

NATION > 02

Assam CM urges Aamir Khan to postpone his visit to state...



HOLLYWOOD > 06

Hailey Bieber sets temperatures soaring ...



SPORTS > 07

BCCI keeps window in March 2023 for inaugural women's IPL...



Amrit Mahotsav: 75th anniversary of India's Independence



Jaipur: Students sing patriotic songs during a programme organised to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, at SMS stadium in Jaipur on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022. Around 1 crore students participated in the programme.

CPI NUMBERS FOR MARCH '23 COULD BE EVEN LOWER THAN 5%: SBI ECOWRAP

“ Though, the overall CPI inflation eased from April to June, among the states, but there are many bigger states, whose inflation continue to be above 7 per cent in July 2022. Among the 23 states, there are 15 states whose inflation is above 6 per cent (21 states in April) and 8 states with inflation rate of below 6 per cent.”

Report said

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The inflation trajectory for India is expected to be benign and CPI numbers for March 2023 could be even lower than 5 per cent, due to signs of softening crude oil prices which can cool off inflationary concerns further locally, an SBI Ecowrap report said.

“We are in a paradoxical situation where inflation trajectory may not have a cascading effect on runaway exchange rate dynamics as sentiments in South China Sea could steer the patchy global senti-



ments. Also, inflation numbers in US are likely to head lower, though core might remain elevated,” the report added. On Friday, data by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed that the CPI inflation moderated to 5-months low to 6.71 per cent in July due to easing of food inflation, while, core CPI also moderated to 10-months low to 5.79 per cent in July. “Our slicing of CPI inflation into Supply/Demand CPI and Neutral indicates that supply side factors which were responsible for 65 per cent of CPI inflation in May now stands at 58 per cent, mainly owing to easing of global supply disruptions. Demand factors' contribution has reached 40 per cent. Telangana clocked the highest inflation rate of 8.58 per cent in July, compared to

CPI INFLATION EASES TO 6.71% IN JULY, IIP FALLS TO 12.3%

Mumbai: India's headline retail inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased to 6.71 per cent in July, as compared to 7.01 per cent in June, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Easing inflation can be attributed to price cuts on edible oil and easing commodity prices globally. Even though the CPI inflation has eased, it still remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance band.

The overall goods inflation came in at 6.75 per cent as compared to 7.75 per cent in the previous month, while, inflation in vegetables was at 10.9 per cent in July. Fuel and light inflation came in at 11.76 per cent.

Disruption in supply chain due to Russia-Ukraine war is pressurising domestic inflation. Last week, the central bank has hike repo rate by 50 basis points to tame inflation, but kept the inflation forecast unchanged. The RBI projected inflation is at 6.7 per cent in 2022-23, with Q2 at 7.1 per cent, Q3 at 6.4 per cent, and Q4 at 5.8 per cent, with risks evenly balanced. CPI inflation for Q1:2023-24 is projected at 5 per cent.



SALMAN RUSHDIE STABBED ONSTAGE AT NY EVENT, FLOWN TO HOSPITAL

New York: Controversial author Salman Rushdie, whose fourth book "The Satanic Verses" brought him to notoriety in 1988 and led to death threats against him for blasphemy, was stabbed while participating in an event in New York state, media reports said. He was flown to a hospital after reportedly being stabbed in the neck, according to a New York State Police statement, the BBC reported, but there was no update on his health condition.

India-born Rushdie, 75, was speaking at an event of the Chautauqua Institution when a man ran onto the stage and appeared to have punched or stabbed him and his interlocutor, the BBC reported citing eyewitnesses.

According to reports, amid gasps of horror from the audience, a few people ran onstage and managed to restrain the assailant, while others rushed to the aid of the author who had collapsed on the stage. The assailant has been arrested.

China comes to rescue of JeM leader facing UN sanctions

In New Delhi on Friday, India's External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi called Beijing's action "unfortunate" as it prevents the international community from speaking with one voice in "our collective battle against terrorism". Decisions are made by consensus in the UN sanctions committees giving any of the 15 members of the Council a veto.

- Rauf was involved in the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight in 1999.
- The JeM, of which he is a senior commander, has been conducting terrorist actions against India.
- Its terrorist activities include attacks on the Pathankot Indian Air Force base and an Army command post in Uri in 2016, and the 2019 attack on a Central Reserve Police Force convoy in Pulwama killing 40 of its personnel in Pulwama in 2019.

Arul Louis | United Nations

China has again come to the rescue of a Pakistani terrorist by blocking a UN committee proposal to put sanctions on Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) leader Abdul Rauf Azhar. At the Security Council's committee dealing with sanctions on the Islamic State, al-Qaeda and linked groups, China on Wednesday put a technical hold on placing travel restrictions and freezing the assets of Abdul Rauf Azhar, the brother of Masood Azhar, the head of JeM. India and the US had made the

proposal to the panel known as the 1267 Committee for the Council resolution setting it up. This was the second time in two months that China has moved to protect a Pakistani terrorist from sanctions. It vetoed a proposal in June to sanction Lashkar-e-Taiba leader Abdul Rehman Makki.

After blocking four efforts to place sanctions on Masood Azhar, Beijing finally relented under international pressure in 2019 to add him to the list. The JeM has also "declared war on the United States", according to the office of the US Director of National Intelligence. Its operatives were involved in the kidnapping of Daniel Pearl, an American journalist working for The Wall Street Journal in 2002. Washington had put Abdul Rauf Azhar on its own sanctions list in 2010. India's Permanent Representative Ruchira Kamboj denounced at the Council on Wednesday what she called the "hypocrisy" and "double standards" in the sanctions process that is sapping its credibility. "It is most regrettable that genuine and evidence-based listing proposals pertaining to some of the most notorious terrorists in the world are being placed on hold", she said. Without naming Pakistan, she criticised it for giving sanctuaries to terrorists.

NDPP WILL NOT MERGE WITH BJP, SAYS NAGALAND CM RIO

Kohima: Nagaland Chief Minister and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) leader Neiphiu Rio on Friday categorically said that his party would not merge with the BJP. Talking to the media here, he said that the BJP is the NDPP's electoral ally since 2017 but there is no question of his party merging with it. Rio was reacting to Nagaland Congress President K Therie's assertion that the NDPP is mulling over merging with the BJP after the 2023 Assembly polls. "I or any other leader of NDPP never said anything like that (merger of NDPP with BJP). Congress has cooked up the baseless story. They have no moral position to raise any question about our integrity," the Chief Minister said. Therie on Thursday claimed that the NDPP is contemplating to install a BJP government in the state.



ED attaches Mantri Group's property worth Rs 300.4 cr for cheating home buyers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said that they attached immovable assets worth Rs 300.4 crore in a money laundering case against Mantri Group for cheating home buyers of Mantri Serenity, Mantri Web City, and Mantri Energia residential projects.

The ED said that Castles Vista Pvt Ltd (a subsidiary of Mantri Developers Pvt Ltd) and Buoyant Technology Constellations Pvt Ltd (another subsidiary) induced home buyers with rosily painted schemes, showing misleading brochures, falsification of delivery time lines, and window dressing. But the flats were not delivered even after seven to ten years of taking deposits from prospective home buyers.

The ED lodged a PMLA case in this respect on the basis of the FIR registered by the Subramanyapura Police Station in Bengaluru. Multiple FIRs have also been registered by the



home buyers against Mantri Developers, its subsidiaries, directors, and promoters for cheating the public by inducing the home buyers with false promises at Cubbon Park Police Station in the city. The ED had arrested Mantri Developers' Founder and Promoter Director Sushil P. Mantri and learned that the firm and its subsidiaries diverted home buyers' money to other projects which was a criminal breach of trust.

FOOD INSPECTOR RECRUITMENT CASE

Calcutta HC raps state govt after counsels fail to turn up

Team Absolute | Kolkata

A division bench of Calcutta High Court on Friday pulled up the West Bengal government over the latter's "lackadaisical" approach in a case related to irregularities in the recruitment of food inspectors in the state food and supplies department. The matter was supposed to be heard by the division bench of Justices Harish Tandon and Shampa Sarkar on Friday, but the scheduled senior counsels representing the state government did not turn up for the arguments, which irked the judges. The bench questioned the justifi-



cation of appointing such counsels who do not bother to appear for arguments on the scheduled date of hearing. The bench also observed that because of the 'lackadaisical' approach of the state government, the progress in this particular matter has been slow. It also referred to the approach of

the state government as 'painful'. The bench has now fixed August 16 as the next date of hearing in the matter. At the same time, the bench also issued a strong note of caution to the state government, stating that if the scheduled counsels do not appear in the next hearing, it will issue an ex-parte order.



'COBWEB DELAYING MGNREGA PAYMENT NEEDS TO BE SURGICALLY CLEARED'

Bihar model to be replicated in whole country: Tejashwi

The panel in its report noted that the release of the amount as stated by the DoRD maybe a step in the right direction but the 'need of the hour' is to ensure that the guarantee of payment of wages within 15 days as per the MGNREG Act should be complied with 'in letter and spirit', and not a single penny remains unpaid to the needy beneficiaries. "The bureaucratic cobweb surrounding the factors for delay need to be surgically cleared off," it said.



bureaucratic cobweb surrounding the factors for delay in payment need to be surgically cleared off. The Parliamentary panel on Rural Development observed that the timely payment of wages guaranteed under the MGNREG Act assumes paramount importance which acts as additional allurements to the poor

and marginalised sections of the society. "On this premise, the Committee had painfully seized themselves of the burning issue of inordinate delay in the payment of wages to the beneficiaries under MGNREGA and recommended DoRD to entail all possible measures to wipe off the wage liabilities

to the tune of Rs 2,76,378.22 lakh as on 05.11.2021," said the report recently tabled in the Parliament. "Responding to the Committee, DoRD have only simply stated about the release of funds being a continuous process alongwith the provisions in vogue. It has also been mentioned that an amount of Rs 73,023.05 crore has been released to States/UTs for wage component under MGNREGA. "The Committee are not oblivious to the 'hue and cry' for the release of pending wages across the Country for plethora of reasons. In this backdrop, the Committee finds the reply unsatisfactory as no specific action has been elicited regarding the complete wiping off of the pendency in wages," it said. The Committee strongly reiterates their recommendation for taking more effective and result-oriented steps to ward off the malaise of delay in the payment of wages to the beneficiaries of MGNREGA, the report added.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bihar's new Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Friday met Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi to discuss the cabinet expansion in the state even as sources said as Congress likely to get four berths in the new Nitish Kumar government. After meeting Gandhi, Yadav claimed that same model would be replicated in the country, in a reference to Nitish Kumar again dumping the BJP to join hands with the Rashtriya Janata Dal-led Mahagatbandhan. "This government is the public's government. It will be now be replicated across the country as people are fed of unemployment, inflation and communalism," the RJD leader said. He said Nitish Kumar's



decision is a slap to the BJP style of politics and countering the charges of their past fights, noted that there are fights in every household "but we are from the same socialist beliefs".

He also thanked Gandhi, CPI-M chief Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D. Raja and Other leaders. The meeting gains significance as the cabinet expansion is due in a few days.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Parliamentary standing committee in its report on MGNREG Act observed that the

Terrorist, tasked with elimination of Nupur Sharma, held in UP

STOCKHOLDERS TO MANDATORILY DISCLOSE STOCKS OF TUR: CENTRE TO STATES/UTS

Lucknow | Agencies

The UP ATS has arrested Mohd Nadeem, an operative of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and other terrorist organizations, from the state's Saharanpur on Friday. According to an official release, the ATS has recovered chats with terrorists and information related to courses on explosives of Fida-e-Force. Nadeem was in touch with several terror outfits through WhatsApp, Telegram, IMO, Facebook Messenger, Club House and other social media platforms.



forms. He had been tasked with the elimination of former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma who had made an objectionable remark against the Prophet. Nadeem, a resident of Gangohi in Saharanpur, is now being interrogated by various agencies and intelligence sleuths.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on Friday issued a directive to all the states and UTs to enforce stock disclosure by stockholders of Tur pulse and also to monitor and verify the stocks. The step has been initiated under Section 3(2)(h) and 3(2)(i) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The states/UTs have also been asked to direct stockholder entities to upload the data of stocks held by them on the online monitoring portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs, on a weekly basis. "There are reports that some sections of stockists and traders are resorting to restricted sales in an attempt to create artificial scarcity to



push the price upward. The retail price of Tur has been on upward trend from second week of July, 2022 following the slow

progress in kharif sowing as compared to last year due to excess rainfall and water logging conditions in parts of major Tur growing states of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh," the Ministry said in a statement. It said that the Centre is closely watching the overall availability and prices of pulses in the domestic as well as overseas markets to take necessary preemptive measures in an event of unwarranted price rise in the upcoming high demand festival months. "On top of the sufficient overall availability of pulses in the domestic market, the government is currently holding about 38 lakh tons of pulses which are being released in the market to further augment the stocks available in the market," it added.

Why is govt silent on 'Gajak' culture: Cong counters 'Rewari' jibe

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Friday attacked the Centre over the writing off loans amounting to Rs 10 lakh crore and termed it as the "Gajak culture". Addressing a press conference on Friday Congress spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh said that based on the Food Security Act 2013, the BJP government distributed free ration to 80 crore citizens during the corona epidemic. Indirectly, the National Food Security Act also obliged the government to buy foodgrains from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). "So if the distribution of foodgrains to 80 crore citizens (approximately 60 per cent of the population) and buying the same foodgrains



from farmers at MSP is a free Rewari culture, then in the last 5 years Rs 9.92 lakh crore (about 10 lakh crore) was written off by the banks. Why is the government silent on this free Gajak culture?" he said. Vallabh said, "Of the Rs 9.92 lakh crore loan written-

off by banks in the last 5 years, Rs 7.27 lakh crore is the share of public sector banks. In the reply given in Parliament, the government admitted that in the last 5 years, out of the amount written off by the public sector banks, only Rs 1.03 lakh crore was recovered, public sector banks recovered 14 per cent of the amount written off in the last 5 years. "If we also assume that the recovery from the written off loan will increase to 20 per cent in the coming time, the public sector banks have not recovered the loan of Rs 5.8 lakh crore. It is important here that if the debt of public sector banks sinks, then the money of the country's taxpayers sinks," he said. The Congress leader said, "If MNREGA is a free 'Rewari' for the government, then why not the reduction in the corporate tax rates announced by the government in 2019 is free Gajak? Net impact of the decrease in these corporate tax rates is Rs 1.45 lakh crore of less tax collection. This is twice the MGNREGA budget in the current financial year.

ASSAM CM URGES AAMIR KHAN TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO STATE

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has urged Bollywood actor Aamir Khan who expressed his willingness to visit the state on the eve of Independence Day to plan the trip after the conclusion of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' celebrations. "Aamir Khan spoke to me and he intended to come to Assam during the Independence Day celebration. But it may shift focus from Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav... hence I told him to fix a date after August 15," Sarma told the mediapersons here on Friday. The Chief Minister, however, said that he has good terms with Khan and they often speak over the telephone. Though the intent to visit Assam is unknown, sources said Khan wanted to promote his latest release 'Laal Singh Chaddha', which is a remake of the iconic film 'Forrest Gump'. It could not be known if the actor has agreed to come to Assam after Independence Day.

Sulli deals case: SC issues notice on Aumkareshwar Thakur's plea to club FIRs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday issued a notice on a plea by Aumkareshwar Thakur, who allegedly created the Sulli Deals mobile application, seeking to club all FIRs against him. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.M. Sundresh wondered whether the plea can be allowed since the accused has been charged for different offences for distinct acts and also in connection with the development of two apps -- Sulli Deals and Bulli Bai. The bench observed, "There are different offences. One is Sulli deals and another is Bulli bai. Can different offences be clubbed?" The bench further queried, if with respect to each website there is different proceedings, could it be possible to say whatever uploaded is confined to one place? Justice Kaul told the petitioner's counsel, "You have uploaded photos of various people and each is an aggrieved party". However, the top court sought response from Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra governments. The bench



noted that there were multiple uploads on the app, and there were different FIRs in connection with it. The top court refused to stay the probe. In the Sulli deals case, a Delhi court had earlier granted bail to Thakur, who was arrested in January this year. Thakur allegedly developed Sulli Deals, an open-source app containing photographs and personal information of Muslim women. Thakur was represented by senior advocate Rajeev Sharma along with advocates Sahil Bhalai & Tushar Giri.

HEADLESS BODY OF YOUNG WOMAN FOUND IN DRAIN IN UP DISTRICT

Meerut: A headless body of a young woman was found in the Lakkhipura area of Meerut district on Friday. The body of the woman, which police believe was in her twenties, was first spotted by locals in a drain near lane number 28 in the Lakkhipura area. The police believe that the actual crime of the murder has been committed elsewhere and the headless body was abandoned in the drain to conceal identity. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination. The police spokesman said that a team of forensic experts have also been called to the spot. Police teams have been formed to contact locals and collect details of any missing women in the area. Wireless messages have been sent to gather the list of any women reported missing in the nearby towns. The identity of the woman is yet to be known. Last month, a headless, highly decomposed body of a woman was found in a similar manner in a drain in Meerut's cantonment area.

Top JeM financier using FB, Telegram, YouTube to sow hatred among Muslims in India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Farhatullah Ghauri, a terrorist recruiter and financier for Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), has been using a network of accounts on Facebook, Telegram and YouTube to call on Muslims in India to revolt against the country, a detailed investigation by artificial intelligence (AI) startup Logically has found. Ghauri is listed among 38 individuals as a terrorist by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (amended in 2019). The three encrypted Telegram channels, two associated Facebook pages, and three YouTube channels, operated by the Ghauri group, were all created this year. The network was identified by Logically before it could accrue a significant audience peaking with 200-400 subscribers across all the accounts. During the course of the investigation, the content moderation teams took down one Telegram channel and one Facebook page linked to the group. "The terrorist propaganda has circulated across other encrypted messaging channels on Telegram, including those affiliated with Islamabad-backed proxy



terror groups claiming to operate in the Kashmir region, such as the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and The Resistance Front (TRF)," Logically said in a statement. The company said that a closer scrutiny of the amplification patterns of the videos on Facebook since January 2022 suggests a concerted attempt by malicious actors to post the videos in Facebook groups and pages dedicated to socialism, Islam, and minority rights. "These groups are frequented by larger, more mainstream audiences of domestic users who are critical of the BJP-ruled government," said the report. Moreover, these coordinated online campaigns coincide with off-line incidents of communal violence in the

country, revealing how malicious actors abroad are leveraging major social media platforms to exploit domestic tensions and radicalise the minority population. "The terrorist propaganda amplified via these channels consists of professionally-edited videos with voice overs by Ghauri. Some of the videos engage with the rhetoric of Muslim minorities allegedly facing human rights violations by Indian security services in Jammu, Kashmir and other parts of the country," said the report. "There are explicit calls by Ghauri to Indian Muslims to revolt and take up arms against the Indian state," the report mentioned. An analysis into the spread of the

videos on Facebook between January 1 and July 1, 2022, via social media analysis tool CrowdTangle, revealed that videos from Ghauri's network were amplified across several mainstream Facebook groups and pages devoted to Islam, socialism, and minority rights. As with its other accounts managed by the outfit, the extremist recruitment videos amplified on the Telegram channels were also accompanied by targeted hashtags to expose the content to Indian-Muslim users frequenting the platform. Also known as Abu Sufiyan, Ghauri is originally from Kurmaguda area of Hyderabad and primarily known for being a terrorist financier. He fled to Saudi Arabia in 1994 and finally settled in Pakistan in 2015.

J&K LG PERFORMS 'SAMAPAN POOJA' MARKING END OF AMARNATH YATRA

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday morning performed the 'Samapan Pooja' which marks the end of annual Amarnath Yatra, and prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the people. "I truly admire and appreciate the selfless contribution of all stakeholders and citizens for making this difficult Yatra hassle-free for the pilgrims", said the Lt. Governor. The Lt. Governor lauded the efforts of J&K Police, Army, CAPFs, Airforce, NDRF, SDRF, volunteers, doctors, healthcare personnel, political and religious leaders, Sant Samaj, Shrine Board officials, UT Administration, langar organisers, telecom service providers, sanitation workers, ponywalas, pithuwalas, civil society groups and other enlightened citizens from all walks of life for ensuring successful culmination of this year's Yatra. Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and the UT Administration had made all the arrangements for carrying out traditional religious rituals at the holy cave. Meanwhile, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board facilitated the carriage of Holy Mace (Pavitra Chhari) to the Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnathji.



WILL NOT ALLOW THE WORD ORPHAN TO REMAIN IN THE STATE: CM CHOUHAN

Children you should never feel you are alone. Children associated with Mukhya Mantri Covid Bal Kalyan Yojana arrived to celebrate "Meri Rakhi Shivraj Mama ke Ghar". Chouhan welcomed the children with pampering and blessings and inspired them.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Rakhi, a wonderful festival of love, affection and intimacy, assures us that we are not alone. During the Covid epidemic, many children were left alone by the parents. Last Diwali we celebrated with all these children at the CM residence. This year we are celebrating Rakhi together. The blessings of your Mama, state government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are with you all. It is my resolve that we will not allow the word orphan to remain in the state. Children, never consider you are alone. There have been many great people in the world who lost their parents in their childhood and faced many difficulties, but they did not give up. Facing difficulties in life, they made achievements and established their name, work and thoughts.

Chief Minister was interacting with the children who came to the Chief Minister's residence to celebrate "Meri Rakhi Shivraj Mama ke Ghar". Children of Mukhya Mantri Covid Bal Kalyan Yojana, Bal Niketan, SOS Village, Aarushi Balika Grih,



Paschatvarti Grih and Nitya Seva Society participated in the programme. CM Shri Chouhan welcomed the children with pampering and blessings. All the children who came to the CM's residence had the national flags in their hands. Sadhna Singh, Ajay Jamwal and Hitanand Sharma were also present.

While motivating the children, Chief Minister Chouhan said that you

can do great things. Let us decide what we have to do. I believe that by making continuous efforts in the direction of what a person decides, he becomes successful in achieving the goal according to his wish. CM said that read and play diligently. Every person must have some talent, recognise it and try to improve it continuously. Referring to the lines from the poem of former Prime

Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee "Koshish Karane Waalon Kee Kabhee Haar Nahin Hotee", Chouhan said that children should never be discouraged, read, write, move ahead, bring laurels to the family and the state.

Chief Minister Chouhan welcomed the children who came to celebrate "Meri Rakhi Shivraj Mama ke Ghar" by showering flowers in the residence premises. Chouhan had invited the children who lost their parents due to corona infection to the CM residence to celebrate Rakhi. While encouraging these children, CM Chouhan gave information about such persons, who did not give up under any circumstances, this infused enthusiasm, fervour and confidence among the children. The children who arrived at the residence were welcomed with the song "Chanda Mama Se Pyara Mera Mama". Children tied Rakhi to Chief Minister Chouhan and CM presented gifts to all the children. He had meal with all the children and posed for group photos. CM Chouhan also motivated the children to participate in "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign from 13 to 15 August.

CM Chouhan plants Gulmohar, Peepal and Harsingar saplings

Former Mayor Alok Sharma also planted saplings



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Gulmohar, Peepal and Harsingar saplings at Smart City Garden along with the workers of Youth Josh Welfare Sanstha working for the road safety and environ-

mental protection. Former Mayor Alok Sharma was also present.

Importance of plants
Peepal is a shady tree, which purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Gulmohar is considered one of the most beautiful trees in

the world. Flowers blooming in large clusters among the well-arranged leaves of Gulmohar give a distinct attraction to this tree. It also abounds in medicinal properties. Harsingar is an excellent medicinal tree. According to medical experts, it is used to cure many diseases.

'TIRANGA' ON TOP OF EUROPE



Mountaineer Bhavna Dehariya, who hails from Madhya Pradesh, is all set to conquer and hoist Indian Tricolour at Europe's highest peak 'Mount Elbrus' on August 15th, The Independence Day, in association with State Bank of India, Bhopal circle.

Leakage in under-construction dam in Dhar, 11 villages evacuated

Team Absolute | Dhar/Bhopal

In Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, a dam being built on the Karam river at a cost of more than three hundred crores is leaking and the danger has increased due to the collapse of one side of the soil. This is the reason why 11 villages have been evacuated. In this case, Congress state president Kamal Nath has demanded action against the officials involved in corruption in the construction of the dam. A dam is being built on the Karam river between Bharudpura and Kothida in Dhar district. 304 crore will be spent on the construction of this dam. On Friday, water is leaking from a part of this dam and the soil of one side wall has also collapsed. There is a possibility of an impact on the surrounding village due to the increase in water leakage, which is why the people of the surrounding village are being alerted, for this, Munadi is also being done. Dhar



District Magistrate Dr. Pankaj Jain has told that precautionary steps have been taken due to seepage in the Karam Dam under construction in Bharudpura, 11 villages have been evacuated, while the traffic on Agra-Mumbai road has been changed. Expressing concern over

the news of leakage in the newly constructed Kothida-Bharudpura dam on the Karam river, Congress state president Kamal Nath said, "In this scheme of 304 crores, from the beginning, local villagers and public representatives lodged complaints of corruption and substandard con-

struction work. But the complaints were ignored, as a result of which this leakage incident has come to the fore in the first rain itself.

He further said, complaints of corruption in various construction works going on in tribal areas are continuously coming to the fore. I demand from the government that in view of the leakage in the dam, the government should take all necessary safety measures immediately so that any kind of damage and loss of life can be prevented. Preparations should also be made to take special vigilance in the surrounding villages and take them to safe places.

Kamal Nath said, in view of the complaints of corruption and substandard construction in this newly constructed dam, a decision should also be taken to constitute an investigation team of experts immediately, which should investigate this construction work. Also, strict action should be taken against its culprits.

"Har Ghar Tiranga" Abhiyan is an expression of our patriotism: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign is an expression of our patriotism. We have to ensure that the Tiranga is unfurled at every home in the state. The availability of the national flags should be ensured in the remote villages of the state so that no home of any village or any ward is left out from participating in the Tiranga Abhiyan. The District Collectors should pay special attention towards publicising information about the sale centres of the flag. All ministers, newly elected public representatives, social workers, government officials-employees, functionaries of various



organisations and students should upload their photos on the social

media waving the national flag and putting up the national flag at their

homes to motivate the masses to participate in the Tiranga Abhiyan.

Chief Minister Chouhan was reviewing the ongoing preparations for "Har Ghar Tiranga" Abhiyan through video conferencing. Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary General Administration Vinod Kumar, Principal Secretary Culture Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary Public Relations Raghendra Kumar Singh and Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena were present in the meeting held at the residence office. The ministers in charge of all the districts, divisional level officers and collectors and superintendents of police of the districts virtually joined the meeting.

Archdiocese of Bhopal celebrated Universal Brotherhood

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Raksha Bandhan brings "universal brotherhood" Archbishop A.A.S. Durairaj SVD. The Archdiocese of Bhopal celebrated the symbolic love and universal brotherhood with the students of different schools in the city on Friday at St. Joseph's Co-ed School, Arera Colony, Bhopal.

Speaking on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, the Archbishop asked the students to change the mindsets of gender disparity and collaborate with each other to live as sisters and brothers of one family to bring all round development of our



country. Explaining the history of Raksha Bandhan, the Archbishop reminded the students that this festival has gone beyond ages, relatives, caste and religion to build a better world as the world becomes suspicious of the relationship with each other. On this auspicious occasion

Fr. Maria Stephen, the PRO of MP Catholic Church, congratulated the citizens of the country for the efforts to live brotherhood and he expressed the hope that these efforts will be continued irrespective of divisive forces in the country.

GENERAL PUBLIC TO ENTRY IN RAJ BHAVAN FROM SATURDAY

Bhopal: On the occasion of Independence Day, Raj Bhavan will open to the general public from August 13 to 16.

The Raj Bhavan will remain open from 4 pm to 9 pm for common people. Vehicles will not be allowed to enter the Raj Bhavan. Parking will be available outside the Raj Bhavan. By entering the Raj Bhavan from Gate No. 1, one can exit from Gate No. 2 via Rajpath, Banquet Hall, Durbar Hall and hospital.

It may be mentioned that on Independence Day - August 15, the entry of the general public will be restricted in the Raj Bhavan.

Community efforts quench thirst of tribal villagers in State

Rakesh Kumar Malviya | Satna

In March 2019, 30 people from Kelhura in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district came together under the leadership of Rekha Mawasi (48) to repair their village well, the closest source of water. After pouring in efforts for about 10 consecutive days, they could increase the depth of the well to 60 feet to avail of water, enough to quench their cattle's thirst.

"Ever since the well has been cleaned and deepened, the water crisis has been alleviated. The villagers do not need to travel two to 3 km to fetch water anymore," Rekha told 101Reporters.

Things were never the same in Majhgawan block, comprising 96 gram panchayats with one being Kelhura. Water crisis used to set in as summer months began in February. By April and May, acute shortage used to be the order of the day. In the absence of an alternative water source, the locals had no option but to dig small pits in wells or ponds to find water. The demand was so high that people would often queue up overnight, awaiting their turn.

Thirsty days
Satna district is abundantly covered by mountains and forests, with tribals making up almost 14 per cent of the population. Of them, Mawasi, Kol, Gond and Kharwar communities are in majority. Irrespective of which community they belong to, most locals suffer from malnutrition. According to the fifth report of the National Family Health Survey, 31 per cent of children in the district are underweight and 49 per cent stunted. Moreover, the region is deeply affected by cli-



mate change with heavy rainfall causing floods, alternating with drought-like situations. "We realised that it is meaningless to talk about food security without addressing the water woes here. All the community efforts would have been ineffective in four to six months due to water scarcity. To avoid this, we included water-related work in our project and discussed the problems in community meetings," said Prateek Kumar, district coordinator of Vikas Samvad Samiti, a social organisation working here on a community-based management model of food and nutrition security. Locals from Kelhura in Satna, Madhya Pradesh join hands to revive the local well to suffice for their water needs. In March 2019, 40 men and 30 women began to toil for six hours

every day to dig a pond. After working for three days straight, they hit water. The next couple of days were spent building a pit that was soon brimming with water.

Krishna Kumar Mishra, who works as a technical assistant in the Public Health Engineering Department in Majhgawan, recalled: "Earlier, there was no water shortage here. Even 10 to 15 years ago, water was available at 100-150ft below the ground but then we had to dig more than 300ft to avail of water through tube well boring."

Like Kelhura, situation was grim in Kishanpur of the same block. The three wells, one pond and two hand pumps in the village dominated by Mawasi tribals had all dried up and people were forced to travel two to 3 km to fetch water from the nearest well. The situation had been dire, so much so that many left their cattle to fend for themselves in the nearby forests. Being primarily responsible for fetching water, women and children were the most affected. While lack of water made the dependent chores difficult, the situation directly impacted the children's education as they lost valuable study hours.

While physical labour was poured in by the locals, Vikas Samvad Samiti supplied construction materials for deepening of wells.

The success of that endeavour encouraged other villages to pool together their efforts and solve the water crisis. According to Vikas Samvad, work has been undertaken to clean and deepen wells and to dig ponds in 25 villages in the area. In 2019 itself, four ponds were deepened in the villages of Kirhai Pokhari, Kanpur, Pado and Kishanpur. Additionally, four wells were rejuvenated in Tagarpar, Virgarha, Kishanpur and Kanpur.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Naya Kashmir focused on good governance, self-reliance

On August 5, 2019, a monumental and courageous decision was taken by the Parliament of India to revoke the temporary special status granted to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution. Article 370 was a psychological and cultural barrier used as an excuse to create an identity crisis among the youth to control them better. Under the shadow of militancy, this paradise was inaccessible and unexplored due to security reasons. Fast forward to this year, February alone witnessed 1.42 lakh tourist footfalls. The first six months of the year saw footfalls of six lakh people. The Srinagar airport is operating 90 flights daily in and out of Kashmir. The Amarnath Yatra of 2022 was the biggest congregation in the history of Kashmir. The government has launched the J&K Tourist Village Network under Mission Youth to boost adventure tourism in J&K. The small hamlets of the Valley have their own unique identity, geography, indigenous knowledge systems, cultural practices, and heritage that the world is yet to discover. The last three years have been the death of favouritism and nepotism in the Valley. Today, all people stand the same chance in the face of opportunities and employment, irrespective of caste, gender and past political affiliations. The J&K government fuelled on bribery and 'sifarish', and merit had little value. Today, the deserving candidates are running important offices and delivering results. In the last three years, the government has set up a transparent system for recruitment to various posts and departments. A record number of vacancies were advertised by Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board, Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, and other agencies.

FREEDOM FIGHTER, MASS LEADER SHAKIR ALI KHAN: ROLE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND HIS STRUGGLE LATER

Was jailed for movements before independence, his publications were shut down again and again, after independence four times won Assembly elections

Shams Ur Rehman Alavi

Shakir Ali Khan was one of the most important figures in the history of the region and played a leading role in awakening the masses through movements. In the decades prior to independence, his name had become synonymous with anti-imperialist and anti-feudal agitations. He was the strong voice for liberty and justice, fierce critic of the British government as well as local administration and fearlessly raised the issues of people of Bhopal.

Jailed several times, he emerged stronger after every arrest or internment. He brought out several newspapers--most of these publications were banned. But the rebellious leader could never be restrained. Not just pre-independence era, his role as a mass leader after independence is unrivalled, and he emerges as a unique personality on political horizon of the region in both halves of the last century.

Khan, who was born in Ashta (Sehore) that was then part of erstwhile princely state of Bhopal, was at the forefront of every major people's movement and his contribution is such that the history of the region and Shakir Ali Khan's personality can't be separated. He founded Anjuman Khuddam-e-Watan [Servants of India League] in Bhopal with the aim to improve the condition of people and give voice to the poor.

It was in the early part of 1930s that his political and social activities began. He started the Urdu newspaper Subah-e-Watan that finds mention in every history book of the region. An illustration criticising the government, led to his arrest, seizure of copies and

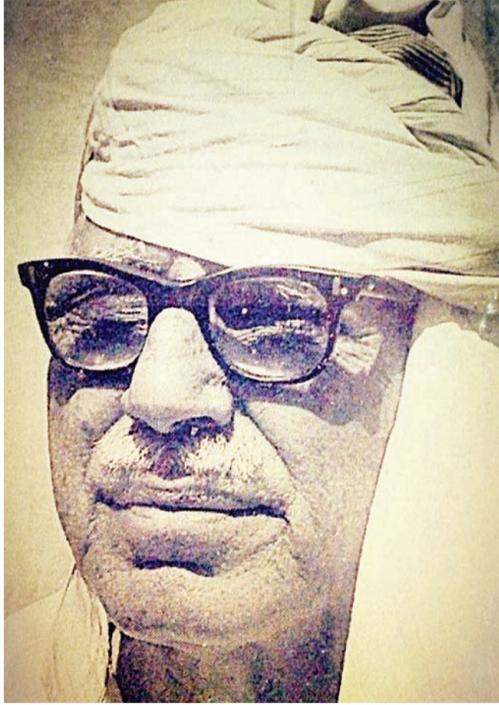
the paper was shut. He was jailed but later released due to great public support in his favour. Over the years Khan spoke for mill workers and labourers, fought for the rights of common man and was the driving force behind the 'mulki' movement. It is also a unique aspect that leaders of other factions and even Hindu Mahasabha came close to him. He was instrumental in forming the Praja Mandal, with the support of all leaders involved in political struggle from across the spectrum.

He was elected president of Praja Mandal as well as State People's Conference. He headed Mazdoor Sabha too. In 1940, when the polls were held, Praja Mandal had affiliated itself with the All India States People's Conference and won most of the seats it contested.

In this period too, he brought out many newspapers, most of them were forced to shut down. Shakir sahab was again arrested and was sentenced for two and half years. When Quit India movement began, he was already in jail. Yusuf Meherally, who coined the

slogan Quit India, came from Mumbai to meet him but was not allowed to meet Khan who was lodged in Sehore jail.

Either, it was ban on his papers or his arrest under Defence of India Rules, he remained undeterred. Once released, he threw himself totally into public movements and agitations. Finally, India attained independence. Henceforth, his second innings as a political leader began. It was in 1952 that Shakir Ali Khan formally joined the Communist party.



'HAD A REBELLIOUS STREAK FROM AN EARLY AGE'

"I was born in a family that didn't have financial resources and hence I had a rebellious streak in me, from an early age," he mentioned in an article published in Ayaz.

"I was forced to work in a 'karkhana' [book-binding workshop] when I was barely a teenager to eke out a living and help the family sustain itself. Then, I joined the armed forces, however, later I went to Calcutta and worked for the weekly Riyasat."

"I always stood by the poor, the underprivileged and the ordinary citizen", he writes. "I had leanings towards Communism and the Comrade Sajjad Zaheer, PC Joshi, Dr Ashraf gave a further push. In 1952, I formally joined Communist Party."

Khan had excellent relations with top national leaders and Congress politicians. He played an important role in Bhopal becoming the State capital. In fact, he was unanimously chosen to head the all party delegation for making Bhopal, the capital of MP. Besides, he was symbol of communal harmony and ensured that there was no trouble when refugees were arriving in Bhopal.

He was unquestionably

the tallest leader in Bhopal and after reorganisation of states when Madhya Pradesh was formed, he won in the first Assembly elections that were held in 1957. He defeated HMS' candidate Uddhodas Mehta. Under him, party also won maximum seats in civic body polls in Bhopal. Khan, meanwhile, again won from the same Bhopal constituency in 1962 though the margin was reduced. But later again, in 1967 and 1972, he easily won on the CPI ticket, defeating his rivals by big margins.

He was always accessible to people and lived a Spartan life. Though Communist party didn't have influence in other parts of the state, his presence kept the party alive in Bhopal and his voice was heard with rapt attention in the Assembly. After him, the party lost its foothold in Bhopal.

A fiery orator, he was lovingly called 'Sher-e-Bhopal'. Due to his consistent efforts, issues like unemployment, condition of labourers and mill workers, came under force. Factories and institutions were set up and employment of locals began. Sher-e-Bhopal Khan Shakir Ali Khan who always stood against powerful forces and championed the cause of poor and under-privileged, died on March 14, 1978.

The entire city shutdown on its own, tens of thousands took part in the last rites and later a memorial was built in his memory. Four decades have passed since his demise, however, he remains close to the hearts of people and his immense contribution that spans decades before and after independence, in the last century, is a glorious chapter in the history of the region.

international

TRUMP PREMISES SEARCHED FOR PAPERS RELATED TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Yashwant Raj | Washington

The FBI agents were looking for documents relating to nuclear weapons, among others, in the unprecedented search they conducted of the premises of former US President Donald Trump earlier this week in Florida, according to a stunning news report.

Neither the US Justice Department, which oversees the FBI, nor the investigating agency denied or confirmed the Thursday evening report by The Washington Post.

The newspaper sourced the report to multiple officials "all unidentified" involved in the investigation of the case that caused the search but gave no further details of the kind of nuclear weapons' documents sought by the agents.

Government officials are worried that these documents could fall in the wrong hands at Trump's Florida home that is also a club frequented by members.



Trump has held on to an undisclosed volume of documents from his presidency that he is required to have turned in for archiving by the government. The National Archive, which is the repository of these documents, has been following up with him and his aides for months.

The FBI agents searched Trump's home in an unprecedented first for a US President on Monday, according to a statement from Trump, who called it a "raid" in a political ploy to both discredit it and rile up his base with a familiar story of victimhood he had used against the Russia investigation and his double

impeachment. As allies and followers predictably poured scorn and outrage on the "raid", Trump and his lawyers did not tell them and the country the details that were available to them by way of the search warrant issued by a federal judge, which would have contained the grounds for it, or the itemized list of articles taken by the FBI "at least 15 boxes" that were duly provided to them. Trump was once again the hounded hero for his followers "including many lawmakers" who had no idea why his premises were searched.

US Attorney General Merrick Garland, who heads the Justice Department that has oversight of the FBI, called the former President's bluff.

Garland in rare public remarks said "the Justice Department doesn't comment on ongoing investigation" said the government has filed a motion in a Florida federal court asking for unsealing the search warrant and all related documents. He offered no details of the investigation.

MOSCOW URGES WEST TO FACILITATE RUSSIAN GRAIN EXPORT

Moscow: Moscow has asked Western countries to contribute to the full implementation of the Istanbul grain deal, which includes the export of Russian food and fertilisers.

The package of agreements not only allows grain export from three Ukrainian ports but also stipulates the promotion of Russian food and fertilisers on global markets, which is not implemented, said Ivan Nechaev, Deputy Director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry on Thursday. "We expect that all provisions of the food agreements will be implemented in full and Western countries will create the necessary conditions for access of Russian fertilisers and food to global markets," Nechaev told a briefing. On July 22, Russia and Ukraine separately signed a document in Istanbul with Turkey and the United Nations on grain and fertiliser exports from Ukraine and Russia. The shipment of Ukrainian grain from Black Sea ports started on August 1, Xinhua news agency reported. "Unfortunately, not a single vessel with (Ukrainian) grain has yet reached the shores of starving countries in Africa or South Asia. They went mainly to Western ports," the diplomat told reporters. He said the cargoes consist mainly of corn and sunflower oil, rather than wheat, which calls into question the sincerity of Western statements that global food security depends on the Istanbul deal.



Britain bakes in latest heatwave with drought looming for some areas

London | Agencies

Drought could be declared for some parts of England on Friday, as Britain bakes in another heatwave.

The National Drought Group, made up of government and agency officials, water companies and other groups such as the National Farmers' Union (NFU), is set to meet on Friday to discuss the prolonged dry weather, reports dpa news agency. There are expectations that drought could be declared for some parts of England such as southern and eastern areas, prompting action by agencies and water companies to manage water resources to ensure supplies and protect the environment. It comes as temperatures are set to climb to a peak of 36 degrees over the weekend in the areas covered by an amber warning for extreme heat issued by the Met Office for much of



England and Wales.

Outside the warning area, in northern England and Scotland, temperatures are expected to be in the high 20s or even low 30s in some spots. The vulnerable are likely to experience adverse health effects and the wider population could also be affected, delays to travel are possible and there is an increased risk of water accidents and fires as more people head to tourist spots. There is also a heat health alert in place from the UK Health Security Agency, with experts advising people to look out for those who are older or with existing health conditions, as well as young children.

Ukraine nuke plant not at immediate risk: IAEA

Kiev | Agencies

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said that there is "no immediate threat" to safety at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya nuclear plant despite continued shelling, but the situation could however change "at any moment".

While addressing the UN Security Council on Thursday, Grossi called on Moscow and Kiev to grant international experts access to the plant as quickly as possible, reports dpa news agency.

"I am personally ready to lead such a mission," he said. The US also called for an expert trip. "This visit cannot wait any longer," US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control Bonnie Jenkins told the council.

Russian UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia pledged Moscow's cooperation and said a visit should ideally take place before the end of August.

"We stand ready to provide all possible assistance to resolving organisational matters," Nebenzia said. After the meeting, he emphasised the fact that no country on the 15-member Council had blamed Russia for the attacks on the plant.

Just hours before the session convened at



Russia's request, the Zaporizhzhya plant in southern Ukraine, the biggest in Europe and among the world's largest, was attacked with heavy artillery and rocket launchers, according to a representative of the Russian occupying forces, Vladimir Rogov.

Rogov said firing had come from Ukrainian areas. The information could not be independently verified.

Johnson & Johnson to stop selling and making talc-based baby powder globally

London | Agencies

Johnson & Johnson is to stop selling and making talc-based baby powder globally, two years after it ended sales in the US and Canada, the media reported.

The healthcare firm has faced tens of thousands of lawsuits from consumers who allege its talc products, including the instantly recognisable brand of Johnson's baby powder, caused them to develop cancer.

"As part of a worldwide portfolio assessment, we have made the commercial decision to transition to an all cornstarch-based baby powder portfolio," the company said in a statement, The Guardian reported.

"As a result of this transition, talc-based Johnson's baby powder will be discontinued globally in 2023."

In 2020, the company announced it was to stop selling the talc-based version in North America because of a fall in demand after what it said was "misinformation" about the product's safety and legal challenges, The Guardian reported.



This followed J&J voluntarily recalling a batch of its baby powder after US Food and Drug Administration regulators found trace amounts of asbestos in the product. The compa-

ny said 33,000 bottles of talcum powder would be recalled "out of an abundance of caution".

J&J, which said that it already sold the cornstarch-based version of the

baby powder around the world, said it continued to maintain that the talc-based baby powder did not cause cancer, The Guardian reported.

"Our position on the safety of our cosmetic talc remains unchanged," the company said.

"We stand firmly behind decades of independent scientific analysis by medical experts around the world that confirm that talc-based Johnson's baby powder is safe, does not contain asbestos, and does not cause cancer." J&J, which is facing about 38,000 lawsuits, said the decision to stop selling the product was about "optimising" its product portfolio. "We continuously evaluate and optimise our portfolio to best position the business for long-term growth," the company said, The Guardian reported.

"This transition will help simplify our product offerings, deliver sustainable innovation, and meet the needs of our consumers, customers and evolving global trends."



IN A REVAMP, BJP NAMES NEW PRESIDENTS FOR MAHA, MUMBAI

In a major organisational revamp, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed former ministers Chandrashekhar Bawankule and Ashish Shelar as the chief of the party's Maharashtra and Mumbai units, respectively, here on Friday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bawankule and Shelar, both sitting legislators, replace Chandrakant Patil and Mangal Prabhat Lodha, who have been appointed as ministers in the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde earlier this week.

As per the directives of BJP President J.P. Nadda, both appointments have been made with immediate effect, said the announcement made by BJP national secretary Arun Singh.

The organisational revamp comes ahead of the upcoming civic polls, where the party hopes to give a tough challenge to the Maha Vikas Aghadi of Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress.

While Bawankule, an MLC, is a former energy minister and an OBC leader from Nagpur, Maratha leader from Mumbai Shelar is an MLA and former education minister with interests spawning from cricket to Bollywood. Both were ministers in



the erstwhile BJP-led government (2014-2019) of ex-CM Devendra Fadnis and are considered his close associates, known for taking regular potshots at the MVA constituents.

Though Bawankule, a farmer, was denied a ticket in the 2019 Assembly polls, he was elected to the legislative

council in June this year. For Shelar, a lawyer, the Mumbai BJP President stint will be a second one as the party now hopes to capture the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the country's richest civic body ruled by Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray since nearly

three decades, as part of its 'Mission 2022'.

The crucial reshuffle came barely six weeks after the MVA government was toppled following a revolt by the Shinde faction which later joined hands with the BJP to form the new regime in Maharashtra on June 30.

Alert patrolman averts major train disaster in Pune ghats

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An alert patrolman averted a possible railway mega-disaster with boulders breaking loose from the hills and hurtling on to the rail tracks in the western ghats near Lonavala, early on Friday, an official said.

According to the Central Railway (CR), some heavy boulders, measuring 1-2 metres, broke loose and crashed on the railway tracks between Nagnath-Palasdhari on the Lonavala-Karjat sector, around 1 a.m.

The on-duty patrolman Motiram Lobhi detected the falling boulders, mud and stones blocking the railway line near the tunnel No. 26, around 111 kms from Mumbai.

Acting quickly, he waved a red signal and stopped one train engine which was in the vicinity and took other necessary steps to protect the railway lines. Then Lobhi called the higher officials and informed them of the incident as heavy rains continued to lash the ghats region for the past three-four days.



A boulder train with equipment like stone-breakers, safety gear was promptly dispatched to the site to inspect and initiate the track clearance and restoration works in the wee hours.

Several of the large boulders were split and removed and after carrying out other necessary repair works, the

lines were finally restored for normal train operations around 8 a.m., said a CR Spokesperson.

Meanwhile, several long-distance trains on both sides of the Mumbai-Pune sector were diverted to the third line owing to the mishap and suffered delays of between 30-60 minutes.

Rupee, bond yield ends almost flat ahead on long weekend



"Looking at the long holiday ahead, there may have been lot of short term USD demand, pushing the USD-INR pair higher. Also, traders usually prefer to be squared during long holidays where liquidity has also been thin," said Kunal Sodhani, Vice President, Global Trading Centre, Shinhan Bank.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian rupee and the government bond yield ended almost flat on Friday as most traders remained on the sidelines ahead of the long weekend.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee ended at 79.66 against the US dollar, as against 79.64 at the close of the previous trading session.

The 10-year benchmark 6.54 per cent-2032 bond yield ended at 7.2894 per cent, marginally higher than 7.2673 per cent close on the previous trading session.

Indian financial markets will remain closed on August 15 and 16 on account of Independence Day and Parsi New Year, respectively.

Brent crude oil prices in the international market has risen sharply in last few days and by the close of market hours it was trading at \$100.15 per barrel. Meanwhile, at the weekly bond auction, the Reserve Bank of India raised Rs 28,000 crore through three bonds viz 7.38 per cent-2022, 7.54 per cent-2036, and 6.99 per cent-2051.

However, the central bank did not accept any bids in GOI FRB 2028 gilts.

Comedian Raju Srivastava's health deteriorates



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Friday, telephoned Raju Srivastava's wife Shikha to enquire about his health and offered support, the family sources added. Besides, Prime Minister Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have spoken to the family of Raju Srivastava to enquire about his condition. Srivastava, 59, was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Science Delhi on Wednesday after he suffered a heart attack while working out at gym here.

New Delhi/Mumbai | Agencies

Stand-up comedian Raju Srivastava's health is deteriorating even two days after he suffered heart-attack, sources in AIIMS, Delhi said on Friday.

A source in the hospital told reporter that Raju Srivastava is in serious condition in intensive care unit.

The source said that the comedian's condition is not stable and he is being kept under strict observation of doctors.

Raju Srivastava has not regained consciousness for the last 46 hours and doctors said that he has suffered brain damage, according to family

Reportedly, Srivastava was running on the treadmill when he suffered the cardiac arrest and was rushed to the AIIMS.

The comedian was rushed to catheterisation lab for emergency angiography. He was given cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) twice that day.

Raju Srivastava, who has been active in the entertainment industry since the late 1980s, received recognition after participating in the first season of the stand-up comedy show "The Great Indian Laughter Challenge" in 2005.

He is also the chairman of the UP Film Development Council.



Government of Maharashtra



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Directorate General of Information and Public Relations Government of Maharashtra

ROC-2022-23/No-5/C 2399



Angelina Jolie gets emotional on dropping daughter Zahara at college

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie had mixed emotions as another of her children stepped out of their comfort zone. The mother of six shared she was barely able to contain her tears while dropping her daughter Zahara off at Spelman College, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

The school's Vice President of Student Affairs Darryl Holloman shared pictures and a video of the mother and daughter

duo arriving on the school's move-in day. In the clip, the actress met with school president Dr. Helene Gayle and had a short interview.

Dressing down in an all-black outfit, Jolie said, "I'm going to start crying if I talk about today." The Academy Award-winning actress added, "I haven't started crying yet so..." Dr. Gayle joked that there will be "plenty of time to cry" at the upcoming event, which she teased is "purposefully to induce (tears) - bring it all out."

Jolie replied, "I know. I heard tomorrow night's the big night." She added, "I'm holding it together."

Someone behind the camera gushed over the ceremony, "It's a big deal." The 47-year-old then shared that she felt "so excited"

about becoming "a Spelman mom," to which the man who filmed it said, "Awesome."

In one of the snaps, meanwhile, Jolie and Zahara posed with Holloman in what looks like a dorm room. The trio were all smiles as Jolie and Holloman removed their masks, while the freshman college student still put her protective mask on.

Jolie opted for a black blouse with matching pants and platform heels. She had her long hair pulled in an updo, while carrying a beige bag. As for Zahara, she donned a green T-shirt with blue jeans.

Jolie first revealed Zahara's choice of college on July 31 by sharing pictures of the 17-year-old with her new friends.



My son 'looks better' in my clothes: Madonna

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop icon Madonna gushed over her son David Banda's "sense of style" during an appearance on a late-night talk show.

The 63-year-old said that her 16-year-old son, who has been wowing fans with his fashionable fits, "looks better in her clothes" than she does, reports [mirror.co.uk](#).

During her appearance on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, she said: "He can put on any outfit and look swag as you know what. It's really irritating. He wears my clothes and looks better in them. He can even wear a dress and look butch."

Madonna also gushed over her teenage son's talent and told Jimmy that David will be a guest on the show one day.

David is known for thinking outside the box when it comes to fashion choices.

He rocked a cheerleader outfit during an art event in February by completing the look with devil horns.



Hailey Bieber sets temperatures soaring

London | Agencies

Hailey Bieber appeared on Instagram on Thursday in stunning new images for Victoria's Secret. The 25-year-old beauty posed in lingerie and a bathing suit during a sizzling at-home photo shoot for the intimates brand, reports [dailymail.co.uk](#). She showed off her killer frame in several shots as she wrote in the caption, "shot at home for @victoriasecret. In the photo of the slide Mrs. Bieber sat in a textured chair wearing an ice blue bra and boy shorts set. The ultra-feminine look featured a crisscross design over the cups and was adorned with lace."

Sunlight poured in over Hailey, giving her an angelic glow as she held her hand over her eye in one outtake. She put on a busty display in the push-up undergarment as she was propped up with her legs crossed.

Another selection showed the stunner in a rich, purple-colored set as she stood tall with her hand draped over her head. Hailey flaunted an almond-shaped manicure with her nails coated in a pearly, glazy, nude color.

ANNE HECHHE 'NOT EXPECTED TO SURVIVE' AFTER SEVERE BRAIN INJURY

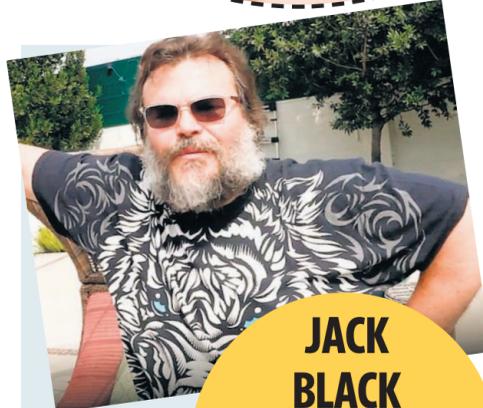
Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Anne Heche is "not expected to survive" after suffering a severe brain injury from a car crash, a representative for the actor confirmed. "We want to thank everyone for their kind wishes and prayers for Anne's recovery and thank the dedicated staff and wonderful nurses that cared for Anne at the Grossman Burn Center at West Hills hospital," the representative said in a statement, reports [Variety](#).

"Unfortunately, due to her accident, Anne Heche suffered a severe anoxic brain injury and remains in a coma, in critical condition. She is not expected to survive." Heche crashed her car into a house in Los Angeles' Mar Vista neighborhood last Friday, leaving her in a coma with severe burns. On Monday, her representatives said she was in "extreme critical condition".

The LAPD is currently investigating whether she was under the influence of drugs at the time of the crash, as narcotics were found in her bloodstream, but that could have been from drugs administered to her in the hospital.

Heche remains on life support as it "has long been her choice to donate her organs" and doctors are determining if any are viable.



JACK BLACK THINKS HE WAS A 'HORRIBLE' ACTOR

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jack Black, who is enjoying a decades-long career in Hollywood starring in hits such as 'School of Rock' and 'Nacho Libre', has said when he first started out he thought he was "horrible" until he saw the final cut in cinemas.

"I remember the first movie I ever did. I saw a rough cut, and I was like, "Oh, my god, I'm a bad actor. I'm horrible," he said, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

"And then, the editor just did some magic, and by the end, when it was released in theatres, I was like, "Oh, my god, I'm fantastic. I'm fantastic at acting!"

The 'Kung Fu Panda' star went on to explain that it was all "magic" done in post-production and claimed that editors don't get the credit they deserve.

He told Collider, "The editor trims away all the fat, which is a crucial job. People don't celebrate the editor!"

Meanwhile, Jack admitted that even though it would be "cool" to step behind the camera and become a director, he prefers to be the one "putting on a show."

He said, "At the end of the day, I like putting on a show. I don't know that I'd like to be a director."

"It would be cool to be a director, just because of the respect that you get. It would be cool to be Paul Thomas Anderson or Taika Waititi, where people look up to you and respect you. But I don't know if I really want the job."



'HOUSE OF THE DRAGON' IS COMPLEX SHAKESPEAREAN FAMILY DRAMA

Los Angeles | Agencies

As the upcoming series 'House of the Dragon' approaches its release date, its showrunners Ryan J. Condal and Miguel Sapochnik reveal that it is a "complex Shakespearean family drama."

The series is a gripping saga that takes the audience deep into the extraordinary world of Westeros and explores the Targaryen family - the all-powerful dragon riders who are the seemingly invincible rulers of the seven kingdoms.

Even though the series is a prequel to 'Game of Thrones', 'House of the Dragon' has an entirely new story

with new characters played by an impressive cast.

Chalking out the line of difference between the two shows, Ryan said in a statement that "Game of Thrones" was about multiple families going to war over justice and decency.

There was murder and betrayal, and all of those things exist here, but this is really about the dissolution of one family. That family happens to be the most powerful in the history of Westeros. The show will present bitter rivalries, jealousy, lust, the quest for power, and betrayal that will tear the Targaryens apart and threaten to destroy a dynasty that has ruled unchallenged for a century.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Julia Fox



100 days to go for FIFA World Cup

MESSI, NEYMAR JR, STERLING TO DROP MANY PRIZES FOR FANS AROUND THE WORLD

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With 100 days to go, excitement is building in the Middle East and around the world for the first-ever World Cup in Qatar.

Eight state-of-the-art stadiums will stage 64 matches between 20 November and 18 December as Qatar set to welcome the best international teams on the planet for the first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East and Arab world.

This edition of the FIFA World Cup will be transformative for Qatar and the entire region. One of the sponsors of the FIFA World Cup, Budweiser kicks off its global campaign by offering fans an opportunity to win a trip to the tournament.

The football greats like Messi, Neymar Jr. and Sterling are giving fans a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience the FIFA World Cup in person by dropping hundreds of red prize boxes in major cities that include exclusive merchandise, Messi signed memorabilia, access to BudX events, official football for the world



cup, headphones, and the grand prize of an all-expenses paid trip to the tournament.

"The 100-day countdown to the FIFA World Cup has officially begun, and Budweiser and I are celebrating by giving fans the chance to win once-in-a-lifetime trips to the tournament. Ever since playing my first games in Argentina, I've dreamt of the day that I would play in the World Cup, and now I'm so excited to help

Budweiser make fans' dreams of attending the World Cup come true," Lionel Messi stated.

Beginning August 12, coordinates leading to prize boxes will be revealed to fans who scanned exclusive Budweiser QR codes. These exclusive QR codes were shared on Budweiser and football icons' social accounts earlier this week, spurring curiosity and excitement from eager fans.

QR codes appeared in 5 marquee locations across the world, including Wembley in London and Andheri Sports Complex in Mumbai, to commemorate Messi, Neymar Jr. and Sterling journeys from eager amateurs to present-day superstars leading their teams out of the World Cup tunnel and into greatness.

In India, the brand is all set to host the game's biggest fans at an undisclosed location on August 13. Fans who signed up by scanning the QR code will receive coordinates to the location for a one-of-a-kind experience with the promise of special red prize boxes for 100 lucky football supporters.

FIFA CONFIRMS CHANGE TO WORLD CUP START DATE

Berlin: FIFA has confirmed the 2022 World Cup will start a day earlier than originally planned in order to allow hosts Qatar to face Ecuador in the opening match of the tournament.

Qatar had originally been set to open their first World Cup campaign on Monday (November 21), with Group A rivals Senegal and the Netherlands scheduled to get the competition under way earlier that day. But a unanimous decision taken by the Bureau of the FIFA Council means Felix Sanchez's Qatar side will now begin the tournament on Sunday November 20 at 7pm local time -- continuing the tradition of the home side playing first, reports DPA.

The opening ceremony has also been brought forward a day to November 20.

BCCI keeps window in March 2023 for inaugural women's IPL: Report

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The BCCI has tweaked its women's domestic calendar to set aside a window in March 2023 for the inaugural women's Indian Premier League.

The women's domestic season that generally stretches from November to April has been advanced by a month. The senior women's season for 2022-23 will now begin on October 11 with the T20 competition, and end in February next year with the inter-zonal one-day competition.

Notably, the BCCI has been organising the Women's T20 Challenge since 2018, with a gap in 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The three-team competition see the participation of many prominent players from outside India. However, the demand to have a bigger competition, along the lines of the men's IPL, has been growing for a while.

In February this year, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had said that the women's



IPL would be held in 2023.

Even multiple owners of IPL men's teams have publicly shown interest in owning a women's team as well. There have been murmurs of the existing IPL franchises being offered the first right of refusal when it comes to buying teams, they are yet to hear officially from the board, an ESPNcricinfo report said.

The BCCI is expected to discuss matters relating to the women's IPL at their annual general meeting in September and much of the

planning around the tournament will be around the sale of media rights. The enthusiasm for women's cricket in India and by extension the women's IPL are at an unprecedented high following the sequence of good performances by the Indian team in global events in recent years.

And, the recent silver-medal finish at the Commonwealth Games by Indian women's cricket team in Birmingham has only increased the demand.

Dwayne Bravo becomes first-ever cricketer to scalp 600 wickets in T20 cricket

London | Agencies

All-rounder Dwayne Bravo scripted history by becoming the first-ever cricketer to scalp 600 wickets in T20 cricket.

Bravo, 38, who is playing for Northern Superchargers in The Hundred men's tournament, achieved this unprecedented feat while playing against Oval Invincibles at The Oval on Thursday.

Before heading to the game which was his 545th match in the format, Bravo had 598 T20 wickets to his name. In the match against the Invincibles, Bravo picked up two wickets for 29 runs in his quota of bowling.

His 599th wicket was of South Africa batter Rilee Rossouw while Sam Curran was bowled by Bravo to become his 600th wicket in T20 cricket. Overall in his career, Bravo has picked up 78 wickets in 91 matches for West Indies in international cricket, 183 wickets in 161 matches in the Indian Premier League (IPL), 154 of which came while representing the Chennai Super Kings and 261 wickets coming



from other T20 matches. He is also the leading wicket-taker in the IPL apart from being the purple cap winner twice. Afghanistan leg-spin all-rounder Rashid Khan stands next on the list after Bravo with 466 wickets from 339 matches, followed by Bravo's countrymate, off-spinner Sunil Narine at 460 wickets.

Gauff fights her way into Canadian Open quarterfinal, Swiatek loses

New York: American teenager Coco Gauff will reach the highest ranking of her career after the 18-year-old defeated world number six Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-4) in the third round of the Canadian Open.

Gauff, who has never been ranked higher than her current spot of 11th, will overtake Great Britain's Emma Raducanu and likely Russian Daria Kasatkina to move up to ninth when the next rankings are released after prevailing in an exceptionally tight match against her Belarussian opponent, reports DPA. Incidentally, both Gauff and Sabalenka won

exactly 131 points each, posting identical success rates on service points (77-of-131) and return points (54-of-131).

Gauff will be considered one of the favourites in the tournament after world number one Iga Swiatek was sensationally eliminated by Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia. Swiatek was sloppy, committing nine double faults to just one from her opponent.

Two-time grand slam winner Simona Halep defeated rising Swiss talent Jil Teichmann 6-2, 7-5, utilising her dominant first serve to get the job done. Halep converted 82 per cent (32-of-39) of her accurate first serves into points, compared to just

59 per cent (29-of-49) for Teichmann.

World number seven Jessica Pegula had to save a match point on her way to a comeback 3-6, 6-0, 7-5 win against reigning Canadian Open champion Camila Giorgi, booking her quarter-final clash against Yulia Putintseva after the Kazakhstani beat Alison Riske 6-3, 7-5.

Third seed Maria Sakkari went down 1-6, 7-6 (11-9), 3-6 against 14th seed Karolina Pliskova, and the Czech will take on China's Qinwen Zheng after she eliminated Canada's last remaining contender Bianca Andreescu 7-5, 5-7, 6-2.

In the final match of the



Hockey forward Abhishek concedes team has to 'improve upon in training'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Young India men's hockey team forward Abhishek has conceded that the 0-7 thrashing at the hands of Australia in the final at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games was a lesson that the side had to "improve upon in training".

India's hopes of clinching their maiden CWG hockey gold remained a dream as they were soundly thrashed in the quadrennial showpiece, even as Australia went on to clinch a record-extending seventh CWG gold. "Even though the final against Australia did not go our way, we learned a lot from the match and have to improve upon in training," opined Abhishek on Friday.

The forward, who is set to turn 23 on August 15, started in all six games at the Commonwealth Games and remained an ever-present threat



inside the opposition's defence as India settled for silver. He believes the tournament was a big learning experience for him.

Abhishek made his senior India debut earlier this year when the team

travelled to South Africa for the FIH Pro League 2021/22 matches in February. He played 14 matches during the Pro League and displayed consistent performances, on the back of which he was selected in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games squad. Speaking about his experiences of performing on the big stage, Abhishek, who also scored two goals at the Games, said, "It was quite a memorable experience for me to perform on such a big stage. I learned a lot about my game during the tournament, and understood areas where I can improve upon. "Our chief coach Graham Reid had already told me before in training sessions to enjoy the games and to not take too much pressure. This advice really helped me at Commonwealth Games 2022 as I was able to focus on my natural game and was able to play freely," Abhishek added.

India need to decide between Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik: Saba Karim

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Saba Karim feels that the side has to decide between keeping either of Rishabh Pant or Dinesh Karthik in the playing eleven.

With the Asia Cup starting from August 27 in the UAE, the tournament presents a chance for India to sort out their playing eleven composition ahead of Men's T20 World Cup in Australia in October-November. Since his comeback in T20I cricket in June, Karthik has been bringing out the required finishing acts and effectively sealing the finisher spot in the Indian team. A 27-ball 55 on a tough pitch against South Africa at Rajkot and an unbeaten 19-ball 41 on a tricky pitch against West Indies at



Trinidad have been some examples of Karthik's finishing role benefitting India in recent times.

On the other hand, Pant has had a mixed run apart from being tried as an opener

twice against England. Since the T20I series against South Africa in June, where he was the stand-in skipper, Pant's highest score has been 44 in fourth T20I against West Indies at Lauderhill, USA.

First time in 139 year, 2023 Ashes set to be moved forward: Report

London | Agencies

In an unprecedented first in 139 years of the Ashes, next summer's series will not feature a Test in August, which could render more England players available for the domestic Hundred tournament.

Some of England's top cricketers such as Jonny Bairstow and Test skipper Ben Stokes have withdrawn from the Hundred this year because of the busy schedule, which has seen the hosts play four back-to-back Tests against New Zealand and India and are now set to play a three-match series against South Africa beginning August 17.

A report in the Daily Mail said on Friday that the 2023 Ashes are set to be moved forward and will not feature a Test in August, adding that, "such scheduling will further antagonise traditional supporters of the game, who are worried about its future amid a glut of Twenty20 leagues springing up around the globe", but at the same time will free up more top-notch players for the Hundred tournament.

Australia had thrashed England 4-0 in the 2021/22 Ashes series Down Under, with several heads rolling following the debacle, including that of skipper Joe Root, who



stepped down following the Ashes and the 1-0 Test series loss to the West Indies.

The upcoming Ashes series will see new England skipper Ben Stokes leading his side for the first time in one of the fiercest global cricketing rivalries.

The report added that moving the Ashes to an earlier slot could become a "regular occurrence under the next Future Tours Programme (FTP), which runs from 2024, with a Hundred window each year".

ULTIMATE KHO KHO: 'DESI' SPORT IN A NEW PLATTER SET TO START FROM AUGUST 14

Pune | Agencies

India is set to witness the best of Kho-Kho when the inaugural edition of the Ultimate Kho Kho takes off on August 14 Sunday at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, in Pune.

All the six franchises-Chennai Quick Guns, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Khiladis, Odisha Juggernauts, Rajasthan Warriors, and Telugu Yoddhas-are ready to hit the mat and showcase Kho-Kho in a never seen before modern avatar.

Representing courage, accuracy and speed, the Telugu Yoddhas, GMR Sports' franchise for the inaugural Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) League, have unveiled their new jersey on Friday. After successfully launching their logo which represents their warrior spirit of Guts & Glory, the team has followed it up with similar hues in the newly launched jersey.

The jersey is a bold mix of blue and gold with a dash of red in between representing courage, accuracy, and speed. The jersey has been beautifully complimented with the



dash of red colour representing courage and bravery.

Ahead of their campaigns, captains, key players, and coaches of all the six teams shed light on their preparations and targets in a press conference organized here on Friday. League Commissioner and CEO of Ultimate Kho Kho, Tenzing Niyogi was also present on the occasion along with Season 1 sports pre-

senter and Bollywood actor Aparshakti Khurana, who will be the marquee presenter of the league which will be telecast on Sony Sports Network, the official broadcaster of the league.

"This is an extremely special moment for all of us here as Kho-Kho is intrinsically entrenched in every Indian's heart and soul. This sport is played in every school and

has extreme nostalgic value. We are extremely proud to bring this 'mitti ka khe' in a completely new avatar to the world and these players today are all set to take off the 'sapon ki udaan' while every household gets ready to witness the sporting brilliance that Ultimate Kho Kho envisions to bring," said Niyogi.

Also in attendance were captains and key players, Amit Patil and Mahesh Shinde (Chennai Quick Guns), Ranjan Shetty and Aniket Pote (Gujarat Giants), Vijay Hajare and Rajesh Kumar (Mumbai Khiladis), Dipesh More and Milind Chavarekar (Odisha Juggernauts), Mahajar Jamadar and Akshay Ganpule (Rajasthan Warriors), and Prajwal KH and Pratik Waikar (Telugu Yoddhas) along with coaches Manohara CA (Chennai Quick Guns), Sanjeev Sharma (Gujarat Giants), Rajendra Saptre (Mumbai Khiladis), Ashwani Kumar Sharma (Odisha juggernauts), Narendra Kunder (Rajasthan Warriors) and Sumit Bhatia (Telugu Yoddhas) 143 players were picked from the draft that took place last month.

Kiara Advani teases Siddharth Malhotra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kiara Advani and Siddharth Malhotra are one of the industry's most adored couples. The couple is rumoured to be dating, but they have always been tight-lipped about their alleged relationship. Kiara and Siddharth, who co-starred in the film *Shershaah*, maintained their romance after the film ended. They are still seen together at parties and award shows, but they are not ready to confirm their relationship. Kiara, on the other hand, recently posted a cryptic message on social media about her rumoured boyfriend Siddharth.

Taking to her Instagram story, the *Jugjugg Jeeyo* actress wrote: "@sidmalhotra Tu baatein toh badi badi karta tha, par tu bhi na 'Out of sight, Out of mind' type ka banda nikla!" While netizens have been wondering what the two are up to, we have decoded it for you as the actress celebrates *Shershaah*'s one-year anniversary. Last year on this day, Siddharth and Kiara's *Shershaah* premiered. It's worth noting that the dialogue is from *Shershaah*, in which the Student Of The Year actor, Vikram Batra, reads Kiara's (Dimple Cheema) letter.

Adding Kiara's story to his social media, Siddharth replied by writing another dialogue from the flick. The actor added "Oye Sardarni, mujhe na sab yaad hai, bhul hi nahi sakta. Aaj 6 baje milne aajaunga" Kiara and Siddharth will come live today at 6 in the evening to celebrate 1 year of *Shershaah*.



ALI FAZAL AND RICHA TO HAVE A SPECIAL SANGEET FUCTION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha are one of Bollywood's most popular couples. They are currently making headlines because the couple is finally getting married this year. The couple had planned to marry in 2020, but the pandemic intervened.

However, as per recent reports, Richa and Ali will finish their filming schedules by September 25th, just in time for their wedding.

According to a leading news outlet, Ali and Richa will have a unique sangeet ceremony, with the couple performing five key functions.

There's a sangeet, a wedding ceremony with traditional rituals, which would be more of an intimate family affair, and three receptions - one smaller intimate one with the family, in Mumbai, one bigger party for all industry friends, and one in Delhi, as Richa's extended family is there," said the report.

Their sangeet will be extra special, with some special performances. The couple is also still talking to people, and their sangeet ceremony will not be like other Bollywood celebrity sangeets.

"Both Ali and Richa will wrap up all pending shoots till September 25 and their respective teams also have been told to ensure they don't take any more work commitments post that," said the report.

The couple is also said to have invited some of their closest friends and industry figures. Ali and Richa met while filming *Fukrey* (2013), dated for a while, and then Ali proposed to Chadha on her birthday in December 2019, while on vacation in the Maldives. On the professional front, Richa and Ali will soon be seen on-screen together in *Fukrey 3*.



SARA ALI KHAN PENS A SWEET NOTE FOR HERSELF

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Friday was Sara Ali Khan's birthday. She is one of the industry's most promising actresses. She has appeared in films such as *Love Aaj Kal*, *Atrangi Re*, *Simmba*, and others. She has a large social media fan base and occasionally shares glimpses of her personal and professional lives on social media. Sara wrote a sweet note to herself for her birthday.

Taking to her IG account Sara uploaded a picture of herself on her story and wrote "Happy Birthday Sara ?? always love yourself and when you forget workout for your body, soul and mind"

Meanwhile, Sara Ali Khan is currently collaborating with Vikrant Massey on Pawan Kripalani's *Gaslight*. In addition, she will share the screen for the first time with Vicky Kaushal in Laxman Utekar's untitled film.

Kareena's advice to mother to be Alia bhatt, "she should experience this on her own"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor are one of the most adorable couples of the industry. All eyes are on them because this is the year of new beginnings for these two. They first married after nearly 5 years of dating, and now they are all set to become parents. Alia surprised everyone when she announced her pregnancy, and fans have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of Junior Kapoor ever since. Kareena Kapoor Khan, who is close to both Alia and Ranbir, has spoken out about the advice she wishes to give them. Kareena Kapoor Khan expressed happiness for Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's pregnancy when asked about it. She also expressed her joy for Alia and stated that it is the greatest joy to celebrate your love. When asked about Alia, Kareena added, "She probably doesn't need any advice." Bebo joked that she, too, does not listen to parental advice, "I follow what I think is right and I think mothers know best eventually. So she is also going to have this journey and she should experience this on her own. Ranbir is probably...he will give everyone advice, what advice would he need from anyone? Ranbir is just the best and he knows that 'I am just the best', he has that attitude and we both are quite similar like that."



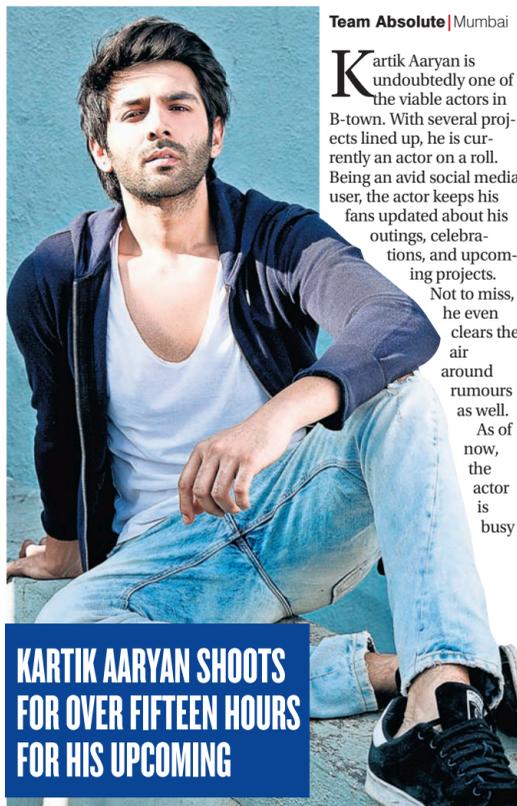
Urvashi responds to Rishabh Pant's 'peeche chhor de' jibe, says 'chotu bhaiya should play bat ball'

Urvashi Rautela is currently grabbing headlines for a recent interview, in which she claimed that a person, whom she only identified as 'RP', once waited for hours at a hotel lobby to meet her. After this clip from that interview surfaced online, Rishabh Pant seemingly took a jibe at her on social media, but deleted the post later.

Rishabh took to his Instagram story and posted, "It's funny how people lie in interviews just for some meager popularity and for hitting the headlines. Sad how some people are so thirsty for fame and name. May God bless them"

"#merapich achorhoBehen #thutkibilimithothai." Though he later deleted this post, Urvashi Rautela decided to break silence and wrote, "Chotu bhaiya should play bat ball ?? . Main koyi munnhi nahi hoon badnam hone with young kiddo darling tere liyee #Rakshabandhan Mubarak ho #RPChotuBhaiyya #Cougarhunter #donttakeadvantageofasilentgirl #love #UrvashiRautela #URI."

For the unversed, in the interview, Urvashi said, "I was shooting in New Delhi and I arrived at night. Quickly I had to get ready because actresses need more time to get ready. So, Mr RP came to the hotel lobby and wanted to meet. Ten hours passed and I fell asleep. I couldn't attend any calls and when I woke up I saw 16-17 missed calls and I felt so bad that someone was waiting for me and I couldn't meet them. I told him we'll meet when you come to Mumbai. We met in Mumbai but a huge drama happened with the paps and all". For those who are unaware, Urvashi and Rishabh were linked once after the actress claimed that she was dating the cricketer. Pant had denied her statement and reportedly blocked her on social media.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kartik Aaryan is undoubtedly one of the viable actors in B-town. With several projects lined up, he is currently an actor on a roll. Being an avid social media user, the actor keeps his fans updated about his outings, celebrations, and upcoming projects.

Not to miss, he even clears the air around rumours as well.

As of now, the actor is busy

KARTIK AARYAN SHOOTS FOR OVER FIFTEEN HOURS FOR HIS UPCOMING

shooting for his much-talked project *Shahzada*. In a social media post, he revealed shooting for fifteen hours and over. While sharing the mirror selfie, the *Pyar Ka PUNCHAMA* actor wrote, "#Shehzada...Subah se le kar raat tak shoot...15 hours and counting."

Talking about *Shehzada*, it is a remake of the acclaimed Telugu film *Vaikunthapuramulo* starring Allu Arjun and Pooja Hegde. The film also marks Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon's second collaboration after *Luka Chuppi* and will hit the theatres on February 10 next year.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kartik has *SatyaPrem Ki Katha* with Kiara Advani in his kitty. He also has films like *Freddy*, *Captain India*, and the yet-to-be-titled film with Kabir Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala in his pipeline. If reports are to be believed, he has been zeroed down for lead in the *Tezaab* remake.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Niharika Gandhi