second in the first stage of qualifying. In the Mixed Team Skeet, in-form Mairaj Ahmad Khan will team up with Mufaddal Deesawala for a shot at a medal.

Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou from September 23, 2023

Beijing | Agencies

The 2022 Asian Games, which were postponed due to the prevailing Covid-19 situation in China, will now take place in Hangzhou from September 23 to October 8, 2023.

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) took the decision on the new dates on Tuesday in Kuwait.

A statement issued by OCA and confirmed by Chinese news agency Xinhua said, "The 19th Asian Games was originally planned to be held in Hangzhou from 10th to 25th of September 2022, however due to the COVID 19 global pandemic the Games were postponed by the OCA Executive Board (EB) on 6th of May 2022 and a 'Task Force' was created by the EB to finalise the new dates for the Games." The Task Force over the last two months held various discussions with the Chinese Olympic Committee, Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC) and other stakeholders to find a window for the Games which did not conflict



with other major international sporting events. The recommended dates by the Task Force were duly approved by the OCA EB (Executive Board)," said the statement. "The OCA thanks HAGOC, the Chinese Olympic Committee, as well as the Governments at all levels for their hard work in preparing for the Games during the pandemic and ensuring they can take place next year. The OCA would also like to express its appreciation for the patience shown by the National Olympic Committees and International Federation/Asian Federations and other stakeholders," it added.

Taipei Open Ishaan-Tanisha advance to second round, Saina pulls out

Taipei | Agencies

India's mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto advanced to the second round of the Taipei Open 2022 badminton championship after beating the Israeli pair of Misha Zilberman and Svetlana Zilberman here, on Tuesday.

The Indian duo, 47th in the badminton world rankings, registered a formidable 21-15, 21-8 win over the world No. 95 Israeli pair of Misha Zilberman and Svetlana Zilberman.

Both teams were quick to get off the blocks and were tied at 7-7 after early exchanges. However, the Indian pair upped their intensity to take a 1-0 lead.

Ishaan and Tanisha, seeded sixth, rode the momentum in the second game to seal the match in just 26 minutes. They will take on one of the two unseeded local pairs in the second round of the BWF Super 300 badminton tournament.

The duo of Ishaan and Tanisha had made a



promising start to the year by winning the Syed Modi International BWF Super 300 title in January. However, this is the first time since May that they have gone past the first round.

The other two Indian badminton players competing on the day lost their matches in the qualifying round.

In the men's singles, Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian fought hard but lost to Liao Jhuo Fu of Chinese Taipei 17-21, 23-21, 17-21 in a match that lasted one hour and two minutes. In the women's singles, Keyura Mopati lost to Indonesia's Komang Ayu Cahya Dewi 13-21, 14-21 in 33 minutes.

London 2012 bronze medalist Saina Nehwal, seeded fourth in the women's singles, withdrew from the tournament at the eleventh hour. Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu has also decided to skip the event.

Meanwhile, Parupalli Kashyap, seeded third in the men's singles, will play his first-round match on Wednesday.

Beaumont slams century as England crush South Africa in WODI; sweep series

Grace Road (Leicester) | Agencies

England top-order batter Tammy Beaumont smashed her ninth One-day International ton to help the hosts to another victory and a 3-0 series sweep against South Africa here.

The 31-year-old veteran opener, who is just three shy of completing a century of ODIs, didn't take too kindly to being left out of England's Commonwealth Games squad as she hit a brilliant 119 off 107 balls to lead her side to a 109-run victory against the Proteas on Monday.

Beaumont put on 149 for the opening wicket alongside fellow opener Emma Lamb (65) and then further upped her game when Sophia Dunkley (51) joined her at the crease in searing conditions at Grace Road.

By the time Beaumont fell, she had put the hosts on the path to compiling a whopping 371/7



from their allotted 50 overs.

Two other South Africa batters also made it past fifty -- Chloe Tryon hit 70 and Marizanne Kapp contributed 62 -- but South Africa found the run rate required too steep as they were eventually bundled out in the 46th over for just 262 in reply.

In the end this proved the difference in the series, with England's batters a class above and scoring a century in each match to ensure a comprehensive 3-0 series sweep.

Brief scores

England Women 371/7 in 50 overs (Emma Lamb 65, Tammy Beaumont 119, Sophia Dunkley 51, Heather Knight 63, Danni Wyatt 33) beat South Africa 262 in 45.4 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 56, Marizanne Kapp 62, Chloe Tryon 70; Charlie Dean 3/42, Emma Lamb 3/42, Alice Davidson-Richards 3/35) by 109 runs.

Phillips, Ferguson guide New Zealand to 31-run win against Ireland in opening T20I

Stormont (Belfast) | Agencies

New Zealand showed their fighting qualities, rallying from the loss of four early wickets to put up a competitive 173/8 in the opening T20 International here and then dismiss hosts Ireland for 142 runs for a comprehensive 31-run victory.

With the bat Glenn Phillips scored a quick-fire unbeaten 69 off 52 balls to bring the Black Caps back into the game after they had lost top-order batters Martin Guptill (24), Finn Allen (1), Dane Cleaver (5) and Daryl Mitchell (5) cheaply.

Phillips' half century aided by a four-for from pace bowler Lockie Ferguson helped the tourists take the lead in the three-match T20I series following their ODI series sweep recently. Ireland had a dream start, with opener Finn Allen hitting Josh Little straight to cover, and then dismissing the in-form Guptill -- who scored a century on the final ODI -- who holed out to long-off Mark Adair.

Dane Cleaver then edged a pull shot off Little to wicketkeeper Tucker. Ireland struck again as Daryl Mitchell top-edged Curtis Campher's delivery to the keeper, but Phillips took the tourists to safety with his half-century. From 54/4, the Kiwis recovered to post 173/8, with Phillips' knock the key contribu-



tion, and James Neesham and Michael Bracewell also playing a pair of important hands. In reply, Ireland could never get a productive partnership, though several batters made promising starts. Captain Andy Balbirnie was the first to go, slashing Jacob Duffy twice over point for four before falling to a superb catch from Santner, the Black Caps skipper running back from mid-off to cling on as the ball descended sharply.

Brief scores

New Zealand 173/8 in 20 overs (G Phillips 69 not out, J Neesham 29 not out; J Little 4-35) beat Ireland 142 in 18.2 overs (C Campher 29, M Adair 25; L Ferguson 4/14) by 31 runs.

Pranavi looks for more glory and fifth title at 10th leg of WPGT

Bengaluru | Agencies

Pranavi Urs will look for further glory as she tees up this week at the 10th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Prestige Golfshire course.

Pranavi, who won last week at the Bangalore Golf Club, has already won four times this season and another success this week will give her half of the 10 events completed at the end of this week.

She has also been runner up in two other events. It has been a phenomenal achievement for the Mysore golfer, who at times has had to sit back due to injury, although she is now fully fit.

Seher Atwal will look to ending her run of second place finishes, which is where she has been in the last two events - the eighth leg at the Karnataka Golf Association last month and the ninth leg at the Bangalore Golf Club last week. Another one to look out for will be Hitaashee



Bakshi, third last week, and the winner of the third and sixth legs of the WPGT. Sneha Singh, who made her pro debut last week, Neha Tripathi, who has just come from starts in Europe on the Ladies European Tour, Gaurika Bishnoi and Afshan Fatima will be the others to watch out for. This is the fourth straight event here, two of which, the seventh and now the 10th, are being held at Prestige Golfshire.

World Cup was disappointing, but team is on the right course: Hockey chief coach

Mumbai | Agencies

Semifinalists at the Tokyo Olympic Games last year and third in the FIH Pro League 2021-22, the Indian women's hockey team went into the Women's World Cup in the Netherlands and Spain with high hopes.

The team, however, failed to live up to the expectations and failed to reach the quarter-finals after losing to New Zealand (in the pool match) and Spain in the crossover stage and eventually ended ninth in the World Cup.

The team's chief coach Janneke Schopman expressed disappointment with the final outcome for the team in the World Cup but said the team is moving in the right direction considering the overall standard of play. According to her, the Indian team played aggressive hockey, created a lot of chances which were faltered in capitalising on them.

"Our performance in the World Cup in terms of outcome was not good enough because we created a lot of PCs which is



good but our execution failed and I think there are many reasons for that. We were troubled with the field a little bit, without injections a bit. I think it was a different field

from the one we typically train in and that was something we had to adjust to. I don't think we adapted well. I think it has to do with just being perfect in your execution.

That's something we look to focus on in the next couple of weeks before the start of the Commonwealth Games," Janneke told the media in a virtual press conference from Nottingham in the UK on Tuesday. She said one of the reasons the team's performance was not up to the standard was because they had not played on the surface on which the World Cup was held. She also said India were not the only team that struggled with penalty corner execution.

"We were not the only team to be struggling with the field I, think (eventual winner) the Netherlands also did, I think they scored only in their 10th penalty corner in the semi-final. So, there was a matter of circumstances. But saying that, I take full responsibility as the performance of the team needs to be better and we need to train differently to execute better. I take full responsibility by saying that it needs to be better and we need to train differently so that we can execute (our plans) better in the field," Janneke said.

Janneke said the biggest takeaway for her from the World Cup was that the team learned how to handle pressure.



Manushi Chhillar Joins John Abraham For Dinesh Vijan's forthcoming

Team Absolute | Mumbai

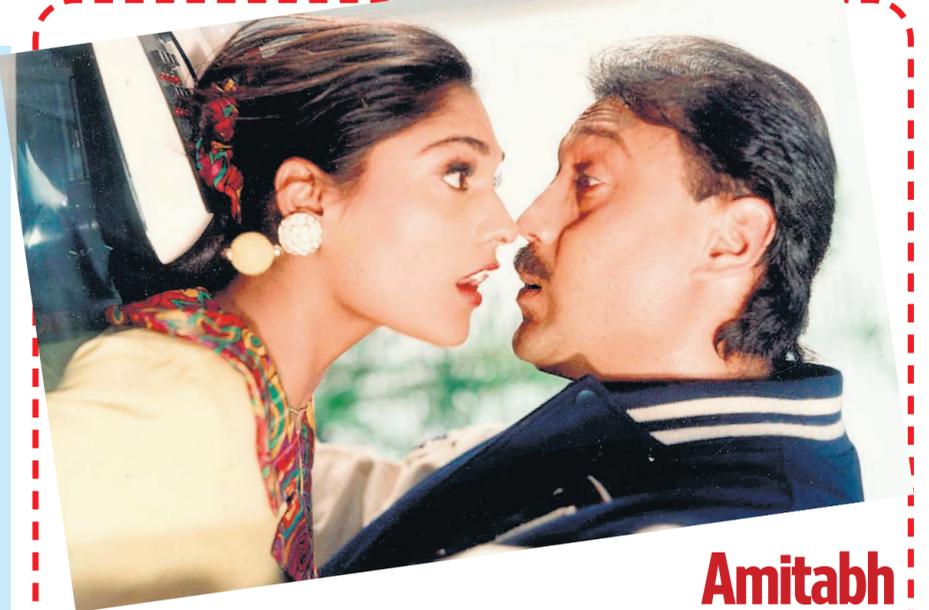
A few months ago, the Badlapur filmmakers, gave an interesting look of their next action movie "Tehran." In the introduction video, John Abraham appeared passionate in his first glance at the film.

Tehran's creators have recently given another interesting update regarding the action thriller, which has gotten a lot of affection and good feedback.

The film's leading woman has been unveiled, and she is none other than Manushi Chhillar. The former Miss World, has joined John Abraham on site for the film's shoot. Tehran, based on actual events, has been creating a lot of attention since its debut, and the inclusion of Manushi will undoubtedly get fans even more excited for the film!

Arun Gopalan directed Tehran, has been written by Ritesh Shah and Ashish Prakash Verma and produced by Dinesh Vijan, Shobhna Yadav, and Sandeep Leyzell.

In terms of forthcoming projects, in addition to Tehran, John Abraham has the spy thriller Pathaan, which also stars Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone, and the multi-starrer Ek Villain Returns.



Amitabh Bachchan was to be paired opposite Anu Aggarwal in King Uncle

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With Aashiqui, Anu Aggarwal, an actor turned yoga master, became the season's flavour. After Aashiqui Anu, she was inundated with offers, one of which was King Uncle by Rakesh Roshan. The face can stop a crowd. The statement on the Aashiqui poster has gotten a lot of attention.

For those who are unaware, Amitabh Bachchan was scheduled to star alongside Anu in King Uncle. However, things did not work out in the end, and Jackie Shroff was cast in the part. When approached, Anu stated, "It's true that the script was originally written with Amitabh Bachchan in mind but Jackie was to play the role! I believe things happen or don't, and when they do, it is the perfect time for them. And if they don't there is some blessing hidden. Who knows who I will act with now? And, whoever it is will be perfect even if imperfect in a few ways," says the Aashiqui actor.

But Anu knew Amitabh socially, and they kept bumping into each other in unexpected places. "We would end up at the same parties or nightclubs. He was always extremely polite, gentlemanly, appreciative, and almost motherly-patronizing in his advice to me on how to tackle Bollywood, as we were made of a different perspective than the prevalent trends. He was one of the handful at the time who came from similar backgrounds, with accomplishments. He had also told me once that his kids have loved me in Aashiqui," she adds.

She also mentions working with the actor. "One of the first covers I shot with any actor was with him. I remember how funny he was when he turned up late for the shoot. He humorously blamed my Aashiqui poster with my face in it for the reason behind traffic jams. One of the most shocking things was when utter lies were written in a tabloid about me and Amitabh vacationing in Lonavala or something. There were no social media to clarify rumours in those days" she says.

Anu's career was influenced by King Uncle. She is also pleased with how her stint in Bollywood went throughout the short years she worked as an actor. "I am thrilled at the diverse roles I got to play in that short period of time when I was active in Bollywood. It was like each role I played in the total 4-5 films I chose to do was diametrically opposite from one another, and were strong characters. Fanny, my character in King Uncle, had so many people come and tell me they never expected to see me look that Goan, Portuguese pretty while making the viewer believe in that popular relationship with a child actor as well. It certainly added a feather to my acting cap," she ends.

Akshay Kumar, Samantha unleash laugh riot

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As Akshay Kumar and Samantha Ruth Prabhu are set to grace the upcoming episode of the seventh season of popular chat show 'Koffee With Karan', the two are expected to unleash a laugh riot on the show given Akshay's quick wit and Samantha's sense of humour.

The third episode's teaser hints at a lively potboiler of glamour, secrets and witty one-liners delivered by the two celebrated guests. Akshay Kumar makes his entry in true Khiladi fashion, carrying the show's debutant Samantha Ruth Prabhu in his arms. The episode marks his third appearance on the show.

Touching upon the controversial Chris Rock-Will Smith Oscars slapping, show host Karan Johar candidly asked the Khiladi of Bollywood, "What would you do if Chris Rock made a joke about Tina?" To this, the show veteran pragmatically replies, "I would pay for his funeral," he says while suggesting that no one gets to mess with his wife Twinkle Khanna.



Gauhar Khan to star in a series based on India's biggest educational fraud

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Following the success of Aashram, Matsya Kaand, and Campus Diaries, OTT will shortly release Shiksha Mandal, a hard-hitting drama inspired by actual events that revolves around India's biggest educational fraud. Power Paise Ka... Scam Shiksha Mandal Ka, directed by Syed Ahmed Afzal, will expose corruption, fraud, cheating, and criminal conspiracy that affects vulnerable students in India. The series stars Gauhar Khan, Gulshan Devaiah, and Pavan Malhotra in prominent roles. Gauhar Khan will play a no-nonsense cop, Gulshan Devaiah will play a humble, industrious young guy operating a coaching facility with dreams for his family, and Pavan Malhotra will play a villain who is involved in a variety of unlawful activities. With a socially relevant premise and equally talented cast, audiences can expect to see a riveting storyline inspired by true events. Confirming the same, Gautam Talwar, Chief Content Officer, of the respective OTT platform said "We are delighted to share the first look of our upcoming social thriller, Shiksha Mandal. At MX, we strive to tell the most authentic stories of India and bring relatable, raw and real content to our audiences. And Shiksha Mandal is another series that ticks against all these boxes."

FANS CALL BIG B 'NEW RANVEER SINGH' AFTER SEEING HIS RECENT OUTFIT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood Bigg B Amitabh Bachchan is quite active on social media and never fails to impress his followers with his appearance. Mr. Bachchan has mocked his own appearance on social media. Big B tweeted two photos, one of which he donned a sweatshirt with harem pants and accompanied with a humorous poem explaining his attire. The 79-year-old posted on Instagram, Amitabh remarked on Twitter after sharing the photos, "Pahanne ko dedia pyjama, laga saree ko faada, aage chhoti jeb dedi, aur



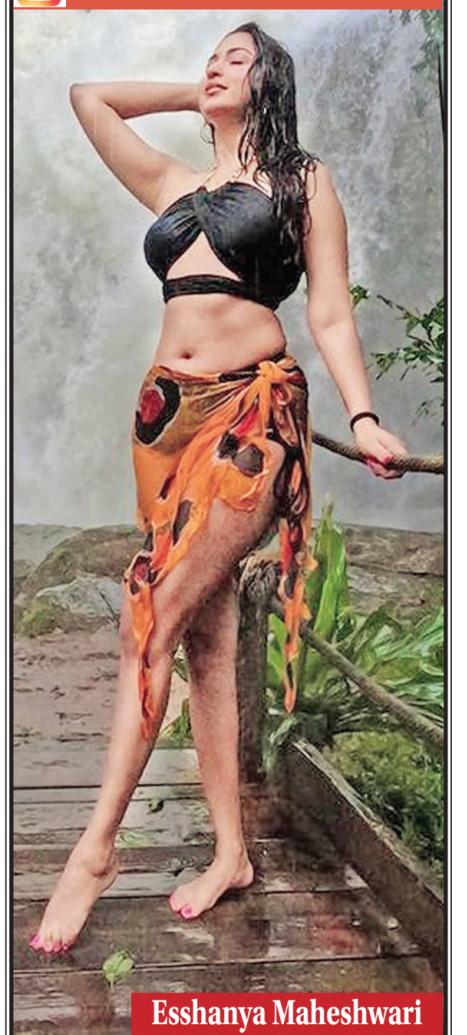
peeje laga hai naada (They have given me a pyjama which looks like it has been torn out of a saree. It has small pockets in the front and the tie-string at the back). Fans reacted strongly to the actor's clothing as soon as he shared the photo. About Twitter, a fan commented on his clothing, "When you want to challenge Ranveer Singh." Another said, Ranveer ke saath ad karne ka natija hai." One more fan said on Instagram, "Sir Ranveer se dosti kr ley." A comment also read, "Sir, lagta hai ye pyjama Ranveer Singh ne design kia hai."

While Mr. Bachchan uploaded another photo from the set of his 1978 film

Trishul on Monday, he also remarked how the fad of huge sunglasses is being adopted by the younger generation. He wrote in the caption, "fashions repeat .. glares of the 70' .. perhaps at the Mahurat of Trishul or Man ji film .. and I see today's stars wearing similar" followed by joined hand emoticons.

Amitabh will next be seen in Ayan Mukerji's Brahmastra, which also stars Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, and Nagarjuna. The film is scheduled to be released on September 9, 2022. He also appears in Vikas Bahl's Goodbye and Project K, starring Prabhas and Deepika Padukone.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Esshanya Maheshwari