

absolute india



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In waning coal belt of Ramgarh, solar power saves the day for women entrepreneurs

Kanija Fatma (40) and her husband Riyamuddin Ansari work as tailors in minority-dominated Maganpur village in Ramgarh district of Jharkhand in eastern India. Three years ago, Fatma got a proposal from Bengaluru-based SELCO Foundation to set up a solar system in her house for sewing work. The couple agreed, and two solar panels and an inverter were installed. This small initiative brought about a big change to her family. Tailoring work thrived, registering 20 to 30 per cent increase in income. Earlier, Fatma's electricity bill was around Rs 240 per month, though she always tried to reduce it by sewing manually. With the increased use of solar energy, the bill has come down to around Rs 140.

Team Absolute | Ramgarh

Ramgarh was once a prominent coal-mining district. But according to a study by iForest, a think tank, more than half of the coal mines in Ramgarh have stopped functioning in the last few years. Earlier, coal mines covered around 10.5 per cent of the district's geographical area. By 2040, even the functional mines are expected to be shut as they are old and already over-exploited.

Residents are now exploring ways to use renewable energy to boost their incomes. Of the 400 families living in Maganpur in Gola block, over 250 are tailors. "After we switched to solar energy, more villagers evinced interest. In fact, before getting the system installed, they usually come to my house to enquire about its performance," Fatma said.

SELCO Foundation project coordinator (Knowledge and outreach) Aman Bhardwaj said that livelihood options outside the coal sector were limited in Ramgarh. "Our work here is to generate income for people through micro-businesses using decentralised renewable energy."

Presently, more than 50 houses in Maganpur use solar power for sewing, which creates new opportunities for women. "Things were really difficult. By the time I could sit down to stitch after completing household chores, the (grid) power would have gone," said Shahnaz Parveen (27), who has been working as a tailor for the last seven years.

She now stitches for eight hours,



even after finishing all the chores, thanks to the solar system installed in her house two months ago. Parveen's husband Nishar Ahmed is also a tailor.

Gola block head Geeta Devi was the first to get the system installed. "I joined the self-help group of Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS), through which I learnt about the solar system and got it installed for sewing work. Subsequently, I associated with Agradati, which opened up new avenues before villagers," she said.

Rural entrepreneurship has also benefited due to the introduction of solar power. A total of 549 farmers, including 120 women, are associated with Sakhi Saveria Krishak Production Company in Sarla Kala village of Gola block's Sangrampur panchayat. The farmers' producers' organisation (FPO) now use solar energy for paddy threshing and oil extraction.

Prashant Kumar Swain, Fellow (Rural Energy and Livelihood), TERI, said, "We have been working in the renewable energy sector for the last 20 years. Our focus has always been on lighting up homes. But now, we are looking at projects that use electricity for livelihood. We tried to understand the people's energy needs, their usage patterns, and then liaised with solar system suppliers before project implementation. Swain also said using solar energy has improved their work, besides lighting up homes and helping children to study without interruptions if the lights from the grid went off."

The FPO's processing unit and office function from the house of its chairman Laxman Mahato. According to its chief executive officer Dineshwar Mahato, 16 solar panels of

"I have been getting valuable information about farming after joining the FPO. The use of solar energy has saved us from paying for diesel and petrol," said Lalita Devi, who joined the self-help group in 2004.

a total of 300 megawatt were installed to power agricultural production, including paddy harvest and oil extraction from mustard, safflower and mahua, a flower that forms the base of a drink. In all, the system cost them Rs 6.5 lakh. In March, three solar-operated machines worth a total of Rs 1.42 lakh were installed.

PIls could become an instrument of blackmail, targeting infra projects: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday observed that public interest litigation (PIL) matters could become an instrument of blackmail when it is an issue of an infrastructure project, adding that PILs are being increasingly used to target infrastructure projects.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justice P.S. Narasimha said: "The PILs could become an instrument of blackmail when it is an issue of an infrastructure project. This actually makes a plank to target such projects."

The bench made the observation while declining to entertain a plea against the re-development of a plot of land in Mumbai, saying that the Bombay High Court actually smelled the rat here and this is happening across Delhi, and Mumbai.

Counsel, representing the petitioner, however, contended that she will convince the bench that there is no rat involved here.

The top court said the high court's finding that the PIL was filed to target the infrastructure project was correct and told the petitioner's counsel that the plea is targeting the project and not the issue. The petitioner urged the bench to examine the matter. The top court said the high court is often aware why the party has moved it, when a particular property is targeted in a PIL. Noticing that the top court is not willing to entertain the plea, the petitioner's counsel urged the court to waive off the Rs 1 lakh fine imposed on the petitioner. However, the top court declined to interfere with the part of the high court order imposing a cost on the petitioner. The petitioner had moved the apex court against the high court order.

'NO BENCHES IN WINTER BREAK', SAYS SC AFTER CENTRE'S JIBE ON LONG VACATIONS

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Friday said that there will be no vacation benches during the winter break of the Supreme Court, which begins from Saturday.

On Thursday, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju, in the Rajya Sabha, said that there was a feeling among the people that long court vacations were not very convenient for justice seekers. Against the backdrop of this statement from the law minister, the announcement made by the Chief Justice in a courtroom full of lawyers that "there will be no benches available from tomorrow till January 1," assumes significance. Friday is the last working day for the Supreme Court and it will reopen after two weeks' winter break on January 2, 2023.

Long vacations availed by courts have often faced criticism. However, then Chief Justice N.V. Ramana, while delivering a lecture on 'Life of a Judge' in Ranchi in July, said there was a misconception that judges stay in ultimate



comfort and enjoy their holidays.

"We spend sleepless nights rethinking our decisions. After all, like all other humans, even judges are fallible. Judges in the apex court are entrusted with the task of delivering the final verdict. As it seals the fate of parties, the stress is much more at the highest level. It is an onerous responsibility, which we take extremely seriously. There exists a misconception in the minds of the people that judges stay in ultimate comfort, work only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and enjoy their holidays. Such a narrative is untrue," Justice Ramana had said.

He further added, "We continue to work even during weekends and court holidays to do research and author pending judgments. In this process, we miss out on many joys of our lives. Sometimes, we miss out on important family events. At times, I wonder if my grandchildren would recognise me at all after failing to see them for days together."

Army says Rajouri youth killed by unidentified militants

Jammu | Agencies

Massive protests rocked J&K's Rajouri town on Friday where dead bodies of two local youths were found outside an Army camp in the morning.

Protesting locals blocked the Rajouri-Jammu highway and refused to relent unless the guilty were brought to justice.

Two local youths, identified as Kamal Kumar and Surinder Kumar, both belonging to ward 15 in Rajouri town, were killed and another local youth was injured in firing in the TCP Alfa area, 5 kms ahead of Rajouri town.

Police said it was being investigated whether the firing had been from the sentry



at the camp because of mistaken identity, but the Army has issued a statement saying that the two youths were killed by unidentified militants.

In a tweet on its official handle, the Army said there was a firing incident by unidentified militants near military hospital, which led to fatal casualty of two individuals.

"In an early morning firing incident by unidentified terrorists at Rajouri near Military Hospital, there has been fatal casualty of two individuals. The Police, security forces and civil administration officials are on the site", the Army's tweet said.

Meanwhile, additional deployments of forces have been made to maintain law and order in the town.

Four UP women cops suspended for dancing in video



Ayodhya: Four women police constables deployed as part of security at the 'Ram Janmabhoomi' site here, have been suspended after a video purportedly showing them dancing to Bhojpuri song 'Patli Kamariya Mori' surfaced online.

The suspended constables were not in uniform in the video that is being shared widely on social media platforms. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Muniraj G. ordered the suspension of constables Kavita Patel, Kamini Kushwaha, Kashish Sahni and Sandhya Singh based on an inquiry report filed by Additional SP (security) Pankaj Pandey.

CCPA issues notice on online sale of acids to two e-commerce entities

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) sent notices to two e-commerce entities, Flipkart Internet Private Ltd and Fashnear Technologies Private Ltd (meesho.com) for gross violations relating to sale of acid reported on their platforms, and directed them to furnish detailed responses within 7 days. The CCPA, the watchdog of consumer interest in India, has come across the sale of highly corrosive acids on these e-commerce platforms. It has questioned the easy and unregulated availability of such acids on these e-platforms. Availability of hazardous acids in such accessible manner can be dangerous and unsafe for consumers and to the public at large, it said.

In light of a recent unfortunate incident of acid attack on a 17-year-old in Delhi whereby media reports have highlighted that the alleged

offenders had purchased the said acid from Flipkart, it has been directed by CCPA to submit a detailed response, along with necessary supporting documents within 7 days, addressing the concern of such availability of acids on its e-platform, Consumer Affairs Ministry officials said on Friday.

The CCPA, on a suo moto examination of online sale of corrosive acids, came across Meesho and found it to be selling such acids in violation of directions of Supreme Court as well as the advisory issued by Ministry of Home Affairs.

Any non-compliance by these e-commerce entities with the directions of CCPA's notices will be strictly dealt with as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, said officials.

'Consumer rights', as defined under Section 2(9) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, includes the right to be protected against the marketing of goods, products or services

which are hazardous to life and property. Sale of highly corrosive acids in an easy, accessible and unregulated manner without any due diligence whatsoever by the e-marketplace entity can lead to disastrous consequences to the consumers, especially the vulnerable sections of the society, namely women and children.

As per Section 4 (3) of Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020, no e-commerce entity shall adopt any unfair trade practice, whether in the course of business on its platform or otherwise.

Considering the urgent need and attention, the CCPA has taken suo moto note of the present matter, as under Section 18 (1) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 which empowers it to protect, promote and enforce the rights of consumers as a class, and prevent violation of consumer rights, as well as prevent unfair trade practices and ensure that no person engages himself in such practices.

India to launch database on crimes against peacekeepers to fight impunity

United Nations | Agencies

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has announced that New Delhi will be setting up a comprehensive database to monitor crimes against peacekeepers and aid the fight against impunity. Citing the "exponential increase" in crimes against peacekeepers, he said on Thursday that the "comprehensive databases and analytical tools for recording and assessing crimes against peacekeepers will be key to addressing impunity."

He said that the UN and the country where the peacekeepers serve have to ensure that they are safe and those attacking them are punished.

"Technology can be a force multiplier in achieving these goals" and "India has facilitated the launch of a database, which will record all crimes against UN peacekeepers", he said at the launch of a UN group of 35 countries to tackle the



problem. India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal launched the Group of Friends on Accountability for Crimes against UN Peacekeepers a day after an Irish peacekeeper was killed in Lebanon highlighting the gravity of the problem. Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix

said, "Unfortunately, very few of those responsible for such crimes have been brought to justice. This impunity remains largely the norm."

He said that "these crimes are often committed in areas where the authority of the state may be limited and national law enforcement personnel may be

absent" making it a challenge to ensure accountability. Jaishankar said, "In the last three years alone, 68 peacekeepers belonging to 20 countries have lost their lives for the cause of peace."

India is historically the largest contributor of personnel to UN Peacekeeping Operations and 177 of its citizens have been killed. Peacekeepers from across the world "venture forth into hostile conflict zones to protect those who are unable to protect themselves" and "it is our solemn duty to protect the protectors", Jaishankar said. He said, "When crimes are committed against peacekeepers, it is important that member states, peacekeeping mission commands and the Secretariat insist on a timely investigative process and help host states by providing them necessary expertise, resources, and political encouragement to make the rule of law institutions capable of promoting accountability and delivering justice."

Musk suspends Twitter accounts of several prominent journalists

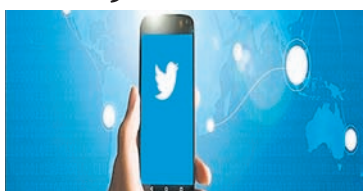
San Francisco | Agencies

Twitter CEO Elon Musk has suspended accounts of several prominent journalists on the micro-blogging platform, including Donie O'Sullivan from CNN and Drew Harwell from The Washington Post as they covered the "exact real-time location" of Musk.

When a Twitter user posted screenshots of suspended accounts of some journalists, Musk said on Friday: "Same doxing rules apply to journalists as to everyone else."

"I posted my exact real-time location, basically assassination coordinates, in (obvious) direct violation of Twitter terms of service."

The user's post also included journalists Ryan Mac from The New York Times and Aaron Rupar from Independent. Several users expressed



their thoughts on Musk's tweet.

While one user commented, "Most regular users come here for the journalists. Once they're gone, so is your audience", another said: "When are you going to suspend @weatherchannel & @MichaelsNews for doxing the real live locations of all these tornado survivors in Gretna, Louisiana? You promised a dedication to free speech & now you are the suppressor." Meanwhile, the micro-blogging platform also suspended the official account of Mastodon, a platform for people seeking a Twitter-like alternative.



CHINA CONSTANTLY PREPARING FOR WAR WHILE GOVT IS ASLEEP, SAYS RAHUL GANDHI

Jaipur | Agencies

On completion of 100 days of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that China is constantly preparing for war while the government is asleep.

"Our government is hiding the information on the preparations of China. The Government of India does not work strategically; it works on an event basis. When it comes to geopolitics, events do not work there. Foreign Minister's statements keep coming, but he needs to deepen his understanding, said Gandhi while addressing a press conference.

Gandhi in fact speaking in the middle of the conference expressed his surprise saying that no one is asking questions on China. "China occupied 2 thousand square kilometers of land and martyred 20 Indian soldiers, they are beating our soldiers in Arunachal Pradesh, but the media is silent and not asking a single question," he commented.

However, later on a question raised by the media, he said that the government is asleep as China is preparing for war.



Speaking on factionalism in the party, he said, "There is no dictatorship in our party. There is rhetoric and little discussions keep happening in the Congress, which is a good thing. Not only in Rajasthan, it is practiced in other states as well. The general ideology is that if the party people want to speak, they should

not be made silent by intimidation."

When asked under whose leadership the next elections will be held, Rahul Gandhi avoided this question and said this question should be asked to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. He's the President, not me, he added.

On the question of indecision after

notice to three leaders on political rebellion, Gandhi said that there is no condition of indecision. It keeps happening in the party.

Rahul Gandhi said that there are many reasons for BJP winning the elections. They have huge money, they threaten people. "We do not do this and we do not have these resources. We don't have that much money. Another reason why BJP came to power is that they spread hatred, they divide the country."

He said that BJP's idea is clear. "The day Congress understands what it is, that day Congress will win every election. The regional party does not have the vision of the country. Regional parties represent caste, class, state."

Rahul Gandhi said that he has personally benefited a lot from the Yatra. "I got to learn a lot. I also had a little distance from the public that has ended."

He said that from Kanyakumari to Rajasthan, one thing has been understood from the ground that there is no dearth of our workers, people love the Congress party.

If required, will summon Bengal Education Minister in teachers' scam: Calcutta HC

Kolkata | Agencies

The Calcutta High Court on Friday said that, if necessary, it may summon West Bengal Education Minister, Bratya Basu to the court in relation to the decision on the termination of services of teachers illegally appointed in state-run schools, depriving eligible ones of consideration.

A bench of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay even went to the extent of observing that finally the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) might turn out to be the "culprit" behind such irregularities.

"If the commission wants to terminate the services of the illegally recruited candidates, it can easily do that. What is the hurdle here? The commission has the authority to do so. If the commission is unable to do anything in the matter, then, if necessary, the state Education Minister might have to be summoned," Justice Gangopadhyay observed.



As per instructions of the Calcutta High Court, the WBSSC has published the lists, in two separate phases, of a total of 184 candidates who got illegally recruited as teachers in state-run schools. It has also been revealed that of 184 candidates, 81 are already working as teachers in different schools. Again, nine of that 81 approached the Calcutta High Court on Friday. Justice

Gangopadhyay directed the WBSSC to immediately arrange a meeting to be attended by the counsels for these nine candidates, the commission's counsel and the WBSSC Chairman. He ordered that in the meeting the optical mark recognition (OMR) sheets of these nine candidates should be reviewed to trace how their names appeared in the merit list, surpassing others and submit a report to the court on this count.

After Washington DC makes public transport free, Kejriwal takes a dig at 'muft ki revadi' remark

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After Washington DC on Friday announced to make public transport free, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took a jibe at the opposition, and asked, "Should it be ridiculed as muft ki revadi?"

Sharing a news article that said Washington DC is making public buses free forever, Kejriwal tweeted, "Washington DC makes public transport free. Shud it be ridiculed as 'muft ki revadi'? No. Providing public services free to its citizens without burdening them with extra taxes reflects honest and sensitive govt, which saves money and provides facilities to its people". The Aam Aadmi Party has severely been criticised for its freebies by the opposition parties. However, the AAP has con-



tinuously been advocating for giving the relaxation to the public in the form of freebies. The AAP fought the Gujarat Assembly elections on the issue of implementing the 'Delhi Model' and had made promises on providing free water, free electricity, free healthcare among other facilities. However, the party got only five seats.

As per the report, Washington DC will permanently offer free bus rides on all routes from next summer, and other big cities like Boston and Denver may follow the measures. The city has decided to expand its transport services under a plan which was unanimously agreed to by Washington DC's council last week.

ILLEGAL COLONIES ON AGRICULTURAL LAND UNDER DTCP LENS

Gurugram | Agencies

The Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) has issued notices to 16 people involved in developing illegal colonies in Sohna, Bhandsi, Rithoj, Pataudi, Farrukhnagar and Sultanpur in this satellite city of Haryana.

The illegal colonies have been built on several acres of agricultural land surrounding Farrukhnagar, Bhandsi, Pataudi and Sohna. According to sources privy to the development, the landowners did not seek official permission or obtain a licence before planning and developing the colonies.

Individual houses and commercial shops which have been built illegally in such areas have also been identified. Following this, a show cause notice was issued to the owners seeking explanation on whose permission they had constructed the colonies.

"It is illegal to develop a colony without prior permission and a licence from the authority concerned as it hampers the development plan



of the particular locations. Any unauthorised colony will not be tolerated. After a legal process, the demolition drive will be conducted here" said Amit Madholia, DTP (enforcement). Apart from these colonies, the officer said, notices have also been issued to 16 illegal cafes which have cropped up in Garat Pur Bas village in Gurugram.

"To stop mushrooming of illegal colonies in Gurugram, the department conducts time-to-time awareness campaigns asking people to not invest their hard-earned amount in such illegal colonies. We also wrote letters to the registrar's office not to execute any convenience or sale deed in such locations and recommended FIR against people involved in illegal

activities," Madholia said. In the past, 60 demolition drives have been executed by the DTCP in and surrounding areas of Gurugram. "Every month we plan several demolition drives and warn people not to get involved in illegal activities. One can reach the DTCP office to gather any information related to illegal colonies," Madholia added.

No separate law yet to regulate digital media, says IT Ministry

Team Absolute | New Delhi

There is no proposal yet to enact a separate law to regulate the digital media, and the matter is currently under consideration, said the Ministry of Electronics and IT on Friday.

To help achieve the aim of making Internet Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable and to regulate the intermediaries, including social media intermediaries, and in exercise of powers conferred by the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Central Government has made the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, said the Ministry in a written reply to Rajya Sabha on Friday.

These rules cast specific obligation on intermediaries to observe diligence and provide that if they fail to observe such diligence, they shall no



longer be exempt from their liability under law for third-party information or data or communication link hosted by them, it said.

Such diligence includes informing the said rules to their users to make reasonable efforts to cause the users

not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share, among others, information, including information published by digital media on the intermediary platform or such information shared on it by other users, which threatens the unity, integrity, defence, security or sovereignty of India or public order, or prevents investigation, or violates any law.

It also includes to not host, store or publish any information, including information published by digital media on the intermediary platform or such information shared on it by other users, which is unlawful, prohibited by law in relation to India's sovereignty and integrity, security of the State, public order, contempt of court etc., upon receiving actual knowledge in the form of an order by a court or being notified by the government under the provisions of the IT Act.

FIVE STUDENTS DROWN IN KRISHNA RIVER IN AP

Amaravati: Five male students, aged between 13 and 15, drowned in the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district on Friday, officials said.

Two bodies have been recovered so far while search operations are on to trace the others, Mandal Revenue Officer Satish Kumar said.

Police officials said that the accident occurred in the afternoon when seven students went to the river for a bath in the river near Yenamalakuduru, but started to drown.

Two of the boys managed to swim to safety while the remaining children drowned. Local swimmers and fishermen were immediately pressed into rescue operations.

The victims, identified as Balu, Kamesh, Munna, Shaik Baji, and Hussain, hailed from Patamatalanka in Vijayawada, and were students of Classes 8 and 9 in a local government school, police said.

TN Police on alert after intel inputs on drug syndicates in coastal areas

Chennai | Agencies

The Tamil Nadu Police is on high alert after intelligence inputs of the possibility of drug syndicates using the sea route for smuggling narcotic drugs to Sri Lanka.

The Indian Coast Guard had foiled a bid to smuggle 'beedi' leaves to Sri Lanka and six fishermen were arrested. The beedi leaves, valued at Rs 2.5 crore, were seized along with the mechanised boat used for smuggling it. This also came following an intelligence report on fishermen from Tamil Nadu being used as carriers. Intelligence has also given inputs on the possibility of major drug smuggling possibility on the Tamil Nadu-Sri Lanka route and the Coastal police have stepped up an alert over the areas under their jurisdiction.

The Superintendent of Police of Thoothukudi has recently visited the fishermen and created awareness among them on the pitfalls of ganja or drug smuggling. The Thoothukudi fishing harbour daily does business to the tune of around Rs 1 crore and more than 250 fishing vessels are playing in



the harbour. The recent seizure of ganja and other drugs from the fishing vessels worth lakhs of rupees was seized from Indian fishing vessels that are from Tamil Nadu.

After the arrest of former top intelligence officer of the now defunct LTTE, Satukam alias Sabesan from Chennai in October 2021 on charges of smuggling drugs and arms and raising funds for rejuvenating the organisation, intelligence agencies have been on an alert in Tamil Nadu. Sources in the agencies said that an alert is now issued for the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and the state coastal police and the Indian Coast Guard are tracking any suspicious ships or mechanised boats in the sea around 40-60 nautical miles from the shore.

Saran liquor tragedy: Toll rises to 57, more deaths feared

Patna | Agencies

While the political temperature is on the boil in Bihar over the Saran liquor tragedy, the toll has reached 57 till Friday afternoon, and sources apprehend that it may rise further as a number of victims are battling for their lives in hospitals.

Maximum deaths happened in Masrakh block while a number of persons also died in Isuapur village.

Meanwhile, the villagers have claimed that the spirits seized by Saran police and kept inside the police station were sold to the liquor mafia. Villagers also made some videos viral on the social media where the cap of bottles are open and the spirits are seen missing from it.

The investigating authorities have taken the samples from the spirit bottles and sent them to the lab for

testing. The reports will be matched with the post-mortem reports of victims.

Following the mass deaths, the National Human Rights Commission has served notice to the Bihar government after taking cognisance of the media reports. It has said that the Bihar government banned liquor in Bihar but failed to implement the ban successfully.

"The current situation in Saran is a big concern for us. Such a large number of deaths put a question mark on the liquor ban of Bihar government," the notice said.

It has asked the Chief Secretary and DGP of Bihar to submit the status report of the action being taken against the accused, medical treatment and FIRs. It has further asked them to submit reports about action being taken against the administrative officers for their lapses.

Odisha woman donates Rs 1 lakh earned through begging to Jagannath temple

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

A 70-year-old woman has donated Rs 1 lakh that she earned through begging throughout her entire life, for renovation of old Jagannath temple in Phulbani in Kandhamal district of Odisha.

Tula Behera has been begging near various temples in Phulbani town for the past 40 years. Tula was married to Prafulla Behera, a physically disabled person.

The couple was begging in the town. Later, Prafulla passed away, leaving Tula alone.

As the lady does not have any near and dear ones, she has surrendered herself at the feet of Lord Jagannath.

On the occasion of Dhanu Sankranti, Tula on Friday donated all her earnings of Rs 1 lakh to the managing committee of the Jagannath temple.

"Neither have parents nor any children. Whatever money I have saved in my bank account through begging, donated to Lord Jagannath," Tula said.

The beggar said she did not need any money as she became old and surren-



dered herself before Lord Jagannath. She requested the temple managing committee to utilise the money for the renovation of the old Jagannath temple in Phulbani.

"When she approached me, I was reluctant to take the money from her. But, when she insisted, we decided to accept it," said a member of the committee.

All services in J&K to go online by Jan 15: Chief Secretary

Srinaga | Agencies

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday impressed upon all the offices to make online all the services provided by them by January 15 next year, an official statement said.

Reviewing the performance of IT Department in a meeting, he directed the officers to prepare a list of all the services provided by the departments, separate the services still offered in offline mode, and prepare a roadmap for offering them in online mode with end to end digitization by January 15. Mehta exhorted them to advise the departments to conduct security audit of their respective websites forthwith without any fail, and told them to extend handholding to these departments to comply with the direction. He asked them to frame a list of offices that fail to con-

duct this audit so that action is initiated against those responsible.

The Chief Secretary also emphasised on the need of synchronizing the services with auto appeal as per the provisions of the Public Services Guarantee Act. He also asked them to put all the services on e-UNNAT and Service Plus for their availability from a common platform for the ease of seekers around the length and breadth of J&K.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Rashtriya Navjagan Party. The office of the party is located at Senior M.I.G-2, Sahyadri Parisar, Bhadhdhara Road, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462003. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:-
President/Chairman : Durgaprasad Dubey
Vice President : Gulab Das Baidya
General Secretary : Surendra Kumar Shpak
Treasurer : Ramesh Chander Shukla
If any one has any objection to the registration of Rashtriya Navjagan Party they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.



THE GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY ONE GOAL, DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the government has only one goal, development and welfare of the people. This is public work, everyone's work will be done. Be it the Chief Minister or the Collector, all are the servants of the people. It is the rule of the people; everyone should take a pledge to work together. Public service campaign will start again from next 6th April, the person whose name has been left out will be added. Poor, farmers and common citizens should not be troubled, should not stumble door to door, and their work should be done in the village/area only. The government will not run from Bhopal but from Chaupal.

CM Chouhan participated in the divisional level acceptance letter distribution program under Chief Minister's public service campaign in Shivpuri. He inaugurated/ performed bhoomi-pujan of development works



worth more than Rs. 135 crore from the stage itself. Chouhan also released the district tourism booklet.

CM Chouhan said that the government will work to pay the interest amount of the farmers who were forced to pay interest by giving false

assurance of loan waiver by the previous government.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that this is a development fair. I have not come here to give lectures but to work. Recruitment will be done on one lakh government jobs in the state

by August 15. The government is paying the fees for higher education of the children of families whose annual income is up to Rs. 8 lakh. Children, study a lot and move forward.

Chief Minister Chouhan announced that the process of making Shivpuri a Municipal Corporation would be started. Shivpuri will be made number one in every field. Rs. 8.5 crore will be given for the beautification of the city.

The Chief Minister said that Scindia is giving his best in the progress and development of the entire country. When our students were stuck in Ukraine, Prime Minister Modi gave the important responsibility of bringing them back from there to Scindia. Yashodhara Raje Scindia has an important contribution in the progress and development of the state. Under her leadership, Khelo India Games are being held in the state and Global Skill Park is being built.

MP tops in National Good Governance Index

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that healthy competition is the strength of democracy. CM Helpline, Jan-Sunwai and Samadhan online are powerful means of connecting with the public, solving their problems and good governance. In these activities, the public gets more relief through mutual competition among the districts. The officers who take better and quick actions are encouraged and rewarded by the state government by reviewing the works of the districts every month. Chouhan said this to Union Secretary Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances V Srinivas. CM was paid a courtesy visit by V Srinivas at the residence office accompanied by Joint Secretary NBS Rajput and other officers.



Union Secretary V Srinivas said that Madhya Pradesh ranks first in the country in the National Good Governance Index. There was also discussion on implementing the Good Governance Index at the district level. Madhya Pradesh ranks fourth in the country in providing e-services to the citizens. Secretary V Srinivas said that in view of the popularity of CM Helpline, the

Central Government is keen on documenting the process of CM Helpline in order to ensure its implementation in other states. CM Chouhan agreed to the proposal of Union Secretary V Srinivas to organise a national conference on e-governance in Bhopal next year. The CM gave information about the Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan being conducted in the state.

Govt forms committee to draw plans for upcoming G20 meetings in state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government has formed a committee of ministers for arrangements related to G20 meetings in the state, an official said on Friday.

India assumed the presidency of the G20, an inter-governmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies, on December 1 and would be hosting several meetings nationwide over the next one year. The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey,



the UK, the US and the European Union.

The committee formed by the MP government comprises Home Minister Narottam Mishra, PWD Minister Gopal Bhargava, Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh, Micro, Small and

Medium Enterprises Minister Om Prakash Saklecha, and Tourism and Culture Minister Usha Thakur. The principal secretary of the state's culture department will be the secretary of the committee of ministers, the official informed.

PROTEST AGAINST 'PATAHAN' REACHES SHOOTING OF SRK'S UPCOMING MOVIE IN JABALPUR

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

The heat of protest against Shah Rukh Khan Starrer 'Pathaan' now seems affecting the shooting of his upcoming movie 'Return Ticket' in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district. The activists of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) staged a protest against the shooting of Shah Rukh Khan starrer 'Return Ticket' at Panchvati in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh on Friday.

Three places of Bhedaghat in the district have been selected for the shooting of the film Return Ticket. The shooting started at Bhedaghat this morning, but as soon as the activists of Bajrang Dal and VHP came to know, they reached Panchvati and started opposing the shooting. The police reached the spot and tried to convince the activist but they did not listen and sat on dharna outside Panchavati. Activist Sumit Singh Thakur said, "We have staged a protest that the way our 'Saffron'



colour has been insulted in the Pathan movie, we will not allow the shooting of such actors and filmmakers here. The shooting of the movie at Bhedaghat should be stopped immediately. We have also requested the

collector to think before giving permission for the shooting that insults our Sanatan Dharma."

"We have recited Hanuman Chalisa for purification of the land. We will purify the land with Gau-Mutra after

the shooting," he added. City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Priyanka Shukla said, "A shooting of Shah Rukh Khan's movie is going on at Bhedaghat after taking permission from collector's office. The activists of Bajrang Dal and VHP submits a memo to Tehsildar to stop the shooting."

"The shooting of the movie is going on with statutory permission and the memorandum submitted by the activists has been sent to senior officials. Further action will be taken accordingly," she added.

On the other hand, Bajrang Dal activists staged a protest against Shah Rukh Khan Starrer 'Pathaan' movie at Jyoti Talkies intersection in state capital Bhopal on Friday.

Bajrang Dal activist Sunil said, "In Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming movie Pathaan, visuals have been shown to insult Hindu religion. They knew that if they insult hindu religion then a protest will be staged against them and they get free film publicity."

Boy, 12, collapses in school bus, dies of cardiac arrest

Team Absolute | Bhind

A 12-year-old boy died of cardiac arrest after collapsing in his school bus in Bhind in Madhya Pradesh, with a doctor who treated him saying on Friday he may be the youngest victim of cardiac arrest in the state.

Manish Jataw, a Class IV student, had lunch with his brother in their school on Etawah Road on Thursday afternoon and collapsed soon after he boarded his bus at 2 pm, his family members said.

The driver of the bus alerted school authorities, who rushed the child to a nearby hospital where doctors failed to revive him, the family added.

"Manish was brought dead to the hospital on Thursday after-



noon. We gave him cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) but could not revive him. As per his symptoms, he died of cardiac failure," district hospital surgeon Dr Anil Goyal said.

The parents of the boy decided against conducting a post-mortem, Goyal added.

Speaking about the death, Dr Goyal said, "Such incidents have risen after COVID-19 as per a study. It is possibly the first time someone this young has died of cardiac arrest in MP." Manish's father Komal said his son had no health issues so far.

1 DEAD, 41 INJURED AFTER TWO BUSES COLLIDE IN INDORE

Indore: A 25-year-old passenger died, while 41 others were injured, four of them seriously, in a collision between two private buses on the Indore-Khandwa road in Madhya Pradesh, police and health officials said.

The accident took place under Simrol police station limits in Indore district when two buses coming from opposite directions collided with each other, a police official said. At least 42 passengers travelling in the vehicles were injured in the crash and admitted to the government-run Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital (MYH) in Indore for treatment, he said.

MYH superintendent Dr Pramendra Thakur said one of the passengers succumbed to injuries during treatment. The dead was identified only as Rahul, a resident of Khandwa district, Thakur said.

Four of the 41 injured are in serious condition, he added. An eyewitness, Sunil Kumar Shukla, said "I was travelling in one of the buses which was going from Khandwa to Indore. The bus was packed with passengers and was moving with high speed. While trying to take over a vehicle, it collided with another bus coming from the opposite direction injuring many passengers who were screaming for help." Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed grief over the accident and announced financial aid of Rs 2 lakh to the family of the dead, officials said.

Auto-rickshaw driver arrested for transporting suspected beef in Indore

Team Absolute | Indore

An auto-rickshaw driver was arrested on Friday for allegedly transporting meat, suspected to be beef, in Indore, a police official said. The driver, identified only as Owais, was arrested under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 279 (rash driving) and relevant provisions of the state's anti-cow slaughter Act (Madhya Pradesh Govansh Vadh Pratishedh Adhinyam), Chandan Nagar police station in-charge Abhay Nema said. The meat recovered from the auto-rickshaw of the accused, a resident of Mhow town near Indore, was sent to a laboratory to find out if it was beef, he said.

Before the case was registered, Bajrang Dal workers



reached the Chandan Nagar police station and created a ruckus demanding strict action against the auto-rickshaw driver.

In a statement, Bajrang Dal's local unit coordinator Tannu Sharma alleged beef was being smuggled in the auto-rickshaw and the

speeding three-wheeler also hit a few vehicles.

Sharma also claimed Bajrang Dal activists chased the auto-rickshaw and beat up its driver before handing him over to the police.

However, the police did not confirm assault on the auto driver.

INDORE LAW COLLEGE BOOK ROW: SC PROTECTS PRINCIPAL DR RAHMAN FROM ARREST

Bhopal: The Supreme Court on Friday granted protection from arrest to Indore's Government New Law College Principal and professor Dr Inamur Rahman seeking bail in a case against him for allegedly promoting enmity and hatred. A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha granted relief from arrest to Dr Rahman for three weeks and posted the matter for hearing in January. The case was mentioned in the morning for urgent hearing before CJI and he agreed to hear it today itself.

Bhawarkuwan police booked Dr Rahman along with Dr Mirza Mozia, Dr Farhat Khan author of a book on 'Collective Violence and Criminal Justice System' and its publisher on December 2 based on a complaint for alleged objectionable content in its.

The allegation against Dr Rahman was that the book is available with the library of New Government Law College, and he being the principal of that college trying to spread hatred through this book.

Dr Rahman moved the apex court through advocate Aljo K Joseph challenging the order passed by the Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court refusing to grant anticipatory bail to him on December 15. He said he was wrongly implicated in the case.

Dr Rahman is the principal of Government Law college and also the Dean and Chairman of Devi Ahilya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Indore, whereby an FIR was registered against him at Bhawarkuwan police station.

Sudarshan Chakra Corps organise wreath laying ceremony to celebrate 51st Vijay Diwas



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Sudarshan Chakra Corps celebrated the 51st 'Vijay Diwas' which commemorates the glorious victory of the Indian Army over Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war, in 1971, here on Friday. XXI Corps or the Sudarshan Chakra Corps is a strike corps of the Indian Army and is headquartered at Bhopal. On this occasion, a solemn wreath

laying ceremony was organised at Sudarshan Chakra War Memorial. Major General Sumer Ivan D'Cunha laid the wreath to honour the brave heroes of the Indian Army along with other veterans of the Army.

Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on December 16 to mark the victory of the Indian Army in the war to liberate Bangladesh which was erstwhile East Pakistan.

The Chief of Eastern Pakistan Forces, Lieutenant General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, along with 93,000 Pakistani soldiers, had surrendered before the Joint Forces of the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini (Bangladesh Forces).

This day is also celebrated to pay homage to the soldiers of the Indian Army, who have dedicated their life towards the safety and security of the nation.

BABY GIRL BORN WITH 'FOUR' LEGS

Team Absolute | Gwalior

A woman in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district has given birth to a baby girl with 'four' legs piquing curiosity among people.

Aarti Kushwaha of Sikandar Kampoo locality gave birth to the baby at the Women and Child Pediatrics Department of Kamla Raja Hospital here on Wednesday. The newborn is healthy, doctors said.

The weight of the baby girl is 2.3kg. After the birth, a team of doctors, along with the superintendent of the Jayarogya Hospital Group, Gwalior, examined the infant.

Superintendent of Jayarogya Hospital Group Dr RKS Dhakad said, "The infant has four legs at birth, she has physical deformity. Some fetuses become extra, which is called Ischiopagus in the language of medical science. When the embryo divides into two parts, the body develops at two places. The lower part, below the waist of this baby girl has developed with two extra legs, but those legs are inactive." "Right now the doctors of

the Paediatric Department are checking whether there is any other deformity in any part of the body. After examination, if she is healthy, then those legs will be removed through surgery. So that she can live a normal life," Dr Dhakad said. The Superintendent also said, "The baby girl is currently admitted in the Special Newborn Care Unit of the Pediatrics Department of Kamla Raja Hospital. The health condition of the infant is continuously being monitored. The doctors are talking about removing her extra legs by surgery. At present, the baby girl is completely healthy." Earlier in March this year, a woman gave birth to a baby with two heads, three arms, and two legs in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam.

Dr Brajesh Lahoti, who treated the child then, said, "This is the first child of the couple, earlier in the sonography report it was revealed that there are two children. It is a rare case; its life will not be very long." "The child weighs around 3 kg, has two spinal cords and one stomach. It is a very complex condition.



EDITOR'S SPECS

ARUNACHAL PEAK: OLD DESIRE OF CHINA

China has been repeatedly trying to take control of a 17,000-foot high peak in Arunachal Pradesh. The latest clash between the Indian army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) took place on December 9 at this peak. But there have been face-offs in the area in the past too, a major one being in October 2021 at Yangtse, 35 km north-east of Tawang. The Chinese attempt to get access to the top of the 17,000-foot high peak was thwarted. The area is now under snow and will remain so till March. This time, it happened along the section of the LAC at Yangtse, north-east of Tawang in the western part of Arunachal Pradesh. A source informed that there have been injuries to both Indian and Chinese soldiers and six of the injured have been admitted to the military hospital at Guwahati, but there are no reports of any serious injury or death. Sources in the Indian army said that India has firm control of the peak, which provides a commanding view of both sides of the border, the source added. Now the Indian Air Force is keeping an eye in the area through air surveillance. Meanwhile the IAF on Thursday received the last of the 36 Rafale jets. The 36th Rafale landed in India from France. The Indian Air Force said: "The pack is complete. The last of the 36 IAF Rafales landed in India after a quick en route stop from a UAE Air Force tanker." A squadron of Rafales will monitor the western border and the northern border with Pakistan. Another squadron will monitor the eastern border area of India.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT NOW ABOUT THE CHINA-INDIA TAWANG FACEOFF?

Major General S.B. Asthana

The China-India LAC faceoff near Yangtse in Tawang Sector on December 9, 2022 is neither the first nor the last one, but its resulting into injuries to few soldiers on both sides, shows increasing aggressiveness and violent attempt to enforce own perception of the LAC by both sides.

Post the Galwan clashes in 2020, the Indian side is not surprised by the irresponsible behaviour of PLA, which had junked all old agreements for peace and tranquility earlier; hence Indian troops resolutely and firmly contested the PLA's effort to close in to the LAC near Yangtse in Tawang Sector presumably to change the status quo.

Although both sides immediately disengaged from the area, held a Flag Meeting between opposing local commanders in accordance with structured mechanisms to diffuse the situation, such repeated attempts in future are possible and will have to be responded proactively, resolutely and firmly each time, as demonstrated now.

What makes the border issue between China-India complex?

The Peoples Republic of China (PRC) refused to ratify the Simla Agreement of 1914, signed between British India and Tibet, initiated by Chinese representative. The Indian stance on Border generally follows Johnson Line (1865) in Ladakh and the McMahon Line in the east. When Maharaja Hari Singh signed instrument of accession, Aksai Chin was part of it; hence rightfully belonged to India. India should have compelled China to accept the Shimla Agreement, before recognising Tibet as part of the PRC. There is therefore no mutually agreed border treaty between Independent India and PRC demarcating borders.

China refuses to accept any treaty signed with Tibet or earlier than annexation, when it does not suit it and selectively refers to them when it suits its interests, like it referred to a Treaty of 1890 during Doklam Crisis which seemed advantageous to it, despite the fact that it was superseded by many other treaties later.

LAC and its complex management

The LAC, by definition, indicates loosely demarcated areas under actual control of Chinese and Indian forces. Both countries have their own perception of the LAC and in certain



areas, these perception overlap (like Tawang, Pangong Tso). As the LAC is not demarcated, the Chinese, with scant regards to international agreements and obligations, uses non-demarcation as an opportunity to pursue its "Strategy of Incremental Encroachment" by laying fresh claims (Arunachal Pradesh) and following it up with troops buildup/infrastructure development till resisted, and stops just short of conflict. An opposing action/build up by Indian forces leads to "Faceoff/Standoff" each time. To avoid accidental triggers both sides have been resorting to measures short of live firing to prevent the other side violate its perception of LAC, which are increasingly getting converted into violent clashes.

Why the faceoff in Tawang is different now?

The transgressions, patrol clashes, faceoffs and flag meetings to resolve it has been a common feature to dominate or enforce own claim on own perception of LAC and will continue to be so till the LAC is demarcated. The current faceoff in Tawang is somewhat different than the earlier ones for many reasons, if seen in current geo-political and strategic context as below:-

- Chinese President Xi Jinping may be attempting to stoke nationalistic fervour out of his aggressive nationalistic stance by playing victim card to divert domestic discontent due to Zero Covid policy, downslide in Chinese economy and other reasons.
- Aggressive stance in Ladakh and Taiwan and its Chinese-doctored narrative suited Xi Jinping in consolidating his position as strong leader to secure a third term; hence he would like to continue with it further.

Unhappy at the fastest-growing economy, a faceoff in winters may activate political debate in democratic India, and the Indian government may be compelled to deploy more troops throughout winters in all sectors, thereby increasing the financial cost for India by LOCisation of LAC.

An attempt to test Indian response on the eastern borders after India has committed large amount of troops in Ladakh and Kashmir.

The strategic and cultural relevance of Tawang is coming to forefront as the time of nomination of next Dalai Lama is approaching. Tawang monastery has been the seat of cultural power and birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama.

The Yangtse area has tough approach from Indian side and in winters is relatively more isolated; hence the Chinese could have thought of taking a chance with an intrusion there.

China enjoyed gross asymmetry in infrastructure development in its favour for too long and is not comfortable with Indian effort to catch up in this regard; hence disruption in development activities along borders suit its design.

What should India do?

With no de-escalation by the Chinese in sight, India is and will continue to be ready for all contingencies with similar deployment along LAC, in coming months/years, including creating some more leverage, if the situation demands so.

The Indian aim should be not to concede Chinese attempt to redraw LAC, or LOC-isation of the LAC further.

The Chinese will like to keep border unsettled, till the time the political cost of not settling it, becomes higher than doing so, for CCP, China. A change in mindset is required, from being reactive to being proactive with additional intelligence, surveillance and offensive capability to demonstrate capacity to encroach into Chinese sensitive areas, in absence of which China has assumed no threat from India, with freedom to encroach anywhere, at will.

If the Chinese have passed a Border Defence Law, India too should pass some laws to facilitate emphatic border construction and extend schemes under Border Infrastructure Management Authority (BIMA) as near as the LAC as is practically feasible.

Looking Beyond

India must continue capacity building in all domains, including maritime domain, where Chinese vulnerable sea lines of communications can be threatened. Besides ongoing infrastructure development along borders the scope of Border Area Management Programme (BAMP) needs to be enhanced. The surface communication addition to Vibrant village Programmes along northern borders to respond to Chinese plan of well off villages along LAC, it is recommended that States/UT along LAC should allot concessional land to security forces like regional SCOUTS, ITBP, SSB, and families hailing from that area (on son of soil concept), ready to settle in villages so constructed, along own perception of the LAC. This will improve inclusive growth, integration, besides proof of our claims on the border, to ward off Chinese design of developing hundreds of new villages along the LAC.

Strategic partnerships with like-minded democracies and collective naval posturing to create multi-front situation for China are efforts which should continue. There is a need for alternative supply chain, trade and technological eco system, independent of China for which some initial steps taken by Quad countries need to be pursued.

(A retired Director General of Infantry, Indian Army, the author is an accomplished writer and speaker on strategic issues. The views expressed here are personal. He can be reached on Facebook and LinkedIn at Shashi Asthana, @asthana_shashi on twitter, or on his personal site:

international

EITHER WE WIN, OR THE WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED: PUTIN ALLY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Alexander Dugin, a prominent ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, said the ongoing war with Ukraine will end when Moscow wins it, and if not, the world will be destroyed.

He made the remarks while speaking to TV9 Bharatvarsh channel in an exclusive interview.

"There are two possibilities. First, it will end when we win (and) at that moment. It's not too easy though. And the second possibility is that this fight will end with the end of the world. Whether we win, or the world will be destroyed," Dugin, also widely acknowledged as Putin's guru or 'Putin's Brain', said.

"I am absolutely sure (that) this time Russia will not be overcome by the enemy. We won't tolerate any other solution at the end of the war except victory and in that, all our people, our state, our President are totally in accordance," he told the Channel.

Dugin spoke exclusively to TV9 Bharatvarsh on the sidelines of an event organised in remembrance of his daughter's death, at the hands of the



"Ukrainian terrorists".

Maria, his daughter, would have turned 30 had she not got killed in a terrorist attack.

On her death, an emotional Dugin said, that if the terrorists wanted to kill him rather than his daughter, he would have loved to get killed twice.

He said the ongoing war is not between Russia and Ukraine. It is not about the fight between the two nations or between Russia and the collective West; "but the main struggle is between the human beings and evil power that attacks every country, every culture, and every people. And this black power wants to destroy the spirit, the soul, the truth and replace that by conventional wisdom, by fake news".

"So, the war is of multipolar world order against unipolar world order. It's nothing either about Russia, Ukraine, or Europe; it's not against the West and the rest; it's humanity against hegemony. There are many negative aspects of the special military operation. I am supporting my country, my President, and my people who are fighting for justice and peace in a multipolar world," Dugin added.

Bilawal Bhutto launches vituperative personal tirade against PM Modi

United Nations | Agencies

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has called for cooperation between New Delhi and Islamabad on terrorism, but veered off into a personal vituperative tirade against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi using extreme, unparliamentary language.

Asked by a Pakistani reporter at a news conference on Thursday about India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's accusations about Islamabad's role in terrorism, he instead turned on Modi calling him derogatory names.

Taking the familiar line of Pakistan at the UN when faced with its support for and instigating terrorism, he also attacked the RSS asserting that it does not believe in the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi, whose bust was installed in the UN campus, and revere his assassin. He dismissed Pakistan's role in international terrorism, with an implied admission of its complicity, saying "Osama bin Laden is dead" and it is time to move on.

The Al Qaeda leader who was behind terrorist attacks around the world, including the 9/11 attack, was given a haven in Pakistan and US Navy Seals took him out in a raid on his hideout in Abbottabad in 2011.



At his news conference before Bhutto-Zardari's, Jaishankar had said: "The truth is, everybody today sees them (Pakistan) as the epicentre (of terrorism)." He said sarcastically that after two-and-a-half years of the Covid pandemic, many have developed "brain fog" and added: "I assure you the world has not forgotten. Who has the fingerprints over a lot of (terrorist) activities in the region and beyond the region." Bhutto-Zardari said that Pakistan's attempts to add four Indians to the international terrorists list were unsuccessful and said that it was because the influence India wields and which he alleged was by playing on international perceptions of Islamic terrorism.

13 DEAD IN MALAYSIA LANDSLIDE

Kuala Lumpur: At least 13 people have been killed and several others remained trapped following a landslide in Malaysia's Selangor state on Friday, authorities said.



The landslide occurred at a popular campsite in the area, with 60 people having already been rescued, Xinhua news agency quoted the fire and rescue department as saying. Selangor state fire and rescue department head Norazam Khamis said search and rescue efforts are underway for the trapped people, with at least 12 teams searching for survivors. Earlier in the day, the department had estimated that 79 people were trapped when the disaster happened.

But, Malaysia's National Disaster Management Agency later said that 92 people were believed to be trapped.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said he will visit the site later in the day and has ordered all relevant government bodies to conduct a thorough and systematic search and rescue effort.

N.KOREA CLAIMS SUCCESSFUL TEST OF NEW STRATEGIC WEAPON

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea has successfully conducted a test to verify the "high-thrust solid-fuel motor" features in developing another "new-type of strategic weapon system", Pyongyang's state media said on Friday.

"An important institute under the Academy of Defence Science succeeded in the static firing test of high-thrust solid-fuel motor with a thrust of 140tf, the first of its kind in the country, at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground on the morning of December 15," the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a report.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un guided the test,



expressing the expectation that "another new-type of strategic weapon would be made in the shortest span of time", Yonhap News Agency quoted the report as saying.

The KCNA said the aim of the test was to "verify all technical specific features of the high-thrust solid-fuel motor based on the thrust vector controlling technology".

The report added that the "important test" has provided a "sure sci-tech guarantee" for the development of another new-type strategic weapon system.

Observers said the North could have tested the high-thrust engine to advance the technologies for developing a new solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile.

7 British-Indians win 2022 Young Dentist Award in UK



London | Agencies

Seven British-Indians have received the Young Dentist Award in recognition of their excellence in dentistry across the whole of the UK.

The 2022 Dentistry Awards, feted as 'dentistry's biggest party', took place late last month at The Athena in Leicester. While Kiran Shankla and Rohit Keshav Sunil Patel won from the South East, Sorabh Patel and Vishal Patel won from London. Viraj Patel and Paavan Chouhan from the

North West and Chetan Sharma from Midlands won along with 20 others who were honoured in the Young Dentist award category.

There were a total of 13 categories in the award, including Dental Laboratory of the Year, Therapist of the Year, Young Dentist, Hygienist of the Year, Dental Nurse of the Year, and more.

To be considered for the award, the young dentists had to give 750-word answers to a list of questions, provide supporting evidence of their work and their participation in the local community.

10 killed in France apartment fire

Paris: A fire broke on Friday in an apartment building in the French city of Lyon, killing at least 10 people, including five children, authorities said. The Prefecture of Rhone said the fire broke out at 3.12 a.m. in an eight-floor apartment building in Vaulx-en-Velin, suburb of Lyon, reports Xinhua news agency. The Prefecture said it had mobilised about 170 firefighters to put out the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



OVER 50 PARTIES, GROUPS TO JOIN OPPN' MEGA-PROTEST MUMBAI MARCH AGAINST GOVT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over 50 political parties, unions, associations, groups and NGOs are expected to join the mega-procession, organised by Maharashtra's opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Saturday, to protest various issues, organisers said.

MVA members, the Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party, the Shiv Sena-UBT, besides several trade unions, workers unions, teachers, auto rickshaw unions, and social groups, will join the march from Byculla to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), a distance of around 5 kms on Saturday morning.

After suspension of several days, the Mumbai Police on Friday finally accorded permission for the mega-morcha, paving the way for the flexing of muscles on Saturday, amid tight police security en route being deployed.

This is the second biggest show of strength coming after the massive procession with some 80 parties and groups organised in Pune on December 13, along with a shutdown.

The top leaders of various parties who will join the procession include former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, former Deputy CM and present Leader of Opposition Ajit



Pawar, and Congress state chief Nana Patole. Leaders of various parties estimate that Saturday's march could attract over three-four lakh people, with thousands of workers troop-

ing in from all over the state since Thursday evening. The main points of protest would be the continuous insults to great personalities, for the removal of the Governor for his recent

remarks, the flight of industries to Gujarat, the Maharashtra-Karnataka border row, said Congress coordinator for the procession, Arif Naseem Khan. The marchers will also raise the issue of steep inflation suffered by the masses, the growing unemployment figures, lack of jobs for the youth, the derogatory statements used by certain ruling alliance ministers against women, and other burning issues, he said.

The procession, along with a series of protests held across the state has unnerved the ruling Balasahebchandra Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party which has now "appealed" the Opposition to ensure that the demonstration is done peacefully.

"This is a question of the 'pride and respect' of Maharashtra and all people of the state are upset at the manner in which the present illegal government has been functioning to the detriment of the state's interests on all fronts," said Sena-UBT's national spokesperson Kishore Tiwari.

Other prominent leaders who will join the procession will be Balasaheb Thorat, Aditya Thackeray, Ambadas Danve, Vinayak Raut, Supriya Pawar, several MPs, MLAs and other functionaries, plus activists of different parties coming here from all over the state.

Mumbai gets 'Vijay Udyan', a 1971 war-themed memorial park



Team Absolute | Mumbai

along with a reference map near the murals.

Marking the 51st anniversary of 'Vijay Diwas', the Indian defence forces inaugurated a unique war-themed memorial garden, 'Vijay Udyan' dedicated to all the brave-hearts of the 1971 India-Pakistan War that saw the birth of Bangladesh, here on Friday.

The park is spread over 7,650 sq. feet and symbolic of the resilience and tenacity of the Tri-Services, and was inaugurated by Dhano Devi, the widow of the Param Vir Chakra awardee, the late Major (later Colonel) Hoshiyar Singh Dahiya.

The memorial garden provides vivid glimpses of how the momentous war was fought through milestones on either side of the walkway with the chronology of the events that unfolded from December 3-16, 1971.

There are four wall murals with pictorials of the Indian Navy operations, achievements of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army actions on the Eastern and Western fronts,

A 3-D mural depicts the historic signing of the Instrument of Surrender and occupies the centre-stage in the park; along with a half-moon shaped enclosure having life-size busts of the war heroes awarded the PVC for their bravery and ultimate sacrifices in the war.

Also on display are the war trophies like the Vijayanta and T55 tanks and a FV433 SP Abbot Gun which formed the bedrock of the fighting arsenal of the Indian Army during the war.

Earlier, a solemn wreath-laying ceremony was organised at the Shaheed Smarak in the Colaba Military Station to commemorate the historic achievements and pay homage to the fallen warriors.

Wreaths were laid by Vice-Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command, Lt. Gen. H.S. Kahlon, GOC, Maharashtra, Gujarat & Goa, officers from the Tri-services and veterans who were also felicitated on the occasion.

Opposition to stage protest over border row

Mumbai: Amid the ongoing Karnataka-Maharashtra border row, Maharashtra Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar on Thursday said that the protest rally on Saturday will focus on the border issue. He however stated that it'll be a silent and peaceful march.

"Our protest rally on December 17 will focus on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue, insult of Maharashtra's icons by the Governor and BJP leaders and other issues. It'll be a silent and peaceful march. We're yet to get permission for it," said NCP leader Ajit Pawar. He said that all like-minded parties have agreed upon the agenda of the protest rally and would like to request people to join in large numbers. All like-minded parties have agreed upon this agenda of protest rally. We have asked for permission but have yet to get it. We would like to request people to join in large numbers," said Ajit Pawar. NCP leader Ajit Pawar further added that a request has been made to the state government to appoint Harish Salve to represent the state in the Supreme Court regarding the border dispute. "We have requested the State govt to appoint Harish Salve, who is also from Maharashtra, to represent us in the SC regarding the border dispute case," said NCP leader Ajit Pawar.

Over claims of the Twitter account of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray hit out CM and questioned what caused the delay in issuing a statement. "If the Twitter account of Karnataka CM was hacked then why there was a delay in issuing a statement about it? The action was taken against Marathi-speaking people, stones were pelted on buses. What was the outcome of yesterday's meeting of both the CMs with the Home Minister?," questioned Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray.



40-year-old man arrested for having sex with stray dog after video goes viral

Team Absolute | Nagpur

A 40-year-old man was arrested on Friday for allegedly committing a sexual crime on a stray dog in Nagpur's Hudkeshwar area, a police official said. A video of the man indulging in the act in a garden in Shahu Nagar area had gone viral on social media. "He was held on a tip off on Friday morning. He hails from Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh and works as a labourer here," Inspector Lalit Vartikar of Hudkeshwar police station said. He has been charged



under section 377 (carnal intercourse against the order of nature), 294 (obscenity) and other offences under the



Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the official added.

AMRAVATI PHARMACIST MURDER CASE: NIA FILES CHARGE-SHEET IN COURT AGAINST 11 ACCUSED

Mumbai: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge-sheet in Mumbai court against 11 accused in Amravati-based pharmacist Umesh Kolhe's murder case. Kolhe was killed in eastern Maharashtra's Amravati city on June 21 after sharing on social media a post supporting suspended Bharatiya Janata Party leader Nupur Sharma over her controversial remarks about Prophet Mohammad. He was on his way home on June 21 after closing his shop in Amravati when he was murdered. The case was initially registered with Police Station City Kotvali on June 22. Later, the probe was handed taken over by NIA on July 2.

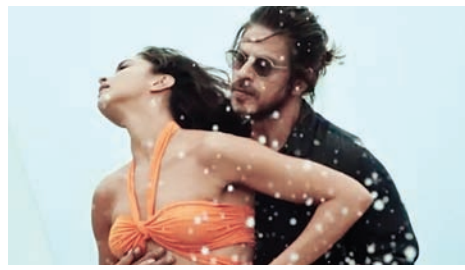


"Any film or serial insulting..." Maharashtra BJP leader's 'pathaan' warning

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After the Madhya Pradesh government, a leader of the ruling BJP in Maharashtra, too, has said the upcoming Shah Rukh Khan-Deepika Padukone movie 'Pathaan' is "insulting towards Hindutva" and "will not be allowed". Hindutva activists and BJP leaders see a communal angle in the use of the "holy colour saffron" for Deepika Padukone's "vulgar" bikini in 'Besharam Rang', a song released as part of the promotions ahead of next month's release.

In tweets today, Maharashtra BJP MLA Ram Kadam even alluded to Deepika Padukone's solidarity with some Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students in Delhi 2020 after they had been



attacked by a mob that allegedly had the backing of the ruling BJP and other RSS affiliates. "JNU-dhaari" (people standing with JNU) are hurting the sentiments of the "janu-dhaari" (Hindus who wear the sacred Brahmin thread), he said, in

tweets in Hindi and Marathi.

"Any film or serial that insults Hindutva will not be allowed in Maharashtra," he added, signing off with "Jai Sri Ram". He demanded that since Maharashtra - the home of the Hindi film industry - has a "government with Hindutva ideology", the film's producer and director should have to explain themselves before the "saints, mahatmas, Hindu organisations and crores of people on social media" who have been objecting to the film. Many of those protesting, including BJP leaders, have alleged what they call "love jihad", pointing towards the Hindu actress and Muslim actor's pairing and their "saffron" and "green" attire in the song 'Besharam Rang'. They've called for a boycott of the movie or even all of Bollywood.

Woman accuses in-laws of branding her tongue, forcing to wear shoe garland

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Junagadh police have initiated a probe after a pregnant woman accused her in-laws of subjecting her to physical and psychological torture.

In her complaint with the Junagadh Women Police Station, the aggrieved woman Surbhi Ugrajia said that her husband Krunal, and five other members of his family branding her tongue, made her wear a "shoe garland" and carry out 'Parikrama' of their 'Kuldevi' with a traditional stove (Sigri) on her head.

The torture Surbhi said, did not end here as she was forced to keep a shoe in her mouth during the entire ritual. She alleged that because of their harassment, her



first pregnancy ended in a miscarriage and now, when she has conceived again, they are forcing her to abort the fetus and give consent for the divorce.

Hailing from Junagadh, the woman married Krunal in December 2021 and shifted to Ghatkopar in Mumbai where he resides with his family.

According to the complaint, the reason for harassment was her husband's alleged affair with his elder brother's wife. Till late at night, Krunal used to stay in his sister-in-law's room, she alleged.

Once her in-laws assaulted the complainant's parents with footwear but they endured it for their daughter's sake. The woman, who is into her fourth month of pregnancy, says her husband's family is pressuring her for abortion and to give consent for the divorce. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case under various sections of Indian Penal Code for criminal intimidation, harassing women to meet unlawful demand, intentionally insulting, and voluntarily causing hurt.

MAN HELD FOR STEALING RS 20 LAKH IN CASH, GOLD, AND SILVER FROM KALYAN HOUSE

Thane: A man was arrested for alleged involvement in a house breaking theft (HBT) incident in Maharashtra's Thane district in which gold, silver and cash totalling Rs 20.57 lakh were stolen, a police official said on Friday. The HBT incident took place in the intervening night of November 26 and 27 in Oak Baug area of Kalyan, said MFC police station senior inspector AB Honmane. "Our probe zeroed in on the accused from Moholi Road here. We recovered the entire loot from him, including 46 tolas of gold. He is also involved in eight other crimes, six of which now stand solved with his arrest," Honmane said.

5 YOUTHS, 1 GIRL TO RELAY-SWIM 1,100-KMS MUMBAI-GOIA RETURN, SET NEW WORLD RECORD

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Three teens, including a girl, and three youths will jump into the Arabian Sea at Gateway of India on December 17 for the world's longest relay-swim - 1,100-kms Mumbai-Goa-Mumbai - and create a new Guinness record, the organisers said here on Friday.

The unique and gruelling adventure sports event is being held by the Vasai-Virar Open Water Sea Swimming Foundation, under the observation of Para Swimming Federation of India, said the event coach and senior sailor of the Indian Navy, Madan Rai.

"Tomorrow evening, around 5 pm, Maharashtra Minister Deepak Kesarkar will flag off the challenging event, they will touch the Fort Aguada in Goa to return, and the relay-swimming spectacle will end on December 28 after completing 1,100-kms at the Vasai Fort, Palghar," an excited Rai said.

The relay-swimmers taking part in the event are all master swimmers with several national-international records hanging on their swimsuits, he said.

They are: Jiya Rai, 14 and Dhruven Naik, 17, both of Mumbai, Raj Patil, 17 of Raigad, Sampala Shelar, 21 of Pune, Kartik Gugle, 21 and Rakesh Kadam, 26 both of Vasai, Palghar, averaging 19.3 years each.



Rai's daughter, Jiya - the youngest and sole female participant - suffers from autism and received this year's Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Award, and a string of other honours. Explaining the gritty challenge, Rai said that each swimmer will swim an average of six hours, day and night, remaining up to 7 kms away from the coast in the high seas during days and coming up to

5 kms at nights for safety reasons.

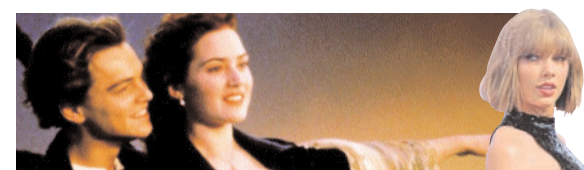
"From Gateway of India, they will swim to Alibaug, Raigad on the mainland, traversing through the main shipping channels, and then turn right straight to Goa non-stop, till Fort Aguada. They will halt briefly at Miramar Jetty in Goa for restocking supplies and then swim without break to return to Gateway of India and

then to Vasai Fort on December 28 morning," Rai said.

There will be huge challenges for the swimmers in the Arabian Sea, one being the constant threats of jellyfish bites which can incapacitate the victim for hours, other big or gigantic fish or marine creatures which can injure the youngsters, the atmospheric temperatures dropping to 20 degrees Celsius at night and the water at a cold 17 degrees Celsius, plus strong winds and powerful water-currents all through.

Rai said on an average, each swimmer will swim for six hours going and four hours on the return sojourn, and each will get their turns every 30 hours in the waters during day or night - and all swimmers have been practicing for the real test since one year. "Four safety boats, one ship with logistics, lifeguards, doctors, cabins, food, etc will accompany them on the venture with the Indian Coast Guard on high alert for any emergency assistance through MRCC West. The Indian Navy, ICG, Mumbai Port Trust, Goa Government are supporting the event," said Rai.

"On successful completion, the attempt will enter the Guinness Book of World Record as 'World Longest Open Water Sea Swimming Relay', said Rai, immersed in the last-minute preparations for the event.



JOHNNY DEPP BRINGS BACK JACK SPARROW FOR TERMINALLY ILL BOY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Johnny Depp resumed the role of Captain Jack Sparrow as he sent a sweet message of support to a terminally ill fan. The actor put on the costume to send a loving message of support to a terminally ill 11-year-old boy, as he battles a heart condition, reports.

'Pirates of the Caribbean' fan Kori Parkin-Stovell has undergone two unsuccessful heart transplants and ultimately decided against a third. He is now in palliative care and his family don't know how long he has to live.

Depp surprised the YouTuber with a video message and phone call in character, telling him: "I wish you the best of luck, I'm your number one fan Captain Kori, all my respect and love."

Kori hopes to get as many subscribers to his YouTube channel as possible and Johnny was keen to help.

In a video shared on Kori's YouTube, he said: "Captain Kori, I understand you're quite the YouTube channel man, or shall be. So what I'm saying is I shall be glad to

follow your YouTube channel and I shall tell all my friends to follow your YouTube channel."

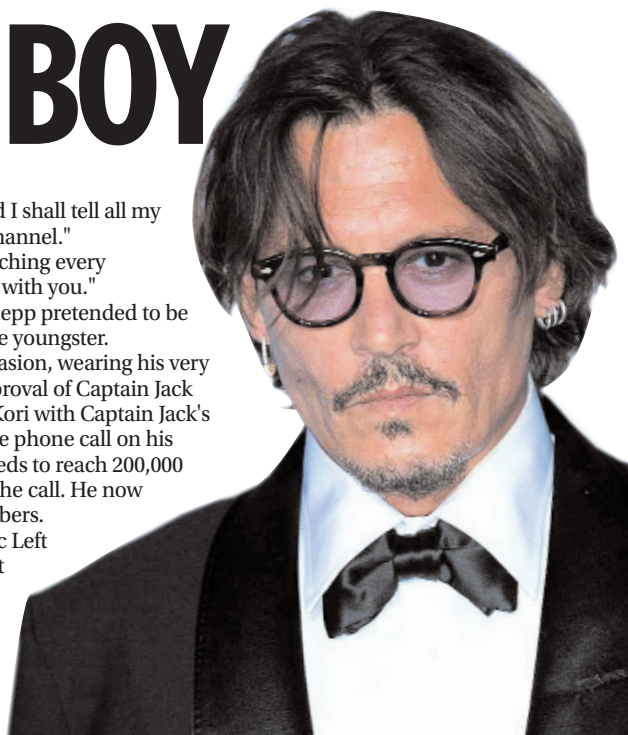
He added: "I shall be there watching every moment and watching moments with you."

During the video phone call, Depp pretended to be on a pirate ship as he talked to the youngster.

Kori got dressed up for the occasion, wearing his very own pirate hat, which got the approval of Captain Jack Sparrow. Johnny also 'knighted' Kori with Captain Jack's sword. Kori only shared half of the phone call on his YouTube channel and said he needs to reach 200,000 subscribers to release the rest of the call. He now has an incredible 179,000 subscribers.

Kori was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, and had his first heart transplant in March 2018, but the organ was rejected.

He underwent a second transplant in January last year but, after a painful procedure, his body rejected the heart.



Robert De Niro to star in crime drama

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Robert De Niro is set to star in and executive produce 'Mr. Natural', a crime drama series in the works at Entertainment One. Created by Mitch Glazer ('On the Rocks'), the project is envisioned as a multi-season series, with Glazer and De Niro executive producing alongside 'Yellowstone's' Art and John Linson.

'One does not yet have a platform attached to 'Mr. Natural', but is expected to be taking it out to market soon.

'Mr. Natural' marks De Niro's second TV series casting in as many months. In November, 'Variety' reported he is set to star in Netflix's limited series 'Zero Day'.

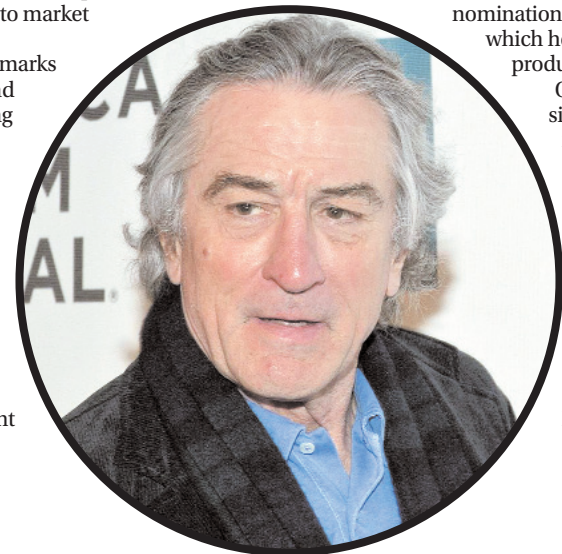
That project, which is also in the development

stage, comes from Eric Newman and Noah Oppenheim.

Should either project move forward with a series order, it would mark the first regular television role of De Niro.

One of the most iconic movie stars in Hollywood, De Niro won the Academy Award for best actor and best supporting actor for 'Raging Bull' and 'The Godfather Part II', respectively. He has been nominated for seven acting Academy Awards in total, while he also shared in the best picture nomination for 'The Irishman', which he starred in and produced.

On the small-screen side, De Niro has received multiple Emmy nominations, including one for best actor in a TV movie or limited series for the HBO film 'Wizard of Lies', in which he played Bernie Madoff.



Charlie Hunnam-starrer 'Shantaram' cancelled after one season

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Charlie Hunnam-starrer series 'Shantaram' will not be returning for a second season. Its Season 1 finale, released tomorrow, December 16, will serve as a series finale, reports. Based on the Gregory David Roberts' epic, 900-plus-page novel, Shantaram was an ambitious, big-scope undertaking, shot across two continents, which was impacted by the pandemic.

The series had shot two episodes before pausing filming in late-February 2020. Because of its expansive nature requiring filming in multiple countries, the series did not resume production on the remaining 10 episodes until May 2021. 'Shantaram', which hasn't generated the level of buzz that some of Apple TV+'s popular titles have, follows Lin Ford (Hunnam), who escapes a maximum-security

Australian prison, reinvents himself as a doctor in the slums of 1980s Bombay, gets entangled with a local mafia boss and eventually uses his gun-running and counterfeiting skills to fight against the invading Russian troops in Afghanistan. All the while he is falling for an enigmatic and intriguing woman named Karla (Antonia Desplat) and must choose between freedom or love and the complications that come with it.



DAISY EDGAR-JONES TO PLAY CAROLE KING IN MUSICAL BIOPIC

Los Angeles | Agencies

Daisy Edgar-Jones has landed the plum role of Carole King in Sony's upcoming film adaptation of the stage musical

"Beautiful," a package as high-profile as it is pedigreed. "Daisy has a spirit and energy that I recognized as myself when I was younger. She's a tremendous talent and I know she's going to give a great performance," King said.

Jones is familiar to Sony, having starred in the studio's box office winner "Where The Crawdads Sing." She will be directed in "Beautiful" by Academy Award nominee Lisa Cholodenko ("The Kids Are All Right").

Edgar-Jones broke out in Hulu's romantic drama "Normal People" and later starred opposite Sebastian Stan in the Sundance comedy thriller "Fresh." She recently received a Golden Globe nomination for best supporting actress in a limited series or motion picture made for television, for her role in FX's "Under the Banner of Heaven." Earlier this year, the British star helped jolt adult audiences at the pandemic-era box office with "Crawdads," which racked up \$140 million globally.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Margot Robbie led arrivals at the premiere of Damien Chazelle's A-list comedy-drama Babylon on Thursday night in Los Angeles. Robbie flaunted her sculpted physique in a hooded black halter gown as she made her way down the red carpet with her co-stars and other attendees.

It had a daring stomach cut-out that put the Academy Award nominee's abs front and center for photographers. Adding to the drama was a bizarre fur-trim train that hung down Robbie's left leg and grazed the floor. Most of the Australian star's silky blonde hair was concealed by the hood of her dress, through several pieces were left out to frame her

MARGOT ROBBIE FLASH THE FLESH IN EDGY ALL-BLACK AT LA PREMIERE

face.

She slipped into semi-sheer tights and black pumps to complete the look.

As for makeup, the blonde beauty had a radiant complexion paired with a glossy lip and baby pink flush. Shimmery champagne-toned shadow was swiped across her lids and her lashes coated with black mascara.

After posing up for shutterbugs solo, Robbie introduced her gorgeous mom Sarie Kessler. She often posed with her arms wrapped around Kessler, who exuded elegance in a plunging black gown. Kessler looked beyond proud of her A-list daughter ahead of the screening.

Wilde - who stars alongside Brad and Margot in the upcoming film - wowed onlookers in an edgy black ensemble.



BILLIE LOURD REVEALS SHE HAS WELCOMED A BABY GIRL

Los Angeles | Agencies

Billie Lourd reveals she has welcomed baby girl with husband Austen Rydell... and her name is of British origin. Just days after revealing she had welcomed a second child, Billie Lourd has revealed the sex and name of the bundle of joy.

The actress took to Instagram on Thursday to reveal she had welcomed a bouncing baby girl with husband Austen Rydell. The daughter of Carrie Fisher also publicly disclosed the child's name as Jackson Joanne Lourd Rydell.

The happy news was revealed by Billie's father Bryan Lourd on Tuesday while he was speaking at Variety's Dealmakers Breakfast in Beverly Hills, California.

'My daughter had a baby last night,' he confirmed, adding: 'I left the hospital at 1:30 and got there this morning at 6. I'm a little tired, but happy.'

He continued: 'Everything's great. So if I wander, it's because the adrenaline is still flowing.'

Billie revealed news of her second pregnancy while appearing at the London premiere of her movie Ticket To Paradise, starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts.

Billie and Austen became engaged in June 2020 after four years together.

The couple had one break-up during their relationship, but reunited soon after, three months after the engagement, Billie and Austen welcomed a son, Kingston Fisher.

Speaking about her son Billie told SiriusXM show Quarantined with Bruce last year: 'He's not technically a quarantine baby, and I want to make that known because a lot of people are having trendy quarantine babies.'

Kingston was conceived before quarantine. He's technically just a Caribbean baby.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Olivia Pierson



IND vs BAN 1st Test Day 3

GILL, PUJARA TONS HELP INDIA SET TARGET OF 513

Chattogram | Agencies

Bangladesh's young openers Najmul Hossain Shanto and Zakir Hasan took the hosts to 42/0 at stumps on day three after Shubman Gill slammed his first Test hundred and Cheteshwar Pujara hit his first century in 52 innings for India to set a target of 513 in the first Test at Chattogram on Friday.

After Kuldeep Yadav's third five-wicket haul in his eighth Test helped India bowl out Bangladesh for 150 in the first innings, Gill hit a quick 110 while Pujara smashed 102 not out, his fastest-ever hundred in Test cricket and first since January 2019, as the visitors declared their second innings at 258/2.

Resuming the day from 133/8, India had a breakthrough when Kuldeep got one to spin past Ebadot Hossain's flick and took the faint edge behind to Rishabh Pant, who completed a sharp catch down the leg to complete his fifer.

Post lunch, Gill looked different, slashing, sweeping with authority, glancing gently off his and then



brought out his trademark short-arm jab to collect four boundaries. When Mehidy gave some flight, Gill was quick to dance down the pitch and lean into the drive through cover.

After tea, Gill danced down the pitch to hit Litton Das for a huge six over long-on. He then brought out reverse-sweep against Mehidy for a boundary, before coming down the pitch and lofting the off-spinner over

mid-on to get his hundred in 147 balls.

In Mehidy's next over, Gill would dance down the pitch and loft over long-on for six. But in a bid to get another six, he holed out to deep mid-wicket. Pujara took charge from there, completing his fifty in 86 balls and used his feet beautifully, and constantly to flick, paddle-sweep, sweep, punch and loft over mid-on

Brief scores

India 404 in 133.5 overs and 258/2 declared in 61.4 overs (Shubman Gill 110, Cheteshwar Pujara 102 not out; Khaled Ahmed 1-51, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 1-82) lead Bangladesh 150 all out in 55.5 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 28; Kuldeep Yadav 5-40) and 42 for no loss in 12 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto batting 17) by 512 runs.

and mid-off against spinners.

After pulling Yasir through fine leg, Pujara broke his Test century drought by dancing down the pitch again to whip past a misfielding mid-on off Taijul for a boundary, in a knock in which his last 52 runs came in just 43 balls as India immediately declared their innings.

Chasing 513, Shanto and Zakir did well to negotiate the tricky 12-over phase without much trouble, especially under fading light. The visitors will have to work hard for the next two days as Bangladesh are still behind by 471 runs with two full days left in the match.

WORLD CUP PARA-POWERLIFTING

Manpreet, Khatun, Basha win medals on Day Two

Dubai (UAE) | Agencies

Indian Para-powerlifters continued their good show at the Fazza 12th Dubai 2022 Para-powerlifting World Cup as they claimed eight medals including four silver on the second day of the competitions at the Dubai Club for People of Determination venue.

Promising junior Honey Dabas had led the Indian medal charge with two gold medals in the Next Gen. category of men's up to 72 kg event on the opening day. Dabas managed 120kg in his final lift for the commendable feat in his first international competition.

On Friday, Manpreet Kaur opened the proceedings for India with a silver and bronze medal with a best lift of 80kg and a total of 152 kg in the women's up to 45 kg event before Zainab Khatun lifted 70 kg in her first attempt to take the bronze in the women's up to 61 kg category, the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) informed in a release on Friday.

It was Zainab's first inter-



national competition in Dubai.

In the women's 55 kg, Raj Kumari added to India's tally with one silver and one bronze medal on the day. She lifted 79 kg to win bronze and a total of 223 kg for silver in Total lift.

Later, Shakina Khatun took the bronze medal in the women's up to 50 kg after her only successful lift of 90kg.

Khatun hoped to get a better result in the coming exuding confidence in medals at the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games and World Championships due to be

staged in Dubai in August 2023.

Later, Farman Basha joined the women lifters with his best lift of 135kg to take two silver medals in the Legend category.

"It's always nice to compete in Dubai. I have fond memories of this place and it continues to grow. It was a good competition," said Basha, who is spending more time coaching powerlifters.

"I would like to compete in the Worlds and Asian Para Games. But let's see," he was quoted as saying by PCI in a release.

FIFA World Cup

Morocco striker Aboukhal excited at prospect of playing Croatia

Doha (Qatar) | Agencies

Morocco striker Zakaria Aboukhal says he is relishing the prospect of taking on Croatia on Saturday, as the Atlas Lions seek to secure a third-place finish at the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Aboukhal is one of 14 players in Morocco's 26-man World Cup squad to be born outside the country, but who have chosen to represent their parents' homeland.

Aboukhal was born in the Netherlands and represented that country at U17, U18, U19 and U20 levels, before opting to play for Morocco in November 2020.

He has made four appearances in this World Cup, scoring in the 2-0 win against Belgium, and looks set to start against Croatia, reports. Speaking ahead of



Saturday's match, the striker, who joined Toulouse from AZ Alkmaar in the summer, said the World Cup experience had been "amazing".

"It is a dream for me to play in a World Cup and I am 22 years old now, so to play in a World Cup and score, like I say, it was my biggest dream," he said.

Many believe the third-

place playoff is an unnecessary obligation for sides that would much rather go home after getting so close to the World Cup final only to fall at the final hurdle, but Aboukhal doesn't agree.

"We are fighting for third place, which is something that nobody expected, but it is like a dream coming true," he insisted.

SSP CHAWRASIA INVITATIONAL GOLF: ANIRBAN LAHIRI JOINS MANU GANDAS IN THE LEAD ON THIRD DAY

Kolkata | Agencies

The seven-time international winner Anirban Lahiri, the pre-tournament favourite, joined the in-form Manu Gandas of Gurugram in the lead at nine-under 207 at the inaugural SSP Chawrasia Invitational, a Rs. 1 crore event being played at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC), here on Friday.

Anirban and Manu's sedate rounds of one-under 71 and even-par 72 respectively were good enough to keep them in the joint lead on a tough day for scoring as the gusty winds came into play.

Gaganjeet Bhullar, another Indian star with 11 international wins, struck the day's joint-best score of 67 which featured birdies on the last four holes and helped him close the penultimate round in tied third place



along with Gurugram golfer Veer Ahlawat (70) at eight-under 208.

Anirban Lahiri (71-65-71), who was overnight second and one stroke off the lead, had an up-and-down day making two birdies and three bogeys over the first 15 holes. Lahiri, a winner at RCGC in 2013, dropped shots as a result of a couple of poor approach shots. Lahiri pulled it back with two birdies on the 16th and 17th where he landed his second shots within one foot.

Manu Gandas (69-66-72), the overnight leader by one shot, had a mixed round just like Lahiri. Gandas was two-over at the turn having dropped a bogey and a double-bogey on the seventh and eighth after finding the bunker on both occasions. Gandas then recovered ground with birdies on the 10th, 12th and 15th where he rolled in a couple of crucial putts. Gandas missed a short putt on the 17th for another bogey.

5 YOUTHS, 1 GIRL READY TO SET NEW WORLD RECORD

Mumbai | Agencies

Three teens, including a girl, and three youths will jump into the Arabian Sea at Gateway of India on December 17 for the world's longest relay-swim - 1,100-kms Mumbai-Goa-Mumbai - and create a new Guinness record, the organisers said here on Friday.

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from autism and received this year's Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Award, and a string of other honours.

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Rai said on an average, each swim-

mer will swim for six hours going and four hours on the return sojourn, and each will get their turns every 30 hours in the waters during day or night - and all swimmers have been practicing for the real test since one year.

"On successful completion, the attempt will enter the Guinness Book of World Record as "World Longest Open Water Sea Swimming Relay", said Rai, immersed in the last-minute preparations for the event.

The current GWR is held by an Indian Air Force' 6-men team, 'Sea Hawks', set in 2015, relay-swimming 1,031 kms, to break a 200-members' Italian relay-swimming team's achievement of 839 kms in 2008.

ENG VS PAK TEST SERIES

Rehan Ahmed becomes youngest English men's Test cricketer

Karachi | Agencies

Teenage leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed will become England's youngest men's Test cricketer after being handed his debut in the final game of the three-match series against Pakistan.

The Leicestershire player will be 18 years and 126 days when the final Test begins on Saturday, beating the record of Brian Close, who was 18 years and 149 days when he played against New Zealand in July 1949. Ahmed is



Ben Stokes (c), Ben Foakes, Rehan Ahmed, Ollie Robinson, Mark Wood, Jack Leach.

third and final Test. The leg-spinner Rehan and wicket-keeper Ben Foakes come into the XI, in place of seamer James Anderson and off-spinning all-rounder Will Jacks. Earlier this year, Ahmed impressed in the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup as England's second-highest wicket-taker with 12 wickets in four matches at an average of 12.58. England XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (c), Ben Foakes, Rehan Ahmed, Ollie Robinson, Mark Wood, Jack Leach.

US KIDS GOLF INDIA 2022 SERIES: MAHREEN, RANVEER, ADIT AND KRITI IMPRESS IN FINAL LEG

Gurgaon | Agencies

Adit Veeramachaneni showed that he was a cut above the rest as he shot a second successive 4-under 68 at the Classic Golf and Country Club to make a clean sweep of all the events during the season in Boys' 9 category of the US Kids Golf India. The Bengaluru lad won the final event with a fine card with six birdies against two bogeys. Adit turned in a very impressive series of scores through the six events. They included a stunning 7-under 65 at Golden Greens, two scores of 4-under 68 each in the last two legs at Classic and a 69 in the first leg. He also shot an even-par 72 in the second leg. Another impressive performer among girls was Kriti Parekh from Coonoor, who also won the Indian Championship. Playing in the Girls' 11-12 section, Kriti, who won the first leg returned to win the fifth and



sixth. Apart from Adit Veeramachaneni, two other players shot under par. They were Divyot Gupta (1-under 35 in Boys' 7) and Ranvir Singh Dhupia (1-under 71 in Boys' 13-14). Nihal Cheema, the star in the Under-6 category, who won the first four domestic events, added a fifth one as the series came to an end. He was one of the impressive scorers with an even-par 36 for his nine holes. Nihal had turned in one of the most impressive 9-hole rounds with a 6-under 30 in the third leg.

Pakistan's Azhar Ali to retire from Test cricket

Karachi | Agencies

Azhar Ali, considered as one of Pakistan's most successful batters in red-ball cricket, announced on Friday that he would be retiring from Test cricket following the third and final match of the series against England.

The Karachi Test against England will be Ali's last and 97th Test match for Pakistan, since he made his debut in the format against Australia at Lord's in 2010. Till now, he has amassed 7,097 runs in 96 matches at an average of 42.49, including 19 centuries and 35 half-centuries.

"It has been a great honour and privilege for me to represent my country at the highest level. Deciding on when to call it a day is always tough, but, after contemplating deeply, I realised that this is



the right time for me to retire from Test cricket. He is also the only Pakistan bat-

ter to score a triple-century in a pink-ball Test - a feat that he achieved against the West Indies at

Dubai in 2016. That unbeaten 302 remains his highest score in Test cricket.

"I have been blessed to share dressing room with some of the most outstanding cricketers with whom I share a strong bond. I feel much richer by calling these people my friends. I am also blessed to have played under some wonderful coaches to whom I will always remain grateful."

I retire from international cricket as a fulfilled cricketer who ticked most of the goals he had set for himself. Not many cricketers go on to lead their countries, and that I was able to captain Pakistan is a matter of great pride for me. From being a kid who started as a leg-spinner to becoming a mainstay in the Test batting line-up, I had the loveliest moments of my life that I will cherish forever," he added.



DEEPIKA PADUKONE IS A WHOLE VIBE IN THE SONG: SHILPA RAO

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The song 'Besharam Rang' from 'Pathaan' has passed the vibe check and it is all because of actress Deepika Padukone, feels singer Shilpa Rao, who has lent her voice for the number.

Rao said: "Deepika is a whole vibe in Besharam Rang and the track is addictive because of her! I have sung many songs for Deepika: some have been of romance, some have been of falling in love, some have been of finding your true self, but this one is very different. This one is where she is confident in her own skin, she's like taking on the world as brilliantly as she is and she (her character in the film) are embracing the good and the flaws that she has!" The singer added: "Deepika is saying that this is what I have to offer to the whole world and I think that is what I love about the song. Many women across the world need to feel really confident in their skin, no matter where we come from. We need to embrace our goodness with the flaws and really celebrate ourselves and that is what I love about Besharam Rang and really hope the audiences love it." The song features a sizzling Deepika with Shah Rukh Khan, who plays a gun-toting spy with a license to kill in 'Pathaan'. Both are looking their fittest best as Deepika flaunts her body in bikinis and SRK, a perfectly chiselled eight pack.



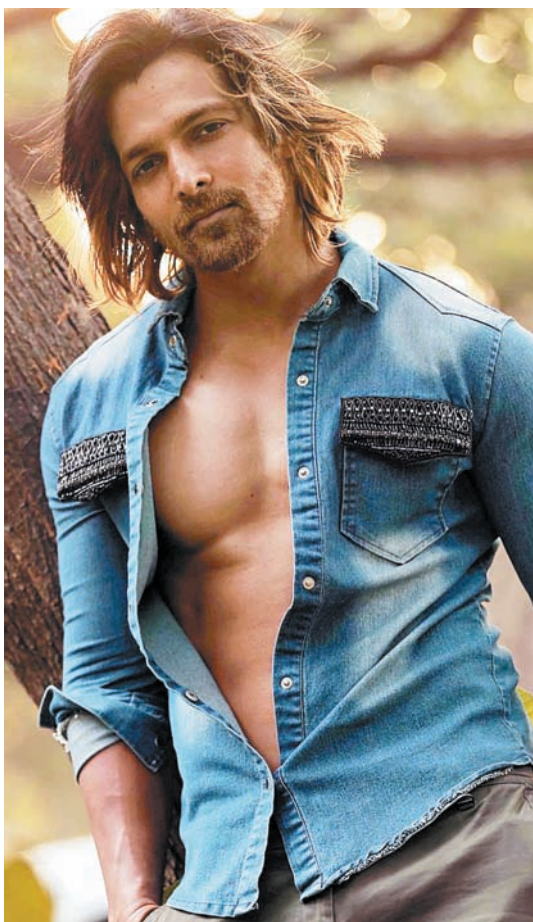
MALAIKA TALKED ABOUT HER INSECURITIES & HOW SHE DEALS WITH THEM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood diva Malaika Arora, who has made her debut in on the digital platform with her show "Moving In With Malaika", has talked about her insecurities and how she deals with them. In a candid conversation with her dear friend, Norah Fatehi, Malaika spilled the beans on her insecurities and how she handles it with utmost grace even today.

"I'm a human at the end of the day. There are days when I sit and I'm like shit man, that job could've been mine," she said. It happens all the time and there are things that can make and break anyone. Somebody else out there is younger, prettier, probably more talented as well. You've to deal with those kind of insecurities every day of your life." With the show, Malaika gives fans access to her life through unfiltered conversations in the Hotstar Specials. Created by Banijay Asia and Malaika Arora, the series is streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

Harshvardhan Rane fulfils childhood dream



Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Sanam Teri Kasam' actor Harshvardhan Rane has fulfilled his childhood dream on his birthday and purchased a campervan after a wait of 12 years.

The actor has planned to stay in his campervan until his upcoming film 'Sanam Teri Kasam 2' releases. He was last seen in 'Tara Vs Bilal'.

Having a campervan which has both sleeping and transportation facilities was always on actor's mind and he was planning to have it for past 12 years. Finally, today on December 16, he managed to purchase it.

He said: "As everyone else does, I love freedom too. Since childhood I just wanted to be unchained. Staying in the nature helps me focus on my films and keeps me connected to mother earth."

"Since last 12 years, I have been dreaming about owning a campervan which I can live in. It will help me stay outdoors for longer periods as it has a kitchen, washroom, rooftop sleeping area, workstation, wardrobe and storage."

While briefing about all the features included in his campervan, he added: "I will be able to cook fresh food and connect with local people all over my country and learn about them. The special features in my campervan is a complete gym setup which will help me stay in shape for my shoots so that my directors are also happy."

On the work front, he has completed the shoot of Sanjay Gupta's sports drama and is currently working on Bejoy Nambiar's 'Dange', post which he will start work on 'Sanam Teri Kasam 2'.



Nayanthara-starrer horror film to be released in Hindi as well

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the Nayanthara-starrer Tamil film 'Connect' gears up for its December 22 release, the makers of the film have decided to release its Hindi version looking at the response from all around. The film marks the second collaboration of director Ashwin Saravanan with Nayanthara, after 'Maya'. Aswin has also worked with Taapsee Pannu in 'Game Over' and has a strong grip on the horror-thriller genre.

Talking about the development, producer Vignesh Shivan, who is Nayanthara's husband, shared, "The audience is appreciating the work of Nayanthara in the north and since the topic is widely relatable to the masses we are planning to release the film in Hindi post its release in Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam."

He mentioned, "It is yet another amazing horror film by our director Ashwin who is the best in this genre. His previous films, 'Maya' and 'Game Over' were both watched by the Hindi belt audience and garnered immense love and we are sure that 'Connect' will also receive the same response". Produced by Vignesh Shivan under Rowdy Pictures, 'Connect' stars Sathyaraj, Anupam Kher, and Vinay Rai. The film is written by Ashwin Saravanan and Kaavya Ramkumar.

WE REHEARSED SO MUCH THAT OUR SCENES LOOK VERY NATURAL: RANVEER



Mumbai Bollywood star Ranveer Singh has opened up about shooting a scene of getting an electric shock in the film 'Cirkus'. He shares that the film director Rohit Shetty made him do the rehearsals repeatedly so as to make it look realistic.

He says: "Rohit Sir made me rehearse the scene way before we started shooting, to perfect the reaction of a person getting electrified. We rehearsed so much that our scenes look very natural and are not overdone. It is not a situation where you can take real-life experience and perform."

He shares further how he tried his best to bring perfection to the scene: "One can't just go and grab an electric wire to understand the reaction. I have tried to do it my way and there are a few special effects added by Rohit Sir to make it look more real." Ranveer heaps praise on Rohit's direction and adds: "Rohit Sir's films are made for big screens and one can witness the visual spectacle through 'Cirkus'. The film will surely leave everyone in splits."

GOVINDA NAAM MERA : THE FILM IS A LAUGHTER RIDE WITH SOME LOOPHOLES



BY AAKRUTI BAGLA

Directed by:- Shashank Khaitan
Starcast:- Bhumi Pednekar, Kiara Advani, Vicky Kaushal, Amey Wagh, Renuka Shahane
Duration:- 2 hrs 11 mins
Rating:- 3/5

STORY

The main character of the movie is Govind Waghmare, whose life is, to put it mildly, a disaster. Govinda, a struggling choreographer, is determined to separate from his controlling and violent wife Gauri. Moreover, he is involved with Suku. A major problem in his life is legal trouble over the ancestral property with the stepfamily. In the middle of all of this, he gets entangled in the murder of his wife. In addition to all of this, he is also a drug dealer. How Govinda deals with everything interestingly with some surprising twists is what the film is all about.

REVIEW

Directed by Shashank Khaitan, Govinda Mera Naam is a decently entertaining film with a mind-blowing climax. The makers have tried to pack in a lot of elements in 2 hours and 11 minutes to keep the audience invested. But does it work in their



favour? Partially yes. While some of the subplots manage to leave you chuckling, some also misfire.

To pull our attention back, we are surprised with an interesting cameo and a few surprising elements which are predictable yet convincing.

Touted to be a masala entertainer, the film consists of all necessary elements which include- comedy, a bit of romance, a pinch of suspense, and a dash of drama and mystery.

While the first half takes its own sweet time and introduces us to the life of Govinda and how he gets lured into trouble, the second half is dedicated to Govinda hatching a smart plan that progresses towards the mind-blowing climax.

Talking about direction, despite the complicated story, Shashank

Khaitan has neatly handled various twists, tracks and characters. While the climax is convincing, the screenplay overall is simple but stretched. A few developments are unexpected, but somehow things turn predictable which after a while leaves us squirming.

Coming to other technical aspects, the background score is perfect for the setting. The songs including Bijli, Pappi Jhappi and Kya Baat Hai 2.0 are well-placed. The cinematography gives the right feels and sets the atmosphere for the proceedings. However, the editing could have been a bit sharp by trimming some unnecessary parts.

When it comes to performance, Vicky, who we associate with more serious roles, attempts to make peo-

ple laugh for the first time. He projects the character's helplessness, smartness and swag with ease. Bhumi, who has less screen time, does her job well. Kiara Advani looks stunning and performs ably. Talking about the rest of the cast including Renuka Shahane, Amey Wagh, Viraj Ghelani, Trupti Khakmkar, Sayaji Shinde, and Dayanand Shetty, all contribute to the madness by putting forward a confident act.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the film is a one-time easy-breezy watch for the weekend as it is led by some fun moments, stellar performances by the ensemble cast and some surprising elements.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nikki Tamboli