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Rape to include marital rape for purpose of MTP Act: Supreme Court

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that all women, including the unmarried, are entitled to safe and legal abortion, and also the meaning of rape must be understood as including marital rape, solely for the purposes of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act and any rules and regulations framed there under. And, married women may also form part of the class of survivors of sexual assault or rape, it added.

A bench, headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, said it is not inconceivable that married women become pregnant as a result of their husbands having "raped" them and the nature of sexual violence and the contours of consent do not undergo a transformation when one decides to marry.

"The institution of marriage does not influence the answer to the question of whether a woman has consented to sexual relations. If the woman is in an abusive relationship, she may face great difficulty in accessing medical resources or consulting doctors," it added.

The bench, also comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and J.B. Pardiwala, said the state has a positive obligation under Article 21 of the Constitution to protect the right to health, and particularly reproductive health of individuals.

"Married women may also form part of the class of survivors of sexual assault or rape... A woman may become pregnant as a result of non-consensual sexual intercourse performed upon her husband. We would be remiss in not recognising that intimate partner violence is a reality and can take the form of rape," said Justice Chandrachud, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench.

"The right of every woman to make reproductive choices without undue interference from the state is central to the idea of human dignity. Deprivation of access to reproductive healthcare or emotional and physical wellbeing also injures the dignity of women," it added.

Justice Chandrachud said if women with unwanted pregnancies are forced to carry their pregnancies to term, the state would be stripping them of the right to determine the immediate and long-term path their lives would take.

"The rights of reproductive autonomy, dignity, and privacy under Article 21 give an unmarried woman the right of choice on whether or not to bear a child, on a similar footing of a married woman, "it added.

On July 21, the top court had allowed a 25-year-old to abort her 24-week pregnancy arising out of a consensual relationship. In the judgment, the top court dealt with various aspects of the issue, including forced pregnancy. The woman had moved challenged the Delhi High Court, which refused to entertain her request to terminate her 24-week foetus, under Rule 3B, dealing with categories of women entitled to abortion, of the MTP Rules, 2003.

ADULTERY CREATES PAIN IN FAMILY

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that adultery creates pain in the family and the armed forces should have disciplinary proceedings against their officers for the offence.

A five-judge bench, headed by Justice K.M. Joseph, said adultery can shake discipline, which is of paramount importance, in the armed forces, while adding that family is the unit of the society and everybody is dependent on it. The bench made these observations after Additional Solicitor General Madhavi Divan, representing the Centre, submitted that a plea seeking clarification of the 2018 judgment has been filed. In 2018, the top court, on a plea filed by NRI Joseph Shine, struck down Section 497 of the IPC, dealing with the offence of adultery, holding it unconstitutional.

During the hearing on Thursday, the top court said the 2018 verdict cannot be referred to halt disciplinary proceedings against guilty.The top court was informed that disciplinary actions taken in the Army are gender neutral.

The bench said: "Adultery creates pain in a family. We have held so many sessions as judges in the high courts and seen so many families torn."

The bench further added that armed forces must have some kind of assurance that action will be taken and it should not be the scenario that by citing Joseph Shine (2018 judgment), it is claimed that nothing can be done, as it was informed that the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) quashed disciplinary proceedings against certain army personnel charged with adultery, citing the judgement. The bench told the Centre's counsel that it can challenge the individual orders of the AFT. After hearing arguments, the top court has scheduled the matter for further hearing on December 6.

Won't contest Cong prez poll, Sonia Gandhi to decide Raj CM issue: Gehlot

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After over an hour-long meeting with Sonia Gandhi at her residence here, Ashok Gehlot said that he will not contest the Congress presidential poll and the issue of Rajasthan chief ministership will be decided by her.

Gehlot said, "In this environment I don't want to contest and the issue of chief ministership will be decided by the party high command. Whether I remain the CM will be decided by Madam (Sonia Gandhi)... I am a loyal soldier of the Congress from Indiraji's time. I have expressed regret and sadness over whatever happened in Jaipur."

Earlier, while entering Sonia Gandhi's residence at 10 Janpath, Gehlot was seen carrying a set of papers. On one of the papers, it was written -- "Whatever has happened is sad and I am also hurt."

"I have always acted as a loyal soldier of the party. The incident that happened on the day of the legislature party meeting has left everyone shaken. It gave a message as if I wanted to continue as the Chief Minister, so I apologised to her," Gehlot said after the meeting.

The meeting came a day ahead of the last date of nomination for the Congress presidential poll. Ahead of Thursday's meeting, Sonia Gandhi's emissary Mukul Wasnik had met Gehlot.

Congress' initial plan was to field Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for the top party post, but the high-octane drama in Jaipur has miffed the Gandhis.

DIGVIJAYA FINALLY JOINS RACE FOR AICC CHIEF

Meanwhile, senior leader Digvijaya Singh to file nomination for the post of Congress president for which election is scheduled to be held on October 17.Sources close to Singh said that the decision to contest the polls was his personal one, and none from the Gandhi family asked him to do so.

The Madhya Pradesh Congress seems to have united to support Digvijaya Singh. More importantly, hours after Digvijaya Singh took the nomination form from the party headquarters in New Delhi and announced that he would file his nomination for the AICC president's election, state Congress head and ex-chief minister Kamal Nath called a meeting of Congress leaders at his residence in Bhopal and asked them to reach Delhi to back Digvijaya Singh.

MHA orders sealing of three premises linked to PFI in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After banning the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has now ordered the sealing of three premises in Delhi being operated by the extremist organisation.

In a notification issued on Thursday, the Home Ministry has directed Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora to seal the three premises where illegal activities were being carried out by the PFI.

The three premises include F-30/1B, Ground Floor, Zaid Apartment, near Royal Hotel, Shaheen Bagh, Delhi; N-44A-1, Hilal House, Ground Floor, Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar, Delhi; B-27/2 3rd Floor Thokkar No 7 Jamia Nagar, Delhi.

According to information, the process of freezing the bank accounts of PFI and its associates in Delhi has also been started.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Home Ministry banned the PFI for 5 years, saying that this organisation has links with global terrorist organisations and is involved in many terror cases.

Strengthening India's military prowess govt's top priority: Rajnath Singh

Team Absolute | Itanagar

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that strengthening India's military prowess has been the Narendra Modi government's top priority ever since it came to power since 2014, with focus on equipping the services with state-of-the-art weapons and equipment through an 'Aatmanirbhar' defence industry.

Terming the armed forces as the very reason behind the strength and confidence of the nation, he said that India's "international image has completely been transformed due to the bold decisions taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as the gallant deeds of the armed forces".

"There was a time when India wasn't taken seriously on international platforms. Due to the efforts of our Prime Minister, today we have become an assertor from a mere observer. The Indian military is respected all over the globe. Our friendly foreign countries have trust in them. It is one of the major reasons India has emerged as a powerful nation. Today, we are the fifth largest economy in the world, strongly moving forward," he said while addressing armed forces personnel in Assam's Tezpur.

Rajnath Singh said that the government's efforts have resulted in making a strong military which is fully capable of protecting the nation from all kinds of threats. He lauded the armed forces for instilling a sense of national pride and patriotism among the people, especially the youth, by displaying their strength and courage from time to time.

He commended the dedication and sacrifice of the soldiers posted at the borders, bravely protecting the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country.

Defence spokesman Lt. Col. Manish Shrivastava said that the Defence Minister, accompanied by Army chief Gen Manoj Pande earlier on Thursday visited Anini village in Dibang valley of Arunachal Pradesh.

Rajnath Singh made an on-the-ground assessment of defence preparedness along the Line of Actual Control by taking stock of the entire gamut of security-related aspects.

Another Defence spokesman Lt. Col. A. S. Walia said that Singh complimented the soldiers for high standards of professionalism and dedication towards duty while safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation braving the harsh weather conditions and inhospitable terrain.

TERRORIST ARRESTED FROM J&K'S SRINAGAR

Srinagar: One terrorist belonging to Ansar Gazwat-ul-Hind (AGH) terror outfit has been arrested in a joint operation by the police and the army from central Kashmir's Srinagar district, officials said on Thursday.

"One categorised terrorist of AGH terror outfit namely Junaid Ahmad Parray of Nawakadal arrested by a joint team of Srinagar Police and 24 RR from Palpora, Srinagar," police said.

Arms and ammunition including one pistol, magazine, and live rounds have been recovered. Police have registered a case under sections of UAPA. Investigation is underway.

'HE IS 70 YEARS, IN AN OVERCROWDED PRISON': SC ON GAUTAM NAVLAKHA PLEA FOR HOUSE ARREST

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Taloja jail Superintendent to immediately shift Gautam Navlakha, jailed in Bhima-Koregaon case, to Mumbai's Jaslok hospital for treatment.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Navlakha, submitted that his client is suffering from ailments. A bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy told the Centre's counsel: "He is 70 years and an undertrial in an overcrowded prison... Nature of crime is serious, but it is alleged not proved.... You want the man to die in jail?"

Centre's counsel replied "No, not all" and submitted that a letter of adjournment was circulated. The bench sought the presence of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and passed over the matter.

After Mehta's arrival in the court, Justice Joseph told him: "Your humaneness is put to test." He replied: "My concern for national integration is put to test", and added that the petitioner is challenging an April order now, therefore he cannot say the other side should not get an opportunity to file a reply.

Mehta, while opposing Navlakha's house arrest plea, vehemently argued that Navlakha has skin allergy, dental problems, and colonoscopy which are not serious ailments to shift him to house arrest.

He said he did not press the prayer for colonoscopy before the trial court and added that he can visit a dental surgeon of his choice daily. He added that if Navlakha has health problems, then he should be in a hospital and not at his sister's house. Sibal replied that his client is over 70 years old and could he be a threat? Mehta pointed out at the possibility of destruction of evidence, if Navlakha's house arrest is allowed and added that he is facing charges under the UAPA for supporting Maoist activities. "This is an abuse of the process of law. I appeal to your lordships' conscience," said Mehta.

After hearing detailed arguments, the top court directed the Superintendent of Taloja Jail to take Navlakha to Mumbai's Jaslok hospital for treatment and required medical check-up and clarified that he remains in police custody.

NGT seeks to reduce pollution in Ganga from tanneries in realistic manner

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board to take remedial measures to prevent pollution in the Ganga River from tanneries in a "realistic manner".

"UPPCB needs to monitor remedial measures to prevent pollution from tanneries in a realistic manner, issuing guidelines, roster operations, sealing of drums/pedals, cutting down production capacities, closing the tanneries till compliance is achieved," a bench headed by NGT Chairperson, Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel (retd), said in a recent order.

"We may consider the situation of pollution of River Ganga due to untreated/partially treated effluents (sewage and industrial) being discharged thorough irrigation canal at Jajmau," the order said.

The bench, also comprising Judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal, and Expert members Prof A Senthil Vel and Dr Afroz Ahmad was dealing a matter with two issues of water pollution in Jajmau, an industrial suburb on the banks of Ganga. The first issue relates to the chromium dumpings at Rania, Kanpur Dehat and Rakhi Mandi, Kanpur Nagar which have been in existence since 1976 and contaminating ground water adversely affecting their health and depriving the inhabitants of access to drinking water.

Another issue is continuing water pollution by tanneries discharging untreated industrial effluents, containing toxic chromium into the irrigation canal through an inadequately functioning effluent treatment plant at Jajmau.

The green court note that, on both the issues, some progress has been achieved but still chromium dump remains and effluent continues to be let out through drains.

"Thus, it is clear that health risk remains on account of delayed inaction. UPPCB with other concerned agencies have to ensure that no waste is lying at any other site," the order said.

The green court also directed the state pollution body and the Central Pollution Control Board to immediately find out suitability of setting up of pilot plant model to treat chromium by way of setting up of a filtration process and application of biotechnology to remove chromium as being done at other places for removal of arsenic/fluoride within three months.

RJD LEADER CLAIMS TEJASHWI WILL BECOME CHIEF MINISTER IN 2023

Team Absolute | Patna

Rashtriya Janata Dal state president Jagadanand Singh on Thursday claimed that Tejashwi Yadav will become the chief minister in 2023 and Nitish Kumar will go to the Centre.

Jagadanand Singh, who is said to be very close to former CM Lalu Prasad, said: "Whatever Nitish Kumar had announced, I believe that he will fight for the country after the end of 2022 and will hand over the future of Bihar to Tejashwi Yadav in 2023."

"The post of chief minister is highest in the state and Tejashwi will take it further. The country is waiting for Nitish Kumar and the people of Bihar are waiting for Tejashwi Yadav," Singh said.

Lalu Prasad had said the same thing in Delhi on Tuesday. He said that he wants to see Tejashwi Yadav as the chief minister of Bihar.

Following the statement of Jagadanand Singh, the dealings between Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav are coming into the public domain. The RJD has 79 MLAs and the JD-U 45.

Earlier on Tuesday, Nitish Kumar, during a state government event, pronounced the post of chief minister for Tejashwi Yadav. It has led to speculation whether it was a slip of the tongue by Nitish Kumar or he deliberately said it.

Now, it will be interesting to see how the JD-U reacts to it.

Surat will soon be known as 'Electric Vehicle city', says PM

Surat | Agencies

Surat, which has multiple identities like 'Sonani Murat', 'Textile city', 'Diamond City', 'Setu City' will soon have another, Electric Vehicle city, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Thursday.

While addressing a gathering here, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the city which already has many titles will soon be called 'Electric Vehicle city', given the increasing electric vehicles numbers and public charging stations.

He dedicated 25 public charging stations and laid foundation stones for 24 more and hoped that the number would increase to 500.

During his two-day visit from Thursday, Modi is scheduled to dedicate and lay foundations stones for projects worth thousands of crores. It also includes the dream city project of diamond sector, dedicated Sewerage Treatment plant besides others.

He promised to start a train from Surat to Kashi with a cargo capacity upto one tonne which will help textile industries to transport textile cargos to East Uttar Pradesh. Currently, cargoes are transported through roads.

The Centre has approved a power loom mega cluster project for Surat. Once it gets functional, high speed power looms will be operational reducing the noise pollution, said the Prime Minister.

He also promised to increase the fleet in the Ro-Ro ferry service connecting Saurashtra and South Gujarat through Ghogha - Hazira routes

PM TO OPEN AIIMS ON OCT 5

Ahead of the Assembly elections in BJP-ruled Himachal Pradesh scheduled later this year , Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the state on October 5 to inaugurate an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bilaspur.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who reviewed the arrangements relating to the Prime Minister's visit on Thursday, issued directions to the concerned officials to make the visit memorable.

The CM said that other than AIIMS, the Prime Minister will also inaugurate the Hydro Engineering College at Bandla in Bilaspur.

He would also lay foundation stones for a Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh and a four-lane project from Pinjore to Nalagarh.

AKHILESH BECOMES SP PRESIDENT FOR THIRD TIME

Lucknow: Akhilesh Yadav was on Thursday unanimously elected as the Samajwadi Party President for the third consecutive term.

Samajwadi Party's secretary general Prof Ram Gopal Yadav said Akhilesh Yadav was the only candidate for the post.

Akhilesh became SP President for the first time at an emergency meeting of the party in January 2017 when he took over the reins of the party from his father Mulayam Singh Yadav.In the same year, he got a second term at the party's national convention in Agra.Akhilesh's term as party president will be for five years.

WBSSC scam: Justice Gangopadhyay receives solidarity message from fellow judge

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay of the Calcutta High Court, known for his consecutive strong observations and judgement in the multi-crore teachers' recruitment scam, has now received a message of solidarity from another judge in the same court.

On Wednesday, Justice Biswajit Basu of the Calcutta High Court, who is also handling education-related cases, said in the court that he has full support towards the manner in which Justice Gangopadhyay has taken a stand against issues of corruption.

"I wish to be a part in Justice Gangopadhyay's battle against corruption," he said.

While making this statement, Justice Basu also referred to reports of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on progress of its investigation in the WBSSC scam where the central agency detailed how marks were manipulated in the server of the commission to make

room for ineligible candidates depriving the eligible ones.

"The CBI report said as many as 8,163 recruitments were made illegally. I was shocked by this. At the same time, I feel that this is the tip of the iceberg. More are yet to be revealed," he said.

Justice Basu also expressed unanimity with Justice Gangopadhyay's observation that the services of those recruited illegally should be terminated to make room for eligible ones.

"There is a need to create a new penal. The scamsters will be punished by the court," he said.

Justice Basu also questioned how a teacher who secured his appointment illegally can contribute in showing the right direction to the society.

"In the coming days, the students will raise questions on the qualification and credibility of their teachers. But the judicial system is determined to clean up the garbage of the society," Justice Basu said.On Wednesday, the CBI submitted its progress reports at the bench of Justice Gangopadhyay, where it detailed on how lower marks ranging from "zero to five" were changed to higher marks ranging from "50 to 53" in the commission's server.

The CBI sleuths also maintained how some candidates, who even submitted blank answer-sheets or with answers to only a couple of questions, were granted higher marks of above 50 with the clear intention of accommodating ineligible candidates against some consideration.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS BLOCKING OF 67 PORN SITES

New Delhi: The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has ordered blocking of 67 pornographic websites, according to sources. In an e-mail sent by the Department of Telecom (DoT) to internet service providers, blocking of 63 such websites was ordered, official sources said. In addition to this, they were asked to block four more websites on the basis of the order of the Uttarakhand High Court and directions issued by the Ministry of Electronics and IT. The government mentioned that the ban has been imposed on these websites for violating the new IT rules issued in 2021.

WHATSAPP PRIVACY POLICY

New data protection Bill is underway, Centre tells Supreme Court

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The contentious Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill 2019 has been withdrawn and a comprehensive data protection Bill is being prepared, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Thursday.

The submission by the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, on behalf of the Centre, came during a hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the instant messaging app WhatsApp's privacy policy.

"Indian users ought not to be disadvantaged qua users in the global jurisdiction because privacy now is a fundamental right and has global implications," senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the petitioners argued during the course of the hearing.

Appearing for Meta-WhatsApp, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, opposed the legal action only against WhatsApp, saying privacy applies to all.

To this, the court noted that WhatsApp users in India are the highest in the world.

Following the detailed arguments in the matter, a constitution bench comprising Justices K.M. Joseph, Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C.T. Ravikumar adjourned it to January next year.

In August, the Centre withdrew the Bill that has seen 81 amendments in the past three years, aiming to introduce a new, sharper Bill that fits into the comprehensive legal framework and protects the data of billions of citizens.

The new draft of the data protection Bill is being prepared to augment efficient usage of data since it would largely be used by the industry.

Two groups clash over sand mining in Patna, four killed

Team Absolute | Patna

Four persons were reportedly killed after violent clash between two groups in Patna's Bihta area on Wednesday night.

The clash broke out over mining of sand on the bank of Sone river in Aminabad village under Bihta police station. The sand of Sone river is considered as higher quality in construction purpose. Hence, its price is always high due to big demand in Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The clash started between Fauji group and Sipahi group around 11.30 pm on

Wednesday. Both the sides were involved in verbal argument with each other over the sand mining at the particular place and it soon turned violent. They started firing on each other. Four of the persons reportedly died in the firing. The firing between the two groups continued for the entire night and local police did not dare to go there and restore peace.The police sources have said that they have taken the dead bodies with themselves as well.

Man who used to snatch money from minors to buy liquor, stabbed to death by them

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi police on Thursday apprehended three juveniles for allegedly stabbing a man to death in Outer Delhi's Sultanpuri on Wednesday night.

According to information, the deceased used to beat the juveniles and would often snatch their money to buy alcohol and drugs. The juveniles had been planning to take revenge for this.

A senior police official said that the deceased was identified as Ajay, a resident of Labor Colony in Outer Delhi. The official said that the juveniles stabbed him repeatedly and fled from the crime scene.

Ajay's sister found him writhing in pain with multiple stab wounds. She

took him to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital where the staff informed the police about the incident. A police team reached the hospital to record his statement but they couldn't record it as he was not in a condition to give it, the official said. Ajay later succumbed during treatment.

The official said that they recorded the statement of the sister of the deceased. After recording her statement the police filed an FIR under section 302 of the IPC and later apprehended all the three juveniles from the area.

The police said that during questioning the trio told them that the deceased used to thrash them and snatched their hard earned money to buy alcohol. They held a grudge against him for this and killed him.

Bihar IAS officer apologises for her 'condom', 'sanitary pad' remarks

Team Absolute | Patna

Senior IAS officer and Bihar Women and Children Development Corporation Managing Director Harjot Kaur Bamhrah, who had stirred up a controversy with her snide and abrasive responses to school girls in a public event here, on Thursday apologised for her remarks.

In a letter, Bamhrah explained the utility of the "Shashakt Beti Samridh Bihar" event and apologised to the girl students. "If any girl was feeling hurt over my statements, I apologise to them."

Earlier in the day, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took cognisance of the matter and said that he will look into it and take action.

At the event, as a student asked Bamhrah that the government is providing school dress, scholarship, bicycles and many other facilities to students, can't it provide sanitary pads for Rs 20 to 30 to girl students - drawing applause, Bamhrah hit out, saying that people are clapping over the question but these are endless demands.

"Today, the government would provide you with sanitary pads for Rs 20 to Rs 30. Then you ask for jeans, pants and then, beautiful shoes," she said but did not stop there.

"When it comes to family planning, will the government give condoms (Nirodh) to you. Why would I have a habit of taking everything free from the government? What is the need of it?"

At that, the student said the government comes to them to seek their votes. Bamhrah angrily replied that "this is the height of stupidity. You don't vote and go to

Pakistan. You are giving a vote to take money and facilities from the government".

That girl student responded that she is an Indian and why would she go to Pakistan?

"The government is providing facilities from the money of taxpayers. If taxpayers are paying taxes to the government, why would they not demand for the services?" she asked.

Another girl student claimed problem in toilets for girls in the school, saying that the boys also enter the girls' toilet and make them uncomfortable.

At this, Bamhrah asked if every student present in the hall has separate toilets for them at home, leaving many in the audience surprised and shocked at the tenor of the senior IAS officer who demeaned the girl students.

Russian held for possessing hashish oil worth 9 lakhs in Goa

Panaji: Goa Police on Thursday arrested one Russian national for allegedly possessing 900 grams of hashish oil worth Rs 9,00,000. Police informed that Anti-Narcotic Cell conducted a raid at Morjim in north Goa, and caught him red-handed. The accused is identified as Maxim Makarov, 38, presently residing in Morjim.

"900 grams of hashish oil worth Rs 9,00,000 was found in his possession," Police said.

According to police the accused person was supplying hashish oil in the coastal belt to his prospective customers in Goa. "The ANC team are meticulously collecting evidences to lead to the source from where the drugs were procured," police said.

नाम परिवर्तन सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पूर्व में मेरा नाम NISREEN था। जो कि परिवर्तित होकर NISREEN ARIF हो गया है। अतः अब मुझे मेरे नए नाम NISREEN ARIF W/O TAHER ARIF से जाना व पहचाना जाए। पता : म.नं. 506/11K, वार्ड नं.38, एचडीएफसी बैंक के सामने, अमरावती मार्ग, रास्तीपुरा, बुरहानपुर (म.प्र.)– 450331

नाम परिवर्तन सूचना

मैं TAHER ARIF सर्वसाधारण को सूचित करता हूं कि कि मेरे पुत्र HUSAIN ARIF के पासपोर्ट में मेरा नाम TAHER ALI ARIF दर्ज है। किंतु अब मेरा नाम परिवर्तित होकर TAHER ARIF हो गया है। अतः अब मेरे पुत्र को HUSAIN ARIF S/o TAHER ARIF से जाना व पहचाना जाए। पता : म.नं. 506/11K, वार्ड नं. 38, एचडी एफसी बैंक के सामने, अमरावती मार्ग, रास्तीपुरा, बुरहानपुर (म.प्र.) – 450331

Service and development of public is our first priority : CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that service of the people and development of the state is the only goal of his government. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing a public meeting at Rajgarh district headquarters on Wednesday after performing bhoomi-pujan of Government Medical College worth Rs. 256 crore. He also ensured griha pravesh of more than 10 thousand beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana during the function. CM Chouhan has said that his government belongs to the people and service to the people is like worshiping God, I am the priest of my people. He said that the Mukhya Mantri Janseva Abhiyan has been launched so that all eligible citizens can be provided the benefits of schemes like food, clothing, shelter, medicine, education and employment. He said that no one will remain hungry and no family in the state including Rajgarh will remain without a house in his tenure. CM Chouhan said that the government will purchase land if required but will ensure that no family is homeless.

CM Chouhan, while examining the Ayushman Yojana from the stage itself, directed the Collector to make Ayushman cards of all eligible people by October 31. The collector said that so far 6 lakh 90 thousand Ayushman cards have been made.

Referring to all kinds of development works including big dams built in Rajgarh, Chief Minister Chouhan said that Rajgarh will be ahead of states like Punjab and Haryana in the field of agriculture in the next five years. He also appealed to the farmers to adopt natural farming to save the land from chemicals. The Chief Minister also gave a resolution to the citizens for development and said that along with the elected public representatives, the citizens should also perform their duties.

CM Chouhan said that on the coming October 11, PM Modi will dedicate the Mahakal Lok at Ujjain. He called upon all the citizens to attend Ujjain program and participate in the worship, havan, bhajan-kirtan at their homes and temples on this day.

Cong prez poll: MLAs from MP to reach Delhi to back Digvijaya

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Ever since the poll schedule for the post of Congress president was announced, there has been an unending buzz that two leaders from Madhya Pradesh may file nominations -- Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh and state Congress chief Kamal Nath.

Kamal Nath said that he was not in the race of the Congress' top post as he wants to focus on the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, which is just 14 months away.

Digvijaya Singh on Thursday reached the party headquarters in New Delhi from Kerala where he was participating in Bharat Jodi Yatra with Rahul Gandhi and other party leaders, and collected the nomination form. With this fresh twist in the race of the Congress chief, he made it clear that he wants to be a contestant.

He has also got the support from the Congress unit of Madhya Pradesh and a delegation of party's MLAs would reach the national capital to extend their support to Singh.

Digvijaya's brother Laxman Singh, who had once joined the BJP and returned to the Congress in 2013, said, "Our parents have always taught us about struggle. Me and my brother, Digvijaya Singh, are not the ones who would step back. We will fight." Meanwhile, leader of opposition in Madhya Pradesh Assembly -- Dr. Govind Singh, who is considered close to Digvijaya Singh, claimed that Kamal Nath had asked him to reach Delhi with party's MLAs. "Nearly two dozen MLAs, including Dr. Govind Singh would reach Delhi by late night or early Friday morning," sources said. "Why Digvijaya Singh would be the best candidate for AICC head, it has three reasons -- First, he is a good orator with a decades of experience of both administration and the organisation, second, he belongs to the Hindi-speaking belt where the party's condition is completely deteriorated, and third reason is that the Congress head should be a person who can take on PM Modi and, therefore Digvijaya Singh would be the best candidate for the party's to post," said a Congress leader on condition of anonymity.

MUSEUM IN THE MEMORY OF LATA DIDI WILL BE BUILT IN INDORE: CM

Bhopal : CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the most revered Lata Ji was not just a singer, she is a great personality recorded in the history of India. She mesmerized many generations with her amazing singing. CM Chouhan was virtually addressing the National Lata Mangeshkar Alankaran Ceremony organised at Indore from his residence today.

CM Chouhan said that Lata Didi's statue would be installed in Indore. Along with this, a museum will be constructed, which will have a collection of songs and memories of Lata Ji. Not only this, Sangeet Academy and Sangeet Mahavidyalaya will also be started in the name of Lata Ji.

CM Chouhan congratulated and welcomed the eminent personalities, Shailendra Singh, Anand Milind and Kumar Sanu, who were honoured in today's decoration ceremony.

Culture Minister Thakur said that songs and music are synonymous with God. Music plays an important role in providing happiness, peace and satisfaction. As per the wishes of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Indore's Sangeet Mahavidyalaya is being established in the name of swar samragyi (melody queen) Lata Mangeshkar Ji. Now this school will be known as Lata Mangeshkar Sangeet Mahavidyalaya. While paying tributes to the melody queen Lata Mangeshkar and taking forward her work, the Culture Department will always work for the preservation and promotion of music and art.

In the decoration ceremony, National Lata Mangeshkar Award for the year 2019 was given to Shailendra Singh for playback singing, for the year 2020 to Anand-Milind for music direction and for the year 2021 to Kumar Sanu for playback singing. After the decoration ceremony, a musical evening was organised. In which musical and melodious songs were presented by the famous singer Alka Yagnik and Group, Mumbai.

FIVE SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS RI IN VYAPAM SCAM

Bhopal: A Special CBI court in Bhopal on Thursday convicted five people and sentenced them to seven years rigorous imprisonment in connection with the Vyapam scam. The court has also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 each, while their two co-accused were acquitted due to lack of solid evidence.

Satish Dinkar, Special Public Prosecutor representing CBI in the court, said the sentenced people were involved in scam in police constable exams held in 2013.

The convicted were the part of an "engine-bogie" system wherein seating arrangements were manipulated so that a paid smarter student was seated between two others to copy answers. Of the five sentenced, four identified as Kamal Kishor, Amar Singh, Nagendra Singh, Suresh Singh, had used dummy candidate in exam, while one person had appeared for exams in place of other candidate.

"A total of 32 witnesses related with this particular case were cross-examined in the court. On the basis of their testimony and documents of 200 pages related with scam, Justice Nitiraj Singh Sisodiya, who is hearing Vyapam case, pronounced the judgement on Thursday," Dinkar said.

Out of 160 cases related with multi-layer Vyapam Scam that was unearthed in 2013 and further investigated by the CBI, Bhopal district court is hearing 54 cases, while others cases are being heard in different courts in Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur.

Dinkar claimed that around 50 per cent cases have been nixed, while the trial in main case, which has over 1300 accused (engine-bogi) part, is underway. Notably, all key accused in the case, including employees of Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board or Vyapam, are out on bail.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS NEEM, KACHNAR AND GULAR SAPLINGS

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem, Kachnar and Gular saplings along with the members of Win Win Care Foundation Bhopal in the Smart City Garden at Shyamla Hills. Social worker Srinivas Sonu planted saplings on his birthday. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Manmohan Kaur, Avtar Singh, Diva Singh, \ Ragini Bhatnagar and Virendra Singh of the Foundation planted saplings. The Foundation, in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation, conducts cleanliness activities with public cooperation.

Programs organised on the occasion of 25th Anniversary of RMNI, Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal inaugurated Temporary Exhibition on "Wonder World of Butterflies" on the occasion of 25th Anniversary of the Museum on 29th September, 2022. Jasbir Singh Chouhan, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Bhopal was the Chief Guest; Ashok Kumar Sinha, IFS, Deputy Director General, Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, Bhopal and Atul Danayak, Deputy Director, Directorate of Public Instruction, Bhopal were the Guest of Honour of the programme.

Evolution of butterflies, Anatomy of butterfly, Life cycle of butterfly, Defense mechanisms of butterflies, Feeding behavior, Migration, Ecological role of butterflies, Conservation measures, Relationship between butterflies and human lifestyle etc. are displayed in this exhibition. A Painting Competition for Hearing Impaired divyang was also organized by RMNH, Bhopal on 29th September, 2022 for the students of class 5th to 8th and 9th to 12thin two categories on the theme "Eco-friendly Life". 98 students from Asha Niketan Higher Secondary School for the Deaf, Arera Colony, Bhopal participated in the competition.

Scientist-in-charge of the museum Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, invitees, teachers from various schools, students and winners of various competitions.

Chief Guest and Guests of Honour released the three publications of museum namely "Wonder World of Butterflies" bilingual on detailing the information on butterflies and "Cheetah - An Introduction" in Hindi and English with detailed which details the interesting information on Cheetah.

Chief Guest, Guests of Honour distributed the prize and certificates to winners of various competitions organized by museum. The prizes of competition organized under Hindi Pakhwada-2022 for the staff of RMNH, Bhopal were also awarded during the programme.

Folk Song on Ecofriendly Life of Tribes was also performed by the winner of the Folk Song Competition students from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sehore which was very much appreciated by the audience.

Educational Visit Organized by Chemistry Department at Sant Hirdaram Girls College

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Educational Visit was organized by the Department of Chemistry, Sant Hirdaram Girls College, Bhopal to Care Infinity Hospital for Chemical Science students. The objective behind organizing this visit was to understand analytical processes by using different instruments.

Dr Keshav Prasad Budhwani, Proprietor of the Hospital has supported for this educational visit. Radhe Rajput, lab technician demonstrated various instruments viz semi-automatic analyzer, hematology cell counter, biochemistry analyzer and electrolyte analyzer. They also practically showed instrumental techniques.

Prof Bushra Nisa Khan, Department of Chemistry coordinator, visited the hospital with 20 students. It was an enriching experience for students. Dr Dalima Parwani, Principal said that these types of educational visits provide dynamic environment for our students and make them competent, confident and self-reliant.

The Management appreciated the efforts of Chemistry Department and extended best wishes for future endeavours.

Kamal Nath sitting on the road with Congressmen in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress MLA Panchi Lal Meda took out a tribal justice march regarding the Karam dam leak case in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh and when he reached the capital Bhopal, he was stopped at Lal Ghati. State President Kamal Nath, who came to welcome this yatra, also sat on the road with these tribals and Congress leaders. Later there was a lot of uproar and there was a scuffle between the Congress leaders with the police.

It is to be known that Karam Dam is being built in Dhar district at a cost of about 300 crores. Congress MLA Panchi Lal Meda started a new tribal journey from Dhar district to Bhopal's Raj Bhavan, alleging corruption in the construction of the dam, which leaked during the rains and affected a large number of crops and villages. When this yatra was entering from Lal Ghati in Bhopal on Thursday, the police stopped it. Kamal Nath reached the spot to welcome this yatra. On this occasion, Kamal Nath fiercely cursed the BJP government of the state.

Slogans were raised against the government for stopping the Adivasi Nyay Yatra at Lal Ghati and all the leaders including Kamal Nath sat on the road. Kamal Nath stayed there for some time and left after that. There was a fierce scuffle between the Congress leaders and the police. On this occasion, Kamal Nath assured the tribals that the full support of Congress is with you, Congress will fight this battle of yours on every front. We tried hard to raise this matter in the session of the assembly and to seek an answer from the government on this, but the government did not want to discuss the corruption of Karam Dam and justice to the affected, so our point was ignored. Referring to the misbehavior done by the police with Panchi Lal Meda, Kamal Nath said, MLA Pachi Lal Meda was misbehaved.

Congress will not sit silent on this matter. Our struggle will continue till the culprits of corruption in Karam Dam are not punished, till the affected and victim families get proper relief and compensation.

On stopping the Adivasi Nyay Yatra, former Union Minister Arun Yadav said, 'Adivasi Nyay Yatra' being taken out by Congress MLA partner Panchilal has been stopped by the police at Lal Ghati crossroads by putting a beret, at the behest of the BJP government, Shivraj ji tribals, Why do you hate farmers and students so much, when they ask for their rights, they forward the police.

ASI finds temples, Buddhist caves, Mughal era coins

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found ancient caves, remains of Buddhist structures, temples, mural inscriptions bearing names of cities like Mathura and Koshambi and Mughal era coins during exploration in Bandhavgarh forest reserve area located in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district.

During exploration from May 20 to June 27, an ASI team, led by Superintending Archaeologist of Jabalpur circle Shivakant Bajpayee, has found 26 temples or remains of temples, 26 caves, two monasteries, two votive stupas as well as 24 inscriptions along with 46 sculptures and around 20 water structures. The ASI has also found coins belonging to Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur Sultanat.

"Twenty-six temples or remains of temples discovered during the fresh round of exploration works belongs to the Kalchuri period - 9th to 11th century CE, while 26 caves dating to 2nd century B.C. to 5th century A.C. period," as per ASI's claim.

The exploration of nearly 170 sq km of core forest area that was not accessible to the public for around a month also led to the discovery of the remains of Buddhist structures predating the Hindu rulers of the region.

Notably, this exploration project has been restarted after a gap of 85 years. Earlier, the exploration in Bandhavgarh forest area was carried out in 1938.

The exploration project will be carried out further also and the ASI team is expecting to identify 100 more caves in the forest reserve area of Bandhavgarh.

According to Bajpayee, the first phase of exploration work was carried out in Tala range of Bandhavgarh. Notably, Tala is a town located in outer circle under Rewa district. In the next phases of exploration, the ASI team will cover the remaining area of Bandhavgarh forest from Khitauli to Magadhi range.

कार्यालय, नगर पालिका परिषद, गुना जिला गुना (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/3306/2022 गुना, दिनांक 22.09.2022

:: निविदा विज्ञप्ति ::

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। अतः जो ठेकेदार इस कार्य को करने हेत इच्छुक हों वे अपनी-अपनी ऑनलाईन निविदाएं म.प्र.न.प्र. एवं वि.वि. एस.ओ.आर. दिनांक 02.08.2021 से प्रभावशील पर कम/अधिक /एटपार प्रतिशत दर पर प्रस्तुत कर सकते है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइड https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

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1. टेण्डर क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि : 25.10.2022
2. टेण्डर डालने की अंतिम तिथि : 25.10.2022
3. टेण्डर खोलने की तिथि : 27.10.2022

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद, गुना (म.प्र.)

EDITOR'S SPECS

Iran women get support from UN

In recent days Iran has seen deep public unrest, with demonstrations and protests taking place in some 80 cities, triggered by the tragic death of Mahsa Amini, who was detained by authorities in Tehran on September 13 and died, while in custody, three days later. In a statement on Wednesday, the New York-headquartered UN Women said that "it stands with the women of Iran in their rightful demands to protest injustice without reprisal, and to be free to exercise their bodily autonomy, including their choice of dress; and also supports them in seeking accountability, and the upholding of their basic human rights as stipulated in the Charter of the UN". "We call on relevant authorities to support and enable the expression of their full human rights in a safe environment without fear of violence, prosecution, or persecution. "We align with the remarks by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the need to ensure the rights to due process and release for all women who have been arbitrarily detained and with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, in the call for the Iranian authorities to hold an independent, impartial, and prompt investigation into Amini's death, to make the findings of the investigation public and to hold all perpetrators accountable. According to the Iran Human Rights (IHR), a Norway-based organisation, at least 76 protesters have been killed by Iranian security forces in the 11 days of unrest across the country against Amini's death. The organisation also said that hundreds of people have also been arrested, including 20 journalists. The anti-government demonstrations have spread to more than 80 cities and towns across Iran since Amini's funeral on September 17.

SUNDARBANS IN THE EYE OF STORM AS CENTRE-STATE TUSSLE STALLS MGNREGA WORK

RAHUL SINGH

Cyclonic storms are nothing new to the Sundarbans region of West Bengal. But with the Union Government stopping fund allocation under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) since December 26 last year citing non-compliance with directives, the low-lying islands known for their mangroves have become all the more vulnerable.

This year, no construction or repair of earthen embankments to prevent seawater incursion and erosion was carried out in areas with human settlements in the delta. Same was the case with mangrove plantation along the rivers. With no work coming their way, families of MGNREGA workers struggled to make ends meet. Their pending wages also remained unpaid.

"Sand overlay during seawater ingression means no farming can be done on that land for the next three to four years," explained Prasanjit Mandal, the chairman of Bali-based Sundarban Foundation. He said the stoppage of MGNREGA funds has affected small projects meant for tackling climate change.

Krishnapada Mandal and his wife Behula Mandal live on the banks of the Bidyadhari on the island of Bali, where frequent cyclones have become a norm since 2009. A cement embankment and mangroves offer relative protection to them from the ravaging sea, but they still live under the constant fear of storms.

"Climate change has shaken us. We never faced such recurring storms in our childhood. Fish population is down by 25 per cent. Forest mangroves are fine, but those in the village and near the river are affected," Krishnapada said. Experts attributed the decline in mangroves to the frequency and intensity of cyclones, with even fresh attempts to reinstate them being threatened by increased salinity of water, overgrazing and erosion.

Pending MGNREGA dues

The Indian Sundarbans, which accounts for 41 per cent of the country's mangroves, are spread over 13 blocks of South 24 Parganas and six blocks of North 24 Parganas districts. In June 2020, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced plans to boost their numbers by planting another five crore mangroves. However, the Central fund issue jeopardised the plan.

While admitting that workers were not paid, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director of Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve Rajesh Kumar told 101Reporters, "We do not pay them directly. The payment is done through the District Magistrate's Office, where their job cards are made." He acknowledged that allocations under the scheme were closed at present.

Payments of over Rs 20 crore were pending under various heads, including workers' wages, administrative charges and material costs, according to a letter sent on June 22 by the South 24 Parganas Forest Division to the Chief Conservator of Forests and Joint Director of the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve. It said over 11 lakh person-days were created in South 24 Parganas under the MGNREGA for planting and maintaining mangroves, besides preparing nurseries.

On September 23, MGNREGA workers from various districts, led by the Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity, blocked roads in protest and filed complaints across police stations in Purulia, Nadia, West Medinipur and North 24 Parganas districts against the MGNREGA programme officers from several blocks, who they claim "resorted to trickery to make innocent workers work, knowing that they cannot pay wages to them".

Women suffer the most

"We built earthen embankments and planted mangroves for 100 days from last year to this January. However, we were paid only for 35 days. This year, we have not even received our job cards," alleged Utpal Pramanik, an activist and MGNREGA worker from Gurguria Bhubaneswari gram panchayat of Kultali block in South 24 Parganas district.

Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity state committee member Anuradha Talwar told Reporters that workers cannot be punished for corrupt practices, including use of JCB machines, inflated man-days, bogus muster rolls, ineligible cardholders and unlisted work.

"Over 50 per cent of the MGNREGA workers here are women. Men generally migrate in search of work. The scheme ensures employment within five km of their homes. Hence, the withholding of funds has affected women the most. Spending on children's education has come down. In some households, even food-related expenses have to be curtailed," she said.

Local solutions to climate crisis

Though MGNREGA's role in building climate resilience in local communities is increasingly appreciated, poor planning and management threaten to derail its potential.

According to Dr Abhra Chanda, Assistant Professor, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, a clear concept should be in place if MGNREGA works have to make a difference. "Though dense mangroves and pucca dams may be the most effective protective measures against extreme weather, only mud dams are built in abundance in the Sundarbans," he told the Reporter in an email interview.

Citing how lack of foresightedness failed the works, he said, "If the government strives hard to protect the island periphery with concrete embankments that can last for a century, local people can be deployed under the MGNREGA in their construction. However, if we restrict ourselves to building non-scientific kutcha embankments, the work taken up would be futile and cannot offer any long-term solution to the recurrent problems." He additionally called for working on a comprehensive river rejuvenation plan to increase the flow of freshwater into the mangrove forest, the most effective way to ensure its conservation.

But with the MGNREGA in limbo, such ambitious plans may have to wait, even as the Sundarbans runs out of time.

international

Austria starts checks at Slovak border to stop illegal migrants

Vienna | New York

Austria has started checks at its border crossings with Slovakia to prevent people-smuggling, Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said here. Karner said that the controls will be enforced for an initial period of 10 days at 11 border crossings between the two countries, Xinhua news agency reported.

The checks came into effect at 12 a.m. on Thursday.

Noting that controls have been in place at Austria's border crossings with Hungary and Slovenia since September 2015, Karner said this latest move is aimed at ensuring that human traffickers do not use Austria as an alternative. "We have to be faster than the smugglers," he said.The number of asylum seekers in Austria has increased significantly in the past few months.

According to the country's Interior Ministry, more than 56,000 asylum applications were registered in Austria between January and August this year, an increase of 195 per cent over the same period last year.

Most of the applications were filed by Indian nationals, many of whom travelled to Austria with the help of smugglers, according to Austrian broadcaster ORF.

ISRAEL READY TO SHARE NUKE TECH WITH ARAB NATIONS UNDER PEACE DEAL

Tel Aviv: Israeli Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) Director General Moshe Edri said his country is "ready" to share its state-of-the-art nuclear technology with Arab nations that have signed a peace deal with the Jewish state.

Edri made the rare remarks in an address to the 66th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) convening in Vienna, reports Xinhua news agency.

Edri said Israel has been hopeful that the normalization deals signed in 2020 with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco will "mark a path forward for meaningful direct dialogue within our region, including in the nuclear fora".

Such a move will be made under the IAEA umbrella, the Israeli nuclear chief added. Israel rarely comments on its nuclear capabilities.

S.Korean Prez, Kamala Harris share concern over N.Korea

Seoul | Agencies

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol and visiting US Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday shared their concern about North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.Yoon and Harris met for 85 minutes at the presidential office and discussed a wide range of issues, including ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship, and key regional and international issues, Yonhap News Agency quoted deputy presidential spokesperson Lee Jae-myoung as saying."President Yoon and Vice President Harris expressed serious concern about North Korea's recent ballistic missile launches and legalization of its nuclear force policy," he said at a press briefing, noting Harris reaffirmed the ironclad US commitment to the defence of South Korea.The two sides also agreed to plan a visit by Yoon to the US next year to mark the 70th anniversary of the alliance.On the controversy surrounding Yoon and US President Joe Biden's meetings in New York last week, Harris said that Washington is not bothered by it at all, according to Lee.The spokesperson did not elaborate on which controversy Harris was referring to, but it apparently included the uproar in South Korea over Yoon's remarks caught on hot mic, which were initially reported as including vulgar language in reference to US Congress and Biden.

The his the Vice President's Harris first visit to South Korea since taking office in January 2021. The last time a US Vice President visited South Korea was in February 2018, when Mike Pence led a delegation to the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games.Harris landed in Seoul just hours after North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the East Sea in apparent protest of an ongoing South Korea-US military exercise involving an American aircraft carrier. The North had also conducted a similar short-range ballistic missile test on Sunday.

LARGEST REFINERY IN FRANCE SHUT OVER STRIKE

Paris | Agencies

French multinational energy and petroleum company TotalEnergies has started to shut down the country's largest refinery in the Normandy region as a result of a strike over wage demands."The discontent is so strong in Normandy that the strikers demanded this morning the shutdown procedures of the largest refinery in France," Xinhua news agency quoted Thierry Defresne, General Confederation of Labour (CGT) secretary of the European Enterprise Committee of Total Energies, as saying on Wednesday.

According to the French daily Le Figaro, the shutdown does not jeopardise the supply of service stations in the short term even if the plant represents 22 per cent of France's refining capacity.

Total Energies said it has stocks that can last between 20 days and one month in addition to the country's strategic stocks, the newspaper reported

Citing the CGT union, Le Figaro reported that only two of the six refineries would remain operational, as four have already been halted due to maintenance and workers' strikes.

The strike at Total Energies began on Tuesday and will last until Thursday.It will coincide with the country's "interprofessional" strike called by three national unions for Thursday.

The CGT demands a 10 per cent wage hike for 2022, more employment opportunities and a massive investment plan in France.

The labour action comes on the heels of strikes held by Total Energies employees with the same demands on June 24 and 28.

Swedish economy will shrink in 2023: Govt agency

Stockholm | Agencies

The Swedish economy is set to shrink next year due to inflation and increasing interest rates, a government agency said.

The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is expected to decrease by 0.7 per cent in 2023, the Swedish National Institute of Economic Research (NIER) said in a report.

"High inflation and rising mortgage interest rates erode the purchasing power of households, and they have a gloomy view of the future," Xinhua news agency quoted the report as saying.

Households are assumed to receive some compensation for high electricity prices from the state, but will still have to reduce consumption in the future, it added.

The Swedish central bank Riksbank recently raised its policy rate by 100 points to 1.75 per cent, and NIER believes that further raises are imminent.

The agency predicts that the policy rate will stand at 2.3 per cent by the end of the year and remain at the same level during 2023, before falling back to 1.8 per cent in 2024.

The year-on-year consumer price index with a fixed interest rate (CPIF) is expected to reach 7.7 per cent at the turn of the year, before falling to 4.6 per cent in 2023 and to 0.5 per cent in 2024.

During the following two years, it is expected to increase again, but stay slightly below Riksbank's 2 per cent target.

Unemployment is also expected to increase from 7.4 per cent this year to 7.7 per cent in 2023, before peaking at 8.0 per cent in 2024.

Meanwhile, according to NIER, Swedish consumers have a gloomy view of the year ahead.

The consumer confidence indicator has yet again reached a record-low level, this time of 49.7 (baseline 100). This is considerably lower than in the summer of 2021 when the confidence indicator among consumers stood at 110.

Among retailers, the confidence indicator also decreased, from 91.3 in August to 81.7 in September.

'GEN BAJWA ADVISED IMRAN THAT PM HOUSE UNSAFE FOR IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS'

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa had frequently advised former premier Imran Khan that that the Prime Minister's House is unsafe for important conversations, revealed PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry.Talking to a private news channel, Chaudhry claimed the army chief had repeatedly suggested to Khan to debug the Prime Minister's House by using latest technology, as according to General Bajwa, "it was not safe to talk", Geo News reported. "The army chief told Khan that the points that we discuss here are recorded and leaked later on," Chaudhry said.

"General Bajwa had said Nawaz Sharif stepped out of Prime Minister's House when he wanted to talk to him about some vital issue."

The army has secured the rooms of their headquarters with state-of-the-art technology in the era of General (retd.) Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Geo News quoted Chaudhry as saying.

He added that it was unacceptable for the Prime Minister's House to be hacked, regardless of who is premier whether Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif or Imran Khan.

The PTI leader added that he doesn't support the Prime Minister's telephones being tapped and reiterated his party's demand that the government institute an investigation into the cypher.

He questioned why the government and the Supreme Court were reluctant to hold an inquiry over the cypher.

On September 28, a sound bite of Imran Khan allegedly telling his then-principal secretary Azam Khan to "play" with the US cypher has come to the fore.

TRP scam spooks again: ED books 16 for money laundering; 'exonerates' Republic TV

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has virtually 'exonerated' Republic TV and R. Bharat -- English and Hindi news channels owned by Arnab R. Goswami, but the agency has booked 16 others of various private television channels and a market research group, for alleged money-laundering charges in the sensational TRP scam that erupted two years ago.

The ED charge sheet was filed on September 26 on behalf of Assistant Director Pawan Kumar before the Special PMLA Court Mumbai, and has sought initiation of proceedings, among others, to confiscate the provisionally attached properties of all the accused as stipulated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, as they were bought from the proceeds of the crime.

The ED has urged the Special Court to take cognisance and issue process against all the accused individuals (for arrest), order the confiscation of their movable and immovable assets, seize their passports, etc.

Presumably giving a 'clean chit' to Goswami and his news channels, the ED termed its investigations under PMLA as "at variance" with the probe initially conducted by the Mumbai Police, as "no such evidence is forthcoming" in the statements of the accused/witnesses, digital data evidence and analysis of the raw data provided by Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC).

The ED said that the Mumbai Police -- which had first exposed the scam in 2020 -- relied on a forensic audit report of Acquisory Risk Consulting Pvt. Ltd., that contended how the TRP calculation methodology was tinkered with and controls used to favour specific channels, was superficial and based on analysis of limited aspects.

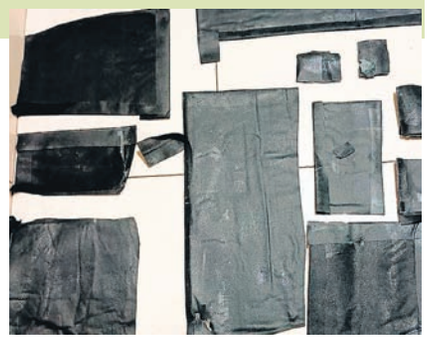
The Mumbai Police had named Republic TV, India Today and other channels as allegedly involved in the TRP scam that had shaken up the country's media industry and sparked a massive political uproar.

However, the ED probe has detected instances of TRP manipulations not only in Mumbai and Maharashtra but also Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and has called for the FIRs filed by the respective state police for investigations."From the investigations and evidence gathered, it is clearly established that the (16) accused committed the offence of money laundering... and are liable to be prosecuted and punished... and the provisionally attached properties involved in the money-laundering are liable to be confiscated... as per the PMLA," the ED concluded.

NCB MUMBAI SEIZES 3.20 KG HIGH GRADE BLACK COCAINE COMING FROM BRAZIL

NCB also nabs the carrier and receiver at different cities in an operation spanning 3 days

Team Absolute | Mumbai



In an unprecedented enforcement activity, NCB-Mumbai has delivered another blow to the international drug syndicate and seized Black Cocaine from a Bolivian lady at Mumbai Airport and a Nigerian national has also been apprehended from Goa in this connection. The said seizure is rare. In pursuance of credible input wherein it was noted that a South American national would be arriving at Mumbai through flight with a consignment of drugs which would be further passed around Mumbai and nearby states. The input was closely monitored and carefully analysed after which a Bolivian lady was identified to be travelling from Brazil to Goa with layovers at Addis Ababa and Mumbai. Accordingly, the NCB-Mumbai officials proceeded to the Mumbai Airport and a discreet surveillance perimeter was setup to physically identify the Bolivian lady. On 26/09/2022, shortly, after the flight landed, the said lady was identified who was moving around to board the connecting flight to Goa. Thereafter, she was questioned in routine manner about her purpose of visit and contents in her luggage to which she could not give satisfactory reply. Consequently, a thorough search of her luggage led to discovery of false cavities wherein 12 packets tightly packed were recovered. Upon checking the packets, black coloured substance was found. Upon questioning the lady she confessed that the material is Black Cocaine which weighed a total of 3.2 kgs. She confessed that she was ought to deliver the said consignment to a foreigner receiver in Goa.

Immediately, a follow up action scheme was planned to further identify the receiver person in Goa. Intensive follow up activities and techint analysis led to identification of the receiver and a trap was laid out in a hotel in Goa and and Nigerian person was apprehended. The information revealed by the Bolivian lady corroborated with the details of the apprehended Nigerian. Later on, the Nigerian person also confessed about being part of the international drug syndicate. This Nigerian person is a Drug Trafficker who was staying in Goa and supplying drugs to various peddlers in multiple states. Further investigation is in progress.

MAHA DOUBLE TRAGEDY

Man shoots girlfriend on road, gets killed by vehicle while fleeing

Team Absolute | Palghar

In a shocking double tragedy, a young woman was shot dead by her boyfriend in Boisar town, and as he was attempting to flee the spot, was knocked by a military truck and died later, police said here on Thursday.

The incident occurred on Wednesday afternoon when Neha Mahato, 21, and her boyfriend Krishna Yadav, 25, had a heated argument on the road near a private hospital in Saravali.

Suddenly, Yadav whipped out a revolver and shot Neha in the head from point blank range, killing her instantly.

As the shocked locals rushed there, Yadav panicked and fled the spot but barely a couple of hundred metres away was knocked down and crushed under the wheels of the military vehicle.

He was rushed to a local hospital by the Boisar Police, where he was pronounced dead.

The Boisar Police have recovered the weapon from Yadav and have sent it for a forensic analysis, and his autopsy report is awaited to ascertain if it was an accident or suicide.

As per police preliminary probe, Yadav and Neha had been going steady for a year but he was not willing to marry her.

Neha's family had given an ultimatum for marriage failing which they would fix her alliance elsewhere.

Maha Official, Professor Among four Detained For Seeking Bribe From Student

Team Absolute | Thane

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday detained a senior official of the Maharashtra government's Directorate of Technical Education, a woman professor and two others for taking bribe to facilitate admission of a student in an architecture college in Thane district, officials said.

The ACB officials also recovered Rs 3,15,000 cash from those detained, which they had collected from 11 students, including the complainant in this case, they said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Thane ACB) Ashwini Patil said in a release that the process of registering an offence against the four at the Mira Road police station under the Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar police commissionerate was underway.

Those detained were identified as Jitendra Ramdasji Nikhade Assistant Director of the Technical and Joint Director Divisional Officer at Bandra, Rupali Hitendra Gupte professor at K L Tiwari College of Architecture located at Mira Bhayandar, Santosh Rangrai Hubale office superintendent of the college and Shreya Santosh Bane senior clerk. The complainant's daughter was pursuing a course in an architecture college, which shut down. In order to get admission in K L Tiwari College and also to grant the change of subject, the principal of the college demanded Rs. 30,000, the ACB said. Professor Gupte asked the complainant to hand over the money to the office superintendent and when the complainant met Hubale, he made a demand of Rs 30,000 to be given to the Joint Director of Technical Education, it said. After that, the complainant approached the Thane unit of the ACB. Based on the complaint, the anti-graft agency laid a trap at the college office on Wednesday and caught Bane accepting Rs 15,000 from the complainant on behalf of the superintendent and the professor, it said. During the inquiry and the raid, it came to light that the accused had similarly demanded Rs 30,000 from 14 students, the ACB said.

Keep an eye on closed factories to check drug menace: Navi Mumbai top cop tells officials

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner Bipin Kumar Singh has asked officials to keep a watch on closed factories in the town to check narcotics are not manufactured there, in the wake of a number of cases of drugs seizure in neighbouring Mumbai in the recent past.During a meeting of the district-level narcotics committee on Wednesday, Singh said several containers arrive at Uran and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Navi Mumbai, and asked the Coast Guard to keep an eye on them to prevent any movement of narcotics.Singh also directed the officials to check if narcotics were being manufactured at chemical factories in industrial zones in the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation limits. He said a large stock of banned drug MD was recently seized in Mumbai and officials should check if drugs were being manufactured in the chemical and pharmacy units in Navi Mumbai.During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Suresh Mengde said 20 out of the total 83 units in Navi Mumbai region have already been inspected and the others would be checked within the next couple of months.

Man stabbed to death in Mumbai, two arrested

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Police arrested two people for allegedly stabbing a person to death in the Mankhurd area, officials said Thursday. They said the police had to rely on technology to arrest the suspects.The police said in a tweet that they began investigating the case after the deceased's brother complained to them about the stabbing incident. They said there was very little information about the incident. The brother of the deceased did not know why someone would kill his brother. So, the police department relied heavily on technical expertise to nab the suspects."A complaint was received at the Mankhurd Police Station that an unknown person brutally killed the complainant's brother by stabbing him for unknown reasons. In the absence of any evidence, on the basis of information and technical expertise, two accused were arrested and the murder was exposed," the Mumbai Police tweeted. A further investigation is underway.

SHARAD PAWAR'S ONE STATE TOUR IS ENOUGH FOR OPPOSITION TO RETURN TO POWER: SUPRIYA SULE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

NCP president Sharad Pawar's one state tour is enough for opposition to return to power in Maharashtra, said daughter, and NCP (MP) Supriya Sule. "In his long 55 years political career Sharad Pawar saw power for 27 years and equal 27 years in the role of opposition. But I always believe and tell Maharashtra has given him abundance love and respect," she said. "In 2019, nobody believed Maha Vikas Aghadi would come to power. Every day we woke up with news that some NCP leader has defected to BJP. Many predicted the end of opposition," Sule said.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra DGP Rajnish Seth on Wednesday directed police personnel across the state to seal the offices of Popular Front of India (PFI) and freeze their bank accounts. The PFI was banned by the Union government earlier in the day following days of raids and arrests of people linked to the outfit.

In other news, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Wednesday hailed the Centre's decision to ban the Popular Front of India (PFI) and thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah for it. Shinde said that the radical Muslim outfit had planned to create unrest and a communal divide.

Bombay High Court grants bail to J J Hospital doctor held in fatal car crash

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court has granted bail to a resident doctor of the state-run and city-based J J Hospital, who was arrested on the charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder after his car rammed into a motorcycle earlier this year, killing the rider.

A single bench of Justice Bharati Dangre in her order passed on September 26, a copy of which was made available on Wednesday, noted that since the investigation in the case was over, accused doctor Rihan Kalathil's further incarceration was unnecessary.

Kalathil's car had collided with the motorcycle in the early morning of March 28 this year on a brigde in south Mumbai. Due to the collision, the motorcycle rider,

25-year-old Aditya Desai, was fell from the bridge and was declared dead in the hospital later.

While the police claimed that Kalathil was heavily drunk, the latter in his bail plea refuted it, and said he was not drunk to the level that he could not control his car.

In his plea, Kalathil had said he could not be charged under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 304 II (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), and that at the most he ought to be charged under the lesser section of 304 A (causing death by negligence).

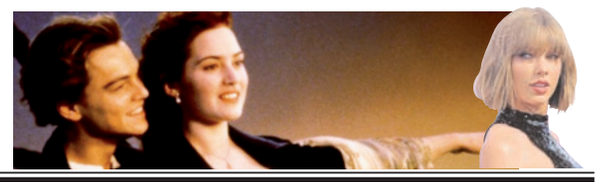
Justice Dangre in her order noted the basic rule of criminal system was "bail is the rule and jail is an exception. Punishment begins after conviction and every man is deemed to be innocent until duly tried and pronounced guilty," the court said while granting bail to Kalathil on a bond of Rs 50,000.

The court in its order took note of the witness statements that there was no divider on the said road and that Kalathil was driving his car in the middle of the road, but was not speeding.

It added that when Kalathil saw a bike approaching from the opposite direction, he swerved to the right but unfortunately the bike too swerved to the same side and there was a head-on collision.

Justice Dangre noted that the witness statements prima-facie reflect the conscious sense of Kalathil, who made an attempt to avoid the head-on collision, instead of establishing the prosecution case that the alcohol had disturbed his metabolism. The court added that in the present case, the level of alcohol in the blood of Kalathil was below the prescribed limit.Kalathil's counsel Aabad Ponda claimed that Kalathil was a doctor by profession and a meritorious student, whose further studies were being hampered due to his arrest.

Advocate Rizwan Merchant, appearing for victim Aditya Desai's mother, opposed the bail and said the family had lost their sole breadwinner.



Melek Mosso cuts hair on stage to express support for Iranian women

Los Angeles | Agencies

Melek Mosso, a Turkish singer, cut her long hair on stage to express support for Iranian women protesting the tragic loss of Mahsa Amini, who was held in custody by officials in Tehran on September 13 and died in custody three days later.

Mahsa Amini, 22, was brutally murdered by Iran's "morality police" for showing a bit of her hair and breaking the strict dress code laws.

The killing of Mahsa Amini has sparked nationwide outrage. Protesters are taking a stand against the totalitarian regime, chanting slogans like "Let women live in freedom" and "I will kill whoever killed my sister."

A video of Mosso standing on stage and cutting her long black hair has gone viral. She is dressed entirely in white. The crowd could be heard cheering for the singer while she was chopping her hair. The Turkish singer took to Instagram to share the video. In Turkish, she wrote: "If you want to grab us by the hair and drag us into your darkness, we will cut that hair too! Freedom should be equal for all in the world. All women deserve to live humanely in this world! The various restrictions and atrocities done to my sisters wherever they are in the world breaks my heart."

"Mahsa Amini who was killed at such a young age and many whose lives were taken away in the clashes in recent days... I stand with the Iranian people and the women fighting for their freedom 89 @bahman_ghobadi (Iranian director) in a video I watched, he called out to Turkish artists: "Your support right now will have a tremendous impact on civil protests Like this. If artists in Iran hear your voice, they will be braver about supporting their people."

"I invite all artists to encourage and support the people who are struggling out there 1 WOMAN, LIFE, FREEDOM! ZEN."

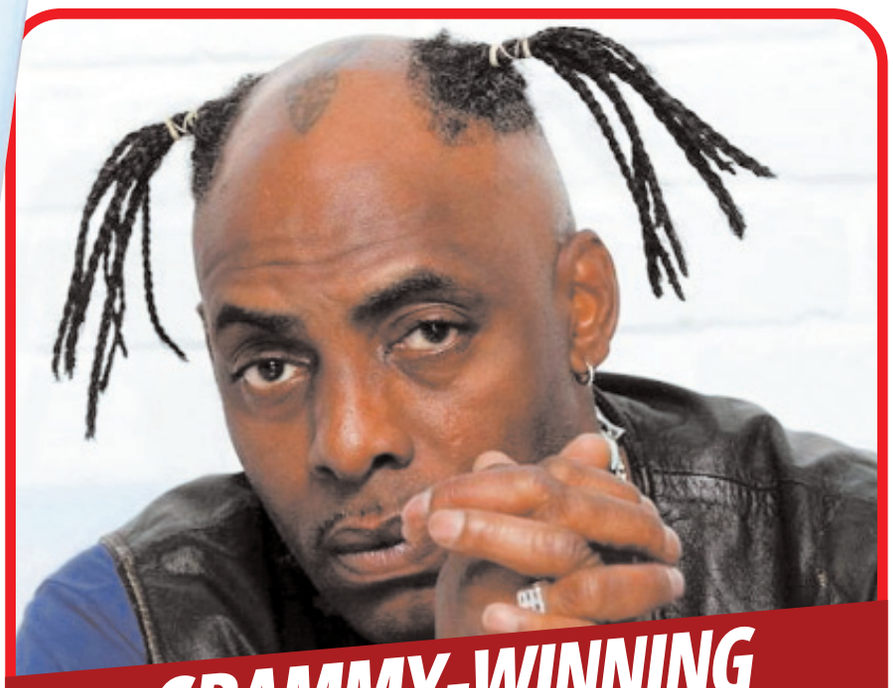
Brad Pitt & Emily Ratajkowski are keeping their romance low-key

Los Angeles | Agencies

When it comes to Brad Pitt and Emily Ratajkowski's blossoming romance, things haven't reached a fever pitch yet! According to reports, the reason is their respective divorce dramas with their exes, Angelina Jolie and Sebastian Bear-McClard. While the 58-year-old Oscar winner was spotted with the 31-year-old supermodel a few times recently, they are not officially dating.

For the time being, Brad Pitt and Emily Ratajkowski are keeping their friendly relationship low-key due to their recent public breakups with Angelina Jolie and Sebastian Bear-McClard. According to a source, "Brad has quietly dated the last couple of years. He worries that Jolie will badmouth him to their kids, more than she already has if he has a serious girlfriend." Hence, an insider informed that "Bratajkowski" is keeping things "very casual" for the moment: "Emily is hot mama, but Brad knows she has a lot of drama involving her divorce. He has enough of his own drama." On the one hand, even though Angelina Jolie filed for divorce from Brad Pitt in 2016, there are numerous serious issues, such as a bitter custody battle for their children, that are further delaying the impending proceedings.

Emily Ratajkowski, on the other hand, filed for divorce from Sebastian Bear-McClard this month, following the announcement in July that the ex-couple were divorcing after four years of marriage. The reported reason for their breakup is cheating allegations against Bear-McClard, which he has yet to publicly address.



GRAMMY-WINNING RAPPER COOLIO PASSES AWAY AT 59

Los Angeles | Agencies

Coolio, the Grammy-winning rapper, producer, and actor best known for his 1995 hit 'Gangsta's Paradise,' has died at the age of 59.

Coolio died on Wednesday afternoon, according to the rapper's long-time manager Jarel Posey, who confirmed the news to a news portal.

"We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend and client, Coolio, who passed away this afternoon. He touched the world with the gift of his talent and will be missed profoundly."

Trinity Artists International's Sheila Finnegan said in a statement.

"Thank you to everyone worldwide who has listened to his music and to everyone who has been reaching out regarding his passing. Please have Coolio's loved ones in your thoughts and prayers."

Coolio rose to prominence in the Los Angeles rap scene in the 1990s, landing his big break with the song "Gangsta's Paradise" for the 1995 film "Dangerous Minds," starring Michelle Pfeiffer.

It quickly became one of the most popular rap songs of all time, topping the Billboard Hot 100 for three weeks and finishing in 1995 as the number one single in the United States. At the Grammy Awards in 1996, 'Gangsta's Paradise' was nominated for record of the year and best rap solo performance, with Coolio winning the latter.

Kanye West uses Kris Jenner's photo to poke his ex-wife

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kanye West hasn't stopped criticising his ex-wife-mother-in-law Kris Jenner. With his social media activity, the 'Famous' hitmaker, who didn't mince his words about Kris in his Instagram rants earlier this month, took a subtle jab at the Kardashian-Jenner mother. Fans noticed Kanye had changed his Instagram profile picture to one of Kris.

While his action did not break any rules, he clearly did it to provoke 'The Kardashians' star. It was only for a brief moment, as Ye has since replaced the image of his ex-mother-in-law with a plain black image, according to reports.

Kanye had previously targeted Kris in viral Instagram rants. The 'Donda' rapper also called out ex-wife Kim Kardashian's mother for supporting her daughters during their Playboy shoot. In the post, he admitted to having a porn addiction that "destroyed" his family.

The rapper reportedly desired that their children, who are currently enrolled in a top private school in Los Angeles, be transferred to his newly opened Donda Academy.

MacKenzie Scott filed for divorce from Dan Jewett, more than a year after they got married

Los Angeles | Agencies

MacKenzie Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, has filed for divorce from her teacher husband Dan Jewett, more than a year after they got married. Scott is a philanthropist worth a billion dollars who married science teacher Jewett in March 2021. Jewett's name mysteriously vanished from Scott's philanthropic pledges some time ago, bringing their divorce rumours to light.

Scott petitioned the King County Superior Court in Washington State to "dissolve their marriage." ". The document shows that the couple has a contract outlining how they will divide their real estate and other personal property. "Spousal support is not needed, "it adds, reports.Scott filed for divorce from her second husband, Jewett, three years after her divorce from Jeff Bezos. She and Bezos have four children. Bezos and Scott announced their divorce in 2019 after a 25-year marriage. After her divorce from Bezos, Scott was left with a 4% stake in Amazon.

Elizabeth Olsen is all in shock to see Wolverine's comeback

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hugh Jackman makes a surprise return as Wolverine in 'Deadpool 3,' but Marvel veteran Elizabeth Olsen is only now learning about it. The Scarlet Witch learned of Jackman's return while 'On the Carpet' at Power of Women, and she expressed shock at the news, according to reports.

"Oh really?" Olsen asked when she heard the news. "Wow!" Olsen wants Scarlet Witch to team up with more X-Men characters on the big screen now that Hugh Jackman has returned as Wolverine. After all, Scarlet Witch is a mutant in comic books and the daughter of Magneto, who has been played on the big screen by both Ian McKellen and Michael Fassbender.

"I guess Wolverine is X-Men," Olsen said when asked about which characters she hopes to team up with in the future of the MCU. "It would be cool to work with a lot of those people from the X-Men franchise. I guess Fassbender is my dad in some world?" Olsen was most recently seen as the Scarlet Witch in 'Doctor Stranger in the Multiverse of Madness.'

In the film, the character became a villain, and her fate was left ambiguous at the end after she sacrificed herself to destroy the Dark hold in a moment of redemption.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Gigi Hadid

Jasprit Bumrah to be ruled out of T20 World Cup with back stress fracture: Report

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ahead of the T20 World Cup starting in Australia next month, India have been dealt with a huge blow with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah to be ruled out of the showpiece event due to back stress fracture.

Earlier, before the first T20I between India and South Africa at Thiruvananthapuram, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had said that Bumrah was ruled out of Wednesday's match after complaining of back pain during practice session on Tuesday.

"Jasprit Bumrah complained of back pain during India's practice session on Tuesday. The BCCI Medical Team assessed him. He is ruled out of the first T20I," BCCI had said in its statement on Twitter.

But, now a report in Insidesport says that the medical team will take a call on Bumrah's availability for the T20 World Cup, who could be out for four to six months even without the need of surgery.

"It's concerning. But we haven't had a full medical report on Jasprit yet. As soon as he complained of back pain, he was taken off practice. The medical team is monitoring him.

Bumrah, who was out of international cricket since July this year, had missed the T20 Asia Cup in the UAE due to back injury, for which he underwent rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA).

The report added that the same back injury which had kept Bumrah out of the Asia Cup has aggravated into a back stress fracture. "Bumrah is expected to head to London for better treatment next month. If he requires surgery, he could miss more than six months of action."

In case of Bumrah being absent from T20 World Cup, the senior men's national selection committee have options in Mohammad Shami or Deepak Chahar, who have been slotted in as travelling reserves for the tournament.

Had to pitch the ball in the right places and it worked well: Arshdeep Singh

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Usually known for his excellence in death overs bowling, young left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh for a change broke the back of South Africa's innings with the new ball with triple strikes in his first over to set the base for India's eight-wicket win at the Greenfield International Stadium.

On his match-defining spell, Arshdeep, who was adjudged the Player of the Match, said his plan was to bowl at the right areas as the ball was swinging, which worked well in his favour. He also credited Deepak Chahar, who took two wickets in power-play, for showing the path to bowl in right areas on a green carpet. "Getting the wickets early up (in the inning) was always a great feeling. I guess the plan was really simple, the ball was swinging. I had to pitch it (the ball) in the right places and it worked well. It was about hitting the right areas, getting the swing earlier and making sure the line was good."

"We practice for every type of situation in the practice session. Our job is to adapt to the situations which the team asks for and do well for the team. Arshdeep went on to explain that the Indian team's main motive currently is to be as adaptive as possible in the final bilateral T20I series before going for T20 World Cup in Australia. "The main motive is adapting to the situations and demands of the team, whatever the situations and conditions are. So, I guess that adaptability is a big motive of our team. When we go there (Australia) we will see how the pitches behave and how the conditions are and the dimensions of the ground."

JABEUR, RADUCANU TO SQUARE OFF IN WORLD TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Wimbledon and U.S runner-up Ons Jabeur will take on 2021 US Open champion Emma Raducanu at the World Tennis Championship exhibition in Abu Dhabi on December 16. The pair have yet to meet in a professional match. Raducanu had been due to play Belinda Bencic in the 2021 edition of the exhibition but was forced to withdraw due to contracting Covid-19. Jabeur, her replacement, defeated Bencic 4-6, 6-3, 10-8. Tunisia's Jabeur has continued to scale new heights in 2022, rising from No 10 at the end of 2021 to her current No 2. The 28-year-old's year has been highlighted by her first two major finals, her first WTA 1000 title in Madrid and the WTA 500 trophy in Berlin.

After winning the US Open as a qualifier last year, Raducanu's first full pro season has been one of adjustment. The 19-year-old Briton has scored notable wins over Serena Williams, Victoria Azarenka and Sloane Stephens, and is fresh off a run to the Seoul semifinals. Previous World Tennis Championship winners include Jelena Ostapenko, Venus Williams and Maria Sharapova.

Korea Open

Norrie makes a winning start, to face Brooksby in quarters

Seoul (South Korea) | Agencies

Second seed Cameron Norrie made a winning start at the Korea Open Tennis Championships, cruising past Japanese wild card Kaichi Uchida 6-2, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals, here on Thursday.

In a strong serving display, the Briton fired eight aces and did not face a break point en route to his 63-minute victory. He has now advanced to 11 tour-level quarterfinals this season, holding a 46-23 record on the year. "It feels great. Especially to wake up early this morning as I was a bit let lagged. It was nice to get up early and get it done in straight sets," Norrie said.

"I felt that the conditions suited me well. It was pretty hot, so I like that. It was a tough match but I was able to win some close games and get a couple of breaks each set, so it was a good day for me overall," he added.

The 27-year-old is currently 11th in the ATP Live Race To Turin. The four-time tour-level titlist will be aiming for a deep run at the ATP 250 hard-court event as he looks to boost his chances of qualifying for the ATP Finals, to be held in Turin from November 13-20. Norrie will next face eighth seed Jenson Brooksby after the American downed South Korean Soonwoo Kwon 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 33 minutes.

SURYAKUMAR BECOMES HIGHEST RUN-SCORER FOR INDIA IN A CALENDAR YEAR IN T20IS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Charismatic India batter Suryakumar Yadav's string of fine performances in the last few series has seen him became the highest run-scorer for India in a calendar year in T20Is, which bodes well for Rohit Sharma's team as it aims to reclaim the T20 World Cup crown it won nearly 15 years back.

During the opening T20I against South Africa at Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday, Suryakumar smashed another unbeaten half-century (50 off 33 balls) as India defeated the visitors by eight wickets with 20 balls to spare in a low-scoring game. Chasing 107 for victory, opener KL Rahul's 51 followed by Surya's unbeaten 50 made the task of achieving the win a cakewalk and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Suryakumar continued his incredible run in T20Is this year, completing more than 700 runs in the format in the year, according to ICC. His tally of runs in T20Is in 2022 is a record for an Indian batter with Surya going past Shikhar Dhawan's 689 runs in 2018 in the format. Coming in at No.4 on Wednesday, with India reeling at 17/2 in the seventh over, Surya slammed two maximums off the first three balls he faced to ease the pressure and give the Indian innings a change in momentum after a sluggish start.

He remained unbeaten on 50 off 33 balls as India scaled the target with more than three overs to spare.

Surya has taken his tally of sixes to 45 in 2022 already, a record in all T20Is, with three more months to widen the gap with Rizwan. While Rizwan took 26 innings to make 42 sixes, Suryakumar has broken the record batting five times fewer.

Surya is up to second position in the latest ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings with 801 rating points after his half-century in the third and final T20I against Australia in Hyderabad.

We need to perform at our level best against Brighton, says Liverpool captain Henderson

London | Agencies

The Liverpool skipper Jordan Henderson is expecting a tough test from Premier League opponents Brighton & Hove Albion at Anfield on Saturday.

Henderson made his injury comeback for England on Monday night having picked up a hamstring issue against Newcastle United in late August.

Jurgen Klopp's squad will return to domestic action on Saturday against Brighton in the wake of a prolonged break from matches following the Chelsea postponement ahead of the September international fixtures.

"This is a big game for us, definitely. It'll be tough as well because Brighton are a very good side, as they've shown over the course of the start of the season," Henderson was quoted as saying by Liverpool.com

"It is important, but it will be difficult, and we hope that the fans will be along with us on Saturday as I'm sure they will be. Graham Potter did an amazing job there and they've got some great players, they're a really good team and difficult to play against as we've found out before in the past. They've now got a new manager which normally would give them a lot of energy," he said.

"I'll get some more training in this week and then I'll be ready for the weekend. There are so many games to get in before the World Cup, so we're going to need everybody fighting and fit for as long as possible as we try and get through this period. We need to try and get back to the results and the performances we're capable of," Henderson said.

World Men 6Red Snooker

Dhvaj stuns newly-crowned Asian champion Siyavosh Mozayani

Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) | Agencies

Indian player Dhvaj Haria stunned the recently-crowned Asian Champion of 6Red Snooker Siyavosh Mozayani of Iran and won his first match 4-2.

From the beginning Dhvaj Haria showed great calmness and self-belief, not being perturbed by his opponent Siyavosh Mozayani, who lifted the Asian 6 red title by 5 frames to 4 on Wednesday, in a highly competitive final encounter dethroning his compatriot Amir Sarkosh, the winner of the last year's edition.

In the very first frame, a missed brown by Siyavosh gave Haria a good opportunity which he cleverly utilized by giving a snooker. However, failure to break the snooker by Siyavosh saw Haria clearing the remaining colours to go ahead 1-0 in a best of seven frames league match.

In a scrappy second frame, Haria resorted to safe play and did not allow Siyavosh to find a scoring opportunity and ultimately trapped him with a deadly safety and went ahead 2-0.

The 3rd frame was somewhat a repetition of the second frame when Haria with small yet useful runs wrapped up that too without allowing Siavosh to open his account. The 4th and 5th frames saw Siyavosh scoring from some difficult openings and wrapped up both the frames, with a break of 43 in the 5th.

In the 6th frame both the players were going level and Siyavosh got a good opportunity to level the frame score but a missed pink played with the rest saw Haria taking away both pink and black to win the frame and match by 4-2. Meanwhile, other Indian players also won their respective matches on the opening day. Ace cueist Pankaj Advani played two matches on Thursday -- he won 4-0 against Mohamed Emeesh of Libya and 4-1 against Enkhtuvshin Bat-Ochir of Mongolia.

NEED TO PLAY TOP GAME AGAINST ANDORRA: INDIA U-17 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COACH DENNERBY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India U-17 Women's National Team head coach Thomas Dennerby is hopeful that his side will play compact football with utmost discipline when they take on Andorra in the early hours on Friday (September 30).

The match will start at 12.30am IST. This is the second match of the Indian under-17 team's ongoing exposure tour to Spain. They earlier lost to Sweden Under-17 side 1-3. "Andorra will be another challenge for us but we will be organised and disciplined against them," promised Dennerby on the eve of the match. "We have worked on our pressing in our sessions and hopefully we will not repeat the mistakes we committed in our last match," said the Swedish coach. "We have learnt that better teams will take advantage of our mistakes and score at their end, something we surely want to rectify," Dennerby further said. "We have defended well against Sweden and created more chances than before. If we can continue to put the same effort, hopefully we can win this time. But before all this, we definitely want to play a quality game," said Dennerby. The exposure tour to Spain have been planned by the All India Football Federation as part of preparations for the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup slated to kick off on October 11 in India.

Dennerby said his team did a good job on the pitch against Sweden though the result wasn't favourable. "We scored in our last match and to know that we can score against good teams is obviously a great feeling. We created other chances, but couldn't capitalise. "We were close enough to score more goals and hopefully we will take positive things from the match and work harder against Andorra," the coach said.

National Games: Gujarat women start with win in tennis; West Bengal women pip Assam in Lawn Bowls Fours

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

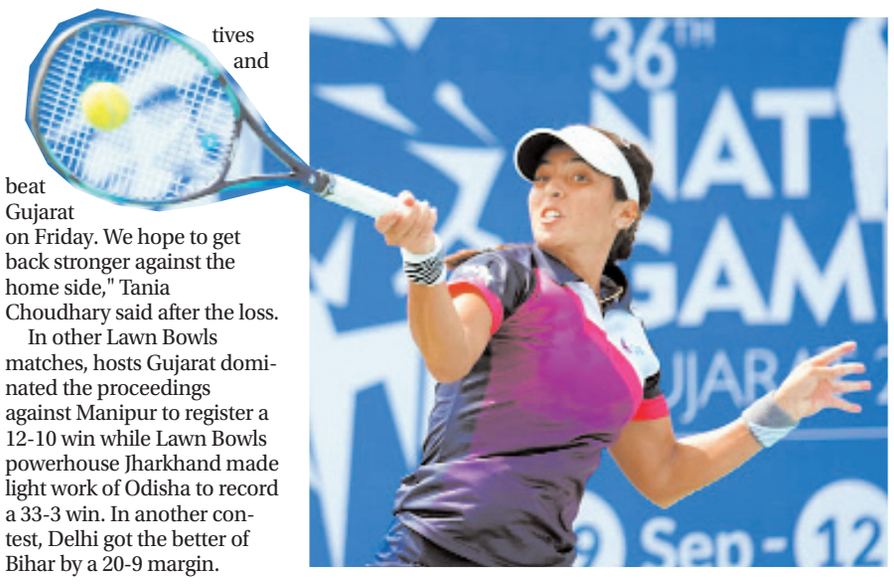
Gujarat began their defence of the National Games women's team tennis title with a commanding win over Telangana while the West Bengal women's Lawn Balls team registered a stunning 12-11 victory over Assam to maintain its winning momentum in the 36th National Games on Thursday. Tennis action began at the picturesque Sabarmati Riverfront Sports Complex on Thursday. Gujarat women dropped just four games in securing a 2-0 verdict against Telangana. They will now meet Karnataka for a place in the final. Karnataka ran out 2-0 winners against Uttar Pradesh. In the other semifinal, Maharashtra will lock horns with Tamil Nadu, who wriggled out of a tight spot against Haryana. Maharashtra had defeated Delhi 2-0.

At the Kensville Golf and Country Club where Lawn Balls action is taking place, the West Bengal team held their nerves to quell Assam's fightback to register their second win in the Group and virtually assure themselves of a semifinal berth.

The Assam Fours team, led by Birmingham Commonwealth Games participant Tania Choudhary, and comprising Bangita Hazarika, Adinita Kakoty and Ananya Saikia, were trailing 1-5 after the first two ends but clawed back to level 7-7.

Bengal, which fielded Renu Mohfa, Manisha Srivastava, Reema Pawa and Anchor Malhotra, held their nerves to regain a slender 11-10 lead in the penultimate 11th end and kept their noses ahead at the finish.

"As expected, it was a close match between teams who have experienced campaigners. It is a setback, especially because we made our way to the semifinals. But every loss teaches you something, and we will try to pick the positives and beat Gujarat on Friday. We hope to get back stronger against the home side," Tania Choudhary said after the loss.



In other Lawn Bowls matches, hosts Gujarat dominated the proceedings against Manipur to register a 12-10 win while Lawn Bowls powerhouse Jharkhand made light work of Odisha to record a 33-3 win. In another contest, Delhi got the better of Bihar by a 20-9 margin.

Amid separation rumours Deepika, Ranveer hints at working together

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone are one of the most loved couples in Bollywood. These two never fail in setting couple goals and often paint social media red with their lovey-dovey pictures. However, for the past few days, there have been rumours that there is trouble in Ranveer and Deepika's paradise. It all started after a tweet reading "BREAKING! Everything is not OK between #DeepikaPadukone and #RanveerSingh!!!" went crazy viral on the internet. Amid all sorts of speculation, Ranveer opened up about his relationship with his dearest wife.

Putting the rumours to rest, Ranveer at an event said, "Touchwood, we met and started dating in 2012, so 2022 is ten years of me and Deepika".

When quizzed about teaming up with Deepika for a project again, Ranveer shared, "I have nothing but the utmost respect for her and I admire her a lot. I have learnt a lot from her in my personal life too. There is a sweet surprise for everyone. You guys will see us together very soon. She is one of the best things that has happened to me and am so grateful for her in my life."

On the work front, the two have interesting projects in their pipeline. Deepika will next be seen in Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Pathaan. She also has Fighter opposite Hrithik Roshan. Meanwhile, Ranveer is busy with Rohit Shetty's Cirkus. He also has Karan Johar's directorial Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani alongside Alia Bhatt in his pipeline.

Navratri 2022 Special

Pavitra Punia on fasting during Navratri: I do it out of devotion towards Mata Rani

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Today is the fifth day of Navratri, and Maa Kushmanada is worshipped on this day. Day 5- The fifth day of the festival represents green, which reflects nature and represents growth, peace, fertility, and serenity.

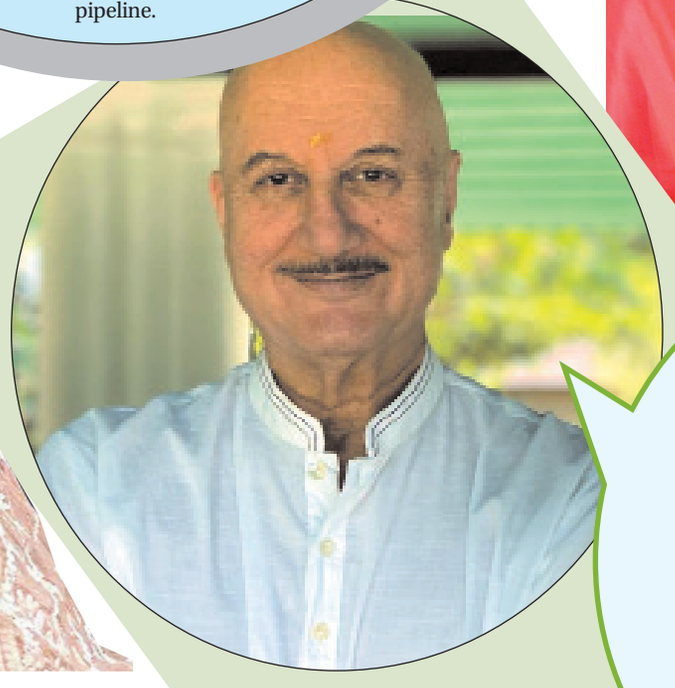
Pavitra Punia is a famous actress in the telly industry. On the occasion of Navratri, the actress shared in an exclusive conversation with Absolute India News, why she fasts, her love for fashion, and what she wishes for.

Talking about her devotion to Mata Rani, the actress said, "I am excited for the celebration because being a devotee of Mata Rani this festival is close to me. I also think that it's good that everyone has their roots and ways of doing Pooja and celebrating it. Even though I don't play Garba, being a fashion lover I admire their outfits."

The actress further revealed that she observes fast. She shared, "I fast out of devotion that I have towards my mother i.e. Mata Rani."

It is a 9-day festival and each day is marked by different shades of colour that signify or symbolise a goddess and similar virtues. Elaborating on this significance, the actress said, "Apart from fasting, this is the touch I try to add to my festivity. As I can also unleash my fashion side through this."

On a parting note, she spoke about wiping out cruelty towards animals. "I see people torturing animals for their own fun by hitting, caging, and killing them. I just pray that such atrocity toward animals be wiped out completely and let there be peace for every species in this world", said Pavitra.



Anupam Kher adulates badminton champion PV Sindhu's achievements

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Anupam Kher is one of the most talented actors in Bollywood and does not need any introduction. In his career spanning 38 years, the actor has amazed with his performances. He actor enjoys a massive fan following on social media and is quite active on it. Recently, the actor visited badminton player PV Sindhu's home and shared the video on his social media handle.

Sharing a video that gives a glimpse of her medals and trophies, Anupam Kher captioned, "This is AMAZING: Recently I had the privilege of visiting CHAMP pvsindhu1's home. She very humbly gave me a tour of her achievements! Right from the age of 8! I was completely bowled by her awards, trophies & humility! She is our daughter of India, our honour. She is our motivating hero. Jai ho, Jai hind. (sic)."

Sharing a picture of their meet, Sindhu wrote, "Had the fortune of spending time with one of the all time greats of Indian cinema. The laughs, the memories and quality conversation. What an honour." For those who are unaware, PV Sindhu has won two Olympic medals: silver at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro and bronze at the Olympics in Tokyo in 2021. On the work front, Anupam Kher's recent releases include Emergency and Uunchai.

Priyanka Chopra enjoys a stroll with daughter

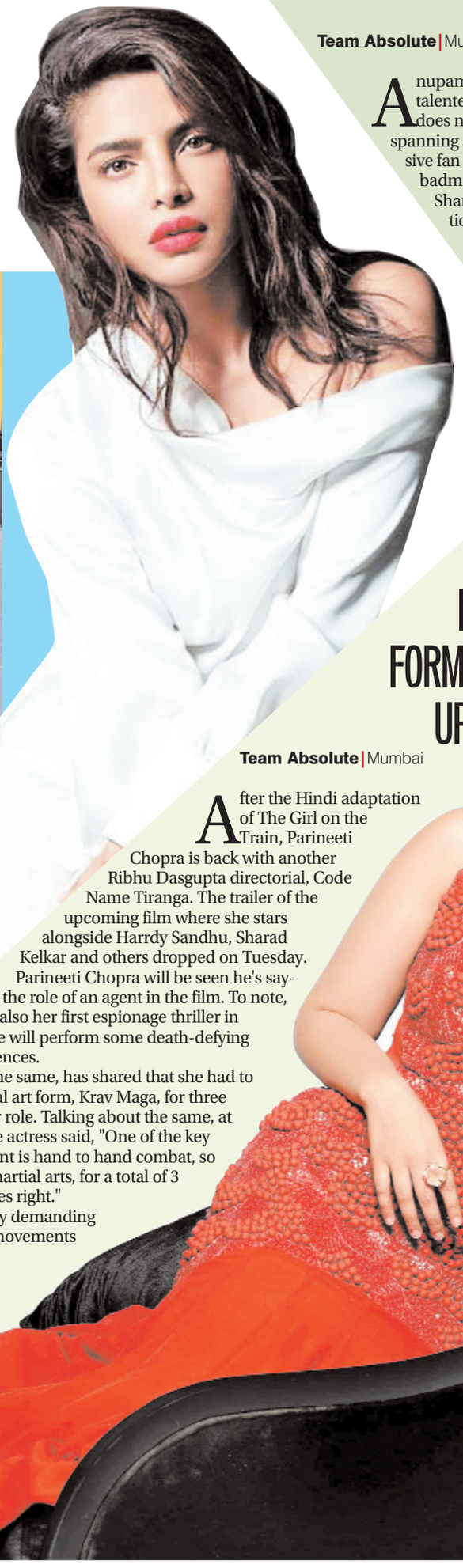
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas welcomed their daughter Malti Marie Jonas Chopra in January this year via surrogacy. While the actress has been careful not to reveal her baby's face, she often teases her fans with adorable glimpse of the little one.

Recently, taking to her Instagram account, Priyanka shared a photo of her walk with daughter Malti Marie and wrote, "Just two girls walkin' 5th av." She was seen taking the daughter for walk in a stroller.

For their day out, Priyanka wore a cream dress and matching heels. While, Malti wore a white and pink dress.

On the work front, Priyanka Chopra is set to star in the spy thriller series Citadel with Richard Madden, romantic comedy It's All Coming Back To Me with Sam Heughan and Bollywood film Jee Le Zaraa with Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif.



Parineeti Chopra learnt Israeli martial art form for her upcoming

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After the Hindi adaptation of The Girl on the Train, Parineeti Chopra is back with another Ribhu Dasgupta directorial, Code Name Tiranga. The trailer of the upcoming film where she stars alongside Harrdy Sandhu, Sharad Kelkar and others dropped on Tuesday.

Parineeti Chopra will be seen he's saying the role of an agent in the film. To note, this is also her first espionage thriller in which she will perform some death-defying action sequences.

To prep for the same, has shared that she had to learn Israeli martial art form, Krav Maga, for three months to perfect her role. Talking about the same, at the press conference, the actress said, "One of the key action techniques of an agent is hand to hand combat, so I learnt Krav Maga, a form of martial arts, for a total of 3 months to get my action sequences right."

"It is a very physically and mentally demanding form of martial arts as its not only just movements but it also needs a lot of mental awareness of the surroundings one is in which is what exactly an agent needs to do on a mission."

She adds: "Most of my fight sequences were against men who were a lot taller than me like the stunt men and co-actor Sharad Kelkar and sometimes the fight sequences would require them to fight with their full body weight."

'Code Name Tiranga' also stars Harrdy Sandhu opposite Parineeti and is set to release on October 14.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Ananya Panday

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