

NATION > 02
SC agrees to examine plea against ban on BBC documentary...



HOLLYWOOD > 06
Hugh Hefner is the only man to treat me with respect: Pamela Anderson...



SPORTS > 07
Shafali, Shweta, Parshavi in U19 Women's T20 World Cup ...



As per a CARE Ratings survey, the agriculture sector Budget expectations include:

- ▶ HIGHER ALLOCATION OF SUBSIDIES TOWARDS UREA AS WELL AS NON-UREA FERTILISERS AT A LEVEL OF MORE THAN RS 2,00,000 CRORE.
- ▶ SPECIAL INCENTIVES TO SET UP FERTILISER PLANTS IN INDIA TO CUT DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS.
- ▶ REDUCTION IN DUTY ON IMPORTS OF AMMONIA AND PHOSPHORIC ACID TO IMPROVE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF DOMESTIC FERTILISER MANUFACTURERS.
- ▶ INCENTIVES FOR THE PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS.

Budget wishlist: Economy can touch \$5 tn if lives of marginalised farmers improve

CHENNAI | Agencies

If the lives of millions of marginalised farmers are better and their standard of living improves, India as a nation should be coasting easily towards the target of a \$5 trillion economy in the near future, said a top official from Lawrence Dale Agro Processing (LEAF).
 "Farmers are and should be the centre of focus in all discussions, as they are the important stakeholders. Farmers are always confused by the various and frequent changes in the market on what will be the value for their harvest. We need to bring in significant transparency for them so that farmers can plan their livelihoods," Palat Vijayaraghavan, Founder & CEO, Lawrence Dale Agro Processing (LEAF), told



VIJAYARAGHAVAN on his expectations from the FY24 Union Budget to be presented on February 1.
 Vijayaraghavan said the Indian agriculture sector is at significant cross-roads and there is explosion of private sector participation in agriculture.
 There are lots of contributions which the organised sector can make for the benefit of the farmers and to uplift the sector. There is immense knowledge base and capabilities in the organised sector, he said.
 Vijayaraghavan said the organised sector players in the market must ensure that no one loses in the ecosystem and that should be done on an immediate basis to instil confidence in the farmers. The other aspect which needs to be enabled is that of technology.
 Another important cog in this whole puzzle is that how we can mainstream financial services to the agriculture sector, he said.

DESPITE THE CONTINUING SNOWFALL WITH A FLAG-HOISTING CEREMONY AT LAL CHOWK

BJY CONCLUDED

The Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra's closing ceremony began with a flag-hoisting ceremony at the party's office in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar amid inclement weather. A rally at a stadium followed soon. Top Kashmiri leaders, National Conference's Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti from People's Democratic Party, spoke at the event amid heavy snowfall. Speeches by the Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi, who has led the march, followed.

People of Kashmir gave me hearts full of love, not hand grenades
Rahul Gandhi



- ▶ THE 'PADAYATRA' CONCLUDED AT THE LAL CHOWK AREA ON SUNDAY WITH RAHUL GANDHI UNFURLING THE NATIONAL FLAG, BUT THE OFFICIAL CLOSING TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY.
- ▶ THE KANYAKUMARI TO KASHMIR YATRA STARTED FROM THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE COUNTRY ON SEPTEMBER 7 AND ENDED ON JANUARY 30 IN SRINAGAR, AFTER COVERING 3,970 KM IN 12 STATES, AND TWO UNION TERRITORIES.
- ▶ RAHUL GANDHI HELD OVER 100 CORNER MEETINGS AND 13 PRESS CONFERENCES DURING THE YATRA. HE HAD OVER 275 PLANNED WALKING INTERACTIONS AND MORE THAN 100 SITTINGS.

KASHMIRI "PHERAN" TO WARD OFF WINTER CHILL

Srinagar: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who set off a national debate when he walked the Bharat Jodo Yatra in a T-shirt in north India's cold winter, donned a 'pheran' to ward off Kashmir's bone-freezing chill.
 As the snow fell steadily, carpeting much of the Valley in white, the former Congress president was seen in a sleeveless jacket over his trademark white T-shirt earlier in the morning and then in the traditional long cloak worn by Kashmiris. Soon after attending an event at the Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters, Gandhi emerged in a grey pheran as he headed to the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket stadium for the closing ceremony of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Democratic Party (PDP) attended the rally. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress general secretary, also addressed the rally.
 Speaking at the rally, Rahul Gandhi said he was warned that he might be attacked in Kashmir, but the people here did not give him hand grenades, but hearts full of love.
 He added that the BJP members could not walk like this in Jammu and Kashmir because they are scared. He also spoke about the pain of losing

someone while remembering his father Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, saying that he understood the pain of those who lost their kin in the Pulwama attack. He was wearing a traditional Kashmiri pheran to mark the occasion.
 "I did not do the Yatra for myself or Congress, the aim is to stand against an ideology that wants to destroy the foundation of the country," he asserted. Congress sources said over a dozen leaders from the opposition

OPPOSITION SHOW

21 parties were invited for the function, but some are not attending due to security concerns, sources said. Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, and TDP are among the parties to skip the function.
 Low visibility and continuous snowfall has delayed all flights to Srinagar, Kuldeep Singh Rishi, Srinagar's airport director said on Twitter. Vistara Airlines cancelled both its flights from Delhi to Srinagar for the day. The 12 parties confirmed to attend are - MK Stalin-led Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Tejashwi Yadav-led Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, CPI(M), CPI, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Kerala Congress, Farooq Abdullah-led Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, Mehbooba Mufti's Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (PDP), and Shibu Soren's Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM).

parties were scheduled to attend the rally, but couldn't make it because of the closure of Jammu-Srinagar national highway and the disruption of air traffic. A total of 21 parties were invited for the function. Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party and TDP are among the parties who could not attend the function.

Private broadcasters to undertake public service broadcasting for 30 mins every day

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday drew attention towards the obligation of public service broadcasting and guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of television channels in India.
 The guidelines, among other things, require private broadcasters to undertake public service broadcasting for 30 minutes every day.
 In this regard, the ministry undertook extensive consultations with the private satellite TV channel broadcasters and their associations and based on their inputs, an 'advisory' was issued on Monday.
 Through the advisory, the ministry has clarified that the relevant content embedded in the programmes being telecast can be accounted for by public service broadcasting.
 It is also clarified that the content need not be of 30 minutes at a stretch and could be spread over smaller time slots and requires the broadcaster to submit a monthly report online on the Broadcast Seva Portal.
 The theme for the broadcasting should comprise national importance and social rel-

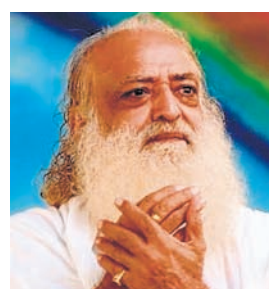


evance, including education and spread of literacy; agriculture and rural development; health and family welfare; science and technology; welfare of women; welfare of the weaker sections of the society; protection of environment and of cultural heritage; and national integration.
 It also said that the broadcaster shall keep the record of the content telecast for a period of 90 days.
 The Electronic Media Monitoring Centre under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall keep the record of the content telecast for a period of 90 days.
 It said the private satellite TV channels are accordingly advised to report public service broadcasting in the manner prescribed above, with effect from March 1, 2023.

ASARAM CONVICTED IN GUJARAT RAPE CASE

Team Absolute | Gandhinagar

A court in Gujarat's Gandhinagar on Monday found "godman" Asaram Bapu guilty in a 2013 rape case, and will announce the quantum of punishment on Tuesday.
 The Additional District Sessions Court, however, acquitted six other accused in the rape case - Asaram's wife Lakshmi, daughter Bharati, Nirmala Lalvani, Meera Kalvani, Dhruvben Lalvani, and Javantiben Chaudhary.
 Special Public Prosecutor R.C. Kodekar told media that the victim had regis-



tered a case with Surat police, which was transferred to Ahmedabad police in 2013. The Chandkheda police station had registered a case under various sections of the IPC, including rape by one or more in group, common intent, unnatural offence, criminal force on women, wrongful confinement and criminal intimidation against 8 persons, including Asaram Bapu, and his son Narayan Sai.
 While Asaram is presently in Jodhpur jail following conviction in another rape case, a separate trial against Narayan Sai is going on in the Surat court.
 Two sisters had filed complaint against Asaram and his son, alleging that between 1997 to 2006, they were raped at the Motera Ashram run by Asaram and his son. The younger sister had lodged a complaint against Narayan Sai and the older against Asaram.

ECONOMIC SURVEY TO BE PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT TODAY

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday will release the Economic Survey for 2022-23, which will present a picture of the economic situation of the country during the period.
 The Economic Survey, will be tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, soon after President Droupadi Murmu's address to both houses of Parliament.
 The Budget session is scheduled to commence from tomorrow on January 31.
 The Economic Survey gives a detailed account of the country's economic performance during the fiscal gone by and provides key data on macroeconomic indicators like inflation, foreign exchange reserves and the economic growth rate scenario.
 In addition, it also provides a status report on significant sectors like infrastructure, energy, financial institutions, and agriculture as well as industry.

Guj govt opposes bail pleas of Godhra convicts in SC

New Delhi | Agencies

The Supreme Court on Monday sought reply from the Gujarat government on bail petitions of some convicts sentenced to life imprisonment in the 2002 Godhra train coach-burning case.
 Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Gujarat government, submitted before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud that it was not just a matter of stone throwing at the bogey of the Sabarmati Express, but instead the convicts had bolted the bogey, which resulted in death of many passengers on the train.
 Mehta said: "Some are saying their role was just stone pelting. But when you lock a bogey from outside, light it on fire and then pelt stones, it is not just stone pelting."
 Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, representing some of the convicts, con-



tended that the state government has filed appeals in the cases of certain convicts whose capital punishment was commuted to life sentence by the Gujarat High Court.
 The bench, also comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala, told Mehta: "We will list (the bail pleas) after two weeks."
 After hearing brief submissions in the matter, the apex court issued notice to the state government on the bail pleas of Abdul Raheman Dhantia alias Kankatto, Abdul Sattar Ibrahim Gaddi Asla, and others.

Ladakh Innovator Says Detained After Fast, Officials Deny Allegation

New Delhi | Agencies

Ladakh's top environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk alleged that he has been detained by the Union Territory's administration after his protest fast demanding special status for Leh. Authorities, however, denied any detention. Day before Wangchuk said, the administration wants to "silence him" for the protest against the destruction of the region's ecology and unsustainable development.
 The Union Territory administration said he wanted to protest in Khardung La, permission for which was denied.
 The Ladakh administra-



tion wants Wangchuk to sign a bond promising not to make any statements for a month over the recent happenings in Leh. He is not to participate in any public gatherings, for a month, over the recent developments in Leh, now bristling with protests demanding special status under the Sixth

Schedule of the Constitution, the bond adds.
 Wangchuk began his five-day fast on Thursday at Phyang, Leh, where the night temperature is minus 20 degrees Celsius. He earlier alleged he was placed under house arrest.
 He had also tweeted a copy of what he claimed was

the bond that he has been asked to sign to ensure he wouldn't make any statement or participate at public meetings for a month.
 He co-founded the Himalayan Institute of Alternative Ladakh, or HIAL, on whose grounds he has been fasting.
 Calling for preventive steps, he has said unsustainable industries, tourism, and commerce will continue to mushroom in Ladakh and finish the region eventually.
 He has also asked the government to include the region in the 6th schedule of the Constitution, which allows administration of some tribal areas as autonomous entities.



KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES INAUGURATED IN MP

Sports like kayaking, canoeing, canoe slalom and fencing will be part of the KIYG for the first time



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the presence of Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur at Tatyta Tope Nagar Stadium on January 30 evening. The KIYG 2022 will be held at 23 venues in eight cities of the State in which nearly 6,000 athletes will take part in 27 different sports, an official said. For the first time sports like kayaking, canoeing, canoe slalom and fencing will be part of the Khelo India Youth Games. "The games started from Monday in a glittering manner on the theme 'Hindustan Ka Dil Dhadka

Do' for 13 days," Chouhan told reporters. Noted artists including Shaan, Neeti Mohan, Sivamani and Abhilipsa Panda performed at the grand opening event. Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Nisith Pramanik and Madhya Pradesh Youth Welfare and Sports Minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia was also presented on the occasion. The games will be held in eight MP cities- Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Mandla, Balaghat, and Khargone (Maheshwar) - while one cycling event will be held in Delhi, she said. A total of 303 international and 1,089 national officials will be part of the games and nearly 2,000 volunteers will be deployed at different sport venues, the official said.

MP LOSES FIRST MATCH IN BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMPETITIONS



Bhopal: The first sporting event of the Khelo India Youth Games 2022, volleyball, began in the indoor hall of the Sports Authority of India on Monday. Players from different states looked their opponents in the eye here. Some won the first match, some lost, but it was the spirit of sports that maintained a positive environment among young athletes. The volleyball players enticed the spectators with strong serves, continuous smashes, and great enthusiasm and impactful cheers. On the first day, there were four matches in both the men's and women's categories. In the men's category, the matches that were played were among Gujarat v/s Delhi, Tamil Nadu v/s Madhya Pradesh, Haryana v/s Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan v/s Himachal Pradesh. In the women's category, the matches that were scheduled for day 1 were: Haryana vs. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal vs. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu vs. Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat vs. Kerala. Madhya Pradesh's men's team kicked off with a good start in the first round but lost their rhythm in the second round. They tried to catch up in the third round, but it was too late, and they lost their first match against Tamil Nadu by 3-0. Madhya Pradesh women's team lost by 3-0 against Tamil Nadu.

Indore man's heart flown to Pune for ailing army soldier

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The heart from a 34-year-old brain dead man in Madhya Pradesh's Indore was flown to Pune in a special plane of the Indian Army on Monday to be transplanted to a soldier suffering from a heart ailment, an official said. Pradeep Aswani, a vegetable trader from Ujjain, sustained a serious head injury in a road accident on the night of January 20 and was admitted to a private hospital in Indore for treatment, the official from Indore Society for Organ Donation said. Aswani's condition did not improve and the doctors declared him brain dead, he said. The man's grief-stricken family agreed to donate his organs, following which surgeons retrieved his heart, liver, kidneys and eyes, the official said. Talking to Reporter, Indore's Divisional Commissioner (Revenue) Dr



Pawan Kumar Sharma said that a team of Army doctors took the heart harvested from Aswani's body to Pune in a special plane and the organ will be transplanted to the soldier. Aswani's elder sister Neelam Khushlani said, "It is a matter of great pride for our family that my late brother's heart is going to be transplanted to a soldier. I feel that (after the heart transplant) my brother will live as a soldier and serve the country." Meanwhile, Aswani's kidneys, liver and eyes will be

transplanted to needy patients in local hospitals, said Sandipan Arya, a volunteer of "Muskan Group", an organisation associated with the Indore Society for Organ Donation. According to eye-witnesses, Aswani's body was sent for last rites from a private hospital in the city. Personnel from the Madhya Pradesh police sounded the bugle as a tribute to Aswani in the presence of local Lok Sabha MP Shankar Lalwani and doctors.

2 ARRESTED FOR PROTESTING AGAINST THE FILM IN INDORE

Team Absolute | Indore

Police have taken strict actions against the people on Monday who protested against the film Pathan in Indore city, objectionable slogans were raised by some people on January 25, Wednesday at Badwadi police station area of Sadar Bazar. Police have registered two separate cases under section 295 A, 153 A, 505, 34 of Indian Penal Code (IPC). Inflammatory and objectionable slogans were raised and a video of other people's provocative speech had also gone viral. While taking action in the case two accused were arrested and detained in jail. Earlier, police arrested four other accused who raised objectionable slogans and protested and sent them to jail.



According to the information, the Sadar Bazar police identified the other two accused on the basis of the viral video and arrested them. The accused are identified as Uvesh Avesh Ahmed and Tausif. Investigation in the case is going on by the police, on the basis of which advance legal action will be taken. Every activity of social media is being closely monitored by the police.

MP Assembly's month-long budget session to begin from Feb 27

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The budget session (2023-2024) of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly will begin from February 27, State Home Minister Narottam Mishra, who is also the state's Parliamentary Affairs Minister, said on Monday. It would be month-long session, which would conclude on March 27. The preparation including receiving of questions from the legislators will begin with announcement of the beginning of the session. According to the Madhya Pradesh Assembly secretary, there will be a total of 13 sittings during the 29-day budget session, which would be the 14th of the current Assembly. Before the presentation of



the state budget for the fiscal 2023-24, various issues of public welfare will be discussed during the month-long session, Mishra, who is also spokesperson of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, said. As the assembly polls in the state are scheduled to be

held at the end of this year, the ruling BJP is most likely to announce several projects and public beneficiary schemes to woo the voters. On the other hand, the opposition Congress will corner the BJP government on all fronts.

BJP govt in MP begins administrative surgery ahead of Assembly polls

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With around eight months left to the state legislative elections, the BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government has started an administrative surgery. In a notification issued by Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains late on Sunday, as many as 11 IAS officers, of them seven district collectors, have been transferred. The transfer list issued two days before the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is scheduled to chair a high-level meeting with IAS and IPS officers in the state. Gwalior collector Kaushlendra Singh has been shifted to Bhopal after being appointed as Additional Chief Secretary of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Akshya Kumar Singh, 2010 batch IAS, who was serving as district collector of Shivpuri,



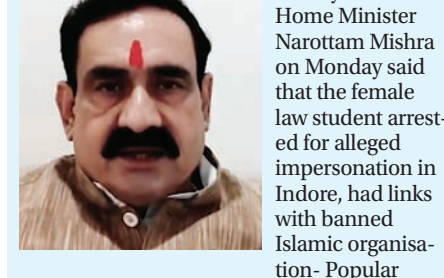
has been appointed as new district collector of Gwalior. Ravindra Kumar Choudhary (2011 batch IAS) will be the new district collector of Shivpuri, while Khargone collector Kumar Purusottam (2012)

will be new collector of Ujjain. Notably, Kumar Purusottam was appointed Khargone collector following a communal riot in April last year. Shivraj Singh Verma (2012 batch IAS) district collector of Barwani will be

replacing Kumar Purusottam. Dr. Phattung Rahul Haridas (2012), who has been serving as collector of Shivni district, will replace Shivraj Singh Verma. Similarly, Sonia Meena, collector of Anuppur has been shifted to Bhopal and has been appointed as Additional Chief Secretary in Madhya Pradesh government. Jabalpur Municipal Commissioner Ashish Vashishtha (2014 batch IAS) will be new collector of Anuppur district, while Kshit Singh (2014 batch IAS), who has been serving as the CEO in Sagar Zila Panchayat, has been appointed as the new district collector of Shivni. Sources said that a major reshuffle of IPS officers, including Police Commissioner Bhopal and Indore, is likely to be announced soon. The names of SP to IG rank officers are also likely to be included in the upcoming transfer list.

ARRESTED LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATED WITH PFI: MP HOME MINISTER

Bhopal:



Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Monday said that the female law student arrested for alleged impersonation in Indore, had links with banned Islamic organisation - Popular Front of India (PFI). Briefing the media, minister Mishra said that during interrogation, Sonu Mansoori confessed that she was working for PFI and some other banned organisations. Mansoori was providing information to the banned Islamic outfits, he added. "She has confessed to her involvement with PFI during the police questioning. It is a serious issue involving an attempt to disrupt peace and harmony of Madhya Pradesh, so it deserves no leniency. Indore police are trying to track some other persons also suspected of impersonation. Tough action would be taken against those involved in such activities," the minister said. Mansoori's arrest came during a hearing in a district court room in Indore. A complaint from the bar council said that a woman was trying to record court proceedings on her phone while posing as an advocate. She was identified by one of the lawyers but on being asked about her identity, she could not give satisfactory answers. "It was later found that she was a law student and was posing as an advocate to be a part of court proceedings. We also recovered Rs 1.5 lakh in cash from her," Rajesh Raghuwanshi, additional DCP said on Sunday.

Katni's mayor Preeti Suri joins BJP, again



Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a major political development ahead of Assembly elections due in November, Katni's mayor Preeti Suri, who won as an independent candidate, joined BJP in presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state BJP president VD Sharma, home minister Dr Narottam Mishra and ex-minister Sanjay Pathak in Bhopal on Monday. Apart from this, district panchayat member Amit Rai and three independent corporators from Katni - Suman Makija, Dr Ramesh Soni and Khushbu - also joined BJP in addition to Nivari district panchayat president Saroj Rai. The chief minister welcomed them. Praising the decision of Preeti Suri, he said she returned to BJP to serve people in a better manner.

VD Sharma said Preeti Suri was a member of BJP earlier but fought mayoral election as an independent candidate and won. But she always had a longing for ruling party. Political pundits believe that by winning hearts of rebels, BJP was trying to cement its position in Katni Assembly constituency. Sources said former minister Sanjay Pathak played an important role in drawing independent leaders to BJP fold. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has raised another question before state Congress president Kamal Nath that why the latter fail to fulfill promised made in Congress election manifesto like starting Krishak Kanya Vivah Scheme. Chouhan said Nath was avoiding answers to his questions.

It's raining in Bhopal Malhargarh records 3 cm rain

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Clouds loomed across the sky in Bhopal on Monday while the weather remained chilly. The meteorological department has forecast occurrence of light rain accompanied by thunder in many districts in next 48 hours. On Monday, Bhopal recorded a minimum temperature of 15 degrees Celsius, which was 3.5 degrees above normal. The meteorological department has forecast fall in temperatures by two to three degrees in next 48 hours. Meanwhile, showers are likely to occur at isolated places in Gwalior and Chambal divisions and districts like Vidisha, Raisen, Rajgarh, Betul, Dhar, Indore, Ratlam, Ujjain, Dewas, Shajapur, Neemuch, Mandsaur, Umaria, Dindori, Katni, Damoh, Sagar, Chhattarpur, Tikamgarh and Niwari. Rain will be accompanied by thunder in

Gwalior, Chambal divisions and districts including Vidisha, Rajgarh, Neemuch, Mandsaur, Damoh, Sagar, Chhattarpur, Niwari. In last 24 hours, rainfall occurred in Chambal, Gwalior and Ujjain divisions. About 3 cm rain was recorded in Malhargarh (Mandsaur district) followed by 2 cm rainfall each in Karhal, Bhanpura, Vijaypur, Manasa, Neemach, Jawad, Mandsaur, Alipur, Kailaras recorded 1 cm rainfall each.



217 DIAMONDS OF DIFFERENT SIZES TO BE AUCTIONED IN PANNA



Panna: The auction of approximately 217 diamonds (Gem, Off Colour and Industrial Diamonds) weighing about 367.03 carats and amounting around Rs 39,61,297 will commence in Panna from February 21. Besides this, a large number of small and medium size diamonds weighing from a few cents to carats will also be kept for auction. These diamonds were recovered from shallow diamond mines of Panna. Panna collector, Sanjay Kumar Mishra will conduct the diamond auction. Out of 217 diamonds, five diamonds are of Gem quality weighing 11.88 carats, 9.64 carats, 6.44 carats, 6.29 carats and 5.70 carats. These diamonds have been found by people who took 'patta' or a land deed of a diamond mine form the government. Now all such people are waiting with bated breath for the auction day as after the auction, the diamonds they have found would fetch them large sum of money.



MAHARASHTRA MLC BIENNIAL POLLING UNDERWAY, CRUCIAL TEST FOR GOVT & OPPN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Peaceful polling got underway for the elections to the five MLC seats in different parts of Maharashtra with voting on a dull to brisk pace in different constituencies, here on Monday. The polling was taken up for the Nashik and Amravati Graduates' constituencies, and Nagpur, Aurangabad and Konkan Teachers' constituencies, with the government side and the Opposition engaged in a keen contest to wrest the seats. There's largely a straight fight between the ruling Balasahebchandi Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party (BSS-BJP) and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance of Congress-Nationalist Congress Party-Shiv Sena (UBT). As per the latest voting figures till noon, Amravati notched around 20 per cent while Nashik clocked over 40 per cent votes, and it was average in other constituencies. The results of the biennial elections shall be announced on Thursday, February 2, with the terms of all the sitting MLCs ending on February 7. After keeping a suspense till the last minute, the BJP late on Sunday finally announced its support to the Congress rebel Satyajeet Tamble, contesting as an independent from Nashik with his main rival, BJP's rebel and now MVA-backed Shubhangi Patil. Nashik suddenly shot to prominence last fortnight when the Congress' official nominee and three-

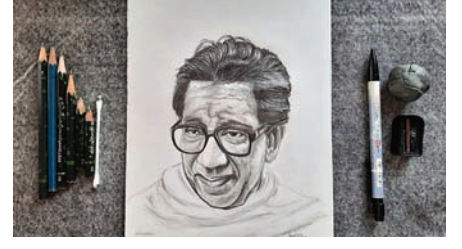


time MLC Sudhir Tambe did not file his nomination and instead propped up his son Satyajeet Tambe as an independent candidate. Stunned by the defiance, the party hit back by suspending Sudhir Tambe, expelling his son Satyajeet Tambe and followed up by en masse sacking the Ahmednagar District Congress Committee. In Nagpur, the main battle is between sitting MLC Nago Ganar, contesting as Independent supported by the BJP, against Congress' MVA-backed Sudhakar Adbale of Vidarbha Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh. Shikshak Bharti's Rajendra Zade and NCP rebel Satish Itkelwar are also in the fray. In Amravati, sitting BJP MLC Ranjeet Patil is contesting against Congress' MVA nominee Dhiraj Lingade. In Aurangabad, sitting NCP MLC Vikram Kale is locking horns with BJP's Kiran Patil. In Konkan, the MVA-supported Peasants & Workers Party's sitting MLC Balam Patil is pitted against BJP's Dnyaneshwar Mhatre.

'Balasaheb Thackeray' through the eyes of global cartoonists on Feb 2-3

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A unique 2-day international exhibition entitled 'Cartoonists' Balasaheb' with cartoons, caricatures and images of the late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Keshav Thackeray will open here on February 2, the organisers said here on Monday. The expo, to be held at the Swatantryaveer Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak in Shivaji Park, is being organised by the Cartoonists' Combine and Shivprerana, and will be inaugurated by senior Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Subhash Desai. The exhibition will showcase the various spoofs on Balasaheb Thackeray, as viewed through the eyes of eminent cartoonists and caricaturists from all over India and many countries around the world. There will be contributions lampooning the different moods, serious or howling expressions, mannerisms, hinting at both political and non-political aspects of Balasaheb Thackeray, from at least 25 cartoonists from all over the world, 44 from India and 44 from Maharashtra. At the exhibition, some of the images depict Thackeray as a prancing tiger (his party's logo), another as a sitting tiger with Thackeray's face, one where he's sitting like a king and apparently wielding the dreaded 'remote control', in another he's on a roll enjoying himself in a rocking chair, others



depict him as a Hindutva icon, etc. Considered a cartoonist's delight, many of Thackeray's oft quirky styles or memorable traits mirror in the cartoons - his thick-framed glasses or black glasses, his famed 'rudraksh mala', his changing hairstyles and receding hairline over the years, the large red tilak on his forehead, his clean-shaven, french-bearded and a snowy grandfatherly full-bearded style, as it manifested over decades, holding fort at his bastion, 'Matoshi' in Bandra east. Also seen will be Thackeray and his popular pipe hanging from his mouth - a perpetual fixture much like Popeye's - which in later years he replaced with the lighter but large cigar though he was rarely known to light it, his collection of attires like dazzling white, off-white, soft creamy or sheer saffron kurta-pyjamas with a shawl, all of which people admired at his public appearances or his annual Dassehra rallies, and his trademark aggression, raised arms, extended right arm, etc.

KCR's party to hold rally in Maharashtra on Feb 5

First time outside Telangana

Hyderabad | Agencies

After the success of its first public meeting in Khammam recently, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi is all set to hold its second meeting in Nanded in Maharashtra, the first meeting of the party outside Telangana on February 5, BRS sources said on Monday. Telangana Minister for Endowments Indrakaran Reddy and some senior leaders of the party recently visited the neighbouring state to oversee the arrangements including crowd mobilisation plans. "This is the first meeting of BRS outside Telangana. KCR (Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu) will address the gathering. Some of the important leaders of the Nanded region are expected to join the party," the party sources said. Rao is likely to visit a famous gurudwara in Nanded and offer prayers before the meeting, they further said. Nanded was chosen as the district has a sizeable population of Telugu-speaking people due to its proximity to Telangana. Asserting that the BRS' slogan in the run-up to 2024 general elections would be 'Ab ki baar



kisan sarkar' (This time, a government for farmers), KCR recently said Maharashtra continues to witness the highest number of farmers' suicides despite being one of the richest states. According to political analysts, the focus of Rao's speech would be around farmers' issues in the Nanded meeting.

NO PAROLE FOR CONVICTS UNDER ANTI-TERROR LAW: BOMBAY HIGH COURT

The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court has refused to grant parole to a prisoner convicted under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, noting that convicts of "terrorist crimes" are not eligible for parole, as per rules in Maharashtra.

Team Absolute | Nagpur:

A division bench of Justices S B Shukre and M W Chandwani on December 2, 2022 dismissed a petition filed by convict Hasan Mehndi Sheikh, serving life imprisonment in the Amravati Central Prison, seeking regular parole to see his ailing wife. Sheikh was convicted for various offences including under stringent provisions of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA). He approached the HC after the jail authorities rejected his application on the ground that he was not eligible for grant of parole under provisions of the Prisons (Bombay Furlough and Parole) Rules. The high court in its order noted that there was a specific provision in the Rules which disqualifies a convict under TADA from getting benefit of regular parole. "It is clear that there is a bar placed



upon prisoners who are convicted for terrorist crimes, TADA is about terrorist crime, from being released on regular parole," the court said. The petitioner is convicted under TADA and therefore he would not be eligible for grant of regular parole," the HC added. Sheikh had in his plea relied on a 2017 judgment of the Supreme Court holding that even if a convict is found to be guilty under the TADA provisions, this would not disqualify him from seeking regular parole. The high court, however, refused to accept this and said the prisoner in the SC case was from Rajasthan and hence not governed by the Rules for prisoners in Maharashtra. "The top court has acknowledged the fact that many state governments have formulated guidelines on parole in order to bring out objectivity in the decision making and to decide as to whether parole needs to be granted in a particular case or not," the HC said.

Family of man killed in accident in 2015 to get Rs 29 lakh aid

Team Absolute | Palghar

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Maharashtra's Palghar district has awarded a compensation of Rs. 29.12 lakh to the mother and son of a man killed in 2015 in an accident of a car registered in his wife's name. MACT member Dr Sudhir M Deshpande, in the order passed on January 17, directed the car's owner (deceased man's wife), driver and insurer to jointly and severally make the payment to the claimants along with six per cent interest per annum from the date of filing of the claim. A copy of the order was made available on Sunday.

The tribunal in its order noted that since the owner of the car (involved in the accident) was the wife of the victim she would not be entitled to compensation herself. The petitioners (the deceased's mother and son) informed the MACT that on August 20, 2015, the man, then aged 50 and hailing from Palghar, was travelling in the car when its tyre burst in Bhayander area of neighbouring Thane. The vehicle turned turtle and the man was injured. He died in a hospital on September 25, 2015 while undergoing treatment. The petitioners also informed the MACT that the deceased earned an annual income of ₹ 4 lakh from his

business. The wife of the deceased pleaded that in case the tribunal comes to the conclusion that the petitioners are entitled to any compensation either wholly or partly, the insurers are held to be liable under the indemnity. The claimants in the petition were the deceased's 83-year-old mother and 28-year-old son. The opponents in the petition were the deceased's wife, who was the owner of the offending vehicle, its driver and insurer. While the deceased's wife and the insurance company contested the claim, the car driver did not appear before the tribunal and the matter was decided ex-parte against him.

The tribunal in its order said in the present claim petition, the deceased's mother, son and wife would have been the natural petitioners if the said car had been owned by any other third party. In that case, all the three petitioners would have been entitled to seek compensation from the registered owner of the vehicle involved in the accident, it said. "But, since the wife of the deceased herself is the registered owner of the said car, she loses her status as the petitioner. Because nobody can seek compensation from oneself. Therefore, the registered owner i.e. the wife may not be entitled to the compensation," the tribunal said.

Fire breaks out in 19-storey high-rise at Sion

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Level-1 fire broke out in a 19-storey high-rise at Sion Koliwada in Mumbai on Monday at around 12.30 pm, according to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The fire broke out on the sixth floor of Om Shiv Shakti building in GTB Nagar on M A Road in Sion Koliwada area and no casualty or injuries had been reported as yet, the BMC said. The cause of the fire, which was confined to an electric panel on the sixth floor of the building, was not immediately known. Four fire engines, a water tanker and other assistance were rushed to the spot and the blaze was put out by around 1.30 pm, a fire official said. It was a "level-1" (minor) fire, the official said, adding no casualty was reported in the incident.



Earlier, on Saturday a fire broke out in a ground-plus-three residential building in Mumbai's Mahim area. The fire broke out on the third floor of Nityachaya building in Mari Nagar on Senapati Bapat Marg.

Chief Minister must look into issues plaguing Marathwada during his visits: Ambadas Danve

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Chief Minister Eknath Shinde should also look into the issues plaguing Marathwada whenever he visits the region, said Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve on Monday referring to the former's presence at a religious gathering. The chief minister was in Aurangabad on Sunday to attend a religious gathering. "There is nothing wrong in attending religious meetings and coming to Marathwada for the same. But the chief minister should also look into issues and ensure that they are resolved. Does he (Shinde) feel that the problems in the region have been solved?" the Leader of Opposition in the state legislative council said. Matters pertaining to irrigation and Marathwada Development Board are not on the agenda of the state government since its formation, he claimed. The case is not limited to Marathwada alone, it is happening with Vidarbha and the state capital Mumbai, Danve alleged. The state government keeps talking about what it did six months ago, but is not looking into issues of the public, he said. Meanwhile, the Shiv Sena (UBT) took a dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party over right-wing groups taking out a march against "love-jihad" and questioned the need for such a protest when the "so-called Hindutvavadi government" is in power at the Centre and Maharashtra.

Maha Greens aghast at fatal fall for 12 blackbucks, seek remedies

Team Absolute | Mumbai

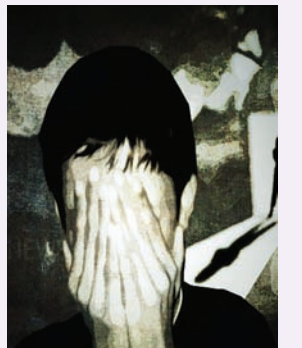


Two days after 12 blackbucks fell to their deaths on a bypass road on the Solapur-Pune National Highway, environmentalists on Monday expressed shock and sought remedial measures to prevent similar tragedies in future. Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) Secretary Kishor Rithe said that a herd of the totally protected species got trapped on the national highway and jumped to their deaths, while 3 other blackbucks were injured late on Saturday evening. He pointed out that there are guidelines in place to have mitigation measures on the existing and proposed linear projects crossing through wildlife habitats which are often ignored by the agencies concerned. Other environmentalists said that there is a population of just around 300 blackbucks in the forested region there and fervently appealed to the government to work out a long-term

remedy. For starters, the Maharashtra Forest Department is planning to write to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for netting or fencing on the Solapur-Pune, Solapur-Kolhapur and other highways in the vicinity to prevent such accidents. Rithe has urged for an underpass to be provided at this particular point as there are two blackbuck populations which regularly cross and get run over by speeding vehicles. "The Saturday incident is the worst disaster so far, with barely 300 blackbucks left in this region now. I also demand that a three-meter chain-link fence be erected over the sidewalk of the flyover to avoid similar incidents on this flyover," he said. Other environmentalists like Bittu Sehgal, and Radheshyam Bishnoi have also expressed concern over the blackbucks tragedy and urged for more sensitivity to nature and wildlife to reduce such incidents. Around 6.30 p.m. on January 28, 15 from a herd of blackbucks fell nearly 35 feet onto the Kegaon-Degaon Bypass along the Solapur-Pune National Highway, shocking locals and environmentalists. Opened four months ago, the new bypass road was made by cutting into a hillock passing through a grazing tract of the blackbucks inhabiting the jungles around. While 12 perished in the deep fall, 3 others were injured and are being treated at a nearby veterinary centre, local officials said.

CASE AGAINST WOMAN FOR SEXUALLY ASSAULTING MINOR BOY

Thane: Police on Monday registered a case against a 32-year-old woman on charges of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old boy from Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said. The boy's mother in her police complaint said the accused woman, who has three children, was the neighbour of her relative in Nashik. The accused used to frequently visit Mumbai and befriended the boy. She allegedly made him consume liquor and had sexual relations with him; the official from Kolsawadi police station at Kalyan in Thane said quoting the complaint.



The boy used to skip school and go to Nashik to meet the woman, who also allegedly showed him objectionable videos, as per the complaint. This happened from 2019 till December 2022 after which the boy's mother learnt about it and approached the police, the official said. Based on the complaint, a case was registered against the woman under relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, he said. No arrest has been made so far, he added.



'I HAVE NEVER FELT BETTER'

Britney Spears denies breakdown, says she's 'never felt better'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop icon Britney Spears has made her return to Instagram just a week after removing her page and telling her fans she's 'never felt better'.

The singer concerned fans with a number of posts lately, leading one to call police with fears for the star's well-being, reports Mirror.co.uk.

In a lengthy post alongside an image of a pink rose, the star wrote: "Since everyone thinks they know my story. Think again. A mere side of any given Sunday doesn't show worship placing someone's story out there it's a day of WEL-COMING a not a righteous reply. It is what it is a nope I'm not having a breakdown and I am who I am and moving forward in my life. I have never felt better."

She went on to say she's enjoying being able to "volumise my voice in a world where I lost my rights a for 15 years."

She explained that if those taking aim at her were able to walk in her shoes, they might understand how she is feeling. Britney continued: "Still learning this no rules thing a I don't think so limited a I feel younger and in awe a unfortunately I'm boring as hell and drink hot chocolate at night. I've waited nearly 15 years to drink alcohol only to realise I hate it!!! It makes me sad and I feel bloated, although food tastes better."

She then exclaimed she would "rather show my a**" than sit down, before concluding: "PS yes I took my Instagram down and now its back up because I can!!!!"



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Pamela Anderson said that the late Playboy founder Hugh Hefner is the only man to treat her with "complete and utter respect."

The 'Baywatch' star has revealed how the late Playboy founder's invitation to feature on the cover of his magazine helped her reclaim her sexuality, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Asked if anyone "has ever treated her with complete and utter respect", Pamela told the Sunday Times newspaper: "Hugh Hefner." She recalled: "I was painfully shy, and I hated that feeling. That's why I did it. I just didn't want that feeling anymore. Doing that first photoshoot gave me this little kind of portal on what it felt like to be a sensual woman. My sexuality was mine. I took my power back."

The actress has penned a new memoir 'Love, Pamela' and revealed that she gained 25 pounds in the process of writing the book.

Pamela, whose story is also told in the new Netflix Documentary 'Pamela, a Love Story', said: "I went through kind of a crazy time writing the book. I started writing my book and I put on like 25 pounds. Crazy! I look back at it and I see how it was the book process because as I wrote my book, I didn't change too much."

"I mean, I was drinking earlier with the husband and stuff but I lost it all at the end of my book. It was crazy, it was crazy! I had a physical reaction to telling my story. It was almost like I was hanging on to something. It was a protective, my puffy suit of armour." "I don't know what it was - I was thinking it was some kind of protection. It wasn't like I was eating any different, I'm vegan, I eat nuts and berries, you know, I don't eat a lot. But my body was changing!"

Hugh Hefner is the only man to treat me with respect: Pamela Anderson



'Unexpected and delightful'

JAMIE LEE CURTIS CELEBRATED HER FIRST OSCAR NOMINATION WITH CATE BLANCHETT & A CAKE!

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jamie Lee Curtis "had a cake" with her fellow nominee Cate Blanchett to celebrate the first Oscar nomination of her career.

The actress has earned her first Academy Award nod for Best Supporting Actress for her role in 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' and discussed her celebration with her fellow nominee and 'Borderlands' co-star Cate Blanchett, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Lee Curtis noted that her best friend, the Oscar-winning film and TV producer Debbie Oppenheimer, came over in the

early hours of the morning to watch the nominations being revealed with her husband Christopher Guest.

She told People: "It was a shocking morning. Unexpected and delightful."

"And then I went to work on the re-shoots for 'Borderlands' with Cate Blanchett, and she had been nominated that morning, as (had) our sound designer. So, we had a cake, and it was celebratory, but then we worked."

Lee Curtis said: "It is the thrill of my life, professionally. It is, because it never was something I thought would ever happen."

Despite her Oscar's recognition, the star has revealed that she

doesn't

obsess about winning awards and had developed a philosophical attitude towards the glitzy ceremonies.

She explained: "Life is short and precious and we're in a profession that celebrates art, a time when we're out of COVID and we're back together and if we're not celebrating this moment right now, what are we doing?"

"It's out of your control. At the end, win or lose, it doesn't matter. We're here celebrating the arts."

OSCAR-NOMINATED ACTOR JAMES MARTIN RETURNS TO HIS DAY JOB AT COFFEE SHOP

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar-nominated actor James Martin said that he is returning to his day job after starring in 'An Irish Goodbye'. The star has Down's syndrome, worked at Starbucks in Belfast before starring in the short film, reports mirror.co.uk. He said that he "helps out all the customers" and that he's been "doing that a long time."

"It's nice," he explained. James played one of two brothers who are brought together by their mother's death. The film is nominated in the Best Short Film category at the Oscars. He also worked as a chef in the Italian restaurant Scalin's. "I can make garlic bread, meatballs, salads and mussels, chips and stuff like that," he added. The actor discussed acting with Down's syndrome and said "anybody can act" and it "doesn't matter if you have Down's syndrome." "Take Stephen Hawking [who had motor neurone disease] in the Simpsons," he explained. "He was a fantastic actor, he knew what he was doing but you just have to treat him like an adult. I always say to people never judge a book by its cover." James is also known for his role in the show 'Ups And Downs'.

James is also known for his role in the show 'Ups And Downs'.

'Avatar 2' crosses \$2.11 bn globally

Los Angeles | Agencies

James Cameron's film blockbuster sequel 'Avatar: The Way of Water' added \$15.7 million from 3,600 North American theatres between Friday and Sunday, enough to claim the No. 1 spot for the seventh consecutive weekend. So far, 'Avatar 2' has generated \$620 million at the domestic box office and \$2.117 billion globally.

It passed 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' (\$2.071 billion) to become the fourth-highest grossing movie in history. Now, 'The Way of Water' ranks behind only 'Avatar' (\$2.92 billion), 'Avengers: Endgame' (\$2.7 billion) and 'Titanic' (\$2.19 billion) in terms of worldwide ticket sales. Cameron has directed three of those four releases, putting the filmmaker in unmatched company, reports Variety. Elsewhere at the box office, only one new movie

- Neon's disturbing sci-fi thriller 'Infinity Pool' opened in theatres nationwide. The R-rated film, from director Brandon Cronenberg (son of genre legend David Cronenberg), debuted to muted results, generating \$2.7 million from 1,835 cinemas. Alexander Skarsgard and Cleopatra Coleman star in 'Infinity Pool' as vacationers at a wealthy tropical island. But when a mysterious woman (played by Mia Goth) convinces the couple to venture away from the resort, they suffer a tragic accident that pushes them into a world of consequence-free violence. What unfolds next is the kind of stomach-squelching horror that makes the film's mediocre "C-" CinemaScore unsurprising, even though critics dug 'Infinity Pool'.



One Direction member Harry Styles to perform at 2023 Grammy Awards

Los Angeles | Agencies

Former One Direction member Harry Styles will perform at the 65th annual Grammy Awards on February 5. It was announced during the AFC Championship game on Sunday evening, reports 'Variety'.

Styles joins previously announced performers Bad Bunny, Mary J. Blige, Brandi Carlile, Luke Combs, Steve Lacy, Lizzo, Kim Petras, and Sam

Smith.

He's finishing up the months-long North American leg of his 'Love on Tour' just three nights before the Grammys in Palm Springs, Calif, and will resume it less than three weeks later in Perth, Australia.

Beyonce leads the 2023 Grammy nominees with nine nods. Kendrick Lamar is close behind with eight, and Adele and Carlile are tied with seven.

Four contenders enter the race with six nominations apiece: Future, Harry Styles, Blige, DJ Khaled and Randy Merrill. Beyonce, Adele, Styles, Lamar and Lizzo being the five contenders who were each nominated in the top three all-genre categories: record, album and song of the year. Less expectedly, Blige and ABBA are both up for record of the year and album of the year.

The very hot Steve Lacy also landed in two top categories, being put into contention for both record and song for the recently chart-topping "Bad Habit."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Maya Jama



WALKING ON THE SETS OF THE SERIES GIVES ME A SENSE OF EMPOWERMENT: SUSHMITA SEN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen, who has cultivated a loyal fan following with her webseries 'Aarya', feels that the show has become synonymous with her name. The third season of the show started its shoot on Monday and the actress can't be more excited. Talking about the same, Sushmita said: "Aarya' is synonymous with my name. I have lived as Aarya for two whole seasons and the love received by the audiences has only encouraged me to do more. Walking on the sets of Aarya Season 3 makes me feel at home and gives me a sense of empowerment."

The International Emmy-nominated show follows the story of the titular character of an independent woman who seeks to protect her family and joins a mafia gang in order to get revenge for her husband's murder.

The director of the show, Ram Madhvani said: "Getting to and commencing Season 3 of 'Aarya' is too special for me and my team. I'm grateful to our audiences who showered the series with so much love and stayed invested in the journey and evolution of Aarya Sareen. I can promise them that they are going to ask for more seasons after this one."

KAREENA'S NEW CHARACTER IS INSPIRED BY KATE WINSLET'S IN 'MARE OF EASTTOWN'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan is marking a new phase in her glittering career with a brace of films that she terms as "shockingly different." She shared that her character in the upcoming Hansal Mehta film was inspired in part by Hollywood star Kate Winslet's role in 'Mare of Easttown'. She has wrapped a project that was shot in the UK under the working title 'The Buckingham Murders', directed by Hansal Mehta, reports Variety. The diva essays a detective and mother who investigate a murder in a town in Buckinghamshire. "I love 'Mare of Easttown' and when Hansal came to me, I said this is something that I've really been dying to do. So we've molded a little bit on those lines, she plays a detective cop in that," she told Variety. "It's the first time that I've dabbled in that." "I speak fluently in Hindi and I think also in Hindi because that's been what I've been doing all my life," Kapoor Khan said. "When you're thinking in Hindi, but speaking in English, it was actually a difficult task to do because it was the reverse situation for the first time." The project, produced by Ektaa Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms and Mahana Film also marks Kareena's debut as a producer. "I never really thought that I would be a producer. But when I heard this subject, and the fact that it's very different to a regular Hindi movie, it's a very different take to things. So I thought that will be really nice and different," Kapoor said. "And when Ektaa and Hansal told me that 'since you love the script so much, why don't you come on board as a creative producer as well, and take some calls as to what you think also and give your name to it' - after much thought, I thought that if I love something so much, and this is a character that I wanted to play, I think it's fun to do it. It's the first time. I don't know if I'll repeatedly do it. But let's see."

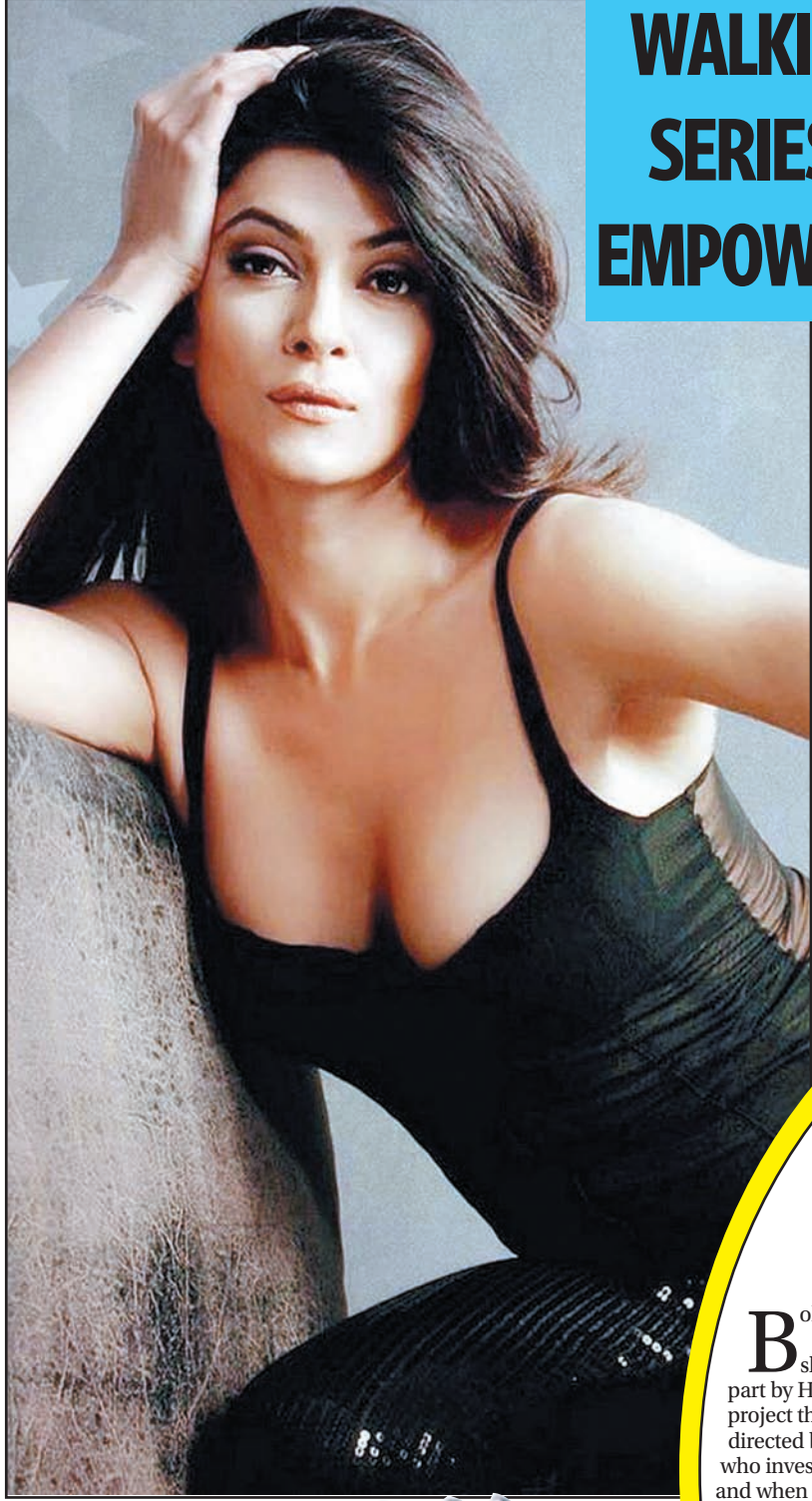
ARJUN KAPOOR REVEALS REASON BEHIND SIGNING UP FOR THE TV SERIES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor, who was recently seen in a cameo appearance in the web-series 'Cinema Marte Dum Tak', said that he became a part of the project because he wanted to add value by being a platform where the pulp filmmakers could talk freely. The actor said: "My role in the series is of a cameo or a special appearance. I wanted to add value by being a platform where these filmmakers could talk freely. I was just happy to be a part of this moment for them, which was celebrating them and getting their due." The docu-series sheds light on the pulp film industry of India which works under a lot of resource constraints. Considered to be a cottage style filmmaking industry, the series focuses on showing what and who contributed to the 90s Pulp Cinema, a genre of content that had strong and loyal fan following in its heydays.

It features celebrated pulp filmmakers like Dilip Gulati, J. Neelam, Kishan Shah and Vinod Talwar, who were some of the then successful names of the industry.

Arjun further said: "Prime Video gave them a platform which was not intended to make fun of. They are not trying to make it tacky, but are highlighting the people who have had this journey. I was very happy to be a part of this environment where they could tell their side of the story."



ADITYA ROY KAPUR DID RIGOROUS HOMEWORK FOR HIS WEB SERIES

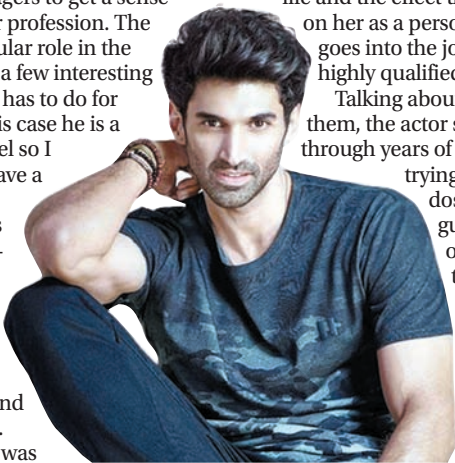
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur, who is gearing up for the release of his web-series 'The Night Manager', spent time with actual night managers to get a sense of their world and their profession. The actor, who plays the titular role in the series, said: "There are a few interesting and unique things one has to do for every role. I think in this case he is a night manager at a hotel so I think every time you have a profession that is very specific, one of the joys of being an actor is getting to research these different professions and try and meet people in those professions to understand what goes on in front and also behind the scenes. Part of the prep for me was

meeting them."

Walking down the memory lane, he further mentioned: "I actually went and met a night manager. I spent a couple of days with her, interviewed her and quizzed her about her life and the effect that the profession had on her as a person to understand what goes into the job. You know, it's a highly qualified profession."

Talking about what he imbibed from them, the actor said: "You have to go through years of training for it, so I was trying to understand basic dos and don'ts, body language, tonality. I think one big part of playing the night manager was getting that aspect of it right. So that kind of looked convincing on camera when I was portraying myself as a manager, which was very interesting."



Jubin Nautiyal says his new song with Payal Dev is special

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Playback singers Jubin Nautiyal and Payal Dev have teamed up once again for a love song, which he said is special because it is animated. The music video of the song features vector animation of Jubin and Payal's sketches. The caricature rendition of both of them has been conceptualised by digital creator Pixoury.

Jubin said: "This is one of its kind music video, as it is specially animated by Hrishiraj, professionally known as Pixoury and I must say it has come out to be beautiful. Needless to say, it's always a pleasure collaborating with Payal Dev. We've worked so often together that we understand the melodies and synchronisations every time we are recording. We hope audiences shower this one with as much love as they have our previous collaborations." Singer-composer Payal Dev said: "Pyaar Hona Na Tha' is a simple but very deep and powerful love song. Kunaal Vermaa has penned some beautiful lyrics and Jubin Nautiyal as always has sung it fantastically."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Bhumi Pednekar