

absolute india

VOL. 8, ISSUE 17, BHOPAL | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

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TREES ARE EVERYTHING - THE GOD, PROTECTOR AND BENEFACTOR

FOR TRIBALS IN JHARKHAND'S ARAKERAM, SAL SIGNIFIES THE TREE OF LIFE

As per the 2011 Census, of the 3.3 crore people in Jharkhand, 86.3 lakh are tribal people belonging to Sarna, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. But irrespective of their religious backgrounds, they give primacy to water, forest and land. For them, nature is the first priority. "We get medicine, fruits and flowers from trees. We feed sal leaves to our goats and sell them in the local market once they are fully grown. This is our source of livelihood. The village did not see a single case of COVID-19. People here rarely fall ill due to the pleasant and cool environment. In fact, even during peak summer, we use a thick blanket while sleeping" says Ramesh Bedia, the elected panchayat head of Tunahuli under which Arakeram village falls.

Ranchi | Agencies

For the people of Arakeram in Jharkhand, trees are everything - the god, protector and benefactor. No day is more important to them than that of 'karma pooja' and 'sarhul', both held annually.

'Karma' is a tree that tribal people consider as the first one to have grown on earth. On the day of 'karma pooja' held in August-September every year, three branches - which represent the one who has given birth; the one who protects; and the one who is the caretaker - are cut from the tree and planted at an 'akhra' (a place of worship). Historically, Rohtasgarh tribal people had escaped attacks from Mughals about 500 years ago by hiding in the karma forest.

Sarhul celebrations last for three days during which the tribal communities pray for a good harvest by worshipping sal trees in their sarnas (sacred groves). They also remember their forefathers on these occasions.

"Our ancestors used the leaves of sakhua (sal tree) for clothing and its fruits as food. Sal leaves, even when



plucked and kept in water, do not rot. No other tree has that special quality," Sarna Adivasi religious leader Bandhan Tigga said.

Sal trees mostly constitute the forest of Arakeram. "What does one get by worshipping an idol? Neither water nor oxygen. But the tree we worship provides us with everything," Tigga concluded.

Traditional conservation knowledge is passed down through generations. "Children in village schools are taught indigenous techniques in farming, forest, water and land con-

servations. We also take them to the weekly gram sabhas to keep them connected to our culture and nature," Arakeram village head Gopal Ram Bedia informs. Located around 30 km from Ranchi, Arakeram in Ormanjhi block has seven groups of men and women guarding the forest in shifts starting from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Their daily activities in the forest, spread across 400 acres, are decided at the weekly gram sabha meetings. Every group has 10 to 12 people. "There is no interference from the forest department," says

Ramesh. In 2016, the forest department awarded them a grant of Rs 4 lakh, which was utilised to mainly create water harvesting structures. "Though the department trains its new joiners, we also pitch in by sharing our traditional conservation methods and knowledge on how to save forests from fires, harvest rainwater and build loose boulder structures using desi methods," Ramesh informs. The conservation efforts have transformed the image of the place in such a way that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself discussed this change in his weekly Mann Ki Baat radio address. "No explanation is needed to protect trees. This is in our tradition. We have seen our ancestors do it," says Vimla Devi, one of the guards. The villagers also took up rainwater harvesting in 2019 to prevent runoff from a nearby hill. "Earlier, rainwater used to go to waste. But after we dammed the water and diverted its flow into our fields and ponds, we are enjoying the benefits of a water surplus," says Sushila Devi and Pancham Devi. At present, around 10 hand pumps and wells meet the water needs of all villagers.



THIS RAJASTHAN SARPANCH DONATES HER SALARY FOR GIRLS' WELFARE

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Setting aside her personal comfort, this woman sarpanch in Rajasthan is working on a mission to empower girls by helping them excel in studies and sports for which she generously donates her salary.

Ever since Neeru Yadav became a sarpanch in October 2020, she has been donating her salary for the cause of girl child and building schools and playgrounds.

She has been going door to door and spreading awareness among girls to get skilled and earn jobs.

When asked, Neeru said, "I come from Haryana and have seen girls playing different sports from a very young age. Hence, I want girls in Rajasthan also to make a mark and excel."

Recently, she got hockey kits for this girl team by donating her salary of two years, arranged a private vehicle to ferry them to a sports ground which was a little far and also deputed a private coach for their training.

The result was amazing. These girls who never came out of their village outshone their competitors from surrounding villages and played at district level for the first time. Now they aspire to play at state and national level too.

Another villager, Sanjay Kumar said, "We have seen Neeru standing under the scorching Sun while watching roads being built to school. If she saw any issue, she was the first one to fight with officials concerned."

Speaking to reporter, Neeru said, "Sarpanch is

the only post which transfers the benefits of the central government or the state government schemes directly to the public. I am simply trying to justify my position. It is very important to get the benefits of the government's schemes to the public to make an impact at the grassroots."

"Right now, my aim is to take my village girls to the national scout and guide jamboree to give them national exposure and hence I and the villagers as a team are working together," she said.

"Education makes a lot of difference in how a person thinks. An educated person brings a positive difference everywhere. Hence an encouraging girls to excel either in study or sports to make a mark for themselves, she added.

'Work on India's first-ever Night Sky Sanctuary in full swing'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The work on India's first-ever Night Sky Sanctuary, being set up by CSIR under Union Ministry of Science & Technology, in Ladakh's Hanle is going on in full swing and shall be complete in over a month's time, an official said. The Night Sky Sanctuary will attract tourists from across the world over to picturesque Ladakh and also boost astro-tourism in the region. It came out as Jitendra Singh, MoS, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions as Lt. Governor of Ladakh, R.K. Mathur called on him at North Block. This was a follow-up to the meeting held between the two in the



month of September this year, when the Union Minister had announced that the setting up of India's first-ever "Night Sky Sanctuary" in Ladakh, the Dark Sky Reserve will be completed within 3 months. The two leaders also discussed a wide range of development related issues pertaining to the Union Territory. R.K. Mathur apprised the Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh about the Rozgar Mela held on October 31 in Ladakh where the UT

Administration gave away appointment letters to around 1,000 local youth, furthering the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give jobs to the deserving youth of the country.

In a unique and first-of-its-kind initiative, the Department of Science & Technology (DST), has undertaken to set up India's first-ever "Night Sky Sanctuary" in Ladakh.

The proposed Dark Sky Reserve will be located at Hanle in Ladakh as a part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary. It will boost Astro tourism in India and will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes.

'Dilip Kumar: Hero Of Heroes' film fest to showcase his iconic works in 20 Indian cities

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The film festival 'Dilip Kumar Hero Of Heroes', which will showcase the milestone films of the 'Tragedy King' such as 'Aan', 'Devdas', 'Ram Aur Shyam' and 'Shakti', will be held on December 10 and 11.

With a career spanning five decades, Mohammed Yusuf Khan, popularly known as Dilip Kumar, ruled the silver screen with his work earning him the title of 'Abhinay Samrat' (King of acting).

The festival will cover over 30 cinema halls in 20 cities across India and will honour the screen legend through its showcase. The festival is being organised by the Film Heritage Foundation.

Talking about the showcase, Saira



Banu says: "I am so happy that Film Heritage Foundation is celebrating Dilip Sahab's 100th birthday on December 11th this year by screening some of his most popular films in cinemas across India. They could not have chosen a more apt title to commemorate India's greatest actor - Dilip Kumar: Hero of Heroes. It will be a joy to watch him back on the big screen, larger than life, like he has been in my life."

Talking about the upcoming festival Big B says: "As Dilip Kumar turns 100, I am so glad that we at Film Heritage Foundation are celebrating his legacy with this festival of films in theatres that will showcase some of his memorable performances in the cinema. I would urge every film lover and contemporary actor who has not watched Dilip Kumar larger than life

not to miss the incredible opportunity of watching this giant among actors back on the big screen."

He further mentioned: "I was deeply disturbed to hear that many of his films are not in a condition to be screened in cinemas and that is a tragedy. Film Heritage Foundation is working day and night to ensure that the work of legends like Dilip Kumar survives and is preserved and restored to be shown to new generations of audiences."

Audiences in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Pune, Bareilly, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Raipur, Indore, Surat, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad will get a first-hand experience of witnessing the sheer magnetism and versatility of one of the greatest actors of Indian cinema on the big screen

VISHWANATH, VANSHAJ, DEVIKA CLINCH GOLD AT YOUTH WORLD BOXING

New Delhi: Living up to their favourites tag, young Indian boxers Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj and Devika Ghorpade recorded commanding 5-0 wins to clinch gold at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain. Chennai-born Vishwanath handed India its first gold at the championships after thrashing Ronel Suyom of the Philippines without breaking a sweat in the men's 48kg final. This came after Bhavna Sharma bagged the silver medal in the women's 48kg category as she conceded a 0-5 loss against Uzbekistan's Gulsevar Ganieva in the opening match of the day. Ashish (54kg) was the other Indian to finish with a silver medal. He went down fighting 1-4 against Japanese pugilist Yuta Sakai in a thrilling men's final. Meanwhile, Devika, who hails from Pune, added a second gold to India's tally when she dominated England's Lauren Mackie in the women's 52kg final. Afterwards, the Youth Asian champion Vanshaj concluded the day in style for India by winning their third gold. The confident Sonipat-based boxer made light work of Demur Kajaia from Georgia in the men's 63.5kg summit clash.

India topped the medal count at 11 in the on-going edition of the event, followed by Uzbekistan (10), Ireland (7) and Kazakhstan (7). This year's championships saw participation of close to 600 boxers from 73 countries. India's eight medals in the women's section are also the highest for any country. Having already won three gold medals, Ravina (63kg) and Kirti (+81kg) will look to add two more gold to India's kitty when they fight in the women's final on the last day of the competition. Ravina and Kirti will be up against Megan deCler of Netherlands and Ireland's Elizabeth D'Arcy respectively.



Odisha govt notifies Mahendragiri hill as biodiversity heritage site

Team Absolute | Bhubaneswar

The Odisha government has declared Mahendragiri hill in Gajapati district as biodiversity heritage site to preserve local habitats rich in plants and animal life.

"The government has been pleased to declare an area of 4250 hectare of Mahendragiri covering two reserve forests (Idongiri and Mahendra) in the district of Gajapati under forest division of Parlakhemundi as the second biodiversity heritage site of Odisha," Forest, Environment & Climate Change (FE&CC) department.

The state government has declared the new biodiversity heritage site on the recommendations of the Odisha Biodiversity Board. Mahendragiri hill, located 1000 metre above mean sea level, is one of the biological, ecological and archaeological important mountain ecosystems in Odisha.

The diversified vegetation with rich floral diversity represents 40 per cent of the reported flora of Odisha.

A total of 1,358 species of plants including 1,042 species of angiosperms under 122 families, 60 species of pteri-



dophytes, 104 species of bryophytes, 53 species of lichens and 72 species of macro-fungi and 2 species of gymnosperms occurring in the hill ecosystem.

The faunal diversity of the hill consists of 388 species of animals which include 27 species of mammals, 165 species of birds, 60 species herpetofauna (23 species of snakes, 15 species of amphibians, 3 species of turtles, 19 species of lizards), 100 species of butterflies and 36 species of moths.

The hill complex is a critical habitat for Caecilians, Golden Geckos and frogs, 6 species of owls and 3 species of owl.

Besides, Mahendragiri hill also plays a pivotal role in maintaining the ecological balance and controlling the climate of the entire south Odisha and Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

1.2 mn Kerala students in 2,000 schools to benefit from 9,000 robotic labs

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM | Agencies

For the first time in India, Kerala Infrastructure & Technology for Education (KITE), the Edtech arm of the state government, is setting up robotic labs in 2,000 High Schools from December 2022, which will benefit 1.2 million school children. V. Sivankutty, Minister for General Education, on Saturday said this will facilitate innovative ways for increasing the knowledge skills of students through fun learning and the inauguration of 9,000 Robotic Labs through Little KITEs - the largest ICT Network of students in India, would be done by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on December 8, here.

"Robotics is an important training component under the Little KITEs programme, through which students in public schools would get an opportunity to get hands-on training in the latest technologies areas such as robotics, IoT, artificial intelligence. Moreover, the programming training as part of this would help in the enhancement of creative



thinking and problem-solving ability of students, which would help them in the learning of all subjects", added the student leader turned Minister.

K. Anvar Sadath, Chief Executive Officer of KITE said each Robotic Kit deployed to school comprises of Arduino Uno Rev3, LEDs, SG90 Mini Servo Motor, LDR Light Sensor Module, IR Sensor Module, Active Buzzer Module, Push Button, Bread Board, Jumper wires and Resistors.

In addition to the deployment of Robotic Kits in schools, 4,000 KITE Masters would also be

trained using a specific training module on how to use this equipment in schools.

Using these KITE Masters, KITE is imparting training directly to 60,000 students. The Little KITEs members thus trained, would in turn train other students which would directly benefit over 12 lakh students through this initiative.

Students will also be trained in various activities, including development of Traffic Signal, Automatic Street light activated through light sensing, Electronic Dials, Automatic Door, Security Alarm.



"3 Minutes Each, It's A Joke": Trade Unions on budget meet with Finance Minister

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A joint forum of 10 central trade unions has decided to boycott the virtual pre-budget consultation with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on November 28, demanding a physical meeting with reasonable time to speak.

Pre-budget consultation is an annual exercise under which representatives of different sectors give suggestions and raise demands to be addressed through the Budget.

In a letter on Friday, the forum stated, "Now your email dated November 25, 2022 under reference, makes it explicit that each central trade union will be allowed to speak for three minutes. This is a joke and we refuse to be part of such a cheap joke. We will not participate in the proposed video conference on November 28, 2022." Earlier on Friday, in a letter shot off to the finance ministry, the forum had jointly protested against a restricted video



conference for pre-budget consultations.

"We are constrained to express our disappointment for calling this meeting on virtual mode despite complete easing of Covid restrictions, and that to for 75 minutes only for consultation involving more than 12 central trade unions, may be more as indicated by the invitation letter. As per the labour ministry's physical verification, there are 12 central trade unions in our country. That means less than five minutes or even less for each organisation, if time for customary opening remarks is taken into account," they forum had stated.

Later on Friday, the forum received another letter from the finance ministry stating that each participating central trade union will be allotted three minutes to make their suggestions.

In response to the letter, the forum shot off another letter on Friday and stated that the CTUs therefore have decided to boycott the proposed video conference.

The forum also urged the finance ministry "to seriously reconsider convening of a physical meeting with reasonable time-allotment for effective consultations in the pre-budget meeting with the trade unions." The forum also invited the finance minister for an open debate about these policies without any time restrictions on her to defend policies followed by her.

The 10 trade unions which form the forum are INTUC, AITUC, TUCC, SEWA, HMS, CITU, AICCTU, LPE, AIUTUC and UTUC.

There are about a dozen central trade unions in the country, including Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS). The BMS is not part of the joint forum.

Mithun stresses on 'unofficial' BJP-Left Front pact before panchayat polls

Kolkata | Agencies

Superstar Mithun Chakraborty, who is currently attending organisational meetings of BJP in different districts of West Bengal, on Saturday stressed on having an 'unofficial' understanding between the BJP and the Left Front in the run-up to next year's panchayat polls in order to defeat the ruling Trinamool Congress.

Speaking to mediapersons in Asansol, Chakraborty said that just like before the 2011 Assembly elections in West Bengal, when there was an understanding among all the opposition forces to bring down the 34-year Left Front rule, there should be an understanding between all the political forces which are against the Trinamool Congress.

Asked if he is advocating for an official pact between the BJP and the Left Front, Chakraborty clarified that this cannot be declared officially.

"Before the 2011 Assembly polls, there was an official understanding between Trinamool Congress and Congress. The BJP, which was a marginal political force in the state then, also indirectly contributed to the change factor. There can be differences in political ideologies. But right now, the necessity is to have unity of all the political forces," he said.

The actor-turned-politician also cited the example of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's shifting political alliances on this matter. "She was initially with the Congress before



launching Trinamool. Similarly, I was with Trinamool, but now I am with the BJP. I am a great follower of Mamata Banerjee. I am doing exactly what she has done," Chakraborty said.

Reacting to his remarks, Trinamool spokesman Kunal Ghosh said that Chakraborty's comments prove how confused the BJP is in West Bengal.

"These are all cinematic dialogues and not much importance should be given to them," he said. CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakraborty said that Chakraborty is mixing cinema with real life.

"When he was with Trinamool Congress, he called for unity of all against the BJP. Now that he is with the BJP, he is calling for unity of all against Trinamool Congress. But our call is unity of all against both BJP and Trinamool Congress," he said.

India successfully orbits Indo-French collaborative EOS 6/OCEANSAT, 8 other satellites

Team Absolute | Sriharikota

India on Saturday successfully placed into orbit the Indo-French ocean observation satellite EOS 06 and eight other nano satellites with its rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle numbered as PSLV-C54.

Announcing the mission's success, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space, S. Somanath, said all the satellites have been launched.

He also said the solar panels of EOS 06 satellite had been deployed and the satellite was in precise orbit as intended and congratulated the ISRO team.

The XL variant of PSLV rocket carrying the 1,117 kg EOS-6 as its primary passenger and eight others - blasted off from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) here at 11.56 a.m.

The piggybacks include satellites from two Indian startups - Syzygy Space Technologies Pvt Ltd, commonly known as Pixxel (Anand-16.51 kg), and Dhruvaspace's two Thybolt satellites - 1.45 kg, Spaceflight USA's Astrosat (four numbers 17.92 kg) and ISRO's INS-2B (18.28 kg).

About 17 minutes into the flight the rocket



ejected EOS-6. Then the orbit was changed by using two Orbit Change Thrusters introduced in the rocket's propulsion bay ring. The piggyback passengers were ejected in Orbit-2.

The whole mission took about two hours. With this, the PSLV rocket has put into orbit 349 foreign satellites till date.

AIIMS ransomware attack: Key patient data at risk of leak, sale on Dark Web

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, still struggling to get its servers up and running after a massive ransomware attack earlier this week, cyber-security researchers on Saturday said the most reported attacks in the healthcare industry, which rose during the pandemic, involve the leak or sale of databases on the Dark Web.

The exploited databases contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of patients and healthcare workers, as well as administrative information such as blood donor records, ambulance records, vaccination records, caregiver records, login credentials, etc. "Government agencies involved in the healthcare industry should abide by HIPAA's (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) compliance requirements, create awareness among users regarding cyber-attacks,



online scams, and phishing campaigns, set up policies for secure passwords and enable multi-factor authentication (MFA)," a spokesperson of AI-driven cyber-security firm CloudSEK told reporter.

The cyber attack on AIIMS shut down its main and back-up servers. The attackers hacked the e-hospital

service which manages the patient data system, affecting the outpatient department (OPD) and sample collection services.

Those behind the cyber attack have warned AIIMS to "prepare for a negotiation". Delhi Police are investigating the cyber attack. Meanwhile, AIIMS officials said that all affected online

patient services are now being run on manual mode.

According to CloudSEK, a massive spike in cyberattacks on healthcare organisations has been witnessed during the pandemic.

"Our research shows that in the first four months of 2022, the number of cyberattacks on the industry rose by 95.34 per cent compared to the same period in 2021. The Indian healthcare sector was the second most targeted when it comes to cyberattacks worldwide," the company spokesperson said.

Protecting patients' medical and financial information has emerged as a new challenge for healthcare organisations. According to Indusface, an application security SaaS company, there were more than 1 million cyber attacks of various types across Indusface's global healthcare clientele. Of these, 278,000 attacks were reported in India, highlighting the vulnerabilities of the Indian healthcare sector.

25 students take ill due to stale food in Andhra school

Team Absolute | Amaravati

At least 25 children studying in a government school in Andhra Pradesh's Sri Sathya Sai district were taken ill after having food supplied by school authorities under the Mid-Day Meal scheme. The incident occurred in the municipal primary school in Kadiri town of the district.

Of the 148 children, 121 had attended classes on Friday. The students complained that food served to them became stale. School principal Lavanya then asked the catering agency to supply fresh food to students.

However, before cooking fresh food, the agency provided meals to some students. At least 25 of them took ill.

The affected students complained of vomiting and stomach upset. Initially eight students were shifted to government hospital Kadiri. Later, 17 more students were taken to



hospital. District education officer S. V. Krishna Reddy visited the hospital and called on the students. He described the condition of the students as stable. He said the students were taken ill due to poor quality food served to them. The officer promised an inquiry and appropriate action against those found negligent. Interestingly, a new menu

under the Mid-Day Meal scheme called Jagananna Gorumudda was introduced on November 21. The government changed the menu to strengthen physical fitness among the students.

The officials said students studying in government and aided-run schools are being provided better nutritious food than earlier.

DELHI POLICE CONSTABLE JUMPS OFF BIKE TO CATCH SNATCHER

New Delhi:

A Delhi Police constable jumped off his bike to catch a notorious snatcher in the national capital's Shahbad Dairy area.

A video of the entire incident that occurred on Thursday also went viral on social media and even the Delhi Police tweeted it.

With the arrest of the snatcher, the police also claimed to have solved 11 cases of snatching and theft registered across the city.

"Without caring for his life, constable Satyendra of Shahbad Dairy police arrested a snatcher. With the arrest of this snatcher, 11 cases were solved. Legal proceedings are on," Delhi Police tweeted.

In the 19 seconds video, a policeman could be seen riding on a bike and another man also on bike coming from the opposite direction. Police personnel stops his bike and jump in flash to catch hold of the man.

The man tries to escape on foot but the policeman manages to catch hold of his pants, preventing him from fleeing.



Ex-Cong MLA booked for abusing, manhandling Delhi Police cop

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi Police have booked former Congress MLA from Okhla constituency, Asif Mohammad Khan for manhandling on-duty Sub-Inspector in national capital's Shaheen Bagh area, Police said.

Khan's daughter Ariba Khan is contesting for the upcoming MCD elections on a Congress ticket and the incident occurred when a gathering of 20 to 30 people were being addressed in front of Tayyab Masjid in the area. According to a senior police officer, on November 25, during patrolling in the area, a police officer noticed a gathering of nearly 20-30 people in front of Tayyab Masjid.

"Asif Mohammad Khan along with his supporters was present in front of Tayyab Masjid and addressing the gathering using loud-



hailer. When Sub-Inspector (SI) Akshay asked Khan about the permission from the Election Commission regarding the gathering and addressing the public, he became aggressive and started misbehaving with the SI," said the officer.

"Khan used abusive language and resorted to criminal force, and manhandled the police official. Akshay

has filed a complaint and an FIR under sections 186 (obstructs any public servant in the discharge of his public functions) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered in Shaheen Bagh police station and the investigation has been taken up," the officer added.

NOW, NEW VIDEO OF SATYENDAR JAIN WITH TIHAR SUPERINTENDENT SURFACES

New Delhi:

A fresh video of jailed Delhi minister Satyendar Jain meeting a jail Superintendent inside the prison surfaced on Saturday. In the video, said to be of September 12, Jain can be seen interacting with four persons when the Superintendent arrives.

As per sources, the jail authorities have initiated an inquiry into the matter as to how the CCTV footage are being leaked. Jain has also moved a court in this regard.

The Tihar Authority is yet to issue an official statement on the matter.

Notably, the ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of the CBI's FIR lodged against various suspects, including Udai Shanker Awasthi, MD IFFCO, Pankaj Jain, Promoter of Jyoti Trading Corporation and Rare Earth Group, Dubai, Amarendra Dhari Singh and others. Satyendar Jain was also accused in the matter.



Love prevails over hatemongers: UP couple stands firm despite ordeal

Team Absolute | Lucknow/Bareilly

She is a teacher in an English medium school and he was working in a private firm.

They met at a pre-wedding party of a common friend and got talking. They discovered they had common interests and shared views on several issues.

By the time, the party was over, theirs had begun.

The couple, both in their late twenties, kept meeting in cafes for almost a year and then informed their parents about their friendship which they intended to take to the next level.

Aditi (name changed on request) said, "There was initial resistance from our families because I am a Hindu and he is a Muslim. But over a period of convincing, our families



agreed. They met each other and we were ready for marriage." She continued: "It was on the day of our engagement that trouble

began. Just minutes before the engagement ceremony at a local hotel, some people wearing saffron 'gamchas' barged in and started

shouting slogans. Before we could even comprehend what was happening, the police trooped in and grabbed Usman (name changed) by the collar and started dragging him away. Usman's father tried to intervene and he was also taken away."

Talking about the incident, Aditi said that she and her family followed them to the police station where the inspector told them that it was a case of love jihad.

"I kept telling them that we were marrying with our families' consent but no one gave us a hearing. The drama continued for almost two hours and we were not allowed to call the lawyers because our phones were taken away by the cops. The fringe 'leaders' also arrived at the police station and started abusing Usman and his family," she said. Usman and his family were

detained for more than 28 hours without any FIR.

"The ordeal did not end there. After his release, when Usman went back to office, the fringe leader and his supporters reached there and shouted slogans. They even attempted to manhandle him there. As a result, Usman's employer politely asked him to put in his papers because they did not want any further trouble," she said.

While Aditi is continuing with her job, Usman is now jobless.

"It has been almost eight months since this incident took place. We have realized that we cannot get married here and neither can we live in peace. Usman is looking for a job in either Delhi, Mumbai or anywhere outside UP and as soon as he gets one, we will shift and get married there," she said.

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The wicked envy and hate; it is their way of admiring. Victor Hugo

VOL. 8, ISSUE 17, BHOPAL | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

HIMALAYAN YAK GETS FSSAI TAG, TO BOOST BOVINE ECONOMY

According to the NRC-Y, the Yak population in the country has been declining at an alarming rate. According to the 2019 Census, India had some 58,000 Yaks, marking a drop of about 25 per cent from the last livestock census conducted in 2012. Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir have the largest population of around 26,000 Yaks, followed by around 24,000 in Arunachal Pradesh, mostly in Tawang and West Kameng districts, 5,000 in Sikkim, 2,000 in Himachal Pradesh and around 1,000 in North Bengal and Uttarakhand.

ITANAGAR | Agencies

The Himalayan Yak has got the food animal tag from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), under the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, top officials said on Saturday. The FSSAI tagging, which was earned few days back following the proposal of the Dirang (Arunachal Pradesh) based National Research Centre on Yak (NRC-Y), is expected to prevent the decline in the population of the high-altitude bovine animal by involving it as part of the conventional milk and meat industry. Usually, highly-nutritious Yak milk and meat are not part of the conventional dairy and meat industry, and their sale is limited to local consumers. NRC-Y Director Mihir Sarkar said that the proposal for FSSAI tagging was



submitted to the Central authority last year. "We made a detailed presentation about the benefits of Yak milk and meat and the importance of rearing the animal before the Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Ministry. "The FSSAI issued the tagging after a recommendation from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying," he told reporter over phone.

Domesticated Yak is found throughout the Himalayan region -- Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, North Bengal, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir -- while wild Yak is found in Tibet. Sarkar said that Yak plays a multidimensional socio-economic and cultural role for the pastoral nomads who rear it largely for maintaining their

nutritional support and livelihood. According to Sarkar and other experts, the decline in Yak population could be due to less remuneration from the bovid, unwillingness of the younger generation to continue with nomadic Yak rearing, besides the dwindling habitats and climate change. NRC-Y scientists feel that the commercialisation of Yak milk and meat

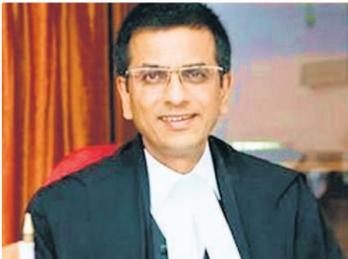
products would boost entrepreneurship. However, they said that the Yak has to be included as a food-producing (milk and meat) animal in the Food Safety and Standards Regulation, 2011. Due to the novel initiative taken by NRC-Y last year, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) responded positively to help the Yak farmers. Responding to the proposal of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), banks have come forward, showing their willingness to provide loans to Yak farmers as well as others keen to earn a livelihood through the farming of this bovine species. Sarkar said that the credit proposal and related plans approved by NABARD were found to be feasible for credit support by the banks, and they have been included in the potential linked credit plans.

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS

Important to simplify litigation process, making it citizen centric: CJI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday said it is important to simplify the litigation process and make it "citizen centric", adding judges must also reflect upon the Constitutional vision of securing justice, equality, and liberty. The Chief Justice, speaking at the Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, said: "We have been adopting technology to improve the working of courts. It is of supreme importance and necessity that courts are remodelled to reach out to people instead of people reaching out to courts in their quest for justice. "All judges across courts in India, ranging from district courts to the Supreme Court must reflect upon the constitutional vision of securing justice, equality and liberty," he said. He added that to ensure that courts reach out to people, "it is essential that the process of litigation is simplified and made citizen centric".



The Chief Justice emphasised that it is important that representation of marginalised communities and women in the legal profession and judiciary is increased. "There is a need for us to introspect on our actions and decisions and to question our own prejudices and preconceptions. For, until we open our minds to multiple views of persons with varied lived experiences, we would be lacking in our roles as judges," said the Chief Justice. He said the district judiciary is the first interface of people with the judicial system and it is necessary that it is strengthened and supported.

When India was celebrating Constitution Day, terrorists attacked Mumbai: PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi

on Saturday said 14-years-ago when India was celebrating the Constitution Day, it faced the biggest terrorist attack in Mumbai, in its history, by the enemies of humanity. He paid his tributes to the ones who lost their lives in the dastardly Mumbai terror attacks. The Prime Minister reminded that, in the current global scenario, the world is looking at India amidst its growing economy and international image, with hope. He said that defying all the initial apprehension about its stability. He referred to the first three words of the Preamble, 'We the People', and said, "'We the people' is a call, trust and an oath. This spirit of the Constitution is the spirit of India, that has been the mother of democracy in the world." "In the modern time, the Constitution has embraced all the cultural and moral emotions of the nation," he added. Underlining the youth-centric spir-



it, the PM said that the Constitution is known for its openness, being futuristic and its modern vision. He acknowledged the role and contribution of youth power in all aspects of India's growth story. The PM expressed happiness that as the mother of democracy, the country is strengthening the ideals of the constitution and pro-people policies are empowering the poor and women of the country. He added that laws are being made easier and accessible for the common citizens and the judiciary is taking many steps to ensure timely justice.

Farmers across country march to Raj Bhavans over 'unfulfilled promises'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), a body of farmers, on Saturday organised mega foot-marches to Raj Bhavans across the country seeking a law on minimum support price (MSP) and other promises which they said were not fulfilled by the Central government. According to a statement issued by the SKM, the protests were held at 25 state capitals, more than 300 district headquarters and numerous tehsil headquarters. "Altogether, it is estimated that more than 3,000 protests were held all over India. More than 5 million people came out on the streets to join the 'Raj Bhavan Chalo' or 'March to Raj Bhavan' call of SKM, to register their protest against the anti-farmer BJP-led Central government," it stated. Gathering of farmers was witnessed in Chandigarh, Lucknow, Patna, Kolkata,



Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Jaipur and many other state capitals. The SKM demands also included implementation of the recommendations made by the Swaminathan Commission, withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment Bill, allocation of land at Singhu border for setting up a memorial for the farmers who died during the protest. The SKM also demanded dismissal and legal action against Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra Teni, whose son was accused of running over protesting farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri. On November 26, 2020, the farmers had launched the one-year long 'March to Delhi' protest. "The nationwide 'March to Raj Bhavans' today on November 26 marks the beginning of the next phase of the farmers' protest," the SKM said.

Telangana village decides to expel Gutti Koyas over FRO's killing

Hyderabad | Agencies

A village in Telangana's Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Saturday decided to expel Gutti Koya tribals allegedly involved in the recent murder of a Forest Range Officer (FRO). Bendalapadu panchayat has passed a resolution at a gram sabha to send back all Gutti Koya tribals to Chhattisgarh. FRO Srinivasa Rao (42) was hacked to death on November 22 when he tried to stop Gutti Koyas from removing saplings planted by the forest department on podu lands in the Chandrugonda forest area. The police on November 23 arrested two persons in connection with the killing of the forest official -- Madakam Tula and Podium Naga -- both natives of Sukma district in Chhattisgarh.



They were arrested when they were trying to escape to Sukma. According to police, they had slept in the forest on the night after the deadly attack on the FRO and had reached the village in the morning to collect money to go to Sukma. A day after the killing, forest personnel had demanded that the government drive out Gutti koya tribals from the state.

Mehrauli murder: Delhi court sends Aaftab to 14-day judicial custody

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Saturday sent Aaftab Amin Poonawalla, accused of killing his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, to 14 days judicial custody. He was produced before the Saket court through video conferencing from the Ambedkar hospital, where he was taken for a medical check up. He will be shifted to Tihar jail. Sagar Preet Hooda, the Special Commissioner of Police (Law and order), has initiated the legal process for production of the accused for further proceedings in the polygraph test.



Meanwhile, Poonawalla's narco test is likely to take place on Monday, as per sources. His polygraph test was also left incomplete on Friday. Meanwhile, Delhi Police have contacted a woman, who met Aaftab Amin Poonawalla after he killed his live-in partner

Shraddha Walkar and then chopped her body into several pieces, sources sources. The woman is a psychologist by profession whom Aaftab met through the mobile dating application 'Bumble', the same platform where he had first met Shraddha. Earlier, Delhi Police had written to US headquartered Bumble, seeking details of the profile of Aaftab. Meanwhile, Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Sagar Preet Hooda, said on Saturday that they are yet to receive the DNA test report in connection with the case.

TIGRESS FOUND DEAD WITH INJURIES IN MP'S RAISEN DISTRICT

Bhopal: A

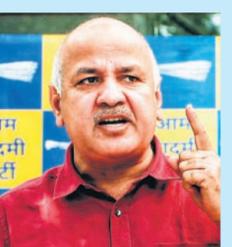
tigress was found dead with injury marks in a forest of Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district, a forest official said on Saturday. According to the forest department, the carcass of a tigress, aged around five years, was found in Garhi forest range on Thursday. Madhya Pradesh principal chief conservator of forest (Wildlife) J S Chauhan confirmed the feline's death and said a photograph of the carcass showed injury marks. The post-mortem report will reveal the exact cause of death, he said. Asked about the involvement of poachers, Chauhan said, "We have received preliminary information. We are waiting for a detailed report of post-mortem." The carcass was disposed of in keeping with the guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), it was stated.



Sisodia changed 12 cellphones, ED alleges in charge sheet

New Delhi: The

Enforcement Directorate (ED), which had earlier claimed that the accused involved in Delhi's excise policy case changed 140 cellphones in a bid to destroy digital evidence, said in its charge sheet filed on Saturday that Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia changed 12 cellphones. As per the charge sheet, the ED is trying to ascertain whether the cellphones were changed by Sisodia to destroy digital evidence, sources said. The ED charge sheet running over 3,000 pages names businessman Sameer Mahendru. There are allegations that Arun Ramchandra Pillai, a resident of Kokapet in Hyderabad, used to collect undue pecuniary advantage from Mahendru for onward transmission to accused public servants through Vijay Nair. The ED's case is based on an FIR filed by the CBI.



Kerala HC: Consensual sex with married woman on false promise of marriage no ground for rape

Kochi | Agencies

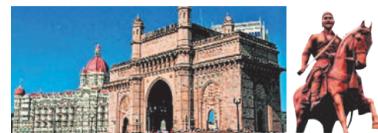
The Kerala High Court has ruled that consensual sex with a married woman on the basis of false promise of marriage will not amount to rape since such a promise is not enforceable under law. The court recently gave this ruling in a case where it was considering a petition filed by the accused to quash all the criminal proceedings pending against him. The accused and the victim, both Indian, first met through Facebook in Australia. Later their relationship blossomed and they decided to marry and on two occasions they had consensual sexual intercourse. However, the marriage did not take place.



During that phase, the woman, however, was still married though separated from her husband, and the divorce proceedings were going on. The judge Kausar Edappagath reiterated his previous decision that the promise alleged to have been

made by the accused to a married woman that he would marry her, is a promise which is not enforceable under law and, therefore, the offence of rape under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) will not be attracted. "It is a case where the victim who is a married woman voluntarily had sex with her lover. She knew pretty well that she cannot enter a lawful marriage with the petitioner, in as much as she is a married woman. Recently, this Court had held that the promise alleged to have been made by the accused to a married woman that he could marry her is a promise which is not enforceable in law. Such an unenforceable and illegal promise cannot be a basis for the prosecution under Section 376 of IPC. Here, no question of promise to marry arise, since, the victim

is a married woman and she knew that legal marriage with the petitioner was not possible under the law," the order said. The prosecution case was that the accused after giving a false promise of marriage, sexually assaulted the woman on several occasions and, thereby, committed the offence of rape. The Court noted that it was evident from the first information statement that the sexual intercourse was consensual in nature. The woman consented to sex persuaded by the promise of marriage given by the petitioner. The Court noted that the basic ingredients of Section 376 of the IPC are not attracted since the woman knew that the promise cannot be enforced since she was a married woman.



26/11 ATTACKS: MAHA REMEMBERS MARTYRS, VICTIMS, SURVIVORS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra paused to remember and pay homage to the 166 martyrs and victims of the 26/11 terror strikes 14 years ago that shook the world, here on Saturday. On the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, President Droupadi Murmu and top leaders paid their tributes to those who lost their lives and remembered the sacrifices made by some to save lives.

President Droupadi Murmu said the nation remembers with gratitude all those it lost and paid homage to the security personnel who fought valiantly and made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

"On the anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the nation remembers with gratitude all those we lost. We share the enduring pain of their loved ones and families. Nation pays homage to the security personnel who fought valiantly and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty," Murmu tweeted.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted in Hindi, "I pay my heartfelt tributes to those who lost their lives in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and remember and salute our brave security personnel who made the supreme sacrifice fighting the terrorists. Today gives a message to the whole world to fight unitedly



against terrorism."

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, "On the anniversary of the 26/11 terrorist attack in Mumbai, I salute the memory of all those who lost their lives in this incident. My heartfelt tributes to the security personnel who sacrificed their lives while fighting this

attack. This country has not forgotten the incident of 26/11, nor will it ever forget."

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday paid floral tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives while fighting terrorists who had attacked the metropolis

on this day 14 years ago.

They paid tributes at the martyrs' memorial in the premises of the Police Commissioner Office in south Mumbai, where Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, minister Deepak Kesarkar, Chief Secretary Manu Kumar Srivastava, state Director General of Police (DGP) Rajnish Seth, Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar and other officials were present.

Similar solemn commemorations were organised at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, the Hotel Taj Mahal & Palace, Hotel Trident-Oberoi, the Nariman House, the Cama Hospital and other venues that were targeted.

It was on November 26, 2008 late evening that 10 Pakistani terrorists sneaked into Mumbai through the Arabian Sea route to create mayhem at multiple locations in a small 5-sq.km radius area for the next 60 hours. A total of 166 people, including foreigners and 18 security personnel, were killed and 9 of the heavily armed desperadoes were eliminated.

The gun-toting Ajmal Amir Kasab was the sole terrorist nabbed alive, early on November 27 - hours after they launched the attacks - subjected to a trial and finally hanged on November 21, 2012.



I do not need to visit astrologer: Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said that he did not need to consult a palmist or an astrologer as he has enough strength in his wrists to change his future. Opposition has mocked Shinde for reportedly meeting an astrologer during his recent visit to Shirdi and Nashik.

"I do not need to show my palm to any astrologer. There has to be strength in your wrists to change the lines on the palm, and that strength was given to us by Balasaheb Thackeray and Anand Dighe," Shinde told reporters at Karad in Satara district on Friday. The whole country saw that strength on June 30, he said. Shinde was sworn in as chief minister after rebelling against the Shiv Sena leadership and toppling the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra government in June this year.

Asked about Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's controversial statement where he called Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj an icon of olden times, Shinde said he had made it clear that he did not agree with what Koshiyari said. "Shivaji Maharaj is our God," he said.

Earlier on Friday, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) ridiculed Shinde for reportedly meeting an astrologer, and said superstition would not help him as his future lay in the hands of his deputy, BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis.



Adani arm seeks licence to expand power distribution in Mumbai including JNPT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An Adani Group company has sought licence for expanding its power distribution business into more areas of Mumbai, including the country's largest container port JNPT. In an advertisement published in several newspapers in the city on Saturday, Adani Electricity Navi Mumbai (AENM) said it has approached the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) for a distribution licence in some pockets of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region along with its listed parent Adani Transmission.

The company is aiming to get licence to distribute power in areas exclusively served by the state-owned Mahadiscom in Mumbai's suburbs Mulund and Bhandup, and also Thane district, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Kharghar, Talaja and Uran.

The group, whose assets include the Adani Ports business, is also vying to distribute power to the country's largest container port JNPT located near Navi Mumbai. It said the Adani group will serve over 5 lakh consumers by the end of five years from grant of licence. Adani Electricity has been distributing power in Mumbai for over four years and competes with Tata Power in the business. The company, which entered the fray after an over Rs 18,000-crore acquisition of the beleaguered Anil Ambani Group's Reliance Energy, has not been able to increase its market share in the areas it serves.

Veteran film, theatre and television actor Vikram Gokhale passed away



Team Absolute | Pune

Veteran Bollywood, Marathi films, stage and television actor Vikram Gokhale breathed his last at a private hospital on Saturday afternoon, his family announced.

He was 77 and the end came at the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital. His funeral rites were performed at the Vaikunth Crematorium in Pune. Gokhale had been battling for life for the past over a fortnight and his condition was described as "extremely critical" with multiple organ failures, on Thursday. Later, medics said on Friday that his health was improving and he was responding positively to treatment. He donned the director's hat in 2010 with Marathi film 'Aaghaa' and bagged the National Film Award for Best Actor category for his Marathi film 'Anumati', and has been conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2011 for his acting in theatre. Prominent personalities from the world of cinema, theatre and television have mourned Gokhale's demise and paid glowing tributes to him.

Vikram Gokhale had staunch views on several issues: Uddhav Thackeray

Former CM of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray paid tribute to the actor. In his statement, Uddhav Thackeray, said, "Vikram Gokhale had strong opinions on several issues. Clear and straightforward communication was his specialty. He was a popular Marathi face in Hindi cinema. It seemed that he would come back after defeating his health issues. It is very unfortunate. I pay my respects to this great contemporary actor." Gokhale was a film, television and stage artiste, known for his roles in Marathi theatre and Hindi movies and shows.

Aaditya Thackeray tweeted, "I heard the news of veteran actor Vikram Gokhale's death. An important personality in the Indian entertainment industry has been lost. Respect to him."

Clamour to 'slap, kick, tonsure' Ramdev for his sexist utterances

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A day after Yoga expert Ramdev's stark comments on women's attire from his viewpoint, the classical saying, 'Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned' was fast turning true, here on Saturday.

Furious political, social, women and farm activists brutally slammed Ramdev's remarks with calls to 'slap, kick and tonsure' him emanating from various quarters.

Speaking at a free Yoga training programme for women on Friday in Thane, Ramdev blurted out without batting an eyelid: "Women look good in saris, they look great in salwar suits, and in my view they look good even if they don't wear anything."

Apparently getting carried away by the huge gathering of women, Ramdev Baba was flanked by Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena Thane MP Shrikant Shinde, the son of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and singer Amruta Fadnavis -- wife of Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and other prominent personalities.

Expressing shock, farm widows' leader Aparna Malikar from Vidarbha said Ramdev's statement was nothing short of a 'revelation' of what goes on in



his 'filthy mind' and serves as a warning to all women going before him to remain 'extra-alert'.

Senior Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders like MP Sanjay Raut, MLC Dr. Manisha Kayande and National Spokesperson Kishore Tiwari pounced on Ramdev for his "outrageous" remarks that insulted all the women of the country.

"Why could not Amruta Fadnavis just get up and slap him there? This is my question," an agitated Raut asked.

Kayande also attacked the Dy.CM's wife demanding "she should have kicked him and walked out of the pro-

gram" but shockingly she was laughing, giggling, enjoying Ramdev's remarks "as if he was doing an honour to womanhood".

Calling Ramdev "a disciple of the jailed perverts like Asaram Bapu and Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh", a fuming Tiwari said the government should take suo moto action against him for his brash words.

"I am asking Amruta Bittiya... Why did you keep quiet when you witnessed all this? Did you also get carried away after he started praising you? What's your stand now for all your sisters, and why don't you strongly condemn Ramdev Baba," Tiwari asked gently.

Social activist Trupti Desai said she and the womenfolk were "aghast" at Ramdev's public statement which indicates how his mind works towards women.

"We strongly denounce him. We want the state and national commissions for women to take suo moto note of it and initiate action, otherwise we shall storm his next program," Desai warned.

Demanding an unconditional apology, an irate Malikar also threatened to take a morcha at Ramdev's next yoga camp in Maharashtra where they would "catch him, tonsure him and chop off his beard" as a punishment.

Elgar Parishad case: Anand Teltumbde released from Navi Mumbai prison

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Scholar-activist Anand Teltumbde, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, was on Saturday released from the Talaja central prison in Navi Mumbai, a day after the Supreme Court rejected the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) plea challenging the bail granted to him, an official said. Teltumbde, 73, who spent two-and-a-half years behind bars in the case, walked out of the jail around 1.15 pm, he said. "On Friday, the apex court had dismissed the NIA's plea challenging the Bombay High Court's order giving bail to Teltumbde. Accordingly, he was released after the completion of bail formalities," he said.

On November 18, the high court had granted bail to Teltumbde, who was



arrested by the central agency on April 14, 2020, after he surrendered before the NIA, the official said.

Teltumbde is the third of the 16 accused arrested in the case to be released on bail.

Poet Varavara Rao is currently out on bail on health grounds while lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj is out on regular bail.

The case relates to alleged inflammatory speeches made at the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017, which the police claimed triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial on the outskirts of the western Maharashtra city.

Pune Police had also claimed that the conclave was organised by some persons with alleged Maoist links. A FIR (First Information Report) was lodged by Pune Police on January 8, 2018, under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The NIA later took over the case. Teltumbde had claimed he was not present at the December 31, 2017 Elgar Parishad event held in Pune city, nor made any provocative speeches.



Congress slams Maha Governor for not removing footwear while paying tributes to 26/11 martyrs

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Congress on Saturday slammed Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari for not removing his footwear while paying floral tributes to the martyrs of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, in the premises of the Police Commissioner's Office this morning.

The Raj Bhavan said a senior police official had told the governor that removing footwear was not necessary at such places. The statement said it was "mischievous and malicious" to say the governor insulted the police martyrs by laying the wreath with sandals on.

Taking to Twitter, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) general secretary

and spokesperson Sachin Sawant said removing one's footwear while paying tribute is Indian culture and definitely the culture of Maharashtra.

"The governor has been repeatedly disrespecting Maharashtra, its culture and icons. CM Eknath Shinde should have reminded him to remove his footwear and show respect to the martyrs of the terror attacks," Sawant tweeted.

Koshiyari is already in the eye of the storm for his recent remark in which he referred to Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as an icon of the 'olden days'. The governor has drawn flak from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT), who have staged protests across the state

demanding his ouster. "Just before the Governor proceeded to lay a wreath at the Police Martyrs' Memorial at Commissionerate of Police office in Mumbai earlier today, a senior police official expressly told the Governor that it is not necessary to remove the sandals or shoes at such place," the Raj Bhavan said in a statement.

The same thing is followed even at the National War Memorial, which the governor had visited recently, it said. "It is therefore mischievous and malicious to state that the governor insulted the police martyrs by laying the wreath with sandals on. Even the Chief Secretary and other officials can be seen wearing their shoes while placing wreaths at the Memorial," it said.

AKASA AIR OPERATES ITS MAIDEN FLIGHT FROM PUNE

Team Absolute | Pune/ New Delhi

Akasa Air on Saturday inaugurated its first flight on the Pune-Bengaluru route.

Pune is the ninth destination in Akasa Air's network and its second city in the state of Maharashtra after Mumbai. The airline is offering double daily flights on the Bengaluru-Pune route starting Saturday with additional daily flights linking the two IT hubs, starting from December 10, 2022.

Earlier in November, Akasa Air announced the addition of Visakhapatnam as the tenth destination on its network, with flights connecting the city with Bengaluru, scheduled to commence from December 10, 2022, and a second frequency on the route to be added on December 12, 2022.

This rapid expansion of cities, routes, and frequencies is in line with the airline's vision of adopting a phased yet rapid approach to grow its network across India.

Commenting on the maiden flight and the new route, Praveen Iyer, Co-Founder, and Chief Commercial Officer, Akasa Air, said, "Commencement of operations on this route is a momentous occasion as we expand our footprint in Maharashtra by adding Pune to our network. Both Pune and Bengaluru are important IT hubs, and enhanced connectivity on this route, backed by affordable fares, are in line with our purpose to strengthen important transportation links of our country, which will provide a boost to economic development. We will soon launch another daily flight on this route from December 10 onwards, taking daily departures from Pune to three convenient options through the day."





RIGHT WING ALLEGES COPS, OFFICIALS SHYING AWAY FROM MP'S FREEDOM OF WORSHIP ACT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A group of right-wing members on Thursday night reached Bhopal's T. T. Nagar police station and protested against an alleged so-called love jihad as a Muslim youth and a Hindu girl claimed they have been in a relationship for the last one year. The young woman's parents opposed this relationship and the right-wing group, Sanskriti Bachao Manch was involved, and following which the girl was handed over to her parents in the presence of the police. The issue, however, was resolved amicably between the two families in the presence of the police, a source privy to the incident said on condition of anonymity. But such incidents, which have been given the name of love jihad, often surface in Madhya Pradesh and the politicians do not miss an opportunity to get involved. Another case of alleged love jihad surfaced last month in Bhopal when a Muslim youth was booked on rape charges after allegedly impersonating as Amar Kushwaha to develop a relationship with a Hindu girl.

There are several instances of such incidents in Madhya Pradesh, and the most controversial surfaced in January this year when a Muslim man and a married Hindu woman who



were travelling together were forcibly taken off an Ajmer-bound train by members of the Bajrang Dal and handed over to the railway police station in Ujjain. The Bajrang Dal members, who accused the man of 'love jihad', assaulted him as they forcibly took him off the train. The controversy ended after the woman's family members claimed that the Muslim man was known to them and they were aware that the two were travelling together. The issue escalated in political circles in Madhya Pradesh in September this year after state tourism and culture minister Usha

Thakur termed garba events as a "medium for love jihad". She demanded that the participants should carry identity proof to enter garba venues. Ex-pro tem speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly and BJP MLA from Bhopal, Rameshwar Sharma claimed that love jihad 'is being operated in a well organised way and it is being protected by some politicians, bureaucrats and police personnel. "I speak against love jihad not because I belong to the BJP, I do it because being a Hindu, it is my duty. It is up to the people to believe or not," Sharma said.

Corruption is like leprosy, it is necessary to end it: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that corruption is a leprosy, it has to be eradicated completely. The state government has a zero tolerance policy on corruption. Ensure immediate action on public welfare schemes, development works, FIR in police stations and every complaint or information of corruption in matters of criminal cases with strong will. The general public should get timely benefits of the schemes without any give and take, good governance should be established in all areas, this is the priority of the state government. Morning meetings are being organized for the purpose of establishing such arrangements. It is necessary to make every effort that public representatives and officers-employees work with team spirit. Chief Minister Chouhan was reviewing the public welfare schemes, development works and law and order situation in Dewas district in the morning meeting. Minister in-charge of Dewas Yashodhara Raje Scindia, MLA Gayatri Raje,



Ashish Sharma, took part in the meeting held at 7.30 am at Chief Minister's residence office virtually.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that officers and employees who have been posted at one place for a long time or whose conduct is not good or against whom there are complaints of corruption, should be identified immediately. The state government is committed to make arrangements in the interest of the public. CM congratulated the district officials for the progress of Dewas district in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) and Mukhya Mantri Jan Sewa Abhiyan. Also, while appreciating the officers for an improved power system, he said that awareness regarding smart meters and doubts about

electricity bills should be organized and publicity activities should be conducted. He also praised the activities conducted in Dewas district for the recovery of missing girls and women's safety in the meeting.

Chief Minister expressed his displeasure over the slow pace of works in the district under Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), non-distribution of supplementary nutritious food for the last two months and the condition of rural roads. Chief Minister instructed to review the activities conducted in Sonkachh subdivision and Dewas Municipal Corporation of the district, FIRs in police stations and continuously review the action taken on the culprits.



RAVEENA TANDON ON SAFARI

Team Absolute | Bhopal/New Delhi

Raveena Tandon recently travelled to the Satpura woods of Madhya Pradesh's Bori Safari Lodge with her kid while enjoying a break from her hectic work schedule. The ardent wildlife enthusiast praises the Jehan Numa Wilderness staff for their welcoming hospitality in a post on her Instagram account, where she talks about how much she

enjoyed her safari adventures with them. She is currently residing at the Jehan Numa Retreat in Bhopal, where she is filming her future movie. She captioned her pictures as she posted on social media with, "Back to where my heart belongs...satpura tiger reserve bori safari lodge jehannuma wilderness thank you for the warm hospitality. Cheers here's to a bunch of crazies who flew in from all over for a day in the jungle."

CM paid homage to the tomb of Dr. Hari Singh Gaur by offering flowers

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today inaugurated Gaur Samadhi Shal at Dr. Harisingh Gaur Central University, Sagar M.P. Tried paying homage to former Chief Minister Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla by offering a wreath at his tomb. Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Patel, Madhya Pradesh Public Works Minister Gopal Bhargava, Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh, Revenue and Transport Minister Govind Singh Rajput also laid wreaths at the mausoleum. Member of Parliament Raj Bahadur Singh, MLA Shailendra Jain, Vice Chancellor of Dr. Harisingh Gaur University Prof. People's representatives, officials and dignitaries including Neelima Gupta were present. Chief Minister Chouhan and Union



Minister of State Patel paid homage to the statue of Dr. Harisingh Gaur in the Central University campus by garlanding it. Inauguration of Sophisticated Equipment and Nano Technology Building Chief Minister Shivraj Singh

Chouhan inaugurated the sophisticated equipment and nano technology building constructed at a cost of Rs. 29Cr. This building will prove useful in the maintenance of technical equipment of science.



CM PLANTS SAPLINGS ON ANNIVERSARY OF SENIOR JOURNALIST LATE RAJKUMAR KESWANI

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in the Smart City Garden on the birth anniversary of renowned journalist and writer Late Rajkumar Keswani along with his relatives and acquaintances. Sandhvi Mishra of Swadesh TV news channel planted saplings on her birthday. Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings of Jungle Jalebi (Vilayati Imlil), Tikoma and Sarika Indica. Raunak Keswani and Sunita Keswani participated in the plantation.

BJP's media in-charge booked for posting video with 'Pakistan Zindabad...' slogan in BJI

Team Absolute | Chhatisgarh

An FIR has been registered in Chhatisgarh against MP BJP's media in-charge Lokendra Parashar for posting a video with the 'Pakistan Zindabad...' slogan during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. A case has been registered against BJP leader Lokendra Parashar under sections 153(A), 504, 505(1), 505(2), and 120B of IPC. The report was lodged by the District Congress Committee Legal Cell Raipur, President, Ankit Mishra.



In the complaint on his behalf, it was said that the video is morphed, that is, slogans have been added separately. Sections like provocation with the intent to incite riots have been imposed on the BJP leader. On Friday, Madhya Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party's state media in-charge Lokendra Parashar tweeted the video of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. He wrote- Slogan 'Pakistan Zindabad...' was openly

raised in Bharat Jodo Yatra. It was tweeted from the official handle of Congress, and later it was removed, but the truth has come to the fore that what is in the heart of Congress. As per the complaint of Ankit Mishra, On November 25, a tweet was received from the Twitter handle of MP BJP media department president Lokendra Parashar. On this day at 12:11 pm, Parashar did not pro-

vide any evidence related to the video tweeted and made the allegations. Whereas, live Bharat Jodo Yatra is happening. Parashar made a false and misleading post with malicious intent. It was designed to increase social tension. Posted this with the intention of criminal conspiracy to incite and incite the general public. BJP leader Parashar said, "Congress itself posted the video, then removed it. Congress does conspiracy after conspiracy."

In a video posted on social media by the Congress media department itself and sent to all journalists, slogans of Pakistan Zindabad were heard. Later Congress removed the video, but will the Congress tamper with its own video. If FIR had to be done, it could have been done in Madhya Pradesh, it could have been done in Delhi, it could have been done in Gujarat, it was done in Chhatisgarh because there is a Congress government there."

Richa Chadha tweet shows her 'tukde tukde' mindset: Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Saturday said he has received a complaint against actor Richa Chadha for her tweet in which she referred to the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, and he has forwarded the same to the police for legal opinion. He also criticised the actor saying her tweet showed her "tukde-tukde" mentality.



The actor had tweeted "Galwan says hi" in response to the Northern Army Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi's statement that the Indian Army is "waiting for orders from the govt (sic)" in reclaiming Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Chadha's tweet caused a severe backlash on Twitter, with netizens including celebrities, criticising her

for mocking the sacrifice of the Indian Armed forces. In a video statement on Saturday, Mishra said the actor should learn to differentiate between the Army and cinema. "There is a difference between reel and real life," the minister said, daring Chadha to lead the life of a soldier, who lives in extreme weather conditions to protect the country.

"Your comment has hurt the patriots. This comment shows her 'tukde-tukde' mentality. I have received a complaint against her and have sent it to the police

for legal opinion," Mishra said.

"Tukde-Tukde" is a term often used by right-wing parties to attack the opposition, particularly Left and Left-backed outfits as well as those who support them. The minister also pointed out that Chadha hadn't spoken a word on the murder of Shradha Walkar who was sawed into 35 pieces by her live-in partner Aaftab Amin Poonawala at their house in south Delhi's Mehrauli.

Following the backlash, Chadha had issued an apology on social media, saying she didn't intend to hurt the sentiments of the Indian Army.

India and China are locked in a lingering border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over 29 months. The bilateral relationship came under severe strain following the clash in Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh in June 2020.

NEED TO BRING THE SENSE OF SOCIAL HARMONY IN LIFE: GOVERNOR PATEL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that universities have always been centers of knowledge. Their job is not just to provide degrees, but to make the youth the leaders of unity, integrity, nation building and development of the country. Educational institutions should do the work of showing and guiding the right path for building a strong, united and developed nation. Special emphasis is being laid by the State Government on the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and deprived sections. On the call of the Prime Minister, work is being done to identify the people's leaders of Scheduled Tribes in the state and give them due respect. Universities should work towards promoting high

quality research and teaching.

Governor and Chancellor of University Mangubhai Patel was addressing the fourth convocation of the University of Social Sciences.

Higher Education Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that the youth should come forward and start restoring the glorious past of India. Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar has played an important role in realizing this concern of how to take India forward by getting rid of the social and caste evils of the time. Our constitution always talks about public opinion and national interest. There is a need to put up an exhibition of the pictures inscribed in the original copy of the Constitution, so that the general public can become familiar with the originality of the Constitution. The first priori-

ty is to expand Dr. Ambedkar University in the country and the state. He said that implementation in the form of National Education Policy 2020 has been an important task of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said that emphasis should be laid on promotion of agricultural education including introduction of higher education and innovative courses.

Culture, Tourism and Spirituality Minister Usha Thakur said that the university is an institution of national interest. There is a need to solve the problems together. Oath is a practice. There is a need to convert the knowledge gained from initiation into wisdom.

In the convocation ceremony, the Chancellor awarded Ph.D. and M.Phil. Degrees were awarded to 48 research scholars.

Zoo administration makes special arrangements to protect birds, animals from cold in Gwalior

Team Absolute | Gwalior

The zoo administration in Gwalior has made special arrangements to protect birds, animals and reptiles from the chilly cold. Grass curtains, heaters and bulbs are being used to protect them from winter season. The zoo management has also changed its diet plans due to the changing weather conditions in the region.

Gandhi Zoological Garden curator Gaurav Parihar said, "As the winter season is next to the door, in the first stage of protecting the reptiles, we have put up 200-watt bulbs in the glass cage of snakes. We light those bulbs in the evening from around 7 pm till morning. Similarly, grass curtains and canvas curtains are used in the bird cages." "We use heaters in the enclosures of large animals such as lions, tigers and leopard to keep the temperature warm. We also their diet, we feed roasted gram and peanuts to birds and animals as it contains oil and keep them warm," Parihar added.

"Reptiles (snake, crocodile, and alligator) are cold-blooded and they get more affected from the winter. They feel pleasant in the temperature range of 25 to 30 degrees Celsius. We put them in the glass cage and maintain the temperature in the required range. In case cold increases, we light the bulb for 24 hours," he added. Notably, there are around 550 animals, birds and reptiles in the zoo.





Los Angeles | Agencies

American actress-singer Lindsay Lohan is eagerly waiting celebrating Christmas with her husband, financier Bader Shammam with whom she tied the knot with earlier this year. The two exchanged wedding vows after two years of dating. Lohan admitted that she "loves" the festive period and is looking forward to spending it with her husband and the rest of his family, reports. She said: "I love the Christmas season and the whole family time with all the food and everything. I can't wait to spend it this year with my husband, new niece, and with all the family."

According to the reports, the 'Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen' star - who started out in the industry as a child playing the dual leading role of twins Hallie Parker and Annie James in Disney hit 'The Parent Trap' and enjoyed massive success in the 2000s with comedy 'Freaky Friday' and cult classic 'Mean Girls' but chose to step back from the industry almost a decade ago over personal reasons - has made a return to screens in festive Netflix romcom 'Falling For Christmas' and admitted that it felt like "only yesterday" she had been making movies when she was on set.

Love the Christmas season & family time: Lindsay Lohan

She told a magazine: "It was like it was only yesterday that I last made a movie, not almost ten years. I love a good romcom, I totally fell for the love story and the family aspect, and I really loved all the physical comedy." She further said: "I really hope that [the film] gives people some joy and a distraction from everything that is going on right now, and that it maybe brings friends and families together to have a good time watching it."

Greta Gerwig was both 'excited' and 'terrified' for the project

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Greta Gerwig, who currently awaits the release of her highly anticipated 'Barbie' movie, has opened up about the making of the film on Dua Lipa's 'At Your Service' podcast, saying she was both 'excited' and 'terrified' upon embarking on the project.

"It was terrifying," Gerwig said, as per the reports.

"There's something about starting from that place where it's like 'well, anything is possible.' It felt like vertigo starting to write it. Like, where do you even begin? What would be the story?"

Gerwig, who co-wrote the film with husband Noah Baumbach, added, "That feeling that I had known that it would be really interesting terror. Usually that's where the best stuff is. I am terrified of that. Anything where you're like, 'this could be a career-ender,' then you're like, 'OK, I probably should do it.'" As far as the plot, Gerwig didn't offer many details but said Mattel executives were "amazing partners" who gave her "trust and freedom" with the Barbie brand. She also credited star and producer Margot Robbie, as well as producer Tom Ackerley for making sure Gerwig was able to execute her vision. 'Barbie' also stars Ryan Gosling as Ken, as well as America Ferrera, Kate

McKinnon, Simu Liu, Issa Rae, Michael Cera, Kingsley Ben-Adir, Rhea Perlman, Sharon Rooney, Scott Evans, Ana Cruz Kayne, Ritu Arya, Jamie Demetriou, Emerald Fennell, Emma Mackey, Neuti Gatwa and Connor Swindells.



BOB DYLAN FANS REFUNDED OVER AUTHENTICITY OF HIS 'HAND-SIGNED' BOOK

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Bob Dylan fans will be able to get refunds after publishers of the star's new book admitted "hand-signed" copies actually featured a printed replica of his autograph. Dylan devotees were given the chance to buy \$600 copies featuring his signature after the music legend's new tome 'The Philosophy of Modern Song' was released on November 1, but some fans complained that they weren't convinced by the authenticity of the star's scrawl, reports. Acknowledging the blunder and offering refunds, bosses at publishing company Simon and Schuster issued a statement: "To those who purchased the 'Philosophy of Modern Song' limited edition, we want to apologise. As it turns out, the limited edition books do contain Bob's original signature, but in a penned replica form. We are addressing this information by providing each purchaser with an immediate refund." It has been suggested that the autographs featured in the book had been signed using "autopen" - a machine which is able to reproduce a real signature with a pen without the author having to sign any copies himself - with many fans claiming several different variations of the singer's autograph had been used. A tweet previously posted on Bob's official Twitter page had suggested the folk star had signed all the books himself. It read: "Each individual copy of the limited signed edition of Bob Dylan's 'The Philosophy of Modern Song' was personally signed by the author and is accompanied by a letter of authenticity from the publisher of Simon and Schuster."



KIM FEELS VIOLATED AS KANYE LET OUT HER EXPLICIT IMAGES

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality television star Kim Kardashian is doing some digging in response to claims that her ex-husband Kanye West showed nude photos of her to former employees. "The Kardashians' star is "looking into" the claims as she felt "disgusted" by it, says reports. "She feels violated and terrified," said source. The SKIMS founder, who was married to Ye for six years before splitting in last February, is reportedly trying to "confirm" the allegations.

According to the reports, the insider claimed that the mom of four "wanted to see what photos former employees saw so she has more details."

The source added that the scandal is "just another bombshell about Kanye" and the cosmetics mogul "continues to wonder what will drop next" when it comes to the 'Donda' artiste.



MYLENE KLASS LOOKS FABULOUS IN A LEOPARD PRINT JUMPSUIT

London | Agencies

Mylene Klass looked sensational in a leopard print jumpsuit on Friday as she attended the It's A Wonderful Night press night at the London Coliseum. The radio host, posed alongside a glam Jaime Winstone, at the event as they supported the English National Opera amid protests against its move to Manchester. Mylene oozed confidence as she posed in her wide-legged satin jumpsuit, which she teamed with a longline black blazer, chunky black platform heels and a gold clutch bag. Adding a touch of bling to her look, the former Hear'Say singer rocked a gold necklace and added a further selection of pretty jewellery. Her brunette locks were styled in glam curls, while she highlighted her features with a radiant palette of make-up. The actress accessorized her chic outfit with blue leopard print heeled boots, black elbow length gloves and a black handbag.

The ladies were all smiles as they wrapped their arms around each other to pose for snaps. Mylene's outing comes after she revealed her fiancé Simon Motson, underwent a vasectomy in order to 'give her a body a break' after four heartbreaking miscarriages.

JENNIFER LOPEZ ANNOUNCED A NEW MUSICAL PROJECT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez announced a new musical project, 'This Is Me... Now', slated for release in 2023. It will be the singer's first full-length effort in eight years, reports. Along with a video that shows her in her 'This Is Me Then' era 20 years ago, morphing into the present day J.Lo, Lopez issued a track listing that includes among its titles 'Dear Ben Pt. II', presumably a sequel to the earlier album's 'Dear Ben'. The album's news release reads as follows: "Heralding a new era of music for Jennifer Lopez, 'this Is Me... Now' chronicles the emotional, spiritual and psychological journey that she has taken over the past two decades."

"An emotionally raw and honest project, unlike any she has produced before, she writes and sings about her life and experiences that will resonate with us all. In addition, these autobiographical stories informed by the album will result in other very personal projects that will be released next year... more to come on that." The record is also described to touch on themes of Lopez's tough childhood, her unsuccessful relationships and "the incredible emotional journey she has been on..." "This album is a philosophy, a reflection, a zeitgeist moment. It's about hope, faith and true love never dying," the release concludes. The singer also recently told that the album will be "the most honest work she has ever done," and said her hope for the album was to create a world to go with the music, in the manner of Pink Floyd's 'The Wall', but with the focus being love. Exactly 20 years ago today, Lopez's 13-song third studio album, 'This Is Me... Then', hit the market and gave way to hits like 'Jenny From the Block' and 'All I Have' to top the charts. The set also included the aforementioned song about Bennifer's romance, with dedications for the actor on the CD sleeve thanking him for inspiring the record. "When you go back and hear that, you hear the purity and the love there," Lopez said in a 2021 Apple Music interview. "Some things do last forever," she added. In that same conversation, Lopez jokingly said it might be time for "This Is Me... Now," but there was little inclination that might've actually been the case until today.



Megan Fox



FIFA WORLD CUP

Poland wins against Saudi Arabia by 2-0

DUKE'S GOAL GIVES AUSTRALIA FULL POINTS AGAINST TUNISIA

Doha (Qatar): A first-half headed goal by Mitchell Duke helped Australia carve out a fighting 1-0 win over Tunisia in the FIFA World Cup Group D match played at Al Janoub Stadium on Saturday. The 23rd-minute strike helped the Socceroos to collect their first points of the football showcase event. Coach Graham Arnold's team had fallen to defending champion France in their first match losing 4-1, after having scored the first goal of the match, only to find their defense cave four times in the match against the rampaging Frenchman. Tunisia on the other hand had drawn goalless with Denmark in their first group encounter. Australia will take on Denmark in their last league group match while Tunisia will take on France.



US HOLD ENGLAND TO GOALLESS DRAW

Al Rayyan (Qatar): A lackluster England laboured to a drab draw against the US but kept their qualification hopes for the FIFA World Cup knockout stage alive. On Friday evening at the Ali Bin Ali Stadium in Qatar, the 90-minute dual ended without a goal being scored. A win for England would have meant qualification to the knockout stage and the first team to seal the last 16 spot. A lot was expected from England, especially after their 6-2 drubbing of Iran, in their first Group A match. But the Three Lions were far from their best for

long periods as they failed to match the energy and intensity which they displayed in abundant quantity in their first match. Instead, the US was bolder and had much better chances and Gareth Southgate's side was second best. It was the US which called the shots throughout the match and were the better side, creating more chances and even hitting the bar once. England was unimpressive and rode their luck when Weston McKennie missed an easy chance and Christian Pulisic struck the bar in the first half. Pulisic

came closest to a breakthrough when the forward struck the crossbar with a shot from the left of the box in the 33rd minute. Pulisic saw another attempt deflect marginally wide in the second half, while midfielder McKennie twice aimed too high from promising positions. At the other end, Mason Mount brought a fine save from the US goalkeeper Matt Turner just before the break and that was the closest that the Englishman got in scoring a goal against the US as they missed the attacking verve of their opening game.

Arabia net from a close range in the 39th minute. Robert Lewandowski with the assist. Lewandowski cut back the ball for Zielinski, who shot into the roof from just six yards out.

The Saudis had a chance to level in stoppage time but Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny saved both a spot kick by Salem Al-Dawsari and the follow-up.

UNITED STATES HAPPY WITH DRAW AGAINST ENGLAND: PULISIC

Al Khor: US midfielder Christian Pulisic praised his team's performance in a goalless draw with England on Friday and insisted they could progress to the FIFA World Cup knockout stage. England had a greater share of possession but managed just three shots on target while the United States had one as both sides lacked a cutting edge in attack. "I thought it was a very solid performance from the team, obviously against a good opponent," Pulisic said. "There were times when we dominated and created chances and could have won the game. We managed the game well and to come out with a draw is a decent result." The United States must win their last group match against Iran to progress to the last 16.



Doha | Agencies

Midfielder Piotr Zielinski gave Poland a 1-0 lead against Saudi Arabia in the first half of a heated World Cup Group C clash at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan. Robert Lewandowski found unmarked Zielinski in the box who struck home in the 40th minute. Robert Lewandowski opened his World Cup account with a clinical finish in the 82nd minute. His 77th international goal for Poland, and first at the World Cup. Al Bulayhi rolled a pass along the line towards Al Malki in the middle of the box. Al Malki let the ball roll under his boot, and Lewandowski nicked it away and slotted it past keeper Al Owais. Piotr Zielinski slammed the ball into the Saudi

Host Qatar out of World Cup



two rounds of matches, The Netherlands and Ecuador both have four points and an identical goal difference. Ecuador has three points from two matches. The early exit from the championship is the earliest ever elimination for a host nation. In the Netherlands-Ecuador clash, it was Cody Gakpo, who scored the fastest goal of the tournament so far to give the Dutch the lead in the sixth minute. Gakpo took advantage of Ecuador's poor defending just outside the box and netted his second goal in Qatar. The Ecuadorians bounced back with a goal in the 49th minute with their captain Enner Valencia slotting home the loose ball after the Netherlands keeper had made a save from Estupinan's strike. The Fenerbahce striker, who scored two goals against Qatar, has so far scored three goals from two matches. Earlier, Ecuador had the first chance to level in the 32nd, when Dutch keeper Andries Noppert made a big save to deny Valencia. Pervis Estupinan then found the net, but his effort was ruled out for offside.

Doha: The qualification race from Group A of the FIFA World Cup has narrowed down to three teams with Qatar being dumped out of the football showcase event after just two group games. The hosts' slim chances of making it to the next stage were eliminated on Friday after the match between The Netherlands and Ecuador, which ended in a 1-1 draw at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha. The Netherlands, Ecuador and Senegal are the three teams which are in contention to qualify for the next stage from the group. Earlier on Friday, the hosts had lost 3-1 to African Cup champions Senegal, thus suffering their second defeat. At the end of

IND V NZ, 2ND ODI

India seek improvements in batting, bowling to square series score line

Hamilton | Agencies

After suffering a seven-wicket loss in the ODI series opener to New Zealand at Eden Park in Auckland on Friday, India would be seeking major improvements in batting and bowling to square the series in the second match at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Sunday. Dhawan and Gill had an opening stand of 124 in 23.1 overs, but their start was slow as New Zealand bowlers got some seam and swing from the pitch, resulting in only 40 runs coming in the power-play. Moreover, Dhawan and Gill had a dot-ball percentage of 59.74 (playing 46 dot balls) and 58.46 (playing 38 dot balls), respectively in the match. Suryakumar Yadav was dismissed after stroking a wonderful cover drive on the very first ball while Rishabh Pant needs to shrug off his



struggles and get the timing right as a number four batter. Shreyas Iyer, despite being troubled by short balls and having some luck on his side, continued to lead the charge for India crossing 300-mark with a fine 80. Only Sundar, with his more than handy off-spin, and Umran Malik rushing up the batters with speed and control in his maiden ODI appearance were able to trouble the New Zealand batters. For the Blackcaps, they will be delighted with how

Latham stood up to bail them out of trouble with a knock to remember for the ages. They would also be delighted with captain Kane Williamson finding form with 94 not out and being the supporter to Latham in chasing down 307. Overall, it should be a game where India will be expected to get their mistakes right in batting and bowling apart from some misfields happening on the field too, as said by Iyer after the match ended.

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Karnataka got the better of Jharkhand by five wickets while Uttar Pradesh registered an eight-wicket victory over Mumbai in the pre-quarterfinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy at Narendra Modi Stadium Ground 'A' and 'B' here on Saturday. Electing to field first, Karnataka pacers Ronit More (3/31) and Vidvath Kaverappa (3/20) dismissed Jharkhand openers Uttkarsh Singh and Arnab Sinha for ducks in the first two overs. It took a 115-run stand, coming off 155 deliveries, between all-rounder Anukul Roy (57) and wicket-keeper Kumar Kushagra (74) for the sixth wicket to get Jharkhand back on track. In reply, Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal fell early in the chase, castled by Bal Krishna for 12. But R. Samarth (53 off 60 balls) joined forces with an inform Nikin Jose to stitch a 64-run stand off 72 balls for the second wicket before the former was dismissed by Rahul Shukla. Though



Manish Pandey, Shreyas Gopal and B.R. Sharath fell quickly, Nikin Jose stood tall to be unbeaten on 63 off 93 balls, hitting five fours to chase down 188 in 40.5 overs, with MS Bhandage being 18 not out. In the other match, Uttar Pradesh had things going their way from the word goes. Divyaansh Saxena was bowled for a duck by Ankit Rajpoot on the third ball of the innings while Shivam Mavi castled Prithvi Shaw in the fourth over. Juyal (82 off 103 balls) and

Madhav Kaushik (46 off 75 balls) laid the platform for the chase with a brilliant 119-run stand off 152 balls, before Divyaansh cut it short by taking the latter out. Juyal was dismissed by Mohit Avasthi in the 34th over, giving Mumbai a small ray of hope to be back in the game. But Priyam Garg and captain Karan Sharma shared an unbeaten 63-run stand off 70 balls for the third wicket to take Uttar Pradesh over the line in 45.4 overs.

J&K'S MAIDEN KNOCK

Ahmedabad: Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday entered the quarterfinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the very first time with a seven-wicket victory over Kerala in their pre-quarterfinal match. Pace all-rounder Auqib Nabi picked career-best figures of 4-39 in his ten overs to set the base for a famous victory for Jammu & Kashmir. Electing to bowl first, Nabi delivered the first breakthrough for Jammu & Kashmir by breaking the 47-run opening stand of Kerala. He first dismissed opener Rahul P and took out Vatshal in quick succession. Vinoop Manoharan hung around to hit a half-century for Kerala. Khajuria brought up his fourth fifty of the tournament before a mix-up saw him run out for 61-ball 76, laced with five fours and six sixes. There were some nervous moments when Vivrant and captain Shubham Singh Pundir fell in quick succession and Iqbal retired hurt on 51. But Henan Nazir and Fazil Rashid ensured the target was chased down successfully in 37.5 overs with an unbeaten 25-run partnership to help Jammu & Kashmir enter the quarterfinals of the tournament for the first time.

ADELAIDE STRIKERS WIN THEIR MAIDEN WBBL TITLE

Sydney: West Indies allrounder Deandra Dottin starred with bat and ball, leading Adelaide Strikers to their maiden WBBL title with a hard-fought 10-run win over Sydney Sixers in the final at North Sydney Oval, here on Saturday.



Dottin hit an unbeaten 52 off 37 balls to carry Strikers to 148/7 before taking the key wickets of Suzie Bates and Ashleigh Gardner as Sixers were bowled out for 138 on the final ball of the innings. Chasing a modest total, Sixers' batters never got going. The power-packed lineup saw early exits of Suzie Bates (10), Alyssa Healy (1), Gardner (0) and Erin Burns (1) as Aussie pacer Darcie Brown (2-15) combined with Dottin (2-30) to leave the Sixers top-order in tatters at 16-4 after 5.5 overs. Ellyse Perry (33) was joined by Nicole Bolton (32) and the pair steadied the innings, taking the Sixers to 43/4 at the midway mark of the innings, still, 105 runs shy of their target. Bolton showed her class in her final professional match, finding the boundary three times in a 60-run stand with her skipper before McGrath rattled her stumps in the 14th over. Maitlan Brown cleared the rope in her return from a back injury, but her highly entertaining 34 off 16, while lifting the spirits of the home crowd, was not enough as wickets kept tumbling at the other end and Sixers were eventually bowled out for 137 in 20 overs.

Hockey Series: Australia snatches 5-4 win against India

Adelaide | Agencies

Hosts Australia snatched a 5-4 win against India in the opening match of the five-game fixture here with as many as three goals being scored in the last quarter here on Saturday. Both teams lived up to the billing as they produced an electrifying match, with as many as nine goals being scored in 60 minutes of entertaining hockey, leaving the weekend spectators on the edge of their seats. For India, experienced forward Akashdeep Singh (10th, 27th, 59th) scored a hat-trick of goals and Harmanpreet Singh (31st) too impressed with his PC attack. For the home team, Lachlan Sharp (5th), Nathan Ephraums (21st), Tom Craig (41st) and Blake Govers (57th, 60+) scored to put their team ahead. Australia's second goal too was set up by Tom Craig who dominated the mid-field, assisting Ephraums in the 21st minute to put one past India goalkeeper Krishan Pathak who replaced Sreejesh



in the second quarter. Six minutes later, it was Akashdeep Singh leading India's attack again as he scored another equaliser in the 27th minute followed by a PC in the 31st minute which was miraculously converted by Harmanpreet Singh after a slight fumble by Rajkumar Pal who was

positioned as the stopper in the PC attack. This goal by India captain put his team ahead by 3-2 for the first time in the game, however Australia bounced back in the third quarter with a goal by Tom Craig in the 41st minute. The last quarter was brilliantly played with Australia coming out in top gear.

VOOTY MASTERS GOLF: MANU GANDAS GRABS LEAD WITH THIRD-ROUND 67

Vikarabad (Telangana): Manu Gandas of Gurugram shot a resolute five-under 67 in the penultimate round to regain the advantage at the inaugural Vooty Masters, here on Saturday. Gandas (63-68-67), the first-round leader, who had slipped into second place on day two, now enjoys a slender one-shot lead with a total of 18-under 198 in the Rs. 1 crore prize money event being played at the Vooty Golf Country course. Gandas, the top contender going into round four, said, "My driving and tee shots were the best part of my game today. I drove two par-4 greens today and took advantage of all the par-5s. I would say my iron-play was not up to the mark and I made some errors that could've been easily avoided. Chandigarh's Angad Cheema (65-67-67), who was overnight third, moved into the second position at 17-under 199 after he too shot an equally-impressive 67 on Day Three. Angad Cheema, currently 24th on the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings with three top-10s this season, will be the other main contender in the final round as he kept himself in the hunt with seven birdies and two bogeys on Saturday. Cheema, who sank five of his birdies on the back nine, made some exceptional chip putts during round three.





KRITI SANON PENS A HEARTWARMING NOTE FOR VARUN DHAWAN

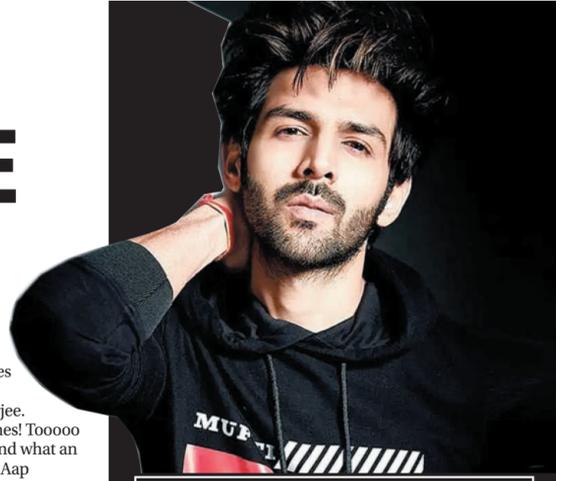
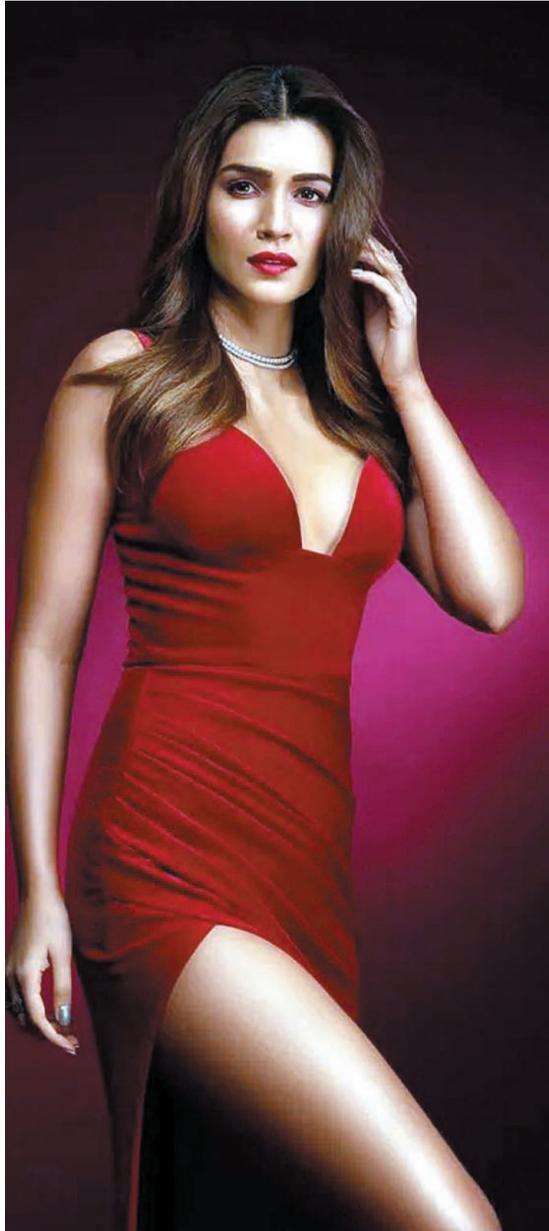
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kriti Sanon has penned a heartwarming note for her co-star Varun Dhawan and the entire team of their film 'Bhediya'. She said that she is extremely proud of the movie. She took to Instagram, where she shared stills from the movie and alongside Kriti wrote: "Its Bhediya Time! A film I am extremely proud of! Dr Anika will always remain special to me as one of my quirkiest and trickiest characters!" "varun dhawan you have killed it & how.. I'm so proud! I'm happy we could come together for this special one.. to many more- sooner this time. Amar kaushik You are our main Bhediya whose Howl is gonna amaze the world! A separate post coming soon your way! Love you." "Dinoo This is my 6th with you and maddockfilms and i'm gonna stop counting now.. Your conviction and hunger to take risks and do something unique while

saying something so important is what makes you YOU. super proud!" She mentioned that she is a fan of her co-actor Abhishek Bannerjee.

"You are on and I've clapped on your scenes! Tooooo good! paalinkabak welcome to the movies and what an outstanding debut! Deepak dobriyal sirrrrr!! Aap Kamaal ho! Special mention for the BRILLIANT cinematography jishnu dop and the OUTSTANDING VFX mpc film."

She concluded by saying: "YOU guys have made our Bhediya world a memorable experience - nothing short of international standards!! Kudos! Our Bhediya is YOURS and so is Dr Anika.. hope she makes you laugh, crack up and think all at the same time!" The film is set in Arunachal Pradesh; a young man named Bhaskar, who gets bit by a wolf in the forest and turns into a werewolf. He along with his friends looks for answers to find a cure and uncover an age-old mystery.



I GOT DISTURBING NIGHTS BECAUSE OF THE MOVIE:

KARTIK AARYAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Kartik Aaryan said that he got disturbing nights because of his upcoming film 'Freddy' but he adds that it was important to be focused on the bigger picture and tried to curtail his regular activities while shooting for the movie. Kartik, who will be seen in the very intense character of 'Freddy', opened up about his preparation for the character.

"I literally dwelled in the world of Freddy while shooting the film. It was important for me to remain in that headspace and go to the set and perform. I got disturbing nights because of 'Freddy' but it was important to be focused on the bigger picture and tried to curtail my regular activities while shooting Freddy so that I could focus on the film and the character." "Post the wrap, I connected with my friends and family who keep me grounded and that helped me return to reality and normalcy again," he said. Kartik's most awaited Freddy is about the journey of Dr Freddy Ginwala, a shy, lonely and socially awkward person who loves playing with his miniature planes and the only friend he has is his pet turtle 'Hardy'.

Disney+ Hotstar recently announced their upcoming spine chilling romantic thriller 'Freddy'. Produced by Balaji Telefilms Ltd, NH Studioz and Northern Lights Films, directed by Shashanka Ghosh and starring Kartik Aaryan and Alaya F.

Kajol revealed that Ajay Devgn cooks delicious food

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Kajol has revealed that Ajay Devgn, who has been playing different characters on screen, is in real life, a lovely husband who cooks delicious food. Kajol will be seen gracing the special episode - '30 Years of Kajol' this weekend along with actor Vishal Jethwa on Zee TV's Sa Re Ga Ma Pa. During the shoot, the special guest Kajol made the interesting revelation about her husband Ajay Devgn. When Bharti asked Kajol about Ajay's cooking skills and her favourite dish that Ajay cooks, Kajol revealed: "As unbelievable as it may seem, Ajay loves cooking. We often say that some people have taste in their hands, Ajay is one of those cooks you know, who prepares any dish and it turns out to be delicious."

"Cooking is something Ajay enjoys very much, and he shuts the door of the kitchen when he is cooking. Even when he is cooking, he doesn't share his recipes or what he is preparing. He often cooks amazing Khichdi for me and that is his specialty."



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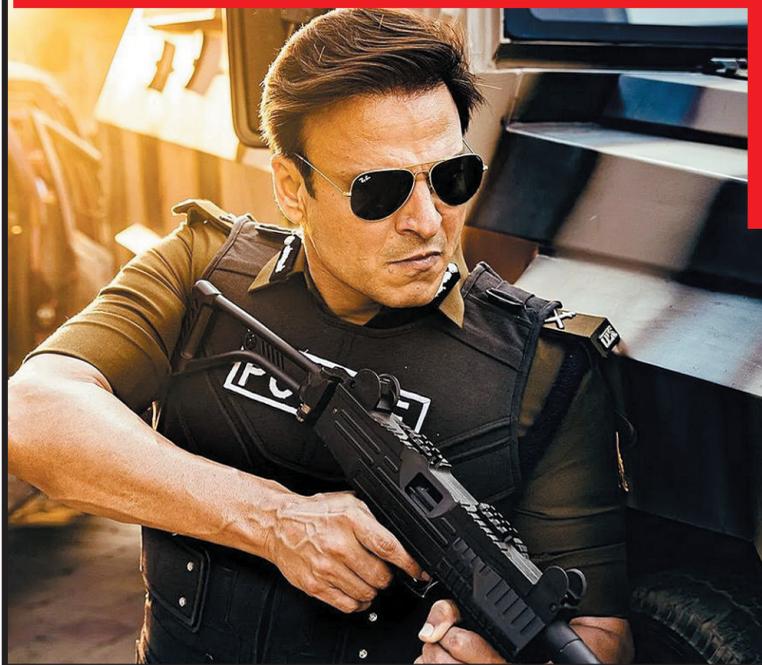
Bollywood actor Vivek Anand Oberoi, who plays a cop in the recently released streaming show 'Dharavi Bank', is very mindful of portraying the men in uniform in their true spirit and believes that it is important to render a sense of dignity to the roles of righteous cops.

The actor shared that it was important to not play the part in a caricaturish fashion. Talking about the same, the actor told: "It is important to dignify men in uniform. It's a noble profession that commands respect from the artistic community. As writers, creators and even in the audience, we need to make the extra effort to get it right on screen. I wanted to bring in gravitas to the part. I researched extensively and spoke to my friends who are cops about their experiences, their challenges."

Having been around men in uniform and been friends with them, the actor was insistent that he plays it as authentically as possible. "In the end every fiction series is indeed a dramatic retelling but it is upon the actor to ensure it's as close to reality as possible. From getting the day-to-day cop jargon right, to getting the body language, the walk, the psyche, I went all out to ensure that this depiction of what a cop from the Mumbai Police force is like doesn't resemble past and present screen renditions. I am glad that the response is so positive and heartwarming. It truly makes all the work feels worth it," Vivek added.

Directed by Samit Kakkad, the show, which also stars Suniel Shetty in his streaming series debut, is a classic gangster versus cop story.

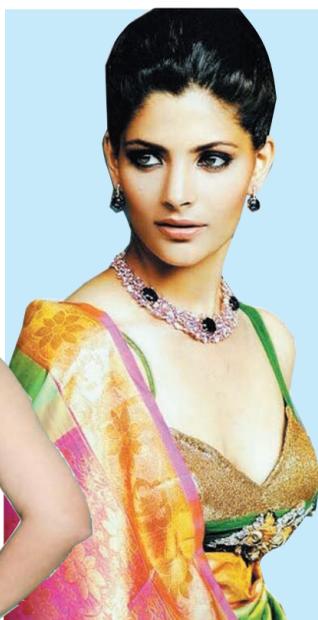
It is important to dignify men in uniform: Vivek Oberoi



Shefali Shah shares her excitement for IFFI 2022

Team Absolute | Panaji

Shefali Shah is one of the most bankable actresses in current times. The actress has been in the industry for a long time now but in the past couple of years, she has given some remarkable performances in movies and web series. Some of her recent notable works include, Jalsa, Human, Darlings, and Delhi Crime 2. But, there was another feather added to actresses' successful hat. She brought 'Three of Us' to viewers' eyes which made its place in the list of 25 films selected in the Indian Panorama 2022 at 53rd The International Film Festival of India. IFFI was held from November 20 to November 28, 2022, in Goa. 'Three of Us' is directed by Avinash Arun that stars Shefali Shah in the lead along with Jaideep Ahlawat. It is a relationship drama set in Maharashtra and features actor and lyricist Swanand Kirkire in the third lead. The film went on floors in December and was wrapped up last week in Mumbai. In the flick, Shefali essays the role of vulnerable women. Meanwhile, on the work front, Shefali was last seen in the Anubhuti Kashyap directorial, Doctor G.



SAIYAMI SAYS ASHWINY IYER TIWARI SKETCHES UP STRONG FEMALE CHARACTERS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Saiyami Kher, who is looking forward to the release of her upcoming streaming series 'Faadu- A Love Story', has heaped praise on the show's director Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari. The show is an intriguing take on the challenges and confusions of modern life. Saiyami, plays the female lead in the show and essays the character of a poetess. The actress feels Ashwiny, who has directed movies like 'Nil Battey Sannata' and 'Bareilly Ki Barfi' brings in strong female characters and 'Faadu' is no different. Saiyami says, "As an actor, there are certain directors who are always on your wishlist and after watching 'Nil Battey Sannata' and 'Bareilly Ki Barfi', Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari was up there on my wish list. All the female characters in Ashwiny ma'am's work are so strong and well written. I feel very blessed and so full of gratitude that Ashwiny ma'am was convinced I was her Manjari."

She further mentions that the project has been a learning curve for her in many ways, "Like all her other work even in 'Faadu' the female character is very strong. Manjari is very close to my heart. This project and character taught me a lot and made me grow as a person. I do hope I get to work with Ashwiny ma'am again." The web-series, written by Saumya Joshi, also stars Pavai Gulati and is going to be streamed soon.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nikki Tamboli