



Dharavi revamp figures in Davos, CM says it's 'eco-friendly development'

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde raised the issue of the proposed makeover of Dharavi considered among the world's worst eyesore slums before a dazzling global audience of influencers in the cool climes of Davos, terming it as an 'environment-friendly' development project. Addressing the Congress Centre at the ongoing World Economic Forum (WEF)-2023 on Tuesday evening in Switzerland, Shinde said that although Mumbai has the biggest natural forest, it is also home to the world's largest slum, the Dharavi, literally meaning 'quicksand', in the south-central part. "In order to make Mumbai slum-free, we are implementing the largest public-private-partnership (PPP) real estate program of slum redevelopment. We are providing free homes of 300 sq. feet to each slum-dweller," informed Shinde. He termed it as the biggest pro-



gram to rehabilitate around 56,000 families which will help reduce pollution and other environmental side-effects. Through slum redevelopment, Shinde claimed that the government has succeeded in saving more than 800 hectares of mangroves dotting the country's commercial capital. Speaking on the viability of the mega-project, the Chief Minister said

that cross-subsidy is being given for the vacant spaces, and a portion of the land in these major redevelopment schemes is also being developed into parks or for afforestation purposes. Now, along with these organisations or NGOs, the locals also take part in keeping public toilets and other areas clean and these efforts are

improving the life and living standards of around 1.5 million families, said the Chief Minister. Shinde made a firm commitment to continue 'environment-friendly' development, in accordance with the best principles of conservation, connectivity and clean cities' to lessen the impact on the changing global weather. "We are trying to reduce carbon emissions by increasing the forest cover, solid waste management, promoting green wind and solar energy, and providing climate education at the school levels. If sustainable development is desired, PPP is necessary and Maharashtra is already leading in it," Shinde asserted. He also said the current India's G20 Presidency is also an added opportunity for the state to prepare the next roadmap to grapple with climate change under the guidance of PM Modi, and with help from the developed nations. Shinde is shopping for investments and hopes to net project commitments of around Rs 1.40 lakh crore during his trip, of which around 90K-crore was achieved till Tuesday.

PM MODI'S VISIT Police bans use of drones, flying objects for 24 hours

Team Absolute | Mumbai Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mumbai on January 19, the city police have banned the use of drones and other flying objects around Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), Andheri and Jogheshwari for 24 hours. The order issued by DCP (Operations), Mumbai Police, Vishal Thakur said, "Due to the situation prevailing in the areas under the control of the Commissioner of Police, Brihan Mumbai, it is apprehended that during the Prime Minister of India's Mumbai visit on January 19 at BKC MMRDA Ground, Metro Line no. 7, Gundavali Station to Mograpada Metro Station that anti-social elements may attack using drones, paragliders, remote control microlight aircraft and there is every likelihood breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquility and also there is grave danger to the human life, health,



and injury to public property." It further said "no drone, para-gliders, and remote control microlight aircraft flying activities to be allowed in the jurisdiction of BKC police station, Andheri police station, Meghwadi police station and Jogheshwari police station." When contacted, a senior Mumbai Police official confirmed about the order being issued. The order said, "The order shall remain in force with effect from 00.01 hours of January 19 till 24.00 hours of January 19. Any person contravening this order shall

be punishable under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860." PM Modi will visit Mumbai on Thursday to lay the foundation stone of various infrastructure projects in the city. He will also inaugurate two Metro lines - 2A (which will run between Andheri to west Dahisar), and 7 (which will run between Andheri east to Dahisar). PM Modi is also expected to make a few announcements for the city ahead of the BMC polls. PM Modi is likely to address a public rally during his visit to the city.

"Loss of percentage" swipe at team Thackeray: Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday hurled a "loss of percentage" jibe at the Uddhav Thackeray faction of Shiv Sena for questioning the proposed concretisation of roads in Mumbai. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aadiya Thackeray had alleged tenders worth more than Rs 6,000 crore were floated at a higher price for the concretisation of 400 km of roads in Mumbai for the benefit of contractors. He had demanded the same should be scrapped. "The real pain behind such criticism is they will not get a certain percentage for sanctioning work orders from



construction companies. They were used to this practice for the last many years," Fadnavis told reporters when asked about Aadiya Thackeray's remarks. Fadnavis visited the MMRDA ground in Bandra Kurla Complex on Wednesday afternoon along with top police officers to take stock of the preparations on the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. "A probe report ordered by me as the chief minister in

2018 found that 200 roads in Mumbai had no lower layer. This is how they used to issue work orders for road constructions every year and get a certain amount of percentage at the time of sanctioning," he said. "Once we construct concrete roads, they will remain for 40 years," Fadnavis added. Notably, the Shiv Sena had been in power in the Mumbai civic body for over two decades before the tenure of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation ended last year. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has set its eyes on the cash-rich civic body to dislodge the rival Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) faction from power in the civic elections, the schedule for which is yet to be announced.

ECI ANNOUNCES 2 PUNE ASSEMBLY BY POLLS ON FEB 27

Mumbai: The Election Commission of India on Wednesday announced its poll schedules to fill up two vacant seats in the Maharashtra Assembly. The seats are Kasbapeth and Chinchwad Assembly segments in Pune where the elections shall be held on February 27. The two bypolls are necessitated by the death of two Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs - Mukta S. Tilak (Kasbapeth) and Laxman P. Jagtap (Chinchwad) - both succumbing to cancer in a span of barely 11 days in December-January. The ECI will issue the notification for the polls on January 31, the last date for filing papers is February 7, the polling will be held on February 27 and the counting of votes and results shall be announced on March 2.

Police book Nawab Malik's son, daughter-in-law for submitting 'fake' visa papers

Team Absolute | Mumbai The Mumbai Police have booked former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik's son Faraz Malik, and his second wife Hamleen F. Malik for allegedly submitting fake papers for her visa application, officials said here on Wednesday. The purported fraudulent documents came to light during a scrutiny of the papers submitted by Faraz and his wife Hamleen - who is reportedly a French national - conducted by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), which informed the Kurla police station. Based on this, the police late on Tuesday lodged an FIR against Faraz Malik



and his second wife Hamleen Malik under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Foreigners Act, pertaining to cheating, forgery, etc. No arrests have been made so far and a detailed probe is currently underway into the matter, officials said.

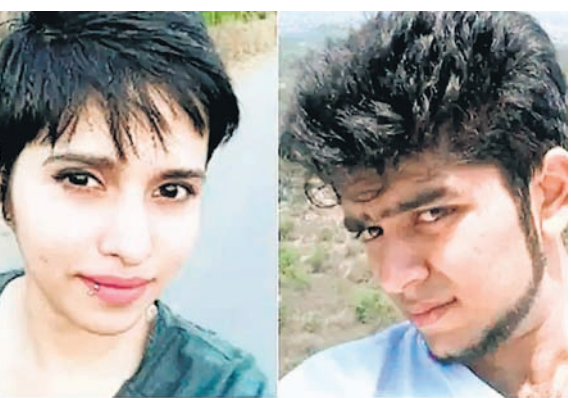
Meanwhile, a former BJP leader Mohit Kamboj-Bharatiya slammed the Malik family for "accusing others while they are themselves full of frauds". Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Nawab Malik was nabbed by the Enforcement Directorate in

February last year and is currently in custody for the past 11 months in an alleged money-laundering case arising out of a tainted land deal linked to absconding mafia don, Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar. Prior to his arrest, Malik Sr. had shot into the limelight after he ran a campaign targeting former Narcotics Control Bureau Mumbai zonal chief Sameer Wankhede. Wankhede came under flak after he carried out an alleged drug party bust on a luxury cruise ship in October 2021 in which Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, several glam world personalities and some foreigners were among those nabbed.

SHRADDHA WALKAR'S CASE

Father demands action against policemen, who did not act on complaints

Palghar | Agencies ikas Walkar, father of Shradha Walkar who was murdered allegedly by her live-in partner Aaftab Poonawala, met Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar police chief Madhukar Pandey and demanded action against the policemen who apparently did not act swiftly on two complaints. Pandey has assured action against the erring officials, Walkar told reporters outside the MBVV police commissioner's office at Vasai in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Tuesday. This was the second meeting between the two. According to Walkar, Shradha had filed a com-



plaint with the Tulj police in 2020 accusing Poonawala of abusing and assaulting her, while he himself had approached the Manikpur police after his daughter went

missing last year. Both police stations, which come under the jurisdiction of the MBVV, did not act on the complaints quickly, he had alleged earlier. Poonawala allegedly stran-

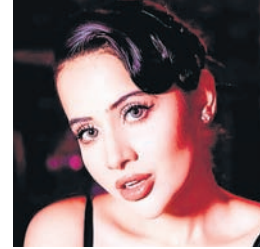
gled Shradha and cut her body into 35 pieces which he kept in a fridge at his residence in Mehrauli in south Delhi in May last year, before dumping them across the city over several days. He was arrested in Delhi in November. A deputy commissioner of police from Vasai is carrying out a probe into the allegations of dereliction of duties, said Walkar on Tuesday. He was also apprised of the formation of a special investigation team (SIT) in the case. Walkar said he was satisfied with the probe done by the Delhi police, which arrested Poonawala, and demanded maximum punishment for the accused.

RAID AT GODOWN; 100 TONNES OF UREA SEIZED

Thane: Police have seized 100 tonnes of urea after raiding a godown in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Wednesday. Action will be taken if it is found that the urea stock was stored illegally, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone-2 Bhiwandi, Navnath Dhavle said. Urea is widely used in the agriculture sector as a fertilizer. Based on a tip-off that the urea was stored illegally, the police on Tuesday raided the godown at Purna in Bhiwandi town and seized the stock, the official said. A sample of the seized stock has been sent to Nashik for testing, he added.

Women's panel asks cops to look into Uorfi Javed's security demand

Team Absolute | Mumbai The Maharashtra State Commission for Women has written to the Mumbai police commissioner asking the police to look into the model and social media influencer Uorfi Javed's demand seeking security, an official said on Tuesday. He said Uorfi Javed had submitted a complaint letter to the MSCW claiming BJP leader Chitra Wagh has filed a complaint against her for political mileage and had threatened to beat her during interaction with the media. Javed stated she was feeling unsafe outside her home. In her letter, Uorfi Javed demanded security and the



MSCW asked Mumbai Police to take serious note of her complaint, the official said. Last week, Uorfi Javed called on MSCW chairperson Rupali Chakankar. "The MSCW on Monday wrote a letter to the Mumbai police commissioner asking the police to look into Uorfi Javed's demand for security," the official said. Mumbai Police on Saturday recorded a statement of Uorfi Javed in connection with a complaint filed against her by Chitra Wagh. Ms Wagh, chief of Maharashtra BJP's women's wing, has filed a complaint against Uorfi Javed for dressing 'improperly' in public places.

WOMAN JAILED FOR FORCING WOMEN INTO PROSTITUTION

Thane: A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced a 39-year-old woman to three years rigorous imprisonment for forcing women into flesh trade. In the order passed yesterday, Special Judge V V Virkar pronounced the accused guilty under provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on her. The woman was residing in Turbhe area of Navi Mumbai Township in Thane district. Special Public Prosecutor Rekha Hiwrale told the court that the accused used her residence in Turbhe for prostitution and pushed women and minor girls into it. On May 30, 2018, a team of the Navi Mumbai police's anti-human trafficking cell raided the premises and found a woman being forced into flesh trade. The woman was rescued and the accused was arrested. Twelve prosecution witnesses were examined to prove the charges against the accused, Hiwrale said. The judge in her order said the prosecution has successfully proved the charges against the accused, who needs to be convicted. Another woman accused in the case was given the benefit of doubt and the court acquitted her of all the charges.

Maha is facing shortage of 1crore eggs per day: official

Aurangabad | Agencies Maharashtra is facing a shortage of one crore eggs per day and the animal husbandry department have chalked out a scheme to increase its production in the state, a senior official has said. More than 2.25 crore eggs are consumed in Maharashtra per day. The state has a capacity to produce 1 to 1.25 crore eggs per day and the department has been chalking out a plan to meet the need, animal husbandry department's additional commissioner Dr Dhananjay Parkale said on Tuesday. Currently, eggs are procured from Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu to overcome the shortage, he said. "The animal husbandry department plans to give 50 White Leghorn chickens at a subsidised



rate of Rs 21,000 along with 1,000 cages to each district in an attempt to increase the production," the official said. The department has sent the proposal to the state government for further sanctions, he added. In Aurangabad, the price of eggs has increased in the last two months. "As on date, the price of 100 eggs in Aurangabad is Rs 575. The prices have been above Rs 500 (100 eggs) since more than two months," wholesaler Abdul Wahid Shah said.

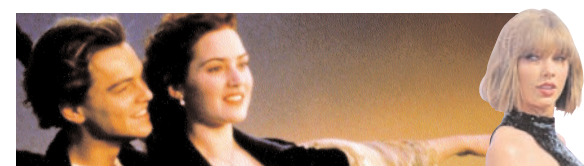
Metro Line 2A completion was delayed, exposed by RTI; contractors fined

Team Absolute | Mumbai With so much delay in completion of metro Line 2A, a new RTI has revealed that a penalty of only Rs 36 lakh has been levied on various contractors under metro 2A for the delay. A Right to Information query has revealed that the MMRDA has levied a fine of Rs 36 lakh on various contractors for delay of work by 36 months. The much-awaited Metro 2A from Dahisar East to Andheri West will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday. RTI activist Anil Galgali, who had sought information from the MMRDA about the current status of the metro work and the penal action imposed on the contractors, has been informed by Delhi Metro Railway Corporation that the deadline has been extended by 36 months and only 36 lakhs penalty has been imposed on the contractors for delay in work.



Galgali said that the Metro 2A service from Dahisar East to Andheri West was scheduled to start on December 31, 2019, but the first phase from Dahisar East to Dahanukar Wadi was started on April 2, 2022. The second phase was completed in January 2023. "Overall, there was a delay of 36 months. Penalties were imposed in case of safety violations in civil works and various safety improvements were taken

up on the site. But the information was not given. A fine of 36 lakh has been levied for delay in electrical work. A fine of Rs 4.44 lakh was imposed on one contractor, Rs 1.50 lakh on another, Rs 1.53 lakh on yet another and also a major fine of Rs 28.54 lakh on an international contractor," he said. Mumbai Metro Line 2A spokesperson was not immediately available for a comment.



'THAT WAS ACTUALLY TRUE'

JLo was supposed to be in three-way kiss with Madonna, Britney at 2003 VMAs

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez could have been a part of that infamous three-way kiss with Madonna and Britney Spears at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards.

Almost two decades since the much-talked-about onstage moment, the singer/actress confirms that she was supposed to be Madge's second smoocher, instead of Christina Aguilera, reports aceshowbiz.com.

During a new interview with E! News to promote her new movie 'Shotgun Wedding', Lopez revealed that she had met with Madonna and Britney to plan out the racy act.

However, she couldn't make it to the show and was replaced by Xtina.

"That was actually true," JLo said when asked if the rumours were true. She elaborated: "I was filming a movie in Canada and we had met - me, her and Britney to do it - at her home. And I just couldn't get off the film."

"So they got Christina to do it. And I didn't wind up doing it. But we had talked about it," the "On the Floor" hitmaker added. Despite being left out of the iconic moment with her favourite artist, the Bronx star has nothing but love for Madonna. "I love Madonna. I'm a huge fan, I always have been," she admitted.

While Madonna and Britney's kiss at the 2003 VMAs is still one of the most iconic moments in the industry, Madge's kiss with Xtina gained less attention. At the time, after Madge and Britney smooched, the cameras cut to broadcast Justin Timberlake's reaction, while Madonna proceeded to lock lips with Christina onstage.

Madonna has not responded to JLo's claims that she was supposed to be in the three-way kiss.



'WHATEVER THEY WANT TO DO, I SUPPORT THEM'

Angela Bassett will support her children if they pursue a career in acting

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Angela Bassett won't forbid her kids if they follow her into the movies. The actress vows to always support her children irrespective of what they do in their careers, reports aceshowbiz.com. "They want to follow the success, but whether it be acting, I don't get any clues to that right now. It's a little music, a little sports. But whatever they want to do, I support them," Angela explained to PEOPLE when speaking about her kids' interests.

Angela recently won the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever', and the Hollywood star revealed that she celebrated her success with her kids. She said: "I went home and hugged my kids. They were really excited for mom to bring home a statue."

Meanwhile, Angela previously claimed that finding the "right" person is the key to wedded bliss. The actress has been married to husband Courtney B. Vance since 1997 and she feels that couples in the spotlight need to be "looking in the same direction."

She explained: "Staying together so long, whether in the industry or not, I think the important thing is that you gotta marry the right person. Make sure you're both looking in the same direction, basically."

The 'What's Love Got to Do with It' star added that couples should both recognise and respect each other's individual wishes.

Angela explained: "You're not clones of each other, but you have similar or closest similar belief systems."

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Nikki M. James joins Marvel's 'Daredevil: Born Again'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Nikki M. James has been cast in Marvel's upcoming revival series on Disney+, 'Daredevil: Born Again'. Details regarding her character are being kept under wraps. Marvel declined to comment, reports Deadline. Written and executive produced by Matt Corman and Chris Ord, the new installment centres on Charlie Cox's title character 'Daredevil', otherwise known by the name Matt Murdock, an attorney by day and crime fighter by night. D'Onofrio reprises his role as mob boss Wilson Fisk aka Kingpin. In addition to Cox and D'Onofrio, James joins previously announced cast members Michael Gandolfini, Margarita Levieva, and Sandrine Holt.

James originated the role of Nabalungi in the hit Broadway musical 'The Book of Mormon', for which she won the Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical. She was recently seen in the world premiere production of Shaina Taub's 'Suffs' at The Public Theater.

She is currently seen in the Focus Features film 'Spoiler Alert'. Recent notable work in television includes 'Severance' for AppleTV+, 'Proven Innocent' for FOX, and the CBS series 'Braindead'.

As a director, James has helmed TV episodes of 'The Bite' and 'The Good Fight'. She served as an assistant director to Michael Arden for the Broadway revival of 'Once On This Island' and a Christmas Carol's starring Jefferson Mays.

CHANNING TATUM TO REPRIS PATRICK SWAYZE'S ROLE IN 'GHOST' REMAKE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Channing Tatum is ready to get into pottery making after stripping off onstage for his next movie. The actor, who is set to reprise his role as the titular character in 'Magic Mike's Last Dance', is keen on stepping into the shoes of the late Patrick Swayze in a 'Ghost' remake. The hunk revealed that he's developing a reboot of the 1990 romantic film during an interview with Vanity Fair. "Now I know why they put this in 'Ghost'," he said in the interview, which was conducted during a pottery lesson, reports aceshowbiz.com.

He added: "This whole process is very, very sexual."

Tatum revealed during the chat that his production company Free Association, formally known as 33&Out, currently has the rights to 'Ghost'. He said: "We actually have the rights. Yeah, we have the rights to 'Ghost.'"

Giving insight into his idea for the upcoming project, he said that it will be a modern take on the original film, with him potentially in the male lead role. "But we're going to do something different," he spilled, adding that the original, like many movies of its day, contained some "problematic stereotypes." He added: "I think it needs to change a little bit." While Tatum has opened up about his desire to play Gambit and star in 'Ghost', he had some resentment about his role in the 'G.I. Joe' film franchise. He admitted that he was initially reluctant to star in the first film, 'G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra', and subsequently asked that his character be killed off in the sequel, 'G.I. Joe: Retaliation' (2013). "The first one I passed on seven times, but they had an option on me and I had to do a movie," he said of his appearances in both films. "So the second one I obviously just didn't want to be in that one either."



When Kristin Chenoweth was 'practically killed' in a set accident

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Kristin Chenoweth has opened up about "long-standing injuries" that she received on the production of 'The Good Wife' in 2012.

Chenoweth's comments came during an interview on 'Watch What Happens Live With Andy Cohen' on Monday. The actor joined the programmer to promote her new book, 'I'm No Philosopher, But I Got Thought', in which she details the 'The Good Wife' incident and its immediate aftermath, reports Variety.

Speaking with Cohen, Chenoweth detailed her mindset in the following months, voicing regrets that she took no legal action against the network. "I didn't do it out of fear and anxiety. Don't ever let fear rule your life," Chenoweth said. "I have long-standing injuries from that. I wish I had listened to my dad. He said, 'You're going to want to do this.' We're not the 'suing family,' but when you're practically killed."

Chenoweth went on to detail the 2012 incident, which occurred while she was acting in a recurring role of Season 4 of the series. The actor stated that she was hospitalised after receiving a "seven-inch skull fracture, a hairline fracture, cracked teeth and ribs" after falling lighting equipment struck her.

"I heard, like, a flagpole sound. I literally heard, 'We're losing the light.' I heard, 'Action.' And I woke up at Bellevue (Hospital)," Chenoweth recalled. Chenoweth had previously opened up about the health impact of the incident in the fall of 2012, calling herself "issue-ridden" in an interview on 'Live! With Kelly and Michael'.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Helen Flanagan



RASHI FEELS HER CHARACTER WILL RESONATE WITH WOMEN AT LARGE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rashi Khanna, who will be seen essaying the role of a government official in the upcoming Vijay Sethupathi and Shahid Kapoor-starrer web series 'Farzi', feels that a lot of women will relate to her character and the challenges that she faces everyday in her professional and personal life.

Shedding light on her character, Rashi said: "My character of Megha is that of a modern girl in a patriarchal set-up. We talk about equality and feminism but still, a woman has to struggle a lot in her professional and personal space. She struggles in her personal space with her mother in

the series."

She further mentioned that the audience is bound to empathise with her and her relentless fight to get what she seeks: "You empathise with her because she is very relentless, if she sets her mind to it, she accomplishes it at any cost and that manifests itself in her way of dealing with her job and her seniors. She is a bit grey for me, not really black and white because she doesn't care

about the rules, regulations and the law." Given women's fight against the patriarchy that still dictates the functioning of the modern world, the actress feels that the character will deeply resonate with women across the board.

"She is in a way similar

to me and I learnt a lot while playing this character and I must say that a lot of women will relate to Megha and her struggles," she concluded.

THIS SHOW CAN TURN OUT TO BE A BIG GAME-CHANGER IN MY CAREER: KRITIKA SINGH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Apki Nazron Ne Samjha' actress Kritika, who is seen as Pratiksha in the show 'Pyar Ke Saat Vachan Dharam Patnii', said that the show has brought her the kind of fame she has been waiting for so long.

Kritika shared: "I do believe that everything happens at the right time, no matter how much effort we put into a thing to happen. I am more than glad that this show came my way because it will no doubt give a push to my career graph. 'Dharam Patnii' is bringing out my true versatility as an actor. For me, this show can turn out to be a big game-changer in my career."

The actress has made her acting debut with a Tamil comedy film 'Rayar Parambarai' and she is playing the lead role in her recent TV show. Kritika added: "It's been only a month but this show is bringing me the recognition for my craft. Earlier also, I have worked on many projects but didn't get the kind of recognition I feel I deserved." "Now, I feel that everything happens for a reason, we just have to keep working hard. I can say I spared no effort to reach where I am today and even today I am striving harder than ever, to be able to be known as a successful actress in the industry," she concluded.

FIRST TIME I'M BRINGING AN ENTIRE ALBUM FOR MY AUDIENCE: DHVANI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular singer Dhvani Bhanushali said she is excited about bringing a complete album for music lovers for the first time and expressed her hope that the viewers will show their admiration for 'Lagan'.

While opening up about her album which she considers to be a project which is close to her heart, she said: "The album is very close to my heart, as it is a labour of love. My close people have inspired me to come up with this and it is the first time I am bringing an entire album for my audiences. I hope they show their love and support as always to this special album."

The album is all about love and connection and it comprises five tracks sung by Dhvani Bhanushali joined by Abhijit Vaghani in two songs and Ash King in one.

'Lagan' is composed by Abhijit Vaghani and written by Shloke Lal. The album will be released soon on Hitz Music.

It's a dream of every filmmaker to work in Hollywood: Rajamouli

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indian director S.S. Rajamouli is open to experimentation and said it is a dream of every filmmaker to make a film in Hollywood. Last Monday, his crossover sensation 'RRR' turned Los Angeles's colossal TCL Chinese IMAX into a dance party, with hundreds of audience members rushing the screen. On Tuesday, Rajamouli's epic musical drama won a Golden Globe for Best Original Song, triumphing over such nobodies as Taylor Swift, Rihanna and Lady Gaga.

Later in the week, directors like Steven Spielberg and James Cameron fawned over the filmmaker casually known as 'SSR', praising him in public.

"I don't have words to explain the kind of exhilaration that we are having," Rajamouli, 49, told EW's Awardist podcast. "It's why I

make films - to extract that kind of joy, to give that kind of joy to an audience." In a wide-ranging conversation, the director touched on his own favourite films, how he cuts an action sequence, and his preference for screenwriting over other phases of production. Will he come to America to make a movie? "I think it is the dream of every filmmaker across the world to make a film in Hollywood," he said. "I am no different. I'm open to experimentation."

But, he also admits, the decision is causing him a "bit of confusion." At home, Rajamouli enjoys final cut and an unusual amount of creative power: "Back in India, I am the dictator. No one tells me how to make a film."

Modestly, he speculates that a Hollywood project might be an opportunity for a co-credit. "Very probably, my first step will be collaborating with someone," he said.

Tushar Kalia feels 'blessed' as he marries ladylove Triveni Barman

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Khatron Ke Khiladi 12' winner Tushar Kalia has tied the knot with Triveni Barman and he has shared a wedding picture. While Tushar opted for traditional style sherwani, Triveni wore a red lehenga. Tushar wrote in the caption: "Blessed". The couple looked happy wearing garlands and holding hands. After his post, many of his industry friends and fans congratulated the couple for their new beginning.

Actor Arjun Bijlani mentioned: "Congratulations bro". Apart from him, Bharti Singh, Zaara Yesmin, Aalim Khan, Vivek Chachere, and Tarun Raj also shared their best wishes. The well-known dancer and choreographer Tushar has announced his engagement last year and shared pictures with his fiancée. He wrote in the caption: "To new beginnings trivenibarman Send us your love and blessings engaged gratitude." Triveni also mentioned on her social media handle: "You are the best thing that ever happened to me." He made his career as a choreographer in Bollywood with the movie 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'.

On the work front, Tushar had participated in dance reality show 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa' and was also the stage director of the reality show 'India's Got Talent', is now all set to be seen on 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 12'.

ALI FAZAL'S MOVIE TO HAVE WORLD PREMIERE AT SLAMDANCE FILM FEST

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ali Fazal, who has been making waves on the international platform with films such as 'Death on the Nile' and the soon to release 'Kandahar', will now be seen in another interesting project titled 'The Underbug'. The film, directed by Shujaat Saudagar, has been officially selected for the upcoming edition of Slamdance Film Festival which is set to take place from January 20 through January 26 in-person, in Salt Lake City and Park City, Utah and virtually between January 23 to January 29. Talking about the film, Ali said: "It's unlike any other film I have ever done in my career so far. The film was shot under confusing circumstances at a time in my life which was already a test of patience and an emotional turmoil right in the middle of the pandemic. The hardest part was

to gain the weight and the heaviness that was required for this character as the two characters are visually poles apart. Yes it's harder to gain weight when you're fit."

"The script was a collaboration of sorts between the actors and the writers and our director. For that matter, even our DOP whose eyes and lenses were totally in sync with the story we all were trying to tell," Ali added.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Donal Bisht