



EDITOR'S SPECS

Global Covid infection rates higher than previously reported

A joint study by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Unity Studies and SeroTracker and colleagues suggests that based on seroprevalence, global Covid-19 infection rates are likely to be higher than previously reported. The study, published in the open access journal PLOS Medicine, found that global seroprevalence rose from 7.7 per cent in June 2020 to 59.2 per cent in September 2021, suggesting two-thirds of the global population may be SARS-CoV-2 seropositive from either vaccination or infection. Estimates of Covid-19 infections based on seroprevalence data far exceed reported cases, suggesting a bigger global impact of Covid-19 than previously known. According to the authors, "this study on global seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies found that while seroprevalence has increased over time, a third of the global population tested negative for antibodies against the virus as of September 2021 estimates. It was also found that compared to seroprevalence estimates, routine testing for Covid-19 has largely underestimated the number of global infections". Serosurveillance provides estimates of antibody levels against infectious diseases and is considered the gold standard for measuring population immunity due to past infection or vaccination. In order to ascertain the true rates of infection and indicators of immunity in the population against SARS-CoV-2 over time, researchers conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of seroprevalence studies published from January 1, 2020 to May 20, 2022. From their search parameters, the authors identified 965 distinct seroprevalence studies sampling 5,346,069 participants between January 2020 and April 2022, with 43 per cent of these studies being from low-middle income countries. "As we enter the third year of the pandemic, implementation of a global system or network for targeted, multi-pathogen, high-quality and standardised collaborative serosurveillance is a crucial next step to monitor the pandemic and contribute to preparedness for other emerging respiratory pathogens," said the researchers.

DESPITE AAP PRESENCE, HIMACHAL'S POLITICAL BATTLE BETWEEN ARCHRIVALS BJP, CONGRESS

Vishal Gulati

Facing strong winds of anti-incumbency, the BJP leadership in Himachal Pradesh led by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur seems to be banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "charisma", while the main Opposition Congress is eyeing to return to the helm by wooing its 2.5-lakh strong government employees, state's crucial vote bank, with a promise of restoring the old pension scheme. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is in the fray for the first time in the Assembly polls, has been missing from the state with its leaders focusing on strengthening its vote bank in another poll-bound Gujarat. Despite AAP presence, the political scenario in the state seems so far largely bipolar -- a tug-of-war between the two conventional archrivals -- the Congress and the saffron party. Political observers told correspondent the ruling BJP has managed an edge over its seemingly somnolent rival Congress by holding a statewide campaign with back-to-back public meetings by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party's national leadership comprising Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, J.P. Nadda and Anurag Thakur. The Congress, however, largely banked on Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The saffron party had won 44 of the 68 Assembly seats in 2017 with a vote share of 48.8 per cent, up from 38.47 per cent in 2012. Its rival the Congress won 21 seats with a vote share of 41.7 per cent in 2017, down from 43 per cent in 2012. This time, the Congress reposed faith on its old warhorses to leave behind greenhorns to win the November 12 electoral race. In comparison, the BJP has largely discarded its veterans and reposed faith on comparatively younger faces with the slogan 'trivaj badlega' (electoral traditions will change), meaning to buck the trend to sweep the polls alternatively as both arch rivals ruled the state from



1985. Out of 412 candidates in the fray, 24 are female and 388 male candidates. A total of 55,92,828 voters will elect their representatives. Of them, 193,106 are first-time voters in the age of 18-19 years. There are 121,409 voters above 80 years, while 56,501 voters with disabilities. Among the elderly candidates, the Congress has fielded Col. Dhani Ram Shandil (82) from Solan; Chandra Kumar (78) from Jawali; Kaul Singh Thakur (76) from Drang; Thakur Singh Bharmouri (75) from Bharmour; Kishori Lal (75) from Bajnath and Khimi Ram (73) from Banjar. Congress rebel Gangu Ram Musafir (77), who has been denied the party nomination, is contesting as an Independent from Pachhad. The youngest candidate is Piyush Kanga (26), who is in fray from Bilaspur as an Independent. The others are Chaitanya Sharma (28) of the Congress from Gagret; Jabna Kumari (29) of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) from Nachan; Puja (29) of the Himachal Jan Kranti Party from Bharmour; Manisha Kumari (30) of AAP from Nurpur; Kishori Lal (31) of the CPI (M) from Karsog; Vikramaditya Singh (33) of the Congress from Shimla (Rural); and Deep Raj (34) of the BJP from Karsog. The BJP has denied the party ticket to 11 sitting legislators, shift-

and ignored Musafir's claim. He is in fray as an Independent from Pachhad in Sirmour district. For the BJP, it has almost dumped its two former chief ministers and stalwarts -- Shanta Kumar and Prem Kumar Dhmal -- citing the party's policy of not holding any post in the government and the organisation after 75 years of age. Both are almost a miss from the party's election strategy. The prominent saffron faces who were denied ticket include legislator Kishori Lal from Anni and BJP state vice-president Ram Singh from Kullu. Both are contesting as an Independent from their respective seats. In Mandi, the home district of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who is in fray from his stronghold Seraj, and Kullu district, the prominent rebels include Abhishek Thakur, son of six-time legislator Roop Singh, from Sundernagar; and Hiteswar Singh, the son of Maheshwar Singh, from Banjar. They are in the fray as an Independent. Upset supporters of Cabinet ministers Suresh Bhardwaj and Rakesh Pathania are questioning the high command over changing their stronghold seats at the last minute. The Congress appointed its three-time MP Pratibha Singh, the widow of six-time chief minister Virbhadr Singh, as the state unit president in April. Unlike her husband who had a direct connection even at the grassroots, Pratibha Singh has spearheaded the poll campaign in a bid to oust the incumbent Thakur-led government. With women voters outnumbering men in every election in the state, the BJP has come out with the 'Stree Sankalp Patra' that would further strengthen the objectives of women empowerment and women-led development, said Chief Minister Thakur. Talking to IANS during his campaigning, he said, "In our outgoing five-year stint, we started many schemes for empowering the women. Now in our election manifesto, we have made 11 commitments for women-led development." The BJP's manifesto promised to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the government jobs and educational institutions, establish a corpus of Rs 500 crore to give interest-free loans to women entrepreneurs to set up homestays, besides construction of two hostels for girls pursuing higher education in all 12 districts. An election official said the percentage of women voters exercising their franchise in the state has been on the rise since the 1993 Assembly elections. The Congress promised to restore the old pension scheme, which will directly benefit nearly 2.5 lakh government employees, to fill one lakh jobs in the first Cabinet meeting, besides 300 units of free electricity, if the party returns to the helm. Eyeing to woo the government employees who have been demanding the restoration of the old pension scheme, the Congress in its manifesto said all arrears of the employees would be cleared and contract employees regularised within two years. A first-of-its kind massive anti-government protest by apple growers in the state capital in August over challenges to the Rs 5,000-crore apple industry is a case in point. The Congress tried to woo the apple growers, who have considerable political clout in at least 20 Assembly seats mainly in the Shimla region. The growers were on the streets against the government over high input costs and the government's failure to protect their interests. There are over 55 lakh eligible voters in the state, for whom 7,881 polling stations have been set up. Of the voters, 28,54,945 are male electors, 27,37,845 female and 38 third gender voters. Polling in Himachal Pradesh will take place on November 12, while the counting of ballots on December 8.

international

OVER 272,000 CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER AS TROPICAL STORM HITS FLORIDA

Miami | Agencies More than 272,000 customers were without power across the US state of Florida, due to the impact of tropical storm Nicole, according to utility tracker Poweroutage.us. Nicole made landfall along the east coast of Florida just south of Vero Beach as a Category 1 hurricane on Thursday morning and later weakened to a tropical storm, reports Xinhua news agency. Florida's emergency management tweeted later in the day that tropical storm conditions are still being experienced across much of the state due to Nicole. "Please don't go out & visit



impacted areas," the management warned. "Not only is it unsafe, but it also inhibits first responders." Additional weakening is forecast while Nicole moves over land during the next day or two, and the storm is likely to become a tropical depression over Georgia Thursday night or early Friday. Nicole is an unusual development for Florida for November as state has been hit by hurricanes in the month only twice before in 1935 and 1985. Nicole's late arrival follows a relatively quiet storm season -- for the first time since 1997 not a single hurricane or tropical storm formed in the Atlantic basin this August.

BIDEN TO MEET XI ON NOV 14, TAIWAN ON AGENDA

Washington | Agencies In an address to the media, US President Joe Biden has confirmed that he will meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on November 14 in Bali during which Taiwan is expected to top the agenda. The meeting in Bali on the sidelines of the G20 summit will be the first between the two leaders since Biden took office in January 2021, according to the White House. When asked at the press briefing if he was committed to defending Taiwan militarily and willing to make any concessions, Biden said: "I'm not willing to make any fundamental concessions." Referring to when he was Vice President in the former Barack Obama administration, Biden said that he "met with him (Xi) many times.... And I've told him: I'm look-



ing for competition, not conflict". The President also said he

be in the critical national interests of China, what I know to be the critical interests of the US, and to determine whether or not they conflict with one another". "And if they do, how to resolve it and how to work it out," he added. On Taiwan, Biden said: "The Taiwan doctrine has not changed at all from the very beginning. So, I'm sure we'll discuss Taiwan. And I'm sure we'll discuss a number of other issues, including fair trade and relationships relating to his relationship with other countries in the region." Tensions soared between the US and China over the Taiwan issue when US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited the island in August. China responded with large scale military exercises around the island.

STUDENT FROM ANDHRA DIES IN AUSTRALIA CAR CRASH

Canberra: Sai Rohit Paladugu, a 27 year-old student from Andhra Pradesh, died on the spot after his car crashed into a tree in Australia's Victoria state, media reports said. Paladugu, who came to Australia in 2017 to pursue higher studies, was a resident of Polakala Yellampally village in Chittoor district, the Herald Sun reported. Victoria police believe the car was travelling north on the Goulburn Valley Highway on November 3 when it left the road and struck a tree near the Hume Freeway interchange. They are still investigating and are yet to determine what time the collision occurred. Investigators are urging anyone who witnessed the incident or has dashcam footage of the vehicle to contact Crime Stoppers, or submit a confidential report online at .crimestoppersvic.com.au, the NCR Review reported. Friends said Paladugu was also working to help his mother and to pay off the education loan taken to come to Australia.



Indian-American Nabeela Syed makes history in US midterm polls

Yashwant Raj | Washington |

Nabeela Syed is 23-years-old and member-elect of the Illinois state general. When sworn in, Syed will be its youngest member yet. "My name is Nabeela Syed. I'm a 23-year-old Muslim, Indian-American woman," she announced in a tweet on Wednesday. "We just flipped a Republican-held suburban district." She added: "And in January, I'll be the youngest member of the Illinois General Assembly." And as it invariably happens with these path-breakers, she has notched a few more firsts along the way: first Indian-American elected to the Illinois state House -- man or woman of any faith -- and along with Palestinian-American Abdel Nasser Rashid, the first Muslim elected to the state legislature. Syed wears a hijab, and some publications noted it. Kesha Ram, who is now serving in the Vermont state Senate, probably holds the record for being the youngest Indian-American ever elected to a state legislature.



She was only 21 when she was elected to the state's legislative body. She ran unsuccessfully for Lt. Governor in 2016. She belongs to the family of Sir Ganga Ram, the builder of modern Lahore who has a Delhi hospital named after him. Syed was born in Illinois, but not much else could be ascertained about her family, other than that her parents, or one of them at least came from India. Syed's campaign website says she graduated from the University of California,

Berkeley, with a degree in political science and business administration, where she served as the President of a pro-bono consulting organisation assisting local businesses and non-profits. "It doesn't seem real, but I am a state representative-elect now and I will be the youngest member of the General Assembly," she told ABC News. The 2022 midterm will go down in history as responsible for giving the US the first Generation Z member of the US Congress -- Maxwell Alejandro Frost, a 25-year-old Democrat elected to the House of Representatives from Florida. President Joe Biden joined the national celebration of his election by congratulating him in a phone call. Syed frames her election as part of this effort by youngsters to claim their place in politics, rather than wait for their turn, euphemism for waiting for someone to retire. "It is so important for us to have a seat at the table, for us to have a voice in the legislative process," Syed went on to say in the ABC interview. "People say wait your turn or there is no space for you. We made space," she added.

Iran develops hypersonic ballistic missile



Tehran | Agencies A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said that the country has built a hypersonic ballistic missile that is capable of penetrating "all missile defence systems". "The missile has a high velocity and can maneuver both in and out of the Earth's atmosphere," Iran's Press TV network quoted Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC's

Aerospace Division, as saying on Thursday. "The new missile can pass through all missile defence systems," he said, adding that "I don't think that the technology capable of countering it will be achieved in the decades to come." "It can target the enemy's anti-missile systems, and its production marks a huge leap in the development of a new generation of missiles," Hajizadeh noted as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.



INDORE'S GIS EXERCISE TO WOO INVESTORS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan himself has taken command of making the Global Investors Summit to be held in the industrial city of Madhya Pradesh successful in the month of January next year. They are directly communicating with the industrialists and are also engaged in inviting them for investment by giving serial details of the facilities available in Madhya Pradesh.

Global Investors Summit is going to be held in Indore on 11th and 12th January, where the event is important for another state, while it is also very important for the government. The reason for this is also because the assembly elections are going to be held in the state next year. Chief Minister Chouhan also understands very well that this event is sure to have an impact on the state's economy, employment and politically. More successful this event is, the BJP will get the benefit of it politically as well.

The Chief Minister has also given importance to the administrative set-up to make the event a success and this is the reason why he has made a



big change in the officers associated with the Industries Department. With this, the Chief Minister himself has taken the front and is also visiting many places and interacting with the industrialists. The Chief Minister is giving details of the facilities available in the state to attract investors. The Chief Minister met industrialists in Pune in October and told them through Investment Opportunity in Madhya Pradesh that there is land

availability, electricity, enough water, roads and the environment is calm with efficient human resources. Along with this, the Chief Minister is constantly interacting with the representatives of the country and abroad. Met Ambassadors of many countries in Delhi.

The Chief Minister was in Mumbai last day and he made a series of references to the resources available in the state. The Chief Minister held discus-

sions with the officials of Reliance Jio there and assured that free WiFi zones of 5G service in Bhedaghat, a tourist destination near Khajuraho and Jabalpur will be installed. Apart from this, the Chief Minister also had a discussion with Ratan Tata of the Tata Group. The Chief Minister also interacted with the representatives of the pharma company.

The Chief Minister says that once upon a time there were dacoits in the Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh, now they have been cleared. Atal Progressive Way is also being built in Chambal region, industrial corridors will be built on both sides of it. Similarly, the Narmada Expressway will pass through the middle of Madhya Pradesh, on both sides of which Industrial Corridor Township will be built.

Overall, the Investors' Summit of Indore is of great importance for the state. Lessons are also eyeing this event. Congress is raising questions on the summit held earlier. The head of the media department, KK Mishra, has also demanded the release of a white paper on the summit held earlier.

Man suspended mid-air, thrashed over theft charge in Ujjain

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A man accused of theft was tied to a machine, suspended mid-air and beaten mercilessly in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain. Although the incident took place a week ago, the police learnt about the incident on Thursday, after the video of the incident was widely shared online.

The video of the incident shows the victim pleading and apologising while he is hit with sticks. At one point a person is seen trying to stop the assaulter but his appeal is not heard.

"Hit him on the leg," a man is heard instructing the assaulter who follows the instruction.

The incident is reported to have taken place in Sijawata village which comes under Ingoriya police station on November 4.

According to reports, a police officer was briefed about the incident by a person but he did not take



action. The officer has been suspended and sent to police lines for dereliction of duty.

"We came to know about the incident after the video appeared online. We have launched an investigation and will make arrests soon," a police officer said.

Humiliated by the torture, the victim has left the village and efforts are being made to locate him.

MP government covering up on Karam dam scam: Congress

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The report of the inquiry committee formed after the leak in the Karam dam of Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh is yet to come. On this, Vice President of Media Department of Congress Ajay Singh Yadav raised the question and said that the scam in this dam construction is being covered up. Yadav issued a statement saying, "On August 11, 2022, the 100 crore Karam dam of the scam was washed away in water. Today he has completed three months. The way some officer employees were acted upon by the government for the smudge and ran away from their responsibility, then an investigation team was formed. Now the report of that investigation team is nowhere to be found. Yadav alleges that the government had blacklisted two



companies. But the work of repairing the Karam Dam has also been given to the same blacklisted company which was blacklisted. There is a tradition of hiding the scam in the Bharatiya Janata Party government, that is why even after three months, the investigation report of the scam has not come yet and those responsible for more than 100 crore scam in Madhya Pradesh are being saved.

It is to be known that in Dhar district, there was a leak in the dam being built at a cost of about 304 crores in August, many villages had to be evacuated. Two construction companies were blacklisted by the government. At the same time, an inquiry committee was also formed, which was to report in five days.

ONE KILLED IN GUTKHA DISPUTE IN GWALIOR

Gwalior: A youth lost his life in a dispute over a five rupee gutkha in Gwalior's Kampu police station area. The police has started the investigation. According to the information received from the police, the Pan Center operator and his two sons had a dispute with a person in Lalitpur Colony of Kampu police station area, the reason for the dispute is being told as gutkha. The young man was wanting gutkha and he did not have money, he started running away from the paan shop with gutkha, seeing this, the operator Sanjay Chaurasia and his two sons ran and caught the young man.

The youth, who was running away with gutkha, was beaten with gutkha, was beaten up fiercely by all three and kept beating till it was not appropriate, later that young man has died. The name of the deceased is being told as Sanjay Shakya. Police have recovered the body of the youth and sent it for post-mortem, while a case has been registered against the accused.

The tradition Making the child lie in the cradle in the water of the river Poorna

Team Absolute | Betul

On the banks of river Poorna, which flows in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh, there is a fair of fulfillment of vows and those who seek vows, whose vows are fulfilled, they are making their child sit in the river in the cradle. This sight is seen here every year after the full moon of Kartik month.

On the occasion of the full moon day of Karik Purnima, a large number of couples reach the banks of the Poorna river, whose wish to have a child was fulfilled and here they lay the child in the cradle of their child in the water of mother Poorna (in the symbol form of the lap). Lay down. It is said that only after doing this the worship



of the vow is completed. Every year a huge fair is held here on Kartik Purnima, in which childless couples from Chhatisgarh including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra come every year to pray and offer prayers on the completion of the vow.

Naresh and Rani, a couple who reached here from Maharashtra, say that they had wished for a child from Poorna Maa, after that there

was prosperity in their courtyard and they have now come here after fulfillment of their wish. On the question of any fear about the child being made to lie in the cradle in the water of the river, he said that he has got the child by the grace of Poorna Mai, so he does not have any apprehension in his mind.

About 65 km from district headquarter Betul. Near Bhaisdehi there is Maa Poorna river. This river,

which is called Chandra Putri i.e. daughter of the Moon, originates near Bhainsdehi town of Betul. From the full moon of Kartik month, people come here for a whole fortnight with the hope of childless couples and happiness and prosperity. Devotees come here from all over the country including Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. There are many mythological legends behind the origin of this river called Chandraputri. Some tell it the fruit of worship of the Saptarishis, while many believe that after a king's penance after the famine spread in the area, Lord Shiva had incarnated Poorna here. It is said that once it used to flow as a stream of milk.

Will ensure increase in Production to double the income of farmers: CM Chouhan

Agricultural irrigation area being continuously increased. Will bring plan to make straw from Narwai. Agriculture fair will prove to be lucky for farmers. Farmers should strengthen themselves with new agricultural technology - Union Agriculture Minister Tomar. Inauguration of 3-day agricultural fair and exhibition in Morena

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that for the fulfillment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to double the income of farmers, production will also have to be increased and the cost will have to be reduced. In this direction, while the Madhya Pradesh government is continuously increasing the area under irrigation, on the other hand, loans are being provided to the farmers at zero percent interest. Today's Krishi Mela will prove to be lucky for the farmers. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the inauguration programme of three-day 'Krishi Mela and Exhibition' in Morena district.



Chief Minister said that while on the one hand Prime Minister Shri Modi gives Rs 6000 to small

farmers in three installments in a year as financial assistance, Madhya Pradesh government on its part is also providing Rs 4,000 to these farmers in 2 installments in a year. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Rs.7618 crore has been deposited in the accounts of farmers under the crop insurance scheme in Madhya Pradesh. The farmers of any state did not get such a huge amount. This time the Prime Minister has also given support to the farmers by providing support price of wheat at Rs.2125 per quintal. The Chief Minister said that in order to increase the income of the farmers, new agricultural techniques along with many innovations, are being adopted in the country and Madhya Pradesh. Natural farming is being promoted instead of traditional farming.

Chief Minister Chouhan plants saplings in memory of former Chief Minister Late Patwa

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Ashok, Cassia and Tikoma along with MLA Surendra Patwa in the memory of former Chief Minister Padma Vibhushan Late Sunderlal Patwa on his birth anniversary in Smart City Garden. MLA Surendra Patwa presented a copy of "Padma Vibhushan Sunderlal Patwa Smriti Granth" to Chief Minister Chouhan.

Chief Minister remembered the contribution of former Chief Minister Late Patwa in the development of the state. Chief Minister Chouhan is continuously encouraging the activity of



planting saplings on birth anniversaries, death anniversaries, auspicious occasions and in the memory of family members. In the sequence of

planting saplings every day by Chouhan, various organisations and families take part.

MP'S ECONOMIC CONDITION LIKELY TO BE AN ISSUE IN ASSEMBLY POLLS



Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

The economic condition of the state will likely be one of the key issue in the upcoming assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, with the Opposition Congress hitting out at the ruling BJP time and again over this particular issue. On the other hand, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is making all possible efforts to counter the Congress and also to present a better report card before the people during the elections.

Although, the BJP pats its back claiming that the state has witnessed tremendous growth in the last 17 years under Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the increasing state debt has been a major concern and the Congress is making no mistake in cornering the ruling party over the economic condition of the state. Usually, economic issues do not get much space during the elections and the political parties emphasise more on caste equations, regions, tribals and

some other issues, but this time the Congress has been picking up economic issue to attack the BJP.

Therefore, the global invest summit, which is going to be held after a three-year gap in Madhya Pradesh's economic city Indore in January 2023, will be crucial for the Chouhan government. The present situation suggests that the BJP government is making all out efforts to invite investors and convince them to establish industries in Madhya Pradesh. Moving ahead with his plan, Chouhan on Thursday visited Mumbai and held meetings with nearly a dozen businessmen and invited them to invest in Madhya Pradesh. During the meeting, Chouhan tried to convince the businessmen that there is great scope for flourishing business in Madhya Pradesh. As per the information, Chouhan met the heads or senior officials of the business firms, which have already invested in Madhya Pradesh. He also met some new investors and invited them to establish industries in

Madhya Pradesh.

"I have come here to meet you all not because I am Chief Minister and it is my duty to attend this investment meeting, but I have come with full preparation and to tell you all that the doors of growth are open in Madhya Pradesh. For making self reliant India, we have have to make self reliant Madhya Pradesh, and you and me can make it happen," Chouhan said during the meeting with investors.

The Congress has been taking on the Shivraj government on economic issues. The opposition led by the former Chief Minister and the state Congress president Kamal Nath, who is also a successful businessman and has a long experience of heading ministries during the Congress rule at the Centre is trying to make the economic condition of the state an issue ahead of the election.

"Employment won't come from visiting mandir (temple) and masjid (mosque) but it will come from eco-

nomical growth and by establishing industries in Madhya Pradesh. The BJP government has put Madhya Pradesh under huge debt burden and most of the money borrowed as loans from banks is being used for publicity," Nath said while addressing a rally last week in Jabalpur.

As per reports, the debt of the Madhya Pradesh government has crossed over Rs 3 lakh crore, out of which around Rs 14,000 crores have been borrowed from different banks between April and October this year. However, the BJP leaders defend the increasing debt burden year after year saying the government is borrowing money to improve the life of the people in the state.

The global investment summit would be a crucial opportunity for Shivraj Singh Chouhan to convince a large number of business houses to invest in Madhya Pradesh and if he is successful it would give an edge to the BJP during the election campaign.

LINDSAY LOHAN FINDS 'REFRESHINGLY EXCITING' ON RETURNING TO MOVIE SET

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Lindsay Lohan had taken a break from acting in recent years and explained it was "refreshingly exciting" to return to movies with festive romcom 'Falling for Christmas'. "It's a great movie. I wanted to make this movie because I missed being on set and I really miss bringing characters to life, and this was just the perfect script full of love, family, romance and joy all in one. I wanted to get to the point where I was craving being on set. It felt really refreshingly exciting," she said, reports.

The 'Just My Luck' star went on to add that 'Falling for Christmas', in which she plays the role of a spoiled hotel heiress who loses her memory in a skiing accident, has a "great message" which she

loved being able to bring to the screen.

She added, "And it has a great message, which is that you don't really need all of the material things in life. It's good to just focus on the simple things, and I really love that."

As part of the film's soundtrack, Lindsay has recorded a version of 'Jingle Bell Rock' and explained that she was "nervous" about performing the song because she hoped fans of 'Mean Girls', which features a memorable scene in which she performs the Christmas classic in a high school talent show alongside Rachel McAdams, Lacey Chabert, and Amanda Seyfried - would enjoy it just as much. She said, "I was (nervous) because I haven't recorded in a long time and felt the pressure of doing it in a way that people who had seen

'Mean Girls' would like it the same."

"With 'Mean Girls', we had the dance behind it and I had all the other girls with me. This was just my voice. So,

it was nerve-racking. But the outcome was incredible. I'm really, really happy."



CHRIS EVANS IS 'SECRETLY DATING' PORTUGUESE ACTRESS ALBA BAPTISTA

Los Angeles | Agencies



Hollywood star Chris Evans has been reportedly secretly dating Alba Baptista, for more than a year and the romance is "serious." Revealing the 41-year-old's relationship status was People, says reports. "They are in love and Chris has never been happier," a source told the publication adding: "His family and friends all adore her."

The news arrived after Chris was named PEOPLE's Sexiest Man Alive 2022 earlier this month. In an interview with the outlet, he also got candid about his desire to get married and start a family.

"That's absolutely something I want: wife, kids, building a family," the actor, who is best known for playing Captain America in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, confessed. "When you read about most of the best artists, whether it's actors, painters, writers, most of them [admit] it wasn't the work they made [that they are most proud of], it was about the relationships; the families they created, the love they found, the love they shared."

"So it's also something through my long 41 years that also rings true. Those things are the most important," Evans added. "I love the idea of tradition and ceremony. I had a lot of that in my life, so the idea of creating that - I can't think of anything better." As for Evans' rumoured girlfriend Alba, she's a Portuguese actress who was born in 1997. She made her debut in an English language film by starring in "Warrior Nun". In addition to that, she has starred in several Portuguese series and films like "A Impostora", "Filha da Lei", "A Criacao" as well as "Jogo Duplo".



Anya Taylor-Joy puts on a very leggy display

Los Angeles | Agencies

Anya Taylor-Joy puts on a very leggy display in thigh-skimming shorts and sky-high heels as she exits Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year Awards. She had earlier wowed in an eye-catching white crop top along with a matching structured skirt after attending the Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year Awards on Thursday. And Anya Taylor-Joy stunned once again as she put on a very leggy display while rocking a second outfit at the ceremony held at Claridges Hotel in London.

The actress flaunted her incredible pins in thigh-skimming white lace shorts which she teamed with a pair of sky-high nude Louboutin. The Queen's Gambit star teamed her shorts with a matching top covered by a chic cream blazer. The beauty left her platinum locks poker straight and wowed in the dame striking make-up she had earlier worn. Anya looked in great spirits as she gave a wave to onlookers before retiring for the night.

And the actress certainly caught the eye in her underboob-flashing white lace crop and matching structured skirt with a sheer detail.

The detailed garment featured a patterned floral detail and a frilled embellishment. Wearing her platinum locks in pigtails, The Queen's Gambit star also donned an eye-catching silver necklace. Nicholas looked dapper for the evening in a black blazer and trousers which he paired with a matching bow tie and crisp white shirt.

My skin colour put limitations on my career: Viola Davis

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Viola Davis said that her career was "limited" by her skin colour in the early days and believes there is a "lack" of stories for black women to tell. The actress started out in the industry in the late 1990s and explained that there is a "deficit" of stories about black women and often found herself playing supporting characters because Hollywood has failed to "dig deep" into her culture, says reports.



She said: "There is a deficit of stories that women of colour are able to access in Hollywood. When I started off as an actor, the scope of what I wanted to do was infinite. It was definitely a big blow to see the limitations put on me in my career."

"You're just there to give the white lead advice, to be the sage, to be the nurturer. There is a lack of really digging deep into who we are."

Meanwhile, the Academy Award-winning star received the Icon award at the Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year Awards 2022 on November 10 and explained that the honour has become "embedded in (her) spirit and she will use it to help progression in showbusiness."

She told Britain's magazine: "When I'm at home I don't feel like an icon. I'm always looking at little Viola who wet the bed and was just trying to find a meal every day and thinking, 'OK, now I'm an icon?' I don't take the honour and run off the stage with it. It's embedded in my spirit and I use it as warrior fuel to shift the industry so that I'm not the only one anymore."



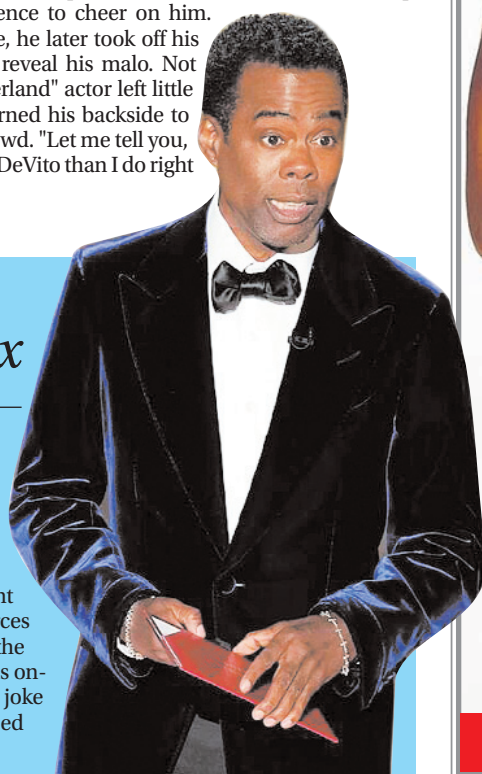
I actually don't even like wearing clothes anymore: Jason Momoa

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jason Momoa during his appearance on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!' stripped down to nothing but his traditional Hawaiian malo. "I actually don't even like wearing clothes anymore," Momoa told the host, reports. The star then shared he began wearing the underwear-like garment while filming his Apple TV+ series, "Chief of War". "I'm in it every day. I wear it all the time," he said. The star continued, "its all 1780s, 1790s Hawaii."

That's what I wear every day. I was just getting ready for the role and I like to get into character and so I was tanning my white a**."

Kimmel then asked if the actor was wearing malo under his clothes during the interview, to which Jason responded, "of course." He then stood up, prompting the studio audience to cheer on him. Much to everyone's surprise, he later took off his purple satin pajama set to reveal his malo. Not stopping there, the "Slumberland" actor left little to the imagination as he turned his backside to show his bare butt to the crowd. "Let me tell you, I never felt more like Danny DeVito than I do right now," Jimmy quipped.



Comedian Chris Rock is the first funnyman to perform live on Netflix

Los Angeles | Agencies

Comedian Chris Rock is set to become the first funnyman to perform lives on streaming giant Netflix. Robbie Prawn, the vice-president of stand-up and comedy formats at Netflix, announced that the star will make history when he performs in a yet-to-be-titled comedy special in 2023, reports. "Chris Rock is one of the most iconic and important comedic voices of our generation. We're thrilled the entire world will be able to experience a live Chris Rock comedy event and be a part of Netflix history," Robbie said. "This will be an unforgettable moment and we're so honoured that Chris is carrying this torch." Rock previously joined forces with Netflix in 2018, when his stand-up special, 'Chris Rock: Tamborine', aired on the streaming platform. Earlier this year, meanwhile, Rock was involved in an infamous on-stage clash with Will Smith at the Oscars. The actor smacked Chris after he made a joke about Jada Pinkett Smith, Will's wife, and the Hollywood star subsequently described his behaviour at the Oscars as "shocking, painful, and inexcusable."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Sydney Sweeney



KRITI SANON USED TO SING 'TU KITNI ACHI HAI' FOR HER MOTHER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kriti Sanon said that she used to sing 'Tu Kitni Achi Hai' for her mother during her childhood days. The actress also called her mother a 'superwoman' as she always stood by her and motivated her to grow in life.

After witnessing the performance of Debosmita Roy on the iconic song 'Tu Kitni Achi Hai' from the 1968 film 'Raja Aur Runk', the actress got emotional and talked about the importance of her mom Geeta Sanon and her words always inspires her.

Kriti said: "Your voice is so beautiful Debo, it has purity. I was just looking at your mom and she is quite emotional. What I feel is internally she is very much strong and I think every mother is a strong lady which we never notice. During my childhood days, I used to call my mother a 'Superwoman'."

While the star cast enjoyed performances by the contestants on 'Thank You Maa' special episode, Kriti Sanon also shared memories associated with her mother and how she used to sing the same song for her mother.

She added: Wherever I go, whether it was my school exams, she used to make sure I am reaching school on time, she took me to dance classes, and she could do anything and everything for me and I used to always think of where she gets so much energy. The way you sang took me back to my childhood. When I was a child, my sister and I used to sing this song for our mother."

Kartik Aaryan will be starring in the comedy film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Paresh Rawal has confirmed that Kartik Aaryan will be starring in the comedy film after the news of Akshay Kumar stepping away from 'Hera Pheri 3' made rounds. Paresh confirmed the news on Twitter after a social media user asked the veteran actor if Kartik will be a part of the third installment. The user asked on Twitter: "Paresh Rawal sir, is it true that Kartik Aaryan is doing Hera Pheri 3?"

"Yes it is true," Paresh replied.

'Hera Pheri', which released in 2000, is a comedy film. It was directed by Priyadarshan. It starred Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty and Paresh Rawal. The movie is a remake of 1989 Malayalam film 'Ramji Rao', which itself was inspired by the 1971 TV movie 'See the Man Run'. Over the years, the film has attained a cult status. The first installment of Hera Pheri revolves around two tenants, Raju and Shyam and a landlord Baburao, who in desperate need of money, chance upon a ransom call via a cross connection. The second installment 'Phir Hera Pheri' released in 2006. It stars Bipasha Basu, Rimi Sen, Johnny Lever and Rajpal Yadav. The central plot draws inspiration from the 1998 film 'Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels'.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Niti Taylor revealed that as a kid, she had a hole in her heart and she was not allowed to do many things including dance as it could have adverse effects on her health.

She said: "As a kid, I had a hole in my heart and there are many things that I was not allowed to do including dance because it could jeopardise my health. I couldn't go to amusement parks or take flights or do anything remotely adventurous." The actress, who is currently seen on the dance reality show 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10' slipped and fell down while performing on the song 'Saat Samundar Paar' from late actress Divya Bharti-starrer 1992 film 'Vishwatma'. This was her debut film and the song was also picturised on her.

During the 90s special episode of the show, the actress performed on the track along with her choreographer partner Akash Thapa. Though she slipped and fell down, her performance was appreciated by the judges Madhuri Dixit, Karan Johar and Nora Fatehi.

Later, she told the judges about her past and how she suffered a serious illness but she never gave up and posts her recovery she started dancing. "When I recovered, I danced with joy and I've been dancing since then. I'm so happy that I'm getting to live my adventure on 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa'. I'm super grateful," added the 'Kaisi Yeh Yaariyan' actress.

I had a hole in my heart: Niti Taylor

ROCKET GANG: BOSCO MARTIS' DIRECTORIAL DEBUT IS A ROCKET IN WATER, JUST CAN'T BE LIT



FILM REVIEW

SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Director: Bosco Martis
Cast: Aditya Seal, Nikita Dutta and ensembles
Duration: 2h 20m
Ratings: 1.5 /5

Synopsis

A group of friends unintentionally became the cause of the death of five children who were about to accomplish their dreams. To make amends for their error, these friends decide to help the spirits of the children.

Review-

The film begins by establishing the plot, which is too predictable from the start, in which a group of five friends receive a free staycation and end up in a haunted hotel. Two of the five friends are lovers who are unable to marry due to the girl's family's dissent.

The film takes a crazy turn when the 5 friends meet 5 kids who are the ghosts in the film. These kids wanted to participate in DID but dies because of these 5 friends.

So these 5 noble souls decide to help the kids and participate in DID and let the ghosts possess their bodies. Where is the Logic???

The five children who died in an accident do not wish to meet their families and instead wish to perform a dance for their mothers. Who are we fooling?When it comes to the star performances, Aditya Seal was okay but overdramatic, and Nikita Dutta, as we have seen her before, is not acceptable with this much drama. When it comes to the rest of the cast, everyone is overacting throughout the film and needs to calm down.

It was a Bosco Martis film, so if we get bad dancing, there will be nothing left to see. The dancing is good, the music is nice, and extra points go to the film's VFX, which occasionally gives fairytale vibes.

Conclusion

This is a film that a kid might want to watch on a cartoon channel, but it is not one that a person would want to see in a theatre.

UUNCHAI : A CLASSIC SOORAJ BARJATYA FILM THAT TUGS AT YOUR HEARTSTRINGS

FILM REVIEW

SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Director: Sooraj Barjatya
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani, Parineeti Chopra, Neena Gupta, Sarika as Mala Trivedi, Danny Denzongpa, Nafisa Ali and ensembles
Duration: 2h 49m
Ratings: 3/5

Synopsis

Three friends leave their comfortable lives behind to climb Mount Everest for their friends.

Review

Is there a movie that explains friendship without including any offensive scenes? Yes, Uunchai. A film that will make you laugh while also leaving you teary eyed.

Uunchai is the story of three friends, all over 70, who decide to climb Everest for their fourth friend's "Asthi visarjan." Seems implausible? Sooraj Barjatya's direction comes into play here. The story is so well-crafted that you don't find it unrealistic. Although, the movie has problems in putting facts, but when it comes to delivering the values everything just fits perfectly.

The film begins with Big B summarising what is going on in the current scene and then takes you back two months. Danny's character Bhupen is celebrating his birthday with three other friends, and he expresses his desire to climb Everest one day. At this point, tragedy strikes the "Yaari," and Bhupen dies of a heart attack.

It is now that all three friends have decided to climb Everest Base Camp.

When it comes to special moments in this film, there are many. The chemistry between Boman Irani and Neena Gupta is unrivalled and a joy to watch. This film confronts you with difficult facts in a subtle but emotional manner. The way Amit put Bhupen's hat next to his ashes to Om asking Amit, why life is so hard. Each of these scenes has an ocean of emotions delivered in buckets, one after the other. In terms of star performance, Big



B's character is the rope that is holding everything together, and he pulls it the best way he can. Anupam Kher is a master of his craft, and there is no doubt that he gave his all in the film. Boman Irani portrays a friend in a group who is lazy, foodie, funny, and the group's soul. Sarika and Neena Gupta are stunning in their own right.

Nafesa Ali's cameo in the film as Amitabh Bachchan's wife is a pleasant surprise. Parineeti's presence is felt, and she has done an excellent job.

Sooraj Barjatya's films never disappoint when it comes to the soundtrack. The music is so captivating that it assisted you in eliciting the appropriate emotions. The film is shot well, and the beauty of the Himalayas can be seen in almost all of the frames.

Conclusion

It's a nice film with minor flaws. It clearly speaks for itself, and it is worth watching with friends.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Juhi Godambe