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AGE JUST A NUMBER - 7 INDIAN-ORIGIN WOMEN IN FORBES' '50 OVER 50' LIST

PROUD FEMININE

Proving yet again that age has got nothing to do with success, seven Indian-American women have made it to the Forbes' '50 over 50' list of 200 entrepreneurs, investors, creators and entertainers.

NEW YORK | Agencies

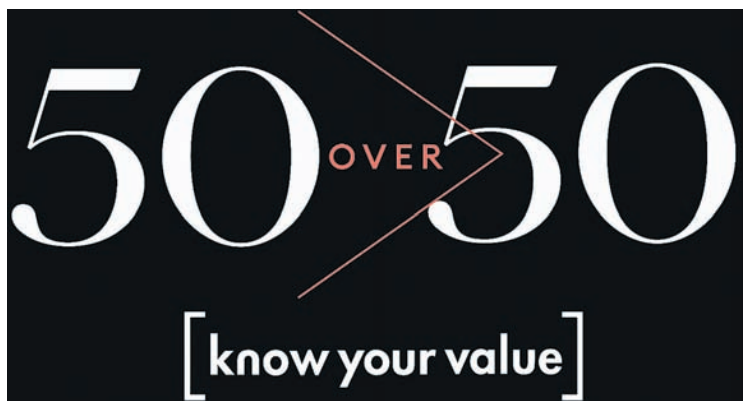
While Manjusha Kulkarni, co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate, is listed in the 'Impact' section, the remaining six women are included in the 'Entrepreneurs' category of the covered list.

Kulkarni's Stop AAPI Hate is America's leading aggregator of Covid-19-related hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

She is also the Executive Director of AAPI Equity Alliance, a coalition of community-based organisations that advocate for the rights and needs of the Asian American community in Southern California.

In 2014, Kulkarni received the White House Champions of Change award for her dedication to improving healthcare access for South Asian Americans.

Ravathi Advaiti took over as the CEO of the global manufacturing and supply-chain company, Flex in 2019.



At Flex, Advaiti oversees 200,000 employees and sets the strategic direction for a company earning \$26 billion in annual revenue.

Padmasree Warrior has served as CTO of Cisco and Motorola and is currently the founder-CEO of Fable, a platform for social reading and book clubs. It raised over \$28 million in 2021. A Cornell-trained engineer, she believes a STEM education informs creativity: "Increasingly it's not about knowing all the answers but asking

the right questions and figuring out how to get the right answer".

Poomima DeBolle is the co-founder and chief product officer at Menlo Security, a leading cloud and network security company. In 2020, Menlo Security announced it raised \$100 million in Series E funding, with a company valuation of \$800 million.

Ann Mukherjee became the first woman of colour to assume the position of chair and CEO at wine and spirits company Pernod Ricard North

America in 2019. Inspired by her own experiences, she launched Absolute's #SexResponsibly campaign to raise awareness of the connection between responsible drinking and consent and to take a stand against perpetrators who use alcohol as a tool or excuse to commit crimes.

Anita Gupta is a founder and chief portfolio officer at Kiwitech, a company that helps early to growth-stage startups build viable products, raise capital, and scale their businesses. She has dedicated her fifth decade to creating disruptive innovation through her company KiwiTech's investment in over 500 startups.

Jayshree Ullal has been president and CEO of Arista Networks, a computer networking firm, since 2008. Born in London and raised in India, she is one of America's wealthiest female executives. She joined the board of directors of Snowflake, a cloud computing company that went public in September 2020. Ullal owns about 5% of Arista's stock, some of which is earmarked for her two children, niece, and nephew.

Retail jobs in India down 12% amid record festive sales

While employment growth is slowing in retail trade, employer demand for workers remains strong in other verticals and job postings were at 62 per cent above their pre-pandemic baseline (September end).

Bengaluru holds the largest share of jobs in retail nationally, with 12.26 per cent of all retail jobs in the city, followed by Mumbai at 8.2 per cent.

At 6.29 per cent, job seekers in Chennai accounted for the lion's share of clicks for delivery jobs in India, said the report.

Delivery jobs have seen the highest demand in Bengaluru as well, with 5.5 per cent of all delivery jobs in the country being generated in the city, the report mentioned.



Team Absolute | Bengaluru

chose to purchase online during festivities, according to findings from leading job website Indeed.

"The festive months in India are usually a time where we see an increase in seasonal jobs to meet the increasing demand. Even though the percentage increase of jobs hasn't been on par with last year, that's not to say a substantial number of jobs have not been created," said Sashi Kumar, Head of Sales for Indeed India.

"Over 39.6 per cent of new jobs have been created. We see the discrepancy with last year given the global recessions happening, possible inflations, and the cautious nature of hiring currently," he mentioned.

As e-commerce players earn big this festive season, India saw a de-growth of 11.8 per cent in retail sector jobs from August 2021 to August this year, a report showed on Friday.

Indians searching for retail jobs see a fall during the pandemic and beyond, and jobs in retail have seen an overall 5.50 per cent degrowth in the past three years.

Although jobs in retail saw an uptick of 27.70 per cent in 2020-2021, it again de-grew last year.

This could largely be due to the lockdowns last year and the work from home set up where people



Rupee plunges to all-time low of 82.33 against dollar

New Delhi: Indian rupee on Friday fell sharply to its all-time low of 82.33 against the dollar owing to a rise in US bond yields and firming up of crude oil prices.

Rupee had closed at 81.89 on Thursday. It was trading at 82.30 against the dollar in the morning after opening at 82.19 a dollar. Later, it touched an all-time low of 82.33 against the dollar.

The all-time low plunge in the rupee has come a day after the World Bank had on Thursday cut India's growth forecast for this financial year by a full percentage point amid rising inflation and adverse geo-political conditions.

US ASKS ITS CITIZENS TO EXERCISE 'INCREASED CAUTION' WHILE VISITING INDIA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In its latest India Travel Advisory, the United States has asked its citizens to "exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism". The US State Department in the travel advisory issued on October 5 has put India at Level 2, which denotes "Exercise Increased Caution". The advisory asked its citizens not to travel to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh) due to terrorism and civil unrest, and within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border due to potential armed conflicts.

"Indian authorities report that rape is one of the fastest growing crimes in India. Violent crime, such as sexual assault, has occurred at



tourist sites and in other locations," the advisory added. "Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and government facilities," the US State Department said.

The US government has limited ability to provide emergency services to its citizens in rural areas from eastern Maharashtra and northern Telangana through western West Bengal as the US government employees must obtain special authorisation to travel to these areas.

Clamour grows for probe into Eknath Shinde's Dussehra rally 'bills'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maha Vikas Aghadi allies have demanded a probe, while an activist-lawyer has moved the Bombay High Court for an FIR into the alleged 'cash payment' of Rs 10 crore purportedly made by the faction of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for buses to ferry crowds for his Dussehra rally in Mumbai on October 5.

Senior Shiv Sena leader Ambadas Danve has written to the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) demanding details of the expenditure for hiring over 1,800 buses for the rally at the Bandra Kurla Complex.

Congress chief spokesperson Atul Londe contended that the MSRTC staff took two days to count the Rs 10 crore and asked from where



did the Shinde group get this large sum of cash.

Sena MP Arvind Sawant has called for a probe by the Enforcement Directorate, the Income Tax Department and

the Central Bureau of Investigation into the cash payment made for the state transport buses.

Nationalist Congress Party chief spokesperson Mahesh

Tapase has said that since this booking was akin to "a bulk client", why digital or online payment was not taken, as propounded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"If cash payment was indeed made for such a huge amount, then where's the bill and in whose name it was issued," Tapase asked.

A Mumbai lawyer, Nitin Satpute, filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court on Friday seeking directions for an FIR against Shinde and others under the provisions of PMLA and Income Tax laws for the 'unknown source' of the Rs 10 crore funding for the Dussehra rally.

Londe also questioned the source of the funds and who gave the amount in cash for the rally.

FREE BUS RIDES IN TN TURN BUMPY: MANY WOMEN REJECT FREEBIE, INSIST ON TICKETS

Conscious and self-respectful citizen



R. Sundari, a domestic help in Tiruchi, told reporter that "Initially we thought it was good as we could juggle work and work at two places or three places as we did not have to bother about travelling as it was free. After some days, the bus conductors started abusing us, using the choicest expletives, and the men used to laugh at this. Anyone who has a little self-respect would stop taking free rides. Initially, I did not want to reject it as it was saving me good money but later I decided not to travel for free and forcibly asked the conductor to accept money."

Chennai | Agencies

The DMK government in Tamil Nadu announced free bus rides for all women in the state after assuming office. It gained traction across the country as a project which helps women to access free rides on public transport and makes them more independent.

The scheme was well received during the initial days and the percentage of women riding buses touched an all-time high with around 61% of the total passengers in the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) buses

being women. The DMK government touted this as one of its major achievements and showcased that the party always stood for women.

However, the honeymoon was short-lived with several cases of bus drivers and conductors belittling the women travelling free in buses, even hinting that they were doing so at the benevolence of the staff.

The issue gained momentum after the Tamil Nadu minister for higher education, K. Ponmudi at a public function made some comments reminding the women in the audience about the free bus rides

introduced by the Stalin government.

He asked the women there, "How are you going in the bus today? If you want to go from here to Koyambedu (a place in Chennai) or anywhere you are going in 'OC'. OC is a term used in Tamil for free.

This infuriated several people and a video of an elderly woman arguing with a conductor that she won't travel unless he takes the money for a ticket went viral. The woman asked the conductor, "The minister is talking like that!!! We going in 'OC'? We don't want to go in 'OC'! We will travel by paying for the ticket. Prices of

everything have risen and five rupees is not a big deal. Take the money and give me a ticket. We don't want to travel free."

This led to an uproar in the state and those close to the DMK came out with the statement that the woman in the video, Thulasiamma, was an AIADMK supporter and that she had tried to belittle the government.

In another instance, four women rejected free travel and insisted on paying.

After these incidents, the TNSTC has reportedly issued oral instructions to the conductors to collect the fares if the women passengers insist on paying.

MAN PRACTICING WITCHCRAFT SACRIFICES MINOR SON IN BIHAR

Patna: A man allegedly involved in witchcraft has been arrested for killing his minor son in Bihar's Banka district, an official said on Friday.

The accused, Dipak Sharma, allegedly practises witchcraft and to "gain black magic spells", he strangled his seven-year-old son Raghav Kumar on the night of Vijaya Dashmi. The incident occurred in Mahota village under Amarpur police station in the district.

The mother of deceased, Khusboo Devi, in her statement, accused her husband of killing her son Raghav on the night of Vijaya Dashmi. "We have registered an FIR against Dipak Kumar and arrested him from a nearby deserted place on Friday. After committing the crime, he was hiding behind the bushes which are located some distance away from his house. The accused confessed the crime," said Sunil Kumar, SHO Amarpur police station. "During the search of his room, we have recovered some books related to black magic, a sensor camera and a pen drive. The accused was involved in black magic for the past few months and he was waiting for Vijaya Dashmi to execute the sacrifice of his son and achieve witchcraft black magic spells," Kumar said.

Now, Vande Bharat Express hits Cow



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Vande Bharat Express on the Gandhinagar-Mumbai route hit a cow near Anand station in Gujarat on Friday, a day after the train hit a herd of buffaloes. There was only a dent in the train's front bumper and it had to be halted for 10 minutes, officials said.

In Thursday's incident, the newly launched semi-high-speed train had hit four buffaloes, and its 'nose' cone had come off. It proceeded after an eight-minute halt as damage to the nose - a bumper made of fibre-reinforced plastic - is not essential to the functioning. The animals died.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said such collisions with cattle are unavoidable and "this has been kept in mind while designing the train". "Its nose on the front is totally replaceable,"

the minister said earlier today.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had flagged off the train last month and travelled in it from Gandhinagar till Kalupur railway station in Ahmedabad.

The latest collision place a little before 4 pm near the town of Anand, about 100 kilometres from Gandhinagar and over 400 km from Mumbai.

"The train's front portion has suffered a small dent," Sumit Thakur, chief public relations officer of Western Railway, said, adding that all the passengers were safe.

The train reaches 160 km per hour in just over two minutes, and has better riding comfort than other trains, according to the railways.

Yesterday's collision with buffaloes occurred when the train was on its way back from Mumbai to Gandhinagar, around 11 am, between Batwa and Maninagar, ahead of Ahmedabad.



OCTOBER 11 AND 16 WILL BE HISTORIC DAYS FOR THE STATE: CM CHOUHAN

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, will inaugurate "Shri Mahakal Lok" in the holy city of Ujjain on October 11. The foundation stone of state-of-the-art airport in Gwalior will be laid by Home Minister Amit Shah on October 16.

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Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that October 11 and 16 are going to be historic days for the state. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, will inaugurate "Shri Mahakal Lok" in the holy city of Ujjain on October 11. The foundation stone of state-of-the-art airport in Gwalior will be laid by Home Minister Amit Shah on October 16.



Chief Minister Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh is going to become the first state in the country where medical education will be conducted in Hindi. He said that Prime Minister Modi's thinking is that engineering and medical studies

should be done in Matra Bhasha. To give concrete shape to his intention, medical education is being started in Hindi in Madhya Pradesh. Do advance and micro planning for the foundation stone laying ceremony. Chief Minister Chouhan, while reviewing the preparations for the airport foundation-laying programme, directed the concerned officers including the Collector to finalize the arrangements in such a way that the common citizens coming to the function do not face any problem. Care should also be taken that people reach the venue on time and reach their homes on time. He said that detailed advance and micro-planning should be done to complete the program in a systematic manner. Inspection of Airport Foundation Ceremony Venue Chief Minister Chouhan also took stock of the preparations for the airport foundation laying ceremony to be held at Mela Ground in Gwalior. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, District In-charge Minister Tulsiram Silavat, Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar, Revenue and Transport Minister Govind Singh Rajput were also present.

Congress took a jibe at BJP leaders after not seeing Mahakal Lok on DP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to inaugurate the Mahakal Lok in Ujjain, the religious city of Madhya Pradesh, on October 11. On this occasion, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan urged the BJP leaders to put the picture of Mahakal Lok on the DP of the profile of their social media site. Media coordinator of Congress's Madhya Pradesh unit president Narendra Saluja has shared screenshots of social sites of Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel, Fagga Singh Kulaste, former Chief Minister Uma Bharti and BJP's national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, saying, Flying the instructions in the air, BJP's central minister and national office bearer, no one changed their social media DP even on the appeal of the BJP organization regarding the Prime Minister's visit to Ujjain. It is to be known that Chief



Minister Chouhan had changed the picture and banner on the social site account on Thursday. He had called for putting the picture of Mahakaleswar on the DP of social media, let's be a part of this festival and worship Shri Mahakaleswar with reverence on the DP and banner of our social media profile.

Similarly, BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma has also changed his DP and banner and put the picture of Mahakaleswar and Mahakal Lok. Apart from this, state government ministers and party officials have also put the picture of Mahakaleswar on their DP and banner.

Three killed as tractor-trolley overturns in Rewa

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three persons have died after a tractor-trolley in which they were travelling overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, officials said on Thursday. The incident took place at a village in Naigarhi block, around 50 km from Rewa. The police said the incident occurred when the villagers who had gone to participate in the immersion procession of Goddess Durga idols were returning to their village. "Around 40 people were travelling in the tractor-trolley which over-turned, killing three of them on spot. Around 12 people were injured... they were rushed to



the nearby hospitals," said a police officer. The deceased have been identified as Rajesh

Kushwaha (45), Ashwani Patel (17) and Ram Ujagar (70). All were residents of Chandramouli village.

Ujjain civic chief transferred ahead of PM's visit to inaugurate 'Mahakal Corridor'

THE MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO TRANSFER UJJAIN MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER FIVE DAYS BEFORE PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI IS SET TO VISIT THE CITY TO UNVEIL THE NEWLY EXPANDED CORRIDOR OF MAHAKALESHWAR TEMPLE DREW CRITICISM ON THURSDAY.

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The state government claimed that the Municipal Commissioner was transferred

due to lack of preparation for the mega programme on October 11, sources claimed that the sudden decision to transfer came after some stray cattle had entered into CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan's convoy when he visited to review the preparation on Wednesday. The transfer order issued on Thursday mentioned that "Ujjain Municipal Commissioner Anshu Gupta (2016 batch IAS officer) has been transferred to Secretariat office as Deputy Secretary in Madhya Pradesh government till further decision". The Chief Executive Officer of Ujjain Development Authority, Sandeep Soni has been given additional charge to look after the further preparation of the programme. The decision came hours after Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Minister Bhupendra Singh during his visit to Ujjain on Thursday



expressed displeasure accusing the lack of preparation for the upcoming mega event on October 11. "The Minister was unhappy with the preparations of the Ujjain Municipal Corporation and smart city for the inauguration programme of 'Shri Mahakal Lok'," said a source in the Madhya Pradesh government. On Wednesday, after some stray cattle entered into the Chief Minister's convoy, Ujjain Municipal Corporation sprung into action and as many as six cattle enclosures were demolished and action has been taken against those who set their cattle free. The

BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government is preparing to organise a mega celebration on the auspicious occasion of the unveiling of 'Sri Mahakal Lok', a newly developed corridor at Ujjain's Mahakaleswar temple. Sources claimed that Wednesday's incident made state Urban Development Minister angry, which promoted him to transfer the Municipal Commissioner. Meanwhile, Ujjain Collector Asheesh Singh has declared a local holiday in the district on October 11 so that maximum number of people can participate in the inauguration programme of Shri Mahakal Lok.

Two MP Cong MLAs booked for harassing woman on train

The alleged incident was reported on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday when they were travelling in an AC coach of Rewanchal Express (Rewa to Bhopal).

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Two Congress MLAs from Madhya Pradesh were booked for allegedly harassing a woman while they were travelling on an overnight train. The legislators, accused of harassing the woman co-passenger, were identified as Sidharth Kushwaha and Sunil Saraf. Kushwaha is MLA from Satna city while Saraf represents Kotma assembly seat in the same district. 37-year-old Kushwaha is also president of OBC wing of the Madhya Pradesh Congress. He was also one of the mayoral candidates from Satna, but he lost the elections against the ruling BJP. The woman alleged that the MLAs were drunk, used abusive language and harassed her during the journey. Railway police swung into action after woman's husband in a series of tweets, alerted railway police that his wife was travelling on a train from Rewa to Bhopal and two heavily drunk persons in the same compartment are misbehaving with his wife. By the time train reached Sagar station, railway police reached that particular compartment for checking. Later, the woman left her seat and shifted to another compartment, according to the police. In her complaint, the victim stated that MLAs Siddharth Kushwaha and Sunil Saraf boarded the train at Katni railway station. They were having their meal when she was sleeping on her berth in the same compartment. In between



Ghatera and Sagar railway stations, the duo allegedly woke her up and forced her to have a meal with them. But as she refused, one of the MLAs held her hand and continued insistence on having food. The complainant deboarded the train at Habibganj and filed a complaint at Habibganj police station. The FIR has been registered in Sagar government railway police station under section 354 of IPC, said a senior police official in Bhopal. Additional Superintendent of Police Pratima Patel

told press that the complainant was travelling with her infant in the AC compartment of Rewanchal Express. Talking to media, MLA Siddharth Kushwaha said, "I along with Sunil Saraf was coming to Bhopal. I boarded the train from Satna and after few minutes the same woman requested me to exchange her seat as she was carrying her little baby, so I did the same. We had our dinner and asked her as courtesy for dinner. I fail to understand why the woman has levelled such serious allegations against me and my colleague MLA." Kushwaha further said that he didn't even switch on the light in the compartment so that no one get disturb. "There was no further conversation with the woman took place after the exchange of berths. It was in Sagar when a police team arrived in our compartment, and we came to know about the complaint she made against us," Kushwaha added. "How is it possible for anyone to indulge in such a criminal act when there are co-travellers, ticket-checking staff, coach attendants, government railway police personnel, etc," the MLA asserted. Madhya Pradesh BJP president V.D. Sharma said that "the act of two Congress MLAs has exposed their real face". "Their leader Priyanka Gandhi says Ladki Hun Lad Sakti Hun, now I want to ask Priyanka Gandhi as to what action she would take against her party's MLAs. I condemn this act and believe that the Congress leadership would take action against the two MLAs," Sharma said.

CM Chouhan plants saplings of Karanj, Peepal and Gulmohar



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Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Karanj, Peepal and Gulmohar along with 6-year-old Riddhi and members of Jai Shri Kalyan Welfare Education Society in the Smart City Garden. The members of the society also took part in the plantation programme. The Society is active in religious and cultural activities along with social welfare works. Along with this, it is constantly trying to improve the standard of living of the people in the rural areas.

State to have plastic free National Parks: Forest Minister Dr. Shah

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Forest Minister Dr. Kunwar Vijay Shah said that ban on plastic bottles and bags will be executed from January 1, 2023 in all national parks of the Forest Department. Dr. Shah was addressing the closing ceremony of the Wildlife Week in the Vihar Vithika of the National Van Vihar Park today. Minister Dr. Shah said that water ATMs will be installed in all national parks to ensure affordable water for tourist. Also, there will be a ban on carrying bags of food items etc. in the park to ensure environment protection. Forest Minister Dr. Shah said that the state has got a unique gift in the form of cheetah after 72 years due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Chouhan to restore the extinct chee-

tahs in the country. He said that the Forest Department is continuously monitoring the conservation and protection of cheetahs from Africa. He said that considering the tiger movement around Bhopal, making this area a sanctuary can be considered. For this people's representatives, wildlife lovers and elites should come forward. Zebras and Giraffes also to arrive. Forest Minister Dr. Shah said that after the arrival of cheetahs from Africa, efforts are now being made to bring zebras and giraffes to the Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal before January 26, 2023. Forest Minister Dr. Shah announced that arrangements would be made for 75 winners and runners-



up participants of various competitions held in the State Level Wildlife Week to have free wildlife tour in National Park Bandhavgarh, Pench Tiger Reserve, Panna Tiger Reserve and Kanha Tiger Reserve. Forest Minister gave away prizes to the winners of photography-exhibition, painting, rangoli, school and college debate, mehndi, palm painting, fancy dress, face painting and teacher debate contest. Two best short films focusing on the excellent work of forest management done by the forest guards were screened. The Forest Minister extended awards to the filmmaker and forest guard Akash Sahu

and Sanjay Namdev. Forest Minister Dr. Shah released booklet 'Van Vihar ke Vanya Prani Raju ki nazar se, Poster of 'Madhya Pradesh State Bio-diversity Quiz-2022' of Madhya Pradesh State Bio-diversity Board, book focusing on 'Dragon Fly' published jointly by Bio-diversity Board and World Nature Fund India, Dr. A.B. Shrivastava's book 'Manual for Post-mortem of Wild Cats' and quarterly magazine of Madhya Pradesh Vananchal Sandesh. The Forest Minister also administered oath to all for the protection, promotion and safety of wildlife. Van Vihar Director Padma Priya Balakrishnan presented the report of various programs and competitions held during the Wildlife Week. Officers-employees, participants and tourists were present along with Principal Secretary Forest Ashok Varnwal.

CM CHOUHAN CONDOLE THE DEMISE OF FILM ACTOR ARUN BALI

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over the demise of Arun Bali, popular actor of Indian cinema and TV serials. Chief Minister Chouhan has said that once upon a time, Doordarshan used to telecast many purposeful serials, which had made a special place in the hearts of Indian public. One of these serials was Swabhimaan. Arun Bali did great acting in this. Other serials of Bali include Woh Rehne Wali Mahalon Ki, Desh Mein Nikla Hoga Chand, many more. In the year 1991, he played the role of Raja Porus in the historical serial Chanakya. Chief Minister Chouhan has prayed for the soul of late actor Shri Arun Bali to rest in peace.

BJP in action, five district presidents replaced

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP is reviewing the results of the urban body elections held in Madhya Pradesh and the process of action has also started on such office-bearers, where BJP has to face defeat or other complaints have come. In this sequence, five district presidents have been changed and in the coming days many more office bearers can also be blamed. The elections to urban bodies and panchayats have been held recently in the state. In these elections, the BJP has faced defeat against expectations at some

places. The party organization is reviewing why the party has to face defeat in these areas. Party sources say that the working style of the district presidents to other office bearers is also being reviewed and if the organization is not satisfied with the working style of many office bearers, then many more big changes are possible in the coming days.





EDITOR'S SPECS

Rajbhar to join BJP again

Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar is inching closer to the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh. The BJP is also reciprocating the affection in ample measure. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, on Wednesday, shared the stage with Rajbhar at a function in Ballia. The deputy chief minister addressed Rajbhar as a "permanent friend". When questioned, he reiterated, "Yes Rajbhar ji is my permanent friend." Rajbhar, who snapped ties with the Samajwadi Party after the Assembly poll results, has been sending out feelers for a rapprochement to the BJP. He supported the BJP's presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu and has backed the government on multiple issues. He is heard appreciating Yogi Adityanath's style of governance on occasions more than one. "The joining of SBSP helped the SP to create a narrative of backward consolidation in a limited scale and increase its seat and vote share in 2022 Assembly polls. The SBSP might not have a large support base, but it has some support in at least 30-35 Assembly segments. The BJP will definitely try to get the party on its side before 2024 poll and Rajbhar also has no option but to return to the NDA fold," said a political analyst. The SBSP was formed by Rajbhar in 2002 and has sizable support among the Rajbhar community in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Rajbhars constitute roughly 4 per cent of the state's electorate. The SBSP formed an alliance with the SP in 2022 Assembly polls and fought on 19 seats winning six. In 2017, the SBSP contested the election in alliance with the BJP and won four seats.

BANNING OF EXTREMIST ORGANISATIONS IS A RIGHT STEP

Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad Fayzie

In a decisive move, a communal and radical outfit, Popular Front of India (PFI), has been banned for five years by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for its alleged links to terror funding. In addition to this, PFI's associate organisations -- Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala -- are also banned leading to debate in the media about this. A leading organisation of Pasmanda muslim named All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz has welcomed this move stating that the Pasmanda Mahaz is against Muslim communalism and believes that such organisations are also against the basic spirit of Islam. So the extremist and radical organisations must be proscribed in order to maintain peace and harmony in the country, especially those organisations which have been instituted in the name of Islam but fail to follow Islamic principles and teachings. Islam propagates love and compassion for building an idealistic society devoid of fundamentalist organisations and proprietors who incite evil and violent activities. There is a famous 'hadees', which states: "Whosoever of you sees an evil action, let him change it with his hand; and if he is not able to do so, then with his tongue; and if he is not able to do so, then with his heart and that is the weakest of faith." This hadees motivates all Muslims to prevent the wrong doer whether it includes big sins like killing, lynching, mass violence or small sins as abusing, backbiting. A true Muslim must stop wicked person and organisation. Such organisations must be banned which encourages a sense of enmity rather than love and compassion; provoking innocent Muslims into violent protests rather than focusing on a peaceful, prosperous community. The Prophet Muhammad never allowed his companions to create instability and dissonance. "Whoever wrongs one with whom a covenant has been made, burdens him with



more than he can bear or forcibly takes something from him, I will be his adversary on the Day of Judgment," (Al-Baihaqi). The Indian Muslim community has been enjoying liberty of religion, equality, for earning livelihood, fraternity for prosperous society and enjoying a peaceful lifestyle. Islam is as old in India as it is in Mecca. The great examples of the Barwada Mosque in Ghogha, Gujarat built before 623 CE, Cheraman Juma Mosque (629 CE) in Methala, Kerala and Palaiya Jumma Palli (or The Old Jumma Masjid - 628 - 630 CE) in Kilakarai testifies to the statement. All these mosques could not have survived if there was hatred and communal tensions between the communities in the past. This shows that Muslims have always enjoyed peaceful and friendly relations with their other Indian counterparts who have dif-

ferent faiths. Consequently, if a handful of deviated Muslims form such organisations or institutions that stand against love, peace, brotherhood and Indian Constitution, they must be banned and boycotted immediately. "None of you (truly) believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself." (Hadees) The reliable and applicable Hadees shows the importance of good will for our neighbours and near ones. Contrasting this Hadees, proprietors and partners of radical organisations like Popular Front of India (PFI) have been trying to snare innocent unemployed Muslims in the organisation and grooming them to develop radical violent approaches and to harass innocent people not conforming to their ideology. These organisations are

working against humanity. The nationwide ban is expected to force them to quit their unethical work and repent to their flaws; adopt a simple and straightforward path that will lead them to build a prosperous culture and tradition as the following Quranic verse pleads unambiguously. "Except for those who repent, believe and do righteous work. For them Allah will replace their evil deeds with good. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful." (Quran 25:70) (Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad Fyzie, writer is author, translator, media panelist, columnist, socio-pasmanda activist and Medical Doctor by profession)

international

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARDED TO UKRAINIAN, RUSSIAN & BELARUSIAN CAMPAIGNERS

The Nobel Peace Prize 2022 have been jointly awarded to Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian civil rights campaigners for "their consistent efforts in favour of humanist values, anti-militarism and principles of law", the Norwegian Nobel Committee said in a statement on Friday. The recipients of the award are human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties. According to the Committee, Bialiatski was one of the initiators of the democracy movement that emerged in Belarus in the mid-1980s. He founded the organisation Viasna (Spring) in 1996 in "response to the controversial constitutional amendments that gave the president dictatorial powers and that triggered widespread demonstrations", says the statement. Viasna provided support for the jailed demonstrators and their families. In the years that followed, Viasna evolved into a broad-based human rights organisation that documented and protested against the authorities' use of torture against political prisoners. The Committee claims that Belarusian government



authorities have repeatedly sought to silence Bialiatski, leading to his imprisonment from 2011 to 2014. Following large-scale demonstrations against the regime in 2020, he was again arrested. He remains in detention without trial. Meanwhile, Russian human rights organisation Memorial was established in 1987 by human rights activists in the former Soviet Union who wanted to ensure that the victims of the communist regime's oppression would never be forgotten. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov and human rights advocate Svetlana Gannushkina were among

the founders. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Memorial grew to become the largest human rights organisation in Russia. In addition to establishing a centre of documentation on victims of the Stalinist era, Memorial compiled and systematised information on political oppression and human rights violations in Russia. Memorial became the most authoritative source of information on political prisoners in Russian detention facilities. The organisation has also been standing at the forefront of efforts to combat militarism and promote human rights and government based on rule of law. During the Chechen wars, Memorial gathered and verified information on abuses and war crimes perpetrated on the civilian population by Russian and pro-Russian forces. In 2009, the head of Memorial's branch in Chechnya, Natalia Estemirova, was killed because of this work. The Center for Civil Liberties was founded in Kiev in 2007 for the purpose of advancing human rights and democracy in Ukraine. It has taken a stand to strengthen Ukrainian civil society and pressure the authorities to make Ukraine a full-fledged democracy. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, the Center for Civil Liberties engaged in efforts to identify and document Russian war crimes against the Ukrainian civilian population. In collaboration with international partners, the center is playing a pioneering role with a view to holding the guilty parties accountable for their crimes. Honouring the "three outstanding champions of human rights, democracy and peaceful co-existence in the neighbour countries Belarus, Russia and Ukraine", the Committee said that this year's laureates have "revitalised and honoured Alfred Nobel's vision of peace and fraternity between nations, a vision most needed in the world today".

US READYING FOR SEVERE FLU SEASON, NEW COVID WAVE

Washington: The US is readying for a severe flu season as well as a new wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in the upcoming fall season, with health experts urging the public to get flu shots and Covid boosters. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is calling on everyone above six months to get their flu shots, reports Xinhua news agency. "I don't want to be alarmed, but I am concerned. We know that it's going to be a strain of flu that tends to be more severe," said Michael Phillips, an infectious disease expert at New York University Langone Health. "For those ages greater than 65, there's a specific formulations of vaccines that you should get and it dramatically reduces the likelihood of hospitalization and death," Phillips said. Less than half of US adults plan to get a flu shot this year and just a third feel safe getting a flu shot and Covid-19 vaccine at the same time, according to a survey of the US National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. Flu season typically starts in October, peaks in December through February and can last into the spring.



13 inmates killed in Ecuador prison riot

Quito: Agencies The number of prisoners killed during a riot at a prison in Ecuador's city of Guayaquil has increased to 13, authorities confirmed. The riot took place in the Litoral Penitentiary amid clashes between inmates, Xinhua news agency reported. "We regret to inform that as a result of clashes 13 prisoners are recorded dead," the National Service of Integral Attention to Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders said on Thursday. The clashes took place between inmates from rival gangs related to drug trafficking, who were fighting for control of the prison, according to prison authorities. Tactical units of the police and the armed forces re-established order amid a day of violence, which caused damage to the prison infrastructure. The disturbances began Wednesday afternoon with the use of firearms, which activated the corresponding protocols and a unified command post. Since February 2021, when a wave of riots broke out at various prisons in Ecuador, around 400 inmates have been killed in detention, official statistics showed.

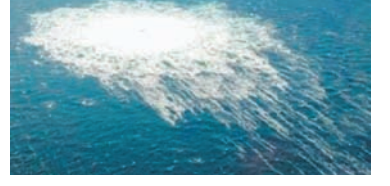
World would face Armageddon if Putin uses tactical nuke weapon: Biden

Washington: Agencies In his most outspoken remarks about the threat of nuclear war, US President Joe Biden warned that the world could face an "Armageddon" if his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin used a tactical nuclear weapon to try to win the ongoing war in Ukraine. Addressing a Democratic fundraiser in New York on Thursday, Biden said it was the closest the world had come to nuclear catastrophe for 60 years, The Guardian reported. "We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis," he said.

"We've got a guy I know fairly well," Biden said in a reference to the Russian President. "He's not joking when he talks about potential use of tactical nuclear weapons or biological or chemical weapons because his military is, you might say, significantly underperforming." Putin and his officials have repeatedly threatened to use Russia's nuclear arsenal in an effort to deter the US and its allies from supporting Ukraine and helping it resist the all-out Russian invasion launched in February, said The Guardian report. One fear is that he could use a short range "tactical" nuclear weapon to try to stop Ukraine's counter-offensive in its tracks and force Kiev to negotiate and cede territory, the report added. If Russia did use a nuclear weapon, it would leave the US and its allies with the dilemma of how to respond, with most experts and former officials predicting that if Washington struck back militarily, it would most likely be with conventional weapons, to try to avert rapid escalation to an all-out nuclear war. But Biden said on Thursday night: "I don't think there's any such thing as the ability to easily (use) a tactical nuclear weapon and not end up with Armageddon."

Sweden has evidence to back Nord Stream sabotage suspicions: Security Service

Stockholm: Agencies Swedish authorities now have evidence to back the suspicions that the Nord Stream gas pipelines have been sabotaged, the country's Security Service said. "Certain seizures were made during the on-site investigation. The continued investigation will show whether anyone can be suspected of, and later prosecuted for, this crime," Xinhua news agency quoted the Security Service as saying in a statement on Thursday. Earlier this week, the Swedish Coast Guard cordoned off an area around two of the four leaks, before deploying a Navy vessel equipped with the appro-



appropriate technology to conduct underwater surveys. Another vessel with similar capabilities was also sent to the area, according to local media reports. However, investigation leader Mats Ljungqvist from the Swedish Prosecution Authority said he could not give any further information. "We can state that there have been detonations at Nord Stream 1 and 2 in

the Swedish economic zone, which have caused extensive damage to the gas pipelines. The crime scene investigation has strengthened suspicions of gross sabotage. "Seizures have been made at the crime scene and these will now be investigated. There is pre-trial confidentiality and the case is very sensitive," he said. The pipelines were built to transport gas from Russia to Germany, and Russia has reportedly expressed interest in participating in the investigations concerning the leaks in the Swedish and Danish exclusive economic zones (EEZ). However, at a press conference on Wednesday, the Swedish Defence Minister said this was out of the question.



POLICE ARRESTS JUVENILE TASKED TO KILL SALMAN KHAN

New Delhi/Mumbai | Agencies

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has apprehended two key members of an international terror module, including a juvenile, who were wanted in a number of terror cases -- the RPG attack incident at the Intelligence Headquarters in Punjab's Mohali, plotting to kill Bollywood actor Salman Khan & others.



August 4. "The apprehended JCL has also disclosed the task given to him along with absconding Deepak Surakhpur and Monu Dagar (in jail) by Lawrence Bishnoi regarding the elimination of film actor Salman Khan. While the JCL was being handled by Rinda, Arshdeep was being handled by Landa Harike," the official said. Dhalwal said that they had been working to nab the culprits for a long time. They identified people who were providing logistics support to the accused. Finally, both the

turned ISI stooge Harvinder Singh alias Rinda. Another fugitive gangster, Lakhbir Singh Landa had joined hands with Harvinder Singh alias Rinda. They were sharing manpower, logistics and resources. Rinda's name had already cropped up in the grenade attack at the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) office in Nawanshahr and in the arrest of four suspected Pakistan-linked terrorists in Haryana's Karnal earlier this year.

Salman Khan murder plot

The official said that the juvenile was involved in the conspiracy along with other accused to carry out an attack on Salman Khan. They couldn't conduct a recce due to some reasons. Later, the juvenile was asked to kill Rana Kandowalia, a businessman. Dhalwal said that they will move a plea before the court with a request to try the juvenile as an adult. The official said that when the juvenile is over 16, the court can decide whether to try him as an adult or not.

Ex-pilot nabbed as NCB busts Guj-Maha drug cartel, 60 kg mephedrone seized

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted a major inter-state drug syndicate active in Maharashtra-Gujarat to seize 60 kg of high-grade mephedrone in the operations, and arrested six persons, including a former pilot, a top official said here on Friday.



NCB Mumbai Zonal Director Amit Ghawate said that among the accused is the kingpin of the drug syndicate and a former Air India pilot. Ghawate said that the tip-off was passed by the Naval Intelligence Bureau at Jamnagar in Gujarat on the suspicious activities of some persons.

planned out the operation. Keeping a low profile to trap and nab all the persons involved in the narcotics racket, the NCB seized 10 kg mephedrone and caught four persons on October 3, including Bhaskar V. from Jamnagar, and S.G. Mahida, the former pilot, S.M. Chowdhury and P.D. Muthu, all from Mumbai.

The NCB followed up the intel input in coordination with other agencies of the targeted persons to gather additional information on their shady activities. It came to light a bulk consignment of the drug was in the process of being smuggled from Gujarat to Maharashtra and the sleuths

Their interrogation revealed major drug linkages and other traffickers and NCB sleuths tracked them at various places over three days in Mumbai and arrested the kingpin M.I. Ali, and his associate M.F. Chisty on Thursday, with an additional seizure of 50 kg of mephedrone, said Ghawate.

The NCB Mumbai head said that Mahida had taken his flying training from Texas and Lithuania and worked with Air India between 2016-2018, while Muthu has a former record of arrest by DRI in 2001 in a 350 kg mandrax smuggling case in which he is currently on bail. According to Ghawate, the mephedrone seized from Gujarat and Maharashtra are of same quality and is connected with previous seizure operations carried out by Mumbai Police. Mephedrone is a stimulant, commonly known as 'meow meow' or M-cat in the streets drug market and classified as a New Psychoactive Substance.

Arun Bali passes away at the age of 79

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior actor Arun Bali, who has done many impressive roles in movies and shows such as '3 Idiots', 'Kedarnath' and 'Shaktimaan', left for his heavenly abode on Friday at 4:30 a.m., in Mumbai. He was 79 years old.



The actor was suffering from a rare neuromuscular disease known as Myasthenia Gravis. He was recently seen in the Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor starrer - 'Laal Singh Chaddha', which was an official remake of the 1994 Tom Hanks classic 'Forrest Gump'. He played one of Aamir's titular character's co-passenger in the train. Arun impressed everyone with his acting in Hindi, Telugu, Punjabi films as well as several TV shows. He portrayed King Porus in the 1991 historical drama 'Chanakya'. He then played the character of Kunwar Singh in Doordarshan's very popular show 'Swabhimaan'.

Arun Bali rose to fame in the 2000s for his grandfatherly roles such as Harshvardhan Wadhwa in 'Kumkum'. He was seen in

'Doosra Kewal' which also starred Shah Rukh Khan. His last rites will be performed on Saturday in Mumbai once his two daughters, who reside in the US, land in Mumbai.

Shinde faction can't claim Sena symbol: Thackeray faction to EC

New Delhi/Mumbai | Agencies

In the fight for who gets the Shiv Sena - party name, symbol and all - former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray told the Election Commission that the faction led by Eknath Shinde cannot claim the bow-an-arrow symbol as he and other MLAs in his camp had "voluntarily quit the party".



The Election Commission had asked Team Thackeray to respond to the claim by Eknath Shinde on the symbol for the upcoming assembly bypoll in Andheri East segment, the first such contest since Thackeray government was unseated in June.

Eknath Shinde, who became Chief Minister after the Sena mutiny backed by the BJP, has majority of the party's legislators on his side in the assembly and Parliament. His faction has even managed to get its members recognised as the Shiv Sena

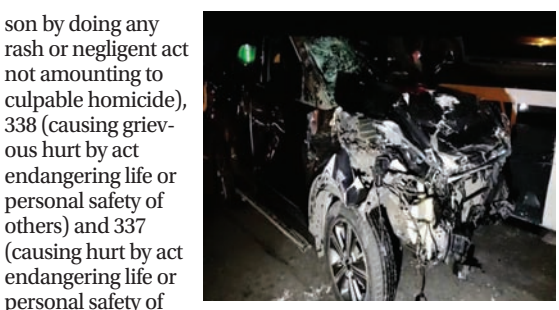
leaders. But Uddhav Thackeray, who technically remains the party chief, is now gathering affidavits of support from party members -- the target is over 5 lakh -- to hold on to the party his father, Bal Thackeray, founded

among party legislators to avoid disqualification. But the Election Commission looks at party units and members' support too - hence, the affidavits. The Shinde faction's claim to the symbol was primarily seen as a bid to deny it to the Thackeray group, and thus keep it in abeyance until a final decision on the "real" Sena is taken. Its immediate target is the November 3 bypoll, for which Team Thackeray has fielded Rutuja Latke, widow of Ramesh Latke whose death necessitated the election. Team Shinde is backing the candidate of ally BJP, Murji Patel, a municipal corporator. The Congress and the NCP have decided to support the candidate of the Thackeray faction, their partner in the Maha Vikas Aghadi that had come into being after Thackeray broke up with the BJP "over leadership issues" after the 2018 polls.

Mumbai Sea Link accident: Driver was plugging in phone charger

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The driver of the sports utility vehicle (SUV), which rammed into multiple vehicles at the Bandra-Worli Sea Link in Mumbai killing five persons, was on Thursday sent to one-day police custody by a local court even as he told cops he was trying to plug in the mobile phone charger at the time of the pre-dawn crash.



The SUV driver, Irfan Abdul Rahim Bilakiya, was arrested from his residence at Mohammed Ali Road in South Mumbai on Wednesday, hours after the accident.

The 40-year-old was book under IPC sections 304A (death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), among others after an FIR (first information report) was registered against him at the Worli Police Station. Bilakiya was produced before the court which sent him in police custody till Friday, a police official said. Bilakiya, who is into construction business, was returning home from suburban Jogeshwari when he allegedly rammed his SUV into three stationary cars and an ambulance on the bridge at around 3 am on Wednesday.

police have said. Five persons were killed and eight others injured in the accident. After the accident, the SUV driver went to Saifee Hospital, where he received treatment for hand injury and afterwards proceeded to his residence from where he was arrested later in the

day, said the police official. The police took the help of CCTV footage of the Sea Link and obtained details of his vehicle before arresting Bilakiya, he said. During interrogation, Bilakiya told the police he was trying to plug in the charger of his mobile phone due to which he lost sight of the road ahead and rammed his SUV into the vehicles, he said. The police were ascertaining if the SUV driver was under the influence of alcohol and have sent his blood samples for forensic examination, the official said. They were also examining whether the SUV was speeding on the 5.6km-long cable-stayed bridge, which connects Bandra in the western suburbs to Worli in south Mumbai, he said.

Damaged Vande Bharat Express repaired within 24 hours

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The front portion of the Mumbai-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Express train, which was damaged after hitting some buffaloes in Gujarat, has been replaced by the railway authorities, an official said today. The Vande Bharat train was repaired within 24 hours of the incident.



The nose of the newly-launched Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Express train had suffered damage after it hit a herd of buffaloes around 11:15 am on Thursday near Ahmedabad, when the train was on its way to Gandhinagar. "The nose cone cover of the train's driver coach along with its mounting brackets was damaged in the cattle-hit incident. However, the vital parts of the train remained unaffected. The damaged nose cone was replaced at the Coach Care Centre in Mumbai Central," Sumit Thakur, chief public relations officer of the Western Railway said.

The nose cone was made up of FRP (fibre-reinforced plastic). The incident had occurred between Vatva and Maninagar areas of Ahmedabad, but the train had covered the distance to Gandhinagar Capital station and back to Mumbai Central without the panel on Thursday. "The nose cover is designed to absorb the impact without transmitting the same to the functional parts of the train. Therefore, it is sacrificial by design and hence replaceable," Thakur said. He said that a sufficient quantity of nose cones is kept as a spare.

Brawl between women on local train, female cop injured

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The women's compartment of a Mumbai suburban train yesterday witnessed an ugly brawl between co-passengers, with some women coming to blows and even injuring a policewoman on duty.



In a video that went viral on social media, women can be seen clashing with each other inside the ladies' compartment of a Thane-Panvel local train.

In the video, some women passengers can be seen running over the seats to safety as a free-for-all broke out inside the carriage.

resolve the dispute was also injured when some women passengers attacked her. At least three women, including the policewoman, suffered injuries. In the video, two women passengers can be seen bleeding profusely from their head injuries.

Katara said Vashi GRP was investigating the incident and a case had been registered.

According to the police, when a seat got vacant at Turbhe Station, one woman passenger tried to let a second woman take the seat. However, a third woman also tried to occupy the same seat. This resulted in a heated argument between the three women who started hitting each other. Soon, some of the other passengers also got involved in the brawl, resulting in an ugly scene inside the compartment.

For comment on Eknath Shinde's grandson, Uddhav Thackeray gets a retort

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Lok Sabha member Shrikant Shinde on Thursday objected to Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray "dragging" the name of his one-and-a-half year old son during his Dussehra rally speech a day ago, and asked whether targeting a child suited his Hindutva. Shrikant Shinde is the son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The rebel Sena MP represents the Kalyan Lok Sabha seat in Thane district.



In an open letter, Shinde said late Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray seared his political opponents, but never resorted to such "lowly" remarks.

"Do you understand the views shared by you on Hindutva? I just want to ask you one thing whether such dragging a one-and-half-year old son suits your Hindutva?" Shinde asked.

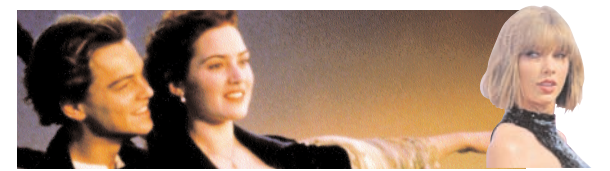
On Wednesday, both the factions of the Shiv Sena - one led by Thackeray and other by Eknath Shinde - held their rallies that saw attacks and counter attacks against

each other. During his speech, Thackeray attacked Eknath Shinde as he referred to his son (Shrikant) as "a brat" and said his grandson Rudransh "has an eye on the corporator's post". Thackeray slammed the Chief Minister for "betraying" him despite enjoying various positions as he was made a minister and his son an MP.

Berating Thackeray, Shrikant Shinde in a long Facebook post asked how a former chief minister could use such a language against a child.

Meanwhile, taking a dig at Eknath Shinde, Shiv Sena spokesperson Manisha Kayande said while Uddhav Thackeray spoke extempore, Mr Shinde was "reading" his speech for one hour and 28 minutes.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar also took a dig at Shinde. "Some speeches were stretched beyond any reason," Pawar said without naming the Chief Minister.



PARIS JACKSON

SHOWS OFF MULTIPLE TATTOOS IN SHEER RED BRA TOP

Los Angeles | Agencies

Paris Jackson showed off her multiple tattoos in a sheer bra top while leaving a Lacoste event in West Hollywood, California. The 24-year-old entertainer wore a red bralette along with a matching short skirt.

She also covered up with a long copper jacket that she let drop off her shoulders. Paris completed her look with chunky red boots and matching socks. The daughter of late pop superstar Michael Jackson had her blonde hair pulled back into a high ponytail and accentuated her natural beauty with geometric eye lining by makeup artist Pauly Blanch. Paris accessorized with dangling earrings, necklace and multiple bracelets and rings.

She also carried a brown leather purse while leaving the party at Sunset Towers. The event also drew Australian model Shanina Shaik who looked lovely in a mustard top with orange trim and olive compression shorts.

Shanina finished her outfit with open-toed brown heels and had her dark hair pulled back into a tight bun. She flashed her cute smile while waiting with some friends for her ride.



Amanda Holden successfully completed the Three Peaks Challenge

Los Angeles | Agencies

Amanda Holden was in a celebratory mood on Friday morning after successfully completing the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge live on her Heart Breakfast radio show. The presenter, popped champagne at the top of the UK's highest mountain Ben Nevis after having summited three peaks in total within 24 hours in a bid to raise funds for Global's Make Some Noise. Speaking after the difficult feat - which saw her climb the highest mountains of Wales, England and Scotland - an exhausted Amanda revealed that it was 'the hardest thing I've ever done in my life!' The star told how she and her team made it 'by the skin of their teeth' having faced a number of elements during the climbs including 60mph winds, rain and snow, while also facing severe weather warnings.

Amanda scaled the three peaks on 'no sleep', two of which were in the pitch black. The challenge finally came to an end at 8:15am, 24 hours after she first set off, with Amanda toasting the triumph with a glass of fizz at 4,111 feet.

Detailing her experience to co-host Jamie Theakston, she said: 'You know, I never understand when I see people give up at the end, but for the first time in my life I thought, I'm not going to do it, I'm not going to make it, I'm going to give up, but we kept going. It was just incredible! We did it!' Amanda took on the iconic Three Peaks Challenge which saw her scale the highest mountains of Wales, England and Scotland (Snowdon, Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis). The star climbed 10,476 feet in just 24 hours alongside a team of 'Mandy's Mountaineers', made up of incredible people from many of the charities that Global's Make Some Noise supports.

The team raised money to support small charities that work hard in our communities to help those who need it most.



Chris Pratt to voice for iconic Italian plumber in 'Super Mario Bros' movie

Los Angeles | Agencies

The trailer for Nintendo's animated 'Super Mario Bros' movie shows Chris Pratt bringing the moustachioed, Italian plumber to life, with his voice. The trailer debuted during a Nintendo Direct video presentation.

Alongside Pratt as its central character, the 'Mario' movie boasts a star-studded cast of Mushroom Kingdom characters including Charlie Day as Luigi, Anya Taylor-Joy as Princess



Peach, Seth Rogen as Donkey Kong, Jack Black as Bowser, Keegan-Michael Key as Toad, Fred Armisen as Cranky Kong, Sebastian Maniscalco as Spike and Kevin Michael Richardson as Kamek.

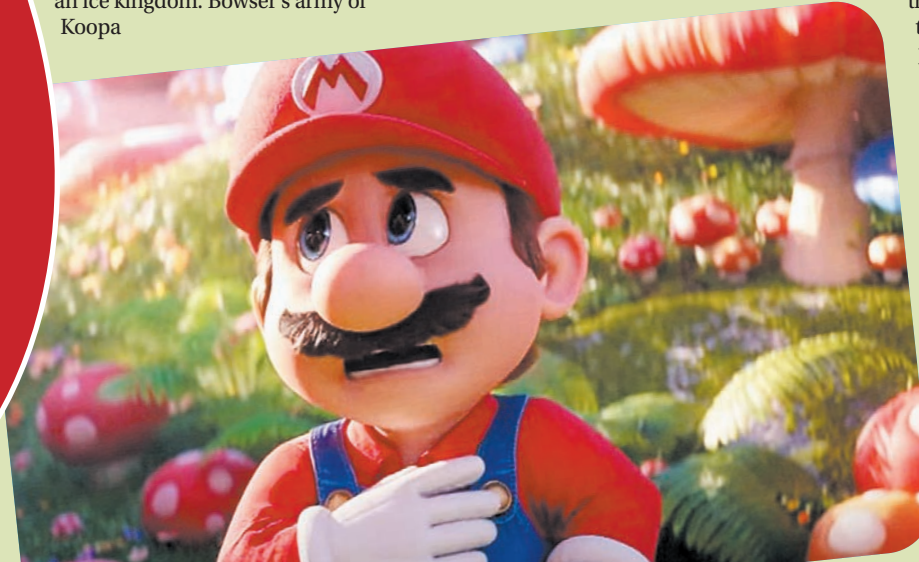
The trailer opens on Bowser and his massive, fiery castle descending upon an ice kingdom. Bowser's army of Koopa

Troopas, led by Kamek the Magikoopa, face off against the ice kingdom's legions of blue penguins, seen in the 'Mario' games. As per a media channel, however, the penguins' snowballs are no match for Bowser. He burns down the icy castle and takes control of a 'Mario' star power-up.

In the trailer, Mario flies through a green pipe into the Mushroom Kingdom, where he bounces off huge, red mushrooms until he flops on the ground. The

'Mario' theme song twinkles in the background as he awakens to find Toad. "What is this place?" Mario wonders aloud, in a very Pratt-like voice.

"I worked really closely with the directors and tried out a few things and landed on something that I'm really proud of and can't wait for people to see and hear," Pratt said. "It's an animated voiceover narrative. It's not a live-action movie. I'm not gonna be wearing a plumber suit running all over. I'm providing a voice for an animated character, and it is updated and unlike anything you've heard in the 'Mario' world before."



Sylvester Stallone with wife Jennifer Flavin after calling off their divorce

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sylvester Stallone and wife Jennifer Flavin were seen arm-in-arm in Manhattan on Thursday amid their recently reconciled relationship. Stallone, 76, was dressed in a dark ensemble on the fall evening, as he wore a dark navy blue sweater with matching pants and black shoes. Flavin, 54, wore a beige long-sleeved turtleneck with white pants and carrying a blush designer bag. Her light brown blocks were parted and she accessorized with earrings.

The Hollywood couple's appearance comes more than a week after they put on a united front following their U-turn on a divorce.

The Rocky star and his 54-year-old former model wife were seen looking happy together again, as they went out grocery shopping in Calabasas, California.

Showing no signs of animosity, at one point Sylvester put his hand on his wife's thigh and appeared to be showing something to her on his phone as they both smiled and looked relaxed together.

Earlier last week, it was reported that the movie star and his wife of 25 years 'decided to meet up at home, where they talked and were able to work out their differences. They are both extremely happy,' his rep told to media channel.



Anthony Rapp has made false sexual misconduct allegations: Kevin Spacey's lawyers

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'House of Cards' star Kevin Spacey's legal representatives have now claimed that Anthony Rapp has manufactured sexual misconduct allegations against the actor. Furnishing the reason behind this claim, Spacey's attorneys said that Rapp was jealous of his success and angry about his own stalled career. "He blames Mr. Spacey for everything that hasn't gone well in his life," Jennifer L. Keller, an attorney for Spacey said during opening arguments in the actor's civil trial, quoted by 'Variety'.

Rapp "peaked around the year 2000 and he grew bitter about not getting parts as an openly gay man," Keller added. As per 'Variety', Spacey was on hand in Manhattan federal court as his lawyers attempted to fight back against Rapp's \$40 million civil lawsuit. Rapp is claiming that Spacey made unwanted sexual advances at him in 1986 when Spacey was 26 and Rapp was 14 years old. 'Variety' further states that Rapp's legal team made a point of reminding the jury that the actor was only a teenager at the time of the alleged assault, sharing a photograph of him in which he had a comb over haircut, wore glasses and appeared very boyish. They reminded the jurors not to think of Rapp as the 50-year-old actor who was watching the proceedings, but as the boy he once was. Rapp had claimed that during a gathering at the actor's New York City apartment, he went into Spacey's bedroom and at one point realised he was the last person at the party. He claims that Spacey blocked the doorway, preventing him from leaving the room, and eventually picked him up and put him on his bed. He then allegedly climbed on top of Rapp. However, Keller said that Spacey's apartment was a one-room studio and showed a floor plan on a screen that she said made Rapp's description of events improbable. "The story only works if you invent a wall and a door," she said. But Rapp's team painted a harrowing portrait of the evening, claiming that the teenager was "frozen" as he "felt the weight of Spacey" on top of him. At some point, they said, Rapp was able to escape to a bathroom, which they described as "a safe place, a place to retreat". Rapp eventually managed to leave the actor's apartment, deeply shaken by the incident.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Shanina Shaik



WORKING IN THIS FILM IS A MATTER OF GREAT PRIDE AND HONOUR: PARINEETI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra, who is currently gearing up for her first action film, 'Code Name: Tiranga', in which she stars opposite Punjabi star Harrry Sandhu, recently shared that the film is dedicated to the unsung heroes of India, whose sacrifices protect the nation.

The actress will be seen essaying the role of a spy in the film, who is on an extremely risky mission to save India.

The actress said in a statement, "Code Name: Tiranga" is dedicated to all the unsung protectors of India like our brave soldiers, our daredevil agents and every single person who has sacrificed everything to protect our country! I have always been fascinated by such people all my life." She further mentioned, "So, for me, to be doing a film in which I pay tribute to these warriors of our nation is a matter of great pride and honour. Their lives have inspired us to be better human beings and we are all indebted to them for their courage and valour that has saved our country countless times." The film has been directed by Ribhu Dasgupta, who had earlier directed the actress in the streaming movie 'The Girl on the Train'.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas comes in support of Iranian women

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Priyanka Chopra recently came out in support of a burning issue related to the Iranian Government. The demise of a 22-year-old girl Mahsa Amini has sparked a worldwide protest against Guidance Patrol (the Iranian morality police) as women are raising their voices against the kind of violence they are subjected to, in countries like Iran. Extending her support, Bollywood-American actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is also the UNICEF ambassador, has shared a post on social media where she has requested people across the globe to listen to the voices of Iranian women fighting for their rights. In a post shared by Priyanka Chopra, she said, "Women in Iran and around the world are standing up and raising their voices, publicly cutting their hair and many other forms of protest for Mahsa Amini, whose young life was taken away so brutally by the Iranian Morality Police for wearing her hijab 'improperly'. The voices that speak after ages of forced silence, will rightfully burst like a volcano! And they will not and MUST not be stemmed. I am in awe of your courage and your purpose.

It is not easy to risk your life, literally, to challenge the patriarchal establishment and fight for your rights. But, you are courageous women doing this every day regardless of the cost to yourselves." She went on to add, "To ensure that this movement will have a lasting effect, we must hear their call, understand the issues and then join in with our collective voices. We must also get everyone who can influence others to join as well, Numbers matter." "Add your voice to this critical movement. Stay informed and be vocal, so these voices can no longer be forced to stay silent. I stand with you. Jin, jijan, azaadi... Women, life, freedom. Mahsa Amini Iran Protests Woman Life Freedom," she concluded.

I am always learning - That's my motto: Alia Bhatt on journey as a producer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

When Alia Bhatt started as Shanaya in Student of the Year, way back in 2012, little did we know what this star kid will bring to the table. From showcasing her talent as an actor, Bhatt girl has managed to even dip her hands into business, investments and even film production. Being one of the most sought after actresses of the current generation, the actress was invited to the Forbes podium during their show Tycoons of Tomorrow where the actress showcased the businesswoman side of her as she discussed her financial decisions, investments, and her recent venture of film production. Starting as a producer of the Netflix film Darlings, Alia Bhatt discussed her journey. Speaking about how it all started with Darlings, Alia Bhatt said in this Forbes conference, "What started off as a bit of a mathematical calculation, ended up being a production house. So, when Darlings came to me, I didn't want to loan the production of the film. So I decided to charge a lesser fee and also that I'll take the backend of the film. Actually what I realized by that time was that I was way more interested in what happens behind the camera and what it takes to make a movie. Ten years into the industry, I have had my first film as a producer out and I feel that the understanding that I have gathered on making a movie like Darlings has been extremely substantial. I am always learning - That's my motto! I believe that you continuously learn and grow. You should always ask questions because you don't have all the answers, no one has, even Bill Gates doesn't." She went on to further share, "It did seem like financially the right thing to do but otherwise also, it seemed like the right thing for me as a creative individual, ten years into the industry. Sorry, at that time I was eight."

Jungles teach you patience: Actress Sadaa

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress Sadaa, who has turned into an avid wildlife photographer, says that jungles can teach you patience and when time comes, they can test the same too.

The actress recently took to her Instagram to share a video of her clicking pictures of Jugni, a young tigress. She wrote, "When Jugni is in 'Peek-a-boo' mood... I later learned that Jugni is the granddaughter of my most beloved tigress Mataram!"

Taking a philosophical route, she then mentioned in her caption, "Jungles teach you patience and test it too. In jungles, it's the law and the will of wild animals that we respect and gladly (do) so!" She further noted, "They either show up in their full glory or keep you waiting for hours to give just a glimpse. One such instance when Jugni decided to hide behind a rock giving us mortals only glimpses of her!" "This (is) the ONLY RIGHT WAY to see and experience wild animals, in their natural habitats! Not where tiger cubs are ripped from their mothers and abused to entertain humans, where they are heavily sedated so humans can touch them and make reels", she added.

She then went onto present a sad reality about animals in captivity in Thailand, "I'm referring to all celebs/influencers who are flocking the Thailand Tiger Parks, trying to look brave posing with sedated and exploited tigers (sic)".

She also noted, "The video was shot handheld, kindly excuse the shakes. Had no scope to use a bean bag here!"



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Krystle Dsouza

Hindutva : A political drama, tells the story of India

FILM REVIEW

BY AAKRUTI BAGLA

Director: Karan Razdan
Cast: Aashiesh Sharrma, Sonarika Bhadoria, Ankit Raj, Deepika Chikhalia, Anup Jalota
Runtime: 2h 24min
Rating: *** (three stars)

Story: The film revolves around the theme of how religious propaganda can cause mayhem in the society and how unity can curb it.

Hindutva is about two childhood best friends Bharat and Sameer who are divided by their individual ideologies. While Bharat tries to educate the world that the true meaning of HINDUTVA is Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam, Sameer, a popular student leader believes that his community is discriminated against. He poses to be a leftist, one who is fighting to protect his community. He is in love with Sapna, and Sapna also loves his dynamism and leadership in the University. But what happens when Sapna gets to know about Sameer's evil intentions? What happens when the two ideologies clashes? Will there be peace or destruction? The rest of the film answers these questions.

Review: The film truly tests the depths of Hinduism. And debates the concepts of Patriotism and Nationalism. Apart from having an engaging screenplay, such a film rest on hard-hitting dialogue and powerful per-



formances by the cast.

The storyline of Hindutva is exhilarating

and exciting, but only in fragments, making for a passable experience on the big screen.

The first half is interesting, but the subsequent events like romantic portions between and unneeded flashbacks drag and add on to the runtime.

This story contains plenty of blood, sweat, and grit, but not a lot of true emotion. However, it's the smartly written hard-hitting dialogues that are the pioneer of the film and plays a major role in uplifting its tonality.

Speaking of performances, Aashiesh Sharma as Bharat has literally breathed the character and efforts are palpable. Be it being a humorous, delivering dialogues effortlessly, and maintaining the guy-next-door vibe, the actor aces his part. His conflict with Sameer Siddiqui, Ankit Raaj forms some of the interesting portions of the film. Ankit is fantastic in his parts, albeit the emotional portions. Sonarika Bhadoria as Sapna delivers a decent performance, and is pleasing to watch. While Deepika Chikhalia as Guru Maa lends adequate support in the progression of the story, the rest of the cast play their respective portions well.

Talking of other technical aspects, the camerawork efficiently captures the grim vibe and beauty of Uttarakhand and Dehradun. The runtime and music act as a major dampener of the whole flick with the background score working well.

Conclusion: The film's larger issue revolves around the topic of Love Jihad and religion propaganda and rightly makes a strong case that it's evil and an attempt should be made to curb this practice. With its fiery dialogues, it can make a strong case. However, with no novel treatment and fine performances, the audience should not expect out-of-the-box.