



VOTE AS PER YOUR INTEREST: UMA BHARTI TO LODHI COMMUNITY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Union Minister Uma Bharti, who has been taking on Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government on liquor issue, apparently has expressed her anger once again and has urged people to 'vote as per their own choice' in the upcoming 2023 Assembly elections.

Bharti, who has been striving hard to find her place in Madhya Pradesh's politics, especially when the elections are less than one year away, addressed a gathering of people from the Lodhi community. She said, "As a true soldier of the party, she will ask people to support the BJP during the Assembly elections, but people are free to decide their own."

Notably, Bharati made this remark while addressing the function in Bhopal on Tuesday. Bharati also belongs to the Lodhi community from Chhatarpur district.

During the address, Bharati said that the people of Lodhi community were insulted by the BJP. She made this remark, indirectly referring to the



expulsion of Pritam Lodhi from the BJP for his alleged anti-Brahmin remarks earlier in August this year. Preetam Lodhi was expelled by State BJP president V.D. Sharma. Sharma is the state president of the party, a prominent Brahmin face and an MP from the Khajuraho constituency.

Khajuraho falls under Chhatarpur district, and Uma Bharti has represented the same constituency several times.

"I am a true soldier of the party and during the elections, I will appeal to vote for the BJP, but it's up to you to decide. Those who have

insulted you, then you should decide. I would appeal not only to the Lodhi community but all communities to support the BJP in 2023 elections, but people are free to decide their own. You have seen the political scenario, and if the people from your community (Lodhi) are not given importance, then you will be free to make your own decisions," Bharti said during her address.

Bharti also claimed that the BJP seeks Lodhi community's vote, but did not give them the place and insulted them instead. Earlier in August, Bharti had defended Preetam Lodhi saying that he had been targeted. The expulsion of Lodhi has created controversy in Madhya Pradesh and Bharti had said that the social structure of the MP BJP needs to be changed otherwise the party will face repercussions in the 2023 elections.

Bharti's remarks came when the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh were less than one year away from now and the state BJP unit was preparing for 2023.

CM ordered the removal of Niwari Collector and Orchha Tehsildar from the stage

Team Absolute | Niwari/Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is in full action these days. He is also taking on-the-spot decisions to rectify the glitches and tighten the government machinery. Something similar happened at Gadhkundar Mahotsav in Niwari district, where on receiving complaints from Collector Tarun Bhatnagar and Orchha Tehsildar Sandeep Sharma, both were ordered to be removed. Chief Minister Chouhan had arrived on Wednesday to participate in the Garhkundar festival on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Kher Singh Khangar. On this occasion, he said, when I came here, I got some complaints. Maharaja Kher Singh Khangar also used to serve his people better. In a democracy, we are the servants of our people. I made Niwari a district. This district is dear to me.

Taking his point forward, Chouhan said, we try to provide better service to the people here. But I have received some serious complaints from the public. I do not insult anyone, but action will be taken against those who create mess. I remove the collector of Niwari district with immediate effect.

He further said, the work of purchasing land is going on in Orchha, there is also a Tehsildar, the news of this also comes to me. I will also get them investigated, this Tehsildar is also removed with immediate effect. If there is a



mess here, then it is also the duty of the commissioner to investigate. Also, referring to the complaint of asking money for the installations of PM Awas Yojana, gave instructions for investigation. Referring to Maharaja Kher Singh Khangar, Chouhan said, he was a wonderful warrior. When Mohammad Tughlaq invaded here, the Maharaja had set his teeth sour. To protect their self-respect, the Khangar Kshatriyas had sacrificed themselves in the fire pit built in the fort. I bow down to him. Veerangana Kesari also surrendered herself in the fire pit after fighting valiantly. The Chief Minister further said that Garhkundar is the land of heroes. This is the land of the brave, this is the land of sacrifice, I bow down to this land again and again. It is said that when Maharaja Kher Singh used to use his sword, even a stone would crack.

Shivraj seeks cooperation from youth for implementation of PESA law

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In order to make the tribal class more capable and empowered in Madhya Pradesh, the state government has implemented the PESA Act with changes in it. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan claims that people are being empowered by implementing the PESA Act in the notified areas of the state. Chief Minister Chouhan has sought cooperation from the youth for its implementation. Chief Minister Chouhan called upon the youth to implement the PESA Act in a better way in the youth dialogue pro-

gram at his residence on Tuesday night.

He said that the Gram Sabha will have the right over water, forest and land. Gram Sabha has been empowered to ensure that the money of the village stays in the village. The Gram Sabha will plan the works for the year. Only Gram Sabha will provide employment to the people. If someone comes to the village from outside, then his information will also have to be given to the Gram Sabha. The Gram Sabha will also have the right to open a new liquor and cannabis shop in the notified village. Gram Sabha can also impose restrictions

in public places. A peace and dispute resolution committee will be formed in the village. There will be no need to go to the police station for minor quarrels and disputes. There are many such provisions in the PESA Act. PESA Act is a social revolution.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the youth should go to every village and explain to the people about the PESA Act. I need youths like you for this. Mama is standing with you. Chief Minister Chouhan said that cooperate seriously in the implementation of the PESA Act. We will be economically empowered by bringing social revolution.

ENCROACHMENT REMOVED FROM GOVERNMENT LAND WORTH CRORES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As per the instructions of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, strict action against the anti-mafia campaign is going on in the state. More than 11 acres of government land in Khargone has been freed from encroachment by running a campaign. The cost of freed land is more than Rs 60 crore.

According to the information received, Yogesh Thakkar has unauthorizedly constructed Maa Bageshwari Agricultural Farm on 11 acres 76 decimal land registered in the name of Manager-Collector on Khasra No.-102 and 104 of Patwari Circle No.-5 on Mangrul Road, Khargone. was captured. Collector Khargone Kumar Purushottam, Superintendent of Police Dharamveer Singh have



removed the illegal encroachment by running a joint operation. The agricultural farm and tin shed built on the encroached land have been demol-

ished. The municipality officer has been instructed to take the land under his possession. It has been told that since 2017, cases have been registered

against the encroacher in several sections in the Menganon police station of the district. Action will be taken after reviewing the matter.

CCTV cameras will be installed in each room of all examination centers of universities and colleges

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Higher Education Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has given instructions to install CCTV cameras in each room of the examination centers for transparency in the conduct of examinations. He said that the duties of the teachers involved in monitoring/supervision work at the examination centers should be changed continuously. Minister Dr. Yadav said that the duty of teachers posted in colleges located at divisional, district and tehsil headquarters should be shifted from one college to another for academic work. If a teacher's duty is posted in a college for one year, it should

be ensured that his duty is not posted again in the same college in the next year and posted in another college. In the examination centers set up in aided colleges, the work of supervisors should be done by the teachers of government colleges only. In case of shortage of speculum, work of speculum should be taken from research scholars also. Minister Dr. Yadav said that duty of executive officers related to revenue and police department should also be ensured at each examination center and sufficient number of flying squads should also be formed at the district level. He said that strict action should be taken on cases related to copying at examination centres.

Voting in 19 urban bodies on January 20 Model Code of Conduct in force in the concerned area

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The State Election Commission has released the program for the elections of 19 urban bodies. With this, the Model Code of Conduct has become effective in the concerned constituency. Voting will be held on January 20 from 7 am to 5 pm with EVMs.

State Election Commissioner Basant Pratap Singh has informed that the work of publication of election information and nomination papers will start from December 30, 2022. Nomination papers will be taken till January 6, 2023 (up to 3

pm). The nomination papers will be scrutinized on January 7. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is January 9, 2023. Election symbols will also be allotted to the contesting candidates on the same day. Voting will be held on January 20.

The counting of votes and the announcement of election results will be done on January 23 from 9 am.

Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh has told that elections will be held in Municipal Council Raghogarh-Vijaypur of Guna district, Barwani, Sendhwa of Barwani district

and Dhar, Manawar and Pithampur of Dhar district. Similarly, elections will also be held in Municipal Council Jaithari in Anuppur district, Omkareshwar in Khandwa district, Khetiya, Pansemal, Palsud, Rajpur, Anjad in Barwani district and Municipal Council in Dhar district Dharamपुर, Dhamnod, Kukshi, Rajgarh, Sardarpur and Dahi.

There are 343 wards and 720 polling stations in these urban bodies. Total voters are 5 lakh 7 thousand 308. Out of these, there are 2 lakh 60 thousand 301 male voters, 2 lakh 46 thousand 969 female voters and 38 other voters.

NIA POLICE STATION IN BHOPAL, NOTIFICATION ISSUED

Bhopal: The state government has issued a notification for the National Investigation Agency (NIA) police station in Bhopal. The NIA Police Station will be on the

third floor of the Old Crime Investigation Department in Jahangirabad. The jurisdiction of the police station will be the whole of Madhya Pradesh.

BONES FOUND IN VEG BIRYANI IN INDORE RESTAURANT

Indore: Madhya Pradesh police have registered a case against a restaurant owner in Indore following allegations of serving non-vegetarian food to a vegetarian.

The complainant Akash Dubey had ordered veg biryani but spotted bones on his plate at the restaurant in Vijay Nagar area.

He complained about it to the restaurant manager and staff, after which they apologised to him. Akash then registered a case at Vijay Nagar police station.

"Vijay Nagar police has registered an FIR under Section 298 against the restaurant manager Swapnil Gujrati. At present, the matter is being investigated, after which further action will be taken," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Sampat padhyay said.

FROM CM TO GENERAL PUBLIC ALL ENGAGED IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Madhya Pradesh is playing an important role in environmental protection and tackling the global challenge of climate change.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is planting saplings daily from February 19, 2021. No matter which part of the world Shri Chouhan stays, his resolve is not broken even for a single day.

As is the ruler, so are the people

Chief Minister Chouhan also involved the people of the state in this campaign of plantation. From June 5, 2021, World Environment Day, "Ankur Programme" was started in the state. So far, 15 lakh 87 thousand 674 citizens of the state have registered in the programme operated through "Vayudoot App". Photos have been uploaded by the participants after planting 36 lakh 94 thousand 569 saplings. Citizens have shown interest in the plantation programme on a large scale in all the districts.

Photos of saplings are being uploaded on the app

Mobile App- Vayudoot (Ankur) is available on Google Play Store and Apple Store for easy participation of people in Ankur programme. Participants plant at least one sapling from their resources and upload its photo on the Vayudoot app. For the encouragement of the citizens, facility has been given to download the participation certificate by uploading a new photo of the same sapling planted on the app after 30 days of plantation. For the purpose of motivating people to take care of the



planted saplings, there is also a facility to upload the third photo on the app after 6 months of plantation. There is a provision for

honouring the urban and rural participants with Pranavayu Award selected and verified by district-wise computer lottery with the title of

Vriksha-Veer and Vriksha-Veerangana. Mass plantation became a mass movement In the programme, from March 1 to 5, 2022

and from July 28 to August 15, 2022, the mega plantation drive was conducted. In the first plantation mega drive, 8 lakh 97 thousand 590 people planted saplings and uploaded their photos. This figure had almost doubled to 17 lakh 28 thousand 77 in the second mega campaign in July-August. In both the campaigns, citizens, students, government departments and voluntary organisations have converted the Chief Minister's tree plantation resolution into a grand campaign.

Corona made us realize the importance of oxygen

In the second wave of Corona, the world realised with great intensity the priceless gift of oxygen provided by nature. Initiated by the Chief Minister, the Ankur programme is enriching the environment with vital oxygen along with increasing the green cover of the state, which is a unique gift for the coming generations.

1175 participants honoured with Pranavayu Award

In the first phase of the Ankur programme, 1175 participants selected and verified district-wise by computer lottery have been awarded the Pranavayu Award among the participants who uploaded the second and third photos by February 15, 2022. Mobile app is being used to mark and verify the geo-tagged location of plantation done in the campaign.



EDITOR'S SPECS

People from smaller cities flying high on UDAN

The Centre's ambitious regional connectivity scheme, Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik or UDAN, is going to add more feathers in its cap in the coming year. As many as 453 routes have already been flagged off under the scheme connecting cities across the country...

Indian Americans turn to 'assertive Hinduism' to define identity

Yashwant Raj | Washington

Assertive Hinduism was the most visible US import from India in 2022, courtesy the Indian American community. An event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence at US Capitol, home to US democracy and Congress, was turned into a celebration of their Hindu faith by organisers and attendees...

with a coalition of Muslims, African Americans and civil rights groups calling for the US authorities to investigate its organisers, which included the Overseas Friends of BJP. This import from India was also seen in other countries with significant presence of the Indian diaspora in 2022.

Americans hosted two events at the Capitol in 2022 to register their desire to shunt the generic name of the community from Indian American, as the nearly 4 million Americans of Indian extraction have been called for decades, to Hindu American as some in the community have been advocating for long, but unsuccessfully until now.

Americans -- as a political force in US politics, which was cited as a reason by the organisers for hosting at the US Capitol, to deliver the message directly to US lawmakers.

PUTIN HAS BUILT A POWER STRUCTURE THAT ONLY TELLS HIM WHAT HE WANTS TO HEAR

Russian President Vladimir Putin expected the war in Ukraine to be swift, popular, and triumphant. For months, he struggled to come to terms with what instead became a costly quagmire, and found himself isolated and distrustful at the pinnacle of a power structure designed to reinforce his belligerent worldview and shelter him from discouraging news, media reports said.

Wall Street Journal reported. The resulting mistakes have shaped Russia's disastrous invasion of Ukraine - from the initial days, when Putin thought his soldiers would be met with flowers, to recent humiliating withdrawals in the northeast and south. Over time, Putin, who has never served in the military, has become so wary of his own command structure that he has issued orders directly to the front line.

former Russian intelligence officer and current and former Russian officials, Wall Street Journal reported. He has long refused to use the internet for fear of digital surveillance, Russian and US officials have said, making him more dependent on briefing documents compiled by ideologically aligned advisers.

since World War II, Wall Street Journal reported. For months, a trickle of Russian officials, pro-government journalists and analysts tried to bring word in person to their President about how his invasion was floundering, according to people familiar with the matter.

failures to poor planning by government officials. Konstantin Zatulinski, a senior lawmaker from the ruling United Russia party who supports the war, said in an interview that the President "proceeded from an incomplete understanding of the situation and in some ways not fully correct".



US SC KEEPS TRUMP-ERA BORDER POLICY IN PLACE

Washington | Agencies



The US Supreme Court has voted to keep in place a Trump-era asylum-limiting measure, blocking thousands of people from crossing the country's border with Mexico.

Tuesday's 5-4 decision reversed lower court decisions that the so-called Title 42 policy, applied about 2.5 million times since March 2020, had to end December 21, reports Xinhua news agency.

This means that the policy will remain in effect until a final ruling.

Title 42, which came into effect in spring 2020 in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, allows US border officials to automatically expel undocumented migrants and asylum-seekers seeking entry into America.

The court's decision was in response to an emergency appeal from some Republican-led states who had asked for the policy to remain in place.

Also on Tuesday, the Supreme Court scheduled arguments in the case for February 2023, with a final decision expected later in summer.

The White House responded in a statement that the Supreme Court's order "keeps the current Title 42 policy in place while the Court reviews the matter in 2023".

"We will, of course, comply with the order and prepare for the Court's review... We are advancing our prepara-

tions to manage the border in a secure, orderly, and humane way when Title 42 eventually lifts and will continue expanding legal pathways for immigration," it said in a statement.

The Department of Homeland Security also weighed in on the Supreme Court's order on Tuesday, saying that "individuals who attempt to enter the US unlawfully will continue to be expelled to Mexico or their home country".

The Department also said the "decades-old" immigration system is broken while urging Congress to pass comprehensive reform legislation.

About two million people have been expelled under Title 42 in fiscal years 2021-22, according to US Customs and Border Protection's data.

Washington-Moscow relationship at its lowest point: Russian FM

Moscow | Russian

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said that the Washington-Moscow relationship is at its lowest point. "Indeed, Russia-US relations are in an extremely poor state. They have become practically frozen through the fault of Washington. Its confrontational anti-Russia policy is becoming increasingly exacerbated and comprehensive. It is objectively impossible to maintain any kind of normal communication with the Biden administration..." Lavrov told TASS news agency in an interview.



"Undoubtedly, our relations with the European Union have deteriorated to a historic low. The reasons for this are well known. Since the beginning of the special military operation, Brussels, following the US and NATO, has declared a hybrid war against Russia. EU chief diplomat Josep Borrell was among the first to voice the opinion that Russia must be defeated on the battlefield," he added.

INDIAN SCIENTIST HONORED AS ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP TALENTS IN BIOLOGY

London | Agencies



An Indian scientist has been chosen to join the prestigious European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Young Investigator network, recognising her as one of the top talents in biology in Europe.

Based within the University's Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit (MRC-PPU), Mahima joins 23 other researchers to become a part of the network of 135 current and 390 former members of the EMBO programme.

"I am really excited to be a part of this network and meet all the dynamic young scientists doing cutting-edge research across Europe. I believe that being a part of this esteemed group will help our research immensely, and I am very grateful to my lab and my mentors for the support that got me this award," Mahima said in a state-

ment. A key part of her work is the study of inflammatory bowel diseases and how these can be prompted by the body's immune system attacking the gut lining in the absence of infection.

Her research aims to address how one can better harness the gut immune system to protect against harmful invasion, but also prevent it from damaging the gut.

The EMBO Young Investigator programme supports the scientific endeavours of researchers who have become laboratory group leaders in the last four years.

EMBO Young Investigators receive an award of 15,000 euros in the second year of their tenure and can apply for additional grants of up to 10,000 euros per year.

Nearly 4,900 flights cancelled in US due to deadly winter storm

Washington | Agencies



As a deadly winter storm continues to wreak havoc across the US, nearly 4,900 flights were cancelled, with more than 4,400 others delayed in the last 24 hours, the media reported. Southwest Airlines was the hardest hit as it cancelled over 60 per cent or 2,500 of its flights on Tuesday, reports the BBC. More than 3,500 flights scheduled to leave Wednesday have already been cancelled, according to flight tracking service FlightAware. Since the storm began on December 22, nearly 20,000 flights have been cancelled across the US, the service added.

working to ensure airlines are held accountable for disruptions. He urged passengers to check whether they are entitled to compensation. Southwest, for its part, has repeatedly apologised and said the disruptions caused by the winter weather are "unacceptable". On its website, the airline said that it will honour "reasonable requests" for reimbursement for meals, hotel and alternate transportation for those who have had flights cancelled or delayed between December 24, 2022 and January 2, 2023, the BBC reported.

BRITISH INDIAN ARMY MEMORIAL COMING UP IN GLASGOW

London | British



A city council in the UK has approved plans to erect a memorial in Scotland to recognise the service and sacrifice of more than four million Indian soldiers in the British Army. The plans for the memorial, which will come up near Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, were submitted by Colourful Heritage -- a group that captures first-hand accounts of first-generation South Asians in Scotland, The Glasgow Times reported.

The upcoming structure will feature a 'Chattri' (dome) design for the roof and Lochbriggs sandstone columns, matching the Kelvingrove architecture.

Pillars will be carved creating a South Asian design, and cherry trees will be planted along with benches for people to sit and reflect. The Indian Army soldiers in the UK were from modern day Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

UNSC reiterates call for women's equal participation in Afghanistan

United Nations | Agencies



The UN Security Council has reiterated its call for full participation of women and girls in the Afghan society, expressing concern about the Taliban's latest ban on female students from going to universities.

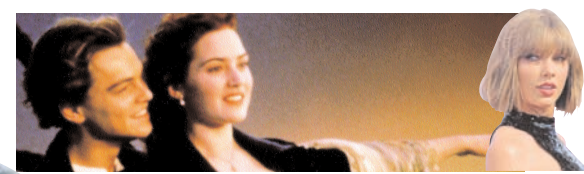
"Deeply alarmed" by reports that the Taliban have suspended access to universities for women and girls, the Council on Tuesday reiterated its concern over the suspension of school beyond the sixth grade and its call for "the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in Afghanistan", Xinhua news agency.

The Council called on the Taliban regime "to reopen schools and swiftly reverse these policies and practices", which represent "an increasing erosion of the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms". Council members are "furthermore profoundly concerned" by reports that the Taliban have banned female employees of non-governmental

organisations (NGO) and international organisations from going to work, which would have a significant and immediate impact on humanitarian operations in the country, including those of the UN, and the delivery of aid and health work.

These restrictions contradict the commitments made by the Taliban to the Afghan people and the expectations of the international community, the council said.

On December 20, the Taliban's Education Ministry announced the indefinite suspension of university education for female students all across the war-torn nation.



'Is it that hard to take a picture together?'

Kim Kardashian is accused of 'photoshopping' her entire FAMILY in a group snap from their festive bash

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kim Kardashian has been accused of photoshopping her family together after they appeared to pose for a festive group snap during their annual Christmas Eve bash. The reality star, 42, had taken to Instagram to share a gallery of snaps with her famous siblings and mother Kris Jenner, but eagle-eyed fans were quick to notice a series of distortions that hinted the photos were edited.

Kim had taken to social media on Monday to share a slew of behind-the-scenes images from the family's annual Christmas Eve party, after donning a series of stunning red and white gowns for their lavish celebra-

tion. Among the images Kim posted was a gorgeous group snap of herself alongside her mother Kris, and her sisters Kourtney, 43, Khloe, 38, Kendall, 27, and Kylie, 25.

While Kim looked ravishing in a gorgeous silver gown, and Kourtney donned a skintight white ruched dress, Kris, Khloe and Kendall all wowed in stunning red looks. However, in the comments section of Kim's post, viewers were quick to accuse the star of editing the images, with one claiming it looked as if different photos of Kim and her sisters had been cut together to give the illusion of a group snap. Several fans also noted that the placement of Kendall's feet gave the illusion that the snap had been edited.



Cameron trimmed 10 minutes of gun violence in 'Avatar: Way of Water'

Los Angeles | Agencies

A lot has been said about the length of James Cameron's long-awaited 'Avatar: The Way of Water'. The three-hour runtime has hardly stopped the film from topping box office charts around the world. Now Cameron has revealed the film would have run 10 minutes longer had he not cut out scenes with gun violence, reports Variety.

The filmmaker told 'Esquire Middle East' that he is no longer interested in fetishising guns in his action scenes given the rampant gun violence in the U.S.

"I actually cut about 10 minutes of the movie targeting gunplay action," Cameron said quoted by Variety. "I wanted to get rid of some of the ugliness, to find a balance between light and dark. You have to have conflict, of course. Violence and action are the same thing, depending on how you look at it. This is the dilemma of every action filmmaker,

and I'm known as an action filmmaker." As per Variety, Cameron said that he looks back on some films that he has made, and he doesn't know if he would want to make that film now.

"I don't know if I would want to fetishise the gun, like I did on a couple of 'Terminator' movies 30-plus years ago, in our current world. What's happening with guns in our society turns my stomach." "I'm happy to be living in New Zealand where they just banned all assault rifles two weeks after that horrific mosque shooting a couple of years ago," Cameron added as an aside. Given Cameron's comments, it's safe to assume that action scenes in 'The Terminator' franchise will look a bit different should it ever return to the screen.



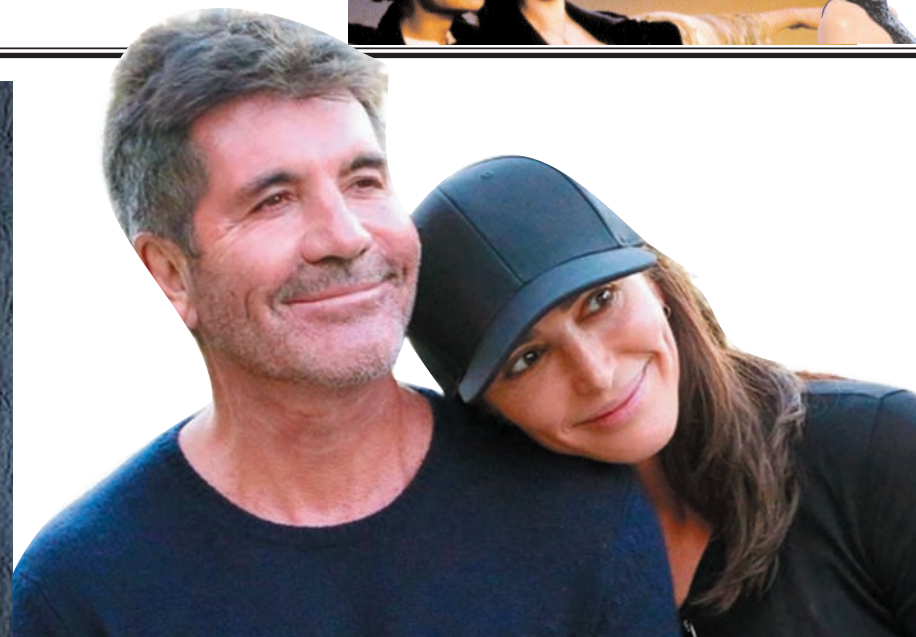
'Glass Onion' director is unhappy about film's title

Los Angeles | Agencies

Director Rian Johnson is not too pleased with the title of his acclaimed 'Knives Out' sequel 'Glass Onion'. Johnson expressed frustration over having to add 'A Knives Out Mystery' to the film's title for marketing purposes, reports Variety. "I've tried hard to make them self-contained," Johnson said about his 'Knives Out' films, the only overlap between the 2019 original and its 2022 sequel being Daniel Craig's detective character. "Honestly, I'm pissed off that we have 'A Knives Out Mystery' in the title. You know? I want it to just be called 'Glass Onion'," he said, quoted by Variety.

"I get it, and I want everyone who liked the first movie to know this is next in the series, but also, the whole appeal to me is it's a new novel off the shelf every time," Johnson added. "But there's a gravity of a thousand suns toward serialised storytelling."

As per Variety, 'Glass Onion', which has been at the top of Netflix's daily most-watched chart since its streaming debut, features an entirely new mystery and ensemble of suspects, including Dave Bautista, Janelle Monae, Kathryn Hahn, Kate Hudson and Edward Norton, among others.



Simon Cowell to wed Lauren Silverman

Los Angeles | Agencies

Simon Cowell has opened up about his plans to enjoy a 'spontaneous' wedding day with wife-to-be Lauren Silverman. He has been in a relationship with 45-year-old Lauren since 2013 and they announced their engagement at the beginning of this year, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Media reports earlier this year suggested that the couple, who share an eight-year-old son named Eric, were set to tie the knot in London over the summer, but this failed to materialise.

As per Mirror.co.uk, Simon has claimed he is planning to have an almost unplanned wedding instead - saying he will whisk Lauren down an aisle at the drop of the hat rather than plan an over-the-top ceremony.

He told The Sun: "I like to make everything spontaneous, and doing that will make it a lot more fun."

He added, quoted by Mirror.co.uk: "I don't think we'll be getting married in Las Vegas, but whatever we do will definitely be fun."



ADELE ADDS \$13.8 MN TO HER FORTUNE AFTER RELEASING FIRST ALBUM IN 5 YEARS

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Hello' singer Adele added \$13.8 million to her fortune last year after releasing her first album in five years. With cash pouring in from royalties, figures last week showed her company Melted Stone Ltd has reserves of \$18 million for 2021, up from \$4.2 million in 2020, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. It takes the profits from 'Rolling In The Deep' star Adele's lyrics and sheet music and it is now worth \$4.2 million. Her firm A Adkins Touring Ltd, which looks after live music, made a loss of close to \$100,000.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', it will have made millions this year, thanks to Adele's live shows in London's Hyde Park and her money-spinning residency in Las Vegas, which has been a huge success. Her latest album '30' came out in November 2021, to add to her hits 19, 21 and 25. Adele has been opening up to fans while on stage in Vegas. She wept this month as she spoke about the importance of having good friends "when relationships fall apart". The 'Rolling In The Deep' hitmaker said: "I just see so many groups of friends that come in here - loving an artist or loving a song that's how I became so close to some of my friends so watching you bring it all with your friends is just so moving to me."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Hailey Bieber

SAM - BRITNEY SPRINGING NEW CONSPIRACY THEORY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sam Asghari recently posed alongside his wife Britney Spears in a rare picture posted on his Instagram. This picture has led to conspiracy theories by the fans of his pop icon wife, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. Fans are speculating that it's not them in the picture. Chart-topping songstress Britney, 41, is known for her questionable social media activity, but model husband Sam, 28, maintains a lower profile. As per Mirror.co.uk, despite boasting of more than 3 million followers, Sam rarely shares updates with his followers - but seemingly made an exception for the Christmas holidays. "Merry Britmas to you all from Samta & Britney," he posted yesterday, alongside a sweet snap of the pair on top of a hill with a scenic view. His update began: "A little hike and a little meditation on Christmas Day goes a long way my wife is really becoming a meditation guru and I love it." Fans had only recently claimed that Britney was no longer in control of her Instagram page after she switched off the facility to comment on her posts. Mirror.co.uk further states that in a new conspiracy theory, fans claim that it's not actually Sam or Britney in his latest picture, saying they look "nothing alike". Most were quick to snap back at the conspiracy theories, as fans urged others not to criticise the couple.





'Chiranjeevi flirts with Urvashi Rautela'

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Telugu megastar Chiranjeevi, who is gearing up for his film, 'Waltair Veerayya', happily flirted with Urvashi Rautela during a media event organised for the film in Hyderabad. The megastar praised Urvashi, as he said: "Urvashi has done a fantastic job in Boss Party. It's wonderful working with her. I didn't know who was doing the song, but when I got to know its Urvashi, I was very excited."

Hearing the words of praise, Urvashi stood up as a gesture and went ahead to shake hands with him.

What happened next was something

nobody expected - Chiranjeevi acted like his hand was stuck to Urvashi's. He then went on to say: "My hand got stuck because there's a magnet not in my hand but in my heart."

While the megastar showed up in all-black, Urvashi attended the event silver saree with a black floral print and a sleeveless blouse.

On the work front, Urvashi will be seen alongside Ram Pothineni. She will also play Randeep Hooda's co-star in 'Inspector Avinash'.

The actress is also making her Hollywood debut with Michele Morrone on Netflix. And, in an upcoming global music single, she will also be seen with Jason Derulo.



'Munni Badnaam' got my career back on track: Lalit Pandit

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Lalit Pandit of the Jatin-Lalit duo has created chartbuster tracks for films like Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar, Khiladi, Raju Ban Gaye Gentleman, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai and many more in his career spanning three decades.

After working on Film Fanaa in 2006, the brothers parted ways professionally and have been working independently since then. Absolute India News caught up with the singer for an exclusive chat as he came up with his new single Zara Dil Khol Ke. Talking about the idea behind his new song, the singer said, "It is a pretty upbeat and easygoing song. I wrote and sang it as a tribute to my Panchgani boarding school, which just celebrated its 100th anniversary."

The singer also pointed out how their music of the '90s was original and way ahead of the time. "The songs I've composed for Jo Jeeta Wahi Sikander, DDLJ, and Kuch Kuch Hota Hai were years ahead of their time. Even now, you won't be able to hear that sound. These tunes were groundbreaking while being produced and made in a very different setup. Even the organisation in charge of managing the music claims that after R.D. Burman's music, it is the Jatin-Lalit



segment that has achieved cult status. It's because our music is being listened to by the younger generation, who were not even born at that time", said the singer. Lalit Pandit further spoke about the split with his brother Jatin Pandit and shared, "It took immense hard work to reach that point of stardom in music. During the music of Fanaa, we had already split and so I had it in mind that the music needed to give a respectable end to the brand name. It was in a way a tribute from my end." Prod him on the reunion, and Lalit says, "We did a show together in 2019. I was hoping that we could at least work together on a few things but unfortunately, it didn't work out. I could not cope with that situation and was com-

pletely convinced that I will not go back. I am happy and peaceful and not looking forward to changing that now. If change is required then it has to come from Jatin's side and not mine." Sharing how Munni Badnaam consolidated his career post-split, Lalit Pandit quipped, "Munni Badnaam got my career back on track post-Jatin-Lalit split. It won all possible awards and is the biggest hit of my career. Since then I have been progressing and have done 27 films individually."

On a parting note, Lalit Pandit seconded his thoughts on the song Besharam Rang row and averred, "I believe that people should leave the creativity to creative people."

I hope that this is a phase that will fade away. Certain decisions should also be left to the censor board as it is a body decided by the government comprising of knowledgeable people."

GURMEET CHOUDHARY & DEBINA ARE EXCITED FOR THE 'NEW YEAR'S EVE'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bollywood actor Gurmeet Choudhary spoke about his New Year plans, resolutions, and his upcoming live performance with his wife and actress Debina Bonnerjee after two years of the pandemic. He said: "Debina and I both are very excited to perform on this New Year's Eve after two years of the pandemic. It's going to be very exhilarating to perform in front of a massive audience and I cannot wait to feel the positive energy of the crowd once again." The two are going to perform at the Country Club on the eve of December 31. While talking about his travel plans, he said: "So far I haven't thought much about my travel plans but there are some places on my wish list. If things work I would surely want to visit Switzerland, London, and Paris in 2023." Gurmeet, who made his Bollywood debut with the psychologi-

cal and horror thriller 'Khamoshiyan', has also worked in several TV shows. He is known for his portrayal of Rama in 'Ramayana', and also acted in 'Geet - Hui Sabse Parayi', 'Punar Vivaah - Zindagi Milegi Dobara', and also emerged as the winner of 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 5'. The actor has always talked about his interest in Bollywood. On getting candid about his resolution for the coming year, he added: "I am starting the year working and my resolution is to continue doing the same. 2022 has been a fruitful year for me personally and professionally and would want to now just work harder and spend lots of time with my lovely family. My resolution is to keep focusing on the good and entertain my fans to the fullest." "I have a couple of interesting projects coming up which are really exciting and I am looking forward to the official announcement soon," he concluded.



SAI TAMHANKAR TO HOST A NEW 'DOCUMENTARY SERIES'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

From checking out the state's variety of cuisines to exploring its places of worship, forts, and historical monuments, the seven-part series 'Postcards from Maharashtra' gave the actress and show host Sai Tamhankar new insights into the people and cul-

ture of her state.

Sai was seen most recently in Subhash Ghai's crime thriller 'Black & White'. She made her Marathi cinema debut with 'Sanai Chaugade' and appeared in the Amir Khan-starrer 'Ghajini' as well. Talking about hosting the series, she said: "Through this opportunity, I got a chance to experience and rekindle my love for the mystic beauty, palatable delicacies, and the rich Marathi culture like a traveller.

Being part of the series made me feel proud to be a Marathi Mulgi and this series will always own a special place in my heart." Through the series, Sai will be seen talking about the ancient caves of Elephanta, UNESCO heritage sites in Aurangabad, and the temples of Pune and Nashik. Apart from exploring different places, forts, and temples, the audience will also get to see the host enjoying the local food of Maharashtra.

Namita Thapar named her sons after Jai & Veeru

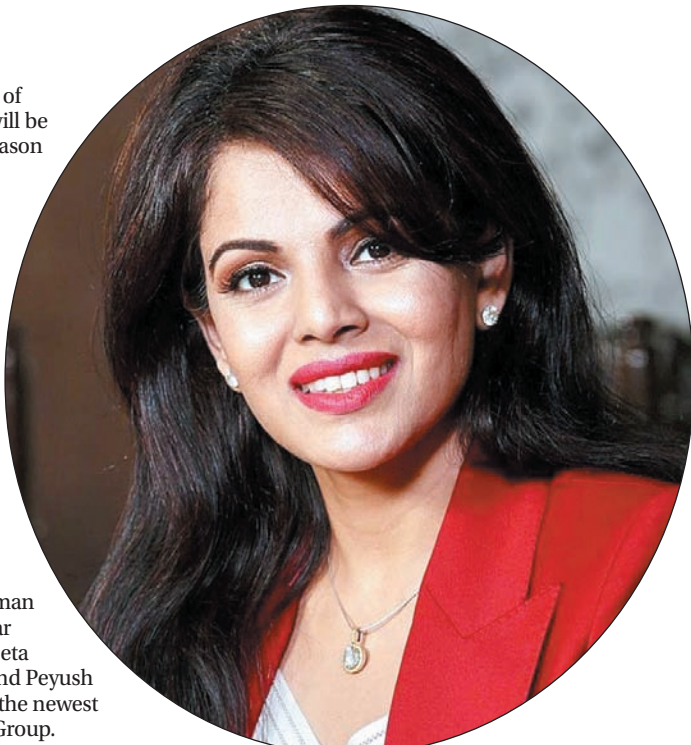
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Namita Thapar, executive director of Emcure Pharmaceuticals, who will be seen as a shark on the second season of 'Shark Tank India', took over the hot seat on 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 14'.

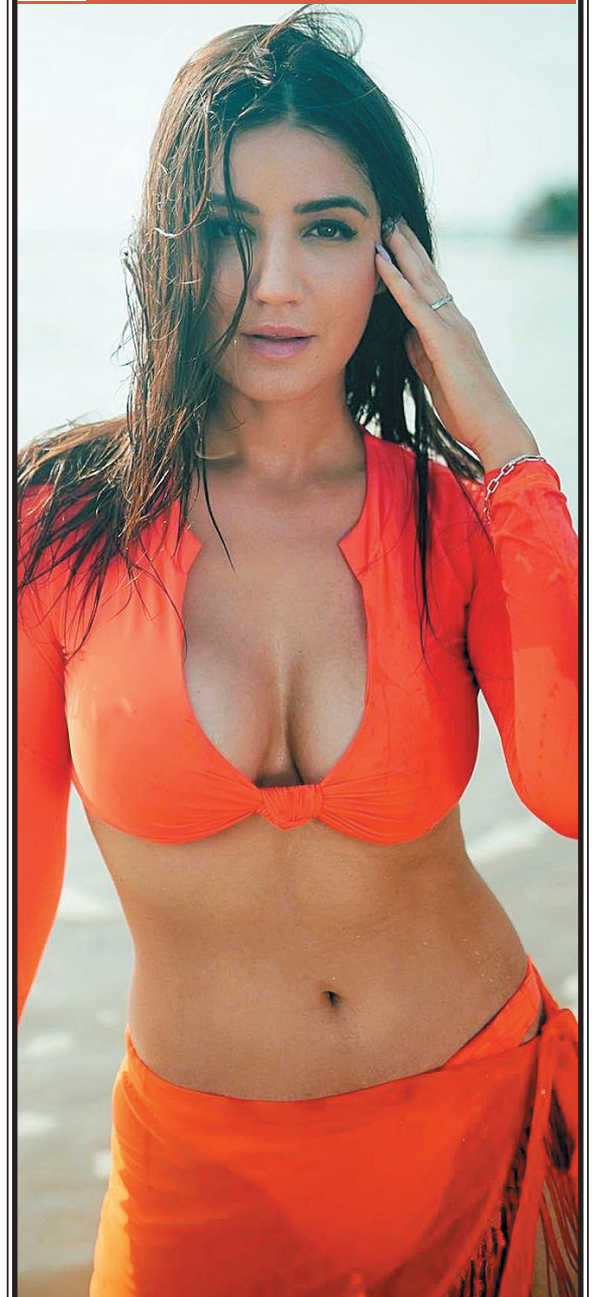
In a conversation with the host and megastar Amitabh Bachchan, she said not only is she a big fan of his, but she's married to one as well.

Thapar said: "I deserve to sit on the hotseat first because, I am such a big fan of yours that I got married to a man who is your fan as well, and I even named my sons Jay and Veeru." She was referring to the names of the characters Jai and Veeru, played by Bachchan and Dharmendra respectively, in the blockbuster movie 'Sholay'.

The 'Shark' then recited a poem she prepared for the host. For the 'Finale Week', a bunch of 'Sharks' from the upcoming season of 'Shark Tank India' will appear on 'KBC14'. They include Anupam Mittal (Founder and CEO of Shaadi.com - People Group), Aman Gupta (Co-Founder and CMO of boAt), Namita Thapar (Executive Director of Emcure Pharmaceuticals), Vineeta Singh (Co-Founder and CEO of SUGAR Cosmetics), and Peyush Bansal (Founder & CEO of Lenskart.com), along with the newest addition, Amit Jain CEO and Co-Founder, CarDekho Group.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Emy Aela