

absolute india

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AS COUNTRY HEADS FOR POLLS, BUDGET MAY RAIN SOPS ON FARM SECTOR

Mindful of the fact that the farmers community needs to be mollified after its year-long agitation against the three controversial farm laws, the government is likely to focus on boosting the agriculture sector in the Union budget for 2023-24, which would be presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The agriculture sector has always been seen as a sector which has a potential of generating lots of revenue and according to a report by Deloitte India, quoted recently in various sections of the media, it can generate more than \$800 billion in revenue for the country with an investment of over \$270 billion by 2031. The report suggested that the government should introduce policies to support technology adoption for modernising operations in the agriculture space and give incentives to agri-tech startups for improving accessibility to small farmers. Industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in its pre-budget memorandum, which was released earlier this month, had said: "To enhance the employment creation in the economy, we suggest further reforms in the agricultural and food processing sector with a great infusion of public investments in the



agriculture infrastructure. Reforms in rural infrastructure logistics and cold chain are required as it would help in increasing the level of food processing industry and rural entrepreneurship." It had further said that this would

lead to increased participation in global agriculture and food exports. Exports of agriculture and food processing products should be increased to the level of \$100 billion in the next three years from the current level of around \$50 billion in 2021-22.

Even the central government is keen to mend its relations with the farmers, especially as the Lok Sabha elections are just a year away and as many as nine states are scheduled to go to the polls this year alone. In July 2022, the government had set up a panel to ensure a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP), which is headed by retired agriculture secretary Sanjay Agrawal. The committee had repealed the three controversial farm laws in November 2021, after a year-long agitation by farmers against them. At the time of repealing the three laws, the Centre had promised the agitating farmers that it would look into the matter of ensuring a legal guarantee on MSP. With farmers being a major vote bank in an agriculture-dominated country like India, the government may come up with sops for the farming community in the forthcoming budget.

UGC proposes plan to let students access libraries, labs in other colleges

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Students studying in various universities and colleges affiliated to them will now be able to use the library and laboratory of a college or university other than their own.

Now students of different colleges can do research work or can also avail of the sports facilities in colleges other than those they are currently studying in. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has made an important plan to share the resources of different universities and colleges keeping in view the interests of the students. Giving information about this scheme, UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said that universities, colleges or other higher educational institutions can provide such facilities to students with mutual consent. Under this initiative, the educational institutions can allow students studying in other colleges or universities to use their laboratory, science room, computer lab, research, library, e-library. Apart from academic studies, the higher educational institutions will also be able to share sports facilities under which students of other educational institutions will be allowed to use the playground, seminar hall and stadium, etc. Similarly, if a student of one college wants to use the research resources of another college, then he can do research in other colleges outside his own college for which the UGC has made a special guideline for planning this arrangement. According to the UGC, on the basis of



these special guidelines, the state universities will get an opportunity to make more use of the resources of the central universities and such higher educational institutions. The special thing about this initiative is that the cost of maintenance of these resources will be borne completely by the UGC. The UGC says that if, on the basis of the new guidelines, various higher educational institutions of a single city use their resources jointly, then it will surely benefit the students as well as these institutions. According to the UGC Chairman, an educational institution in a city can use the resources of any other resource-rich educational institution present there as a guest. With help of this scheme, students of guest institutions will also get an opportunity to study in the libraries of other universities or colleges. Students will also be able to do research by going to the laboratories there. But it is not necessarily the case that any university will be bound to make its resources available to other universities. This work will be possible on the basis of coordination and agreement between two colleges and/or universities.

"Some people in India consider BBC above supreme court": Kiren Rijiju

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday took on the "malicious campaigns" inside and outside India in connection to the UK's British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)'s documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and said that some people "consider the BBC above the Supreme Court of India". The Union Minister alleged that they "lower" the country's dignity and image to any extent to "please their moral masters". Taking to Twitter, Rijiju said that minorities in the country are moving ahead positively. "Minorities, or for that matter every community in India is moving ahead positively. India's image cannot be disgraced by malicious campaigns launched inside or outside India. PM @narendramodi voice is the voice of 1.4 billion Indians," Rijiju tweeted. "Some people in India still haven't gotten over the colonial intoxication. They consider BBC above the Supreme Court of India and lower



the country's dignity and image to any extent to please their moral masters," the Minister added (roughly translated from Hindi). He said that there is no hope from these people whose "only aim is to weaken India". "Anyway, there is no better hope from these tukde tukde gang members whose only aim is to weaken the might of India," Rijiju tweeted. Earlier, former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Sanjeev Tripathi slammed UK's British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for its documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling it "prejudiced, biased

and full of factual errors". He added that the documentary needs to be condemned by everyone. Speaking to reporters, Tripathi questioned the BBC's intent behind the documentary on PM Modi, which he said seems 'motivated'. He said the documentary features the 2002 Gujarat riots and the Godhra train burning incident, which preceded it, adding that the Supreme Court recently gave PM Modi a clean chit in the case. "This documentary of BBC, which claims to examine the so-called tensions between Hindus and Muslims in India, and in that context, talks about again the so-called controversial policies of Prime Minister Modi, is not only prejudiced but is also biased and full of factual errors," he said. In a strong response to the BBC documentary, more than 300 eminent Indians, including retired judges, bureaucrats, and armed forces veterans signed a statement slamming the British national broadcaster for showing "unrelenting prejudice" towards India and its leader.

Reckitt's coffee table book launched during the Jaipur Literature Festival 2023

Jaipur | Agencies

The most fabulous literary fest, Jaipur Literature Festival 2023 witnessed a focus on agenda- hygiene and health are inseparable, with the launch of the coffee table book that focuses on India's journey to universal hygiene and seeks to advance thinking and action for following self-care practices such as washing hand for achieving a high level of quality of life. Curated by Outlook and Reckitt, the book is edited by Ravi Bhatnagar, Director, External Affairs and Partnerships, Reckitt as Guest Editor. The book written by top policymakers and leading practitioners from diverse backgrounds focusing on India's journey to universal hygiene to protect, heal, and nurture in the relentless pursuit of a cleaner and healthier world. The book is being launched during the Jaipur Literature Festival 2023 on January 22 in the presence of Amitabh Kant,



G20 Sherpa; Upma Chawdhry, IAS Retired. Former Secretary to Government of India and Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie & Board Member, Plan India; Gaurav Jain, Executive Vice President - South Asia, Reckitt;

Ravi Bhatnagar, Director, External Affairs and Partnerships, Reckitt; Sanjoy Roy - MD, Teamwork Arts and William Dalrymple - Festival Director. The event also saw a photo exhibition in a digital format showcasing Dettol Banega Swasth India program's

efforts throughout the years to nurture health and hygiene behaviors reaching out to 24 million school kids. Throwing light on the challenges India is facing, Ravi Bhatnagar, Director, External Affairs and Partnerships, South Asia - Reckitt, said, "Behavioral change not only needs continuous reinforcement but also the provision of infrastructure to enable it. We witnessed the power of collective action during the pandemic; continuous collective action by faith-based organizations, youth groups, and civil society will help spread the message fourfold. Also, increased advocacy by these groups will ensure that policymakers are aware of the health, social, and economic impacts of hand hygiene while building public support. We need to think out of the box by leveraging technology and introduce, promote and scale up innovative products and solutions to promote health and hygiene habits."

'Sun tourism' catching up fast in Himachal; a worrying sign too

Shimla/Manali | Agencies

It is the 'sun tourism' that is catching up fast in Himachal Pradesh as one gets more balmy days in the winter compared to the northern plains where the fog is screening out the sun, a worrying sign for climate scientists. But members of the hospitality industry are not complaining. They said that many holidaymakers have now been preferring rooms with sun rise in the balcony, especially in the winter. A breathtaking view of snow-clad peaks will be an added attraction. Old-timers recall the winter in Shimla and its nearby areas is not as harsh as it was till the late 1970s. "The smoke-belching chimneys, once city's landmark, are a thing of the past," remarked Ramesh Sud, who has been living in Shimla since 1960. Some residents have been wondering if the rise in minimum temperatures in recent years in winter is a result of global warming, though scientists have said the overall warming trend should not have any effect on local weather on such short-time scales, as per current models. "We are getting enquiries daily regard-



ing the possibility of the bright sunny days amidst snowy landscape," Prem Thakur, who runs The Byke Neelkanth hotel in Manali, said. "Now most of the tourists prefer not just snow but also the sun with chucking snow peaks in the horizon," he added. An official at the Shimla's meteorological office said that popular tourist destinations like Shimla, Kasauli, Narkanda, Dharamsala, Palampur, Manali, Chamba

and Dalhousie have been experiencing sunny days for the past two days with chances of widespread snow across the state on January 24, ahead of the Republic Day holiday on January 26. The local administration, before the onset of winter every year, holds a meeting to review measures and assign duties to handle any emergency in case of heavy snow. Officials admit that for the past several decades, this meeting -- called the

snow manual meeting -- had become a mere ritual. Speaking at a workshop on climate change organised last month by the Dr Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry based in Nauni, S.K. Bhardwaj, Department of Environmental Science head, said the average temperature of Himachal Pradesh has increased by 1.5 degrees Celsius in the past 120 years. "Presently, every country in the world is working to keep the temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius but still the results are not satisfactory and there are projections that by the end of this century temperature may increase beyond 2 degrees which indicates a climate emergency." Advocating a low-carbon style, Bhardwaj said under the climate change situation there is a need to create climate literacy so that "we at the individual level start living in harmony with nature to make a sustainable human society". This is an alarm bell for the Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh where the state's economy is highly dependent on tourism, besides hydroelectric power and horticulture.

Shah Rukh Khan dials Assam CM, seeks support for his movie release

Guwahati | Agencies

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said that Shah Rukh Khan called him up late Saturday night. The actor expressed concern over his upcoming film 'Pathaan' poster being burnt by some members of Bajrang Dal in Guwahati. Sarma wrote on Twitter, "Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan called me and we talked today morning at 2 am. He expressed concern about an incident in Guwahati during screening of his film. I assured him that it's the duty of the state govt to maintain law & order. We'll enquire and ensure no such untoward incidents." Sources close to the Chief Minister said that Shah Rukh Khan first texted Sarma and then called him. Khan sought Assam CM's cooperation for the smooth release of his upcoming movie in the state. Sarma has assured the actor of maintaining law and order.



Notably, several members of the right-wing group created ruckus in the city's LG Towers on Friday and forcibly pulled down posters promoting Khan's next release 'Pathaan'. The Bajrang Dal has already threatened that they will not allow the release of the movie in Assam. Reacting to this incident, Sarma on Saturday told reports here, "Who is Shah Rukh Khan. In Assam, we have many people having that name. I also don't know anything about Pathaan. I don't have time to enquire about these things." He also said, "If someone has done anything wrong, let the victims file a case and we shall take action. Also, Shah Rukh Khan did not call me to seek help in this regard."



Bal Thackeray birth anniversary

UDDHAV TO ADDRESS SHIV SENA WORKERS, PAY HOMAGE AT STATUE NEAR THE GATEWAY OF INDIA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday said party president Uddhav Thackeray will address the party workers on Monday to mark the 97th birth anniversary of the Sena's founder Bal Thackeray.



The two factions have been embroiled in a tussle over the poll symbol after a split in the party last year. Raut had on Saturday expressed confidence that pressure politics will have no impact on an independent institution like the ECI.

political movement which is getting support. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is afraid of the yatra and is hence criticising it, he claimed.



ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL SAND DREDGING; EQUIPMENT WORTH RS 97 LAKH DESTROYED

Team Absolute | Thane

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said the state government is positive about the old pension scheme for teachers and government employees. The state education department is studying the old pension scheme, Shinde said on Saturday while addressing a campaign rally for the upcoming Legislative Council polls.



schools, and also for 25 per cent reservation in English medium schools. The education department is studying the old pension scheme," Shinde said.

in joint ventures. "Hence many industrialists at the Davos conference are from India. But it will be foreign investment," he added.

Special remission: 189 jail inmates to be released on Republic Day

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A total of 189 convicts will be released from prisons across Maharashtra, including three from Thane Central Jail, on Republic Day as part of the Union government's special remission programme to mark 75 years of Independence, an official said on Sunday.



spent in jail, disabilities, health etc, he added. Thane Central Jail has 4,569 inmates, including 132 women, while 52 are above the age of 70 and 386

below 20 years. The capacity of the jail is, however, just 1,105, officials here pointed out. The prisoner count includes 30 Bangladeshis and an equal

number of Nigerians, they added. The total number of jail inmates in Maharashtra stands at 43,090, as per official data.

TEENAGE GIRL RIDING TWO-WHEELER DIES IN COLLISION WITH BUS, FRIEND CRITICAL

Team Absolute | Nagpur

An 18-year-old girl riding a two-wheeler was killed and her friend who was riding pillion was seriously injured on Saturday when they were hit by a speeding bus on a bridge in Nagpur city of Maharashtra, police said.

Hospital Vandalised, Doctor Attacked Over Bill Dispute

Team Absolute | Palghar

A hospital head was grievously injured after a group of people allegedly attacked him and vandalised the medical facility in Maharashtra's Palghar district following a dispute over the bill of a patient, police said.



to a hospital in Vapi town of neighbouring Gujarat, Patil said. Dr Shinde while talking to reporters claimed that functionaries of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) have been seeking a reduction in the hospital bills of patients.

He said they have assured protection to the doctors after their delegation which met him on Saturday.

COLD WAVE TO SUBSIDE IN THREE DAYS

Team Absolute | Pune

For the past few days, the severity of the cold has increased significantly across Maharashtra. However, the weather department has predicted that this pressure will decrease in the next three days.



The effect of the northern cold was felt in the state. Due to this, the air was dewy. Currently, Maharashtra is experiencing a cold front from the north due to high pressure and cyclonic winds.

temperature is above 30 degrees during the day, but it suddenly gets cold at night. Along with this, due to fog and cold in the morning, health complaints like cold, cough and fever have increased.

Two held for stealing TV sets, medical equipment worth more than Rs 2cr

Team Absolute | Thane

Two persons have been arrested in connection with the theft of medical equipment and television sets, worth more than Rs 2 crore, from two godowns in Bhiwandi town of Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Sunday.

Woman duped of around Rs 7 lakh by fraudster posing as Police official

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A woman was allegedly duped of around Rs 7 lakh by a fraudster posing as a courier company executive on the pretext of rejecting an international parcel carrying narcotics, police said on Saturday.



the call to a person posing as an official of Mumbai Police who told her that her ID is being misused for international smuggling and money laundering in Mumbai, Prachi Dhoke said in her complaint.

"They asked me to help them in the investigation saying that they will give me a certificate that I am not involved in the matter," she said. She transferred a total of Rs 6,93,437.50 in four transactions in the name of security deposit and investigation.

In village, land donation, crowd funding for government-run school

Team Absolute | Aurangabad

In a bid to ensure better future for their children, the residents of a village in Maharashtra's Beed district pooled resources, including money and land, on their own instead of banking on the government to upgrade a Zilla Parishad-run school that needed urgent repairs and lacked space to accommodate students.



ment agencies gave some funds for the repair work, it was not enough. The school also faced a space crunch. "Therefore, the villagers launched a movement of constructing a new building for the school so that the students don't have to face any problem, he said.

Like other places, the coronavirus pandemic and the resultant restrictions brought the construction activity to a standstill in 2020, he said. After the COVID-19-related curbs were lifted, more funds were collected. The total amount raised so far stood at Rs 39 lakh. This is meant for constructing six classrooms in the school.

Mock drill raises hackles over 'terrorists' shouting slogans of a particular community

Team Absolute | Chandrapur

A police mock drill in a temple in Chandrapur in Maharashtra landed in controversy after the personnel posing as terrorists were allegedly shouting slogans connected to a particular community.



who played the part of terrorists in the mock drill shouting particular slogans. This portrays one community in a negative light and makes one believe all terrorists are from this community," said Farat Baig, part of lawyers' group in Chandrapur.

a community. Obviously, the script of the mock drill must have been overseen by the SP and other senior officials," Baig said.

Kim Kardashian

addresses students at Harvard Business School

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian spoke about her burgeoning business empire during a lecture at Harvard Business School. She spoke to students about her own experiences in the business world. One of the students, Liz, subsequently told NBC4 Boston: "I think a lot of people don't respect her as someone who is co-running a multi-billion dollar company," reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Kim was spotted leaving Harvard Business School and getting into a waiting SUV after the lecture. But before she left, Kim told waiting reporters that she loved the city of Boston and she also waved at some of the students.

Kim had previously claimed that she doesn't care what people think of her. She hit back at her critics, arguing

that her talent lies in "marketing and the business behind selling products."

Asked about her talents and the key to her success, Kim explained: "I'm like, 'Well, we have a TV show.' But just because we're not singing and dancing and acting on the show doesn't mean that the fame didn't come from that." But then, I would write that as a hashtag, not bad for a girl with no talent, because people used to be like, 'Well, what do you do? What's your talent?' And I'm like, 'Didn't know I needed one.'"

"I mean, I can give you a million f***** talents. I can cook well, use my toes for anything. I could tell you the weirdest f***** s*** on the planet. But I think my talent is marketing and the business behind selling products and knowing what the customer wants and making it feel attainable, but also a bit unattainable at the same time." I wouldn't say that's a talent. I think it's a bit of magic and business savvy.

Maybe it is talent, I don't know."



'I ATE 6,100 CALORIES A DAY FOR FOUR MONTHS'



Helena Bonham Carter makes potential boyfriends take handwriting test

'I CHECK POTENTIAL PARTNERS WITH MY GRAPHOLOGIST'

London | Agencies

'Harry Potter' actress Helena Bonham Carter asks her handwriting expert to assess potential boyfriends. Bonham Carter, who played Bellatrix Lestrange in the Potter films and is Princess Margaret in The Crown, said: "I check potential partners with my graphologist, my aunt and the nannies. People who are in your home - they know. The writing was literally on the wall for one of them."

She began a five-year relationship with actor Kenneth Branagh in 1994. They met while filming Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein', when he was still married to Emma Thompson, reports mirror.co.uk.

In 2001, Bonham Carter began dating director Tim Burton, who she met while making 'Planet of the Apes'.

She starred in other Burton films, such as 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and 'Alice in Wonderland'. They have children Billy, 20, and Nell, 16, and split in 2014 - but live in connected houses in Belsize Park, North London.

Bonham Carter said of her eccentric image that it is important for teenage girls to "not give a f** about these things," adding: "You cannot afford to put your self-esteem in the hands of strangers, which is what so many teenagers are doing with Instagram." In her latest role, the actress plays legendary Crossroads actress Noele Gordon in the drama Nolly, which streams on ITVX from February 2.

Jonathan Majors ate 6,100 calories a day for four months for 'Magazine Dreams'

Los Angeles | Agencies

To transform into a bodybuilder, Jonathan Majors ate 6,100 calories a day for four months for 'Magazine Dreams'. The actor stunned everyone with his transformative performance as a toxic bodybuilding fanatic. Majors appear as a hulking beast in the film, with the camera often lingering on his muscles for minutes on end, reports Variety.

The actor revealed at the Variety Studio presented by Audible at Sundance that he spent four months eating over 6,000 calories in order to transform into the character. "I'm 6 feet tall. I'm 202 pounds," Majors said. "In order to sustain that and to grow that you have to eat as much protein that you weigh. I ate 6,100 calories a day for about four months. That included the pre-work and the post-work of 'Creed III.'"

"The normal bodybuilder works out two times a day," Majors continued. "What ended up happening is I would train two hours, two times a day for the movie and a third time after wrap. Meanwhile, you eat six times a day. Lots of chicken. Lots of elk. That's just for me. I like it."

After getting jacked for 'Creed III' and 'Magazine Dreams', is Majors excited to slow down on the training? He'll be scaling back, but he won't exactly be slowing down.

"I played football in Texas. I got an appetite," Majors said.

"I really like being physical. I like hiking and running. I've got dogs. I'm only 33 - I got to do something to stay with it. I don't work out three times a day anymore. Just once a day."

Beyonce performs in Dubai, returning to the stage after four years

Dubai | Agencies

It's been four years since singer Beyonce's last headlining show, and her performance in Dubai was a fittingly grand return.

The star-studded show began on Saturday night like a theatrical production. Violinists crowned with metallic gold headpieces and voluminous red skirts hit the stage first, and Beyonce's dancers and more musicians followed in matching garb, standing still with their hands folded in front of the Egyptian-themed backdrop, reports Variety.

As guests at the invite-only, hour-long performance started screaming with excitement, Beyonce raised up on a platform wearing a yellow corseted dress, topped with a feathered skirt and a feathered back-piece.

Fireworks exploded above the venue as the iconic artist opened the show singing Etta James 'At Last' into a gold microphone. Then, she announced to the crowd that her mom, Tina Knowles, father, Mathew Knowles, her

"beautiful husband" Jay-Z and their children, Blue Ivy, Rumi, and Sir Carter were all in the audience to support her.

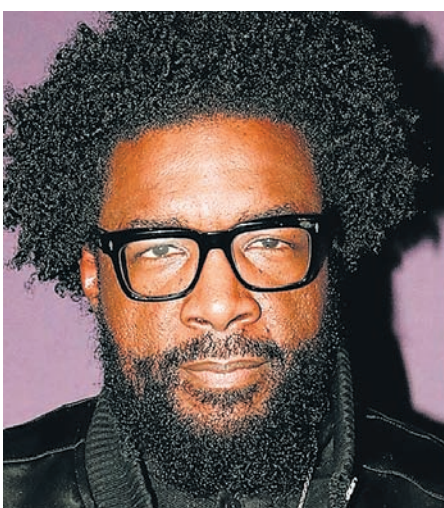
While Jay-Z stayed in his seat when Beyonce performed 'Crazy in Love' (she started it off with the '50 Shades of Grey' version and wrapped with the original), Blue Ivy hit the stage for a collab.

As Beyonce started performing 'Brown Skin Girl', Blue Ivy stood beside her and danced, nailing the choreography that the dancers were doing beside her. When the song ended, she hugged her mom, walked up the steps, and struck a pose, even blowing kisses to the crowd like a pro before she left the stage.

Beyonce had three different wardrobe changes during the evening. A red corseted jumpsuit topped with a skirt came next and then a sheer crystal-adorned mini-dress to end the show.

Each outfit ushered in a new vibe for the show, which leaned heavy on ballads - like 'Freedom', 'Spirit' and 'Be Alive'. But Beyonce spiced up the set with 'Beautiful Liar' and 'Naughty Girl', for which she appeared in her final look of the night.

Curiously, Beyonce didn't perform any songs from her Grammy-nominated 2022 'Renaissance' album.



Ryan Coogler, Questlove announce their next projects

Los Angeles | Agencies

At this year's Sundance Film Festival, content brand company Onyx Collective showcased its slate of programming, which includes two new projects, one from Ryan Coogler's Proximity Media, as well as the highly anticipated sophomore documentary feature from music artist and filmmaker Questlove.

The company has acquired an untitled Sly Stone feature documentary from Ahmir 'Questlove' Thompson, marking the artist's second collaboration with the collective.

According to Variety, the documentary promises to examine the life and legacy of Sly and the Family Stone, the groundbreaking band led by the famous Sly Stone.

The documentary aims to explore the rise, reign and fadeout of one of pop music's most influential artists and, in doing so, tell a human story about the cost of genius.

Questlove will direct and executive producer, alongside Shawn Gee and Zarah Zohlmán for Two One Five Entertainment Inc. Lonnie Rashid Lynn, a.k.a. Common, will serve as an executive producer, with Derek Dudley, Shelby Stone and Ron Weisner. Brian Gersh and Paul Gertz will executive produce on behalf of Network Entertainment Inc.

Derik Murray will produce with Joseph Patel, who is also attached to write with Jeff Mao. Also announced during Saturday's panel, Onyx Collective has picked up the documentary film 'Anthem' for Hulu from Proximity Media's overall deals with Onyx Collective in partnership with This Machine.

The company also revealed that it is developing scripted drama 'Sheba'.

'Sheba' details the first African queen's rise to power as she attempts to unite the nation now recognised as Ethiopia, transforming it into one of the richest, most formidable kingdoms in the world. Inspired by true events, the drama aims to take viewers on a journey with Makeda into a world of danger, deceit and political intrigue as she is forced to step into the role of Queen of Sheba.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Joy Corrigan



'It is an extremely special film for me'

Rakul Preet Singh is happy with the response to her latest release

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rakul Preet Singh is happy with the response her latest release 'Chhatriwali' is getting. She said that through the film, she got a chance to address issues that are usually not talked about.

Essaying the role of a quality control head that goes on a mission to change society and educate young minds, Rakul was praised for her sensitive depiction in the movie.

Rakul Preet said: "I am really overwhelmed with the amazing response 'Chhatriwali' has been receiving from the audience. It is an extremely special film for me and I believe for the audience too."

"With this film, I got the chance to address issues and throw light on aspects that we usually don't talk about. I loved the way the viewers are receiving the subject. I'm glad our message is well delivered to the audience." The film talks about the inhibitions around male contraceptives and safe sex. Produced by Ronnie Screwvala and directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar, 'Chhatriwali' features Rakul and Sumeet Vyas.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood stars Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff have started shooting for their upcoming action-entertainer 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'. Having shared his excitement about the Mahurat shot, producer Vashu Bhagnani posted pictures on Instagram and captioned it: "After 25 years, we gear up to return with our most successful franchise 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'!" "It was special then and it is even more special now with two exceptional Super Stars leading the title akshaykumar and tigerjack-ieshroff- and now with therealprithvi also on board - directed by alia bbasafar together we will recreate a brand new Avataar of BMCM! Need ur blessings and good wishes as we begin Shoot!"

Producer Jacky Bhagnani shared pictures from the Mahurat and captioned it: "After months of toiling, dreaming and strategising, we are ready to begin this massive ambitious journey. Truly humbled and honoured to stand alongside my 'Bade' and 'Chhote' with our team at Pooja Entertainment. Love, adore and respect these two and I can't wait for the audiences to see what we have in store." "Wouldn't have been possible without our captain Ali Abbas Zafar! He is ready to now bestow his magic on 'Bade Miyan Chhote Miyan', our biggest and most ambitious project! So thankful to my Dad for believing and backing us and to my entire team and everybody associated with this film. Can't wait to roll on this one."

SOUNDOS MOUFAKIR READY TO MAKE HER ACTING DEBUT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After 'Splitsvilla' and 'Roadies', Soundos Moufakir has been roped in to play Roma in the movie 'Continuity'. She spoke about making her debut as an actor through Deepak Singh's next project.

Soundos, who hails from Morocco, had participated in the reality show 'Roadies' and currently she is part of the dating-based reality show 'Splitsvilla X4'.

She said: "It was quite a pleasant surprise when sir offered me this film, and I didn't take a moment to say yes. I want to set a standard for myself in 'Continuity'."

"It was a dream come true to see me on the screen with my style and attire. I'm sure people will fall in love with this character. I'm playing a Punjabi girl, romancing and fighting for the love of her life," added Soundos.

She will be essaying the role of Roma in the movie which will be her first project as an actress.

Soundos also shared various photos from the sets of the festival film on her social media handle and captioned them: "Continuity, soon on your screens. ROMA, a character who's very different from who I am. Thank you Deepak Singh for this opportunity."



Sonu Chandrapal explains how playing a comic character is challenging

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After being part of shows such as 'Tujh Sang Preet Lagai Sajna', 'Suhani Si Ek Ladki', and 'Shrimad Bhagwat', actress Sonu Chandrapal will now be seen in a comedy show called 'Professor Pandey Ke Paanch Pariwar'.

She will be playing Chandini, one of the main lead characters, in her first comedy show. The actress talked about her role and the challenges of playing a comic character. The actress said that both comedy and mythology are difficult. "From mythology to comedy, the roles are way too different. While playing mythological characters, you need to be very careful with the pauses in the dialogue delivery whereas for comedy characters, you have to be energetic and humorous all the time, so both are challenging."

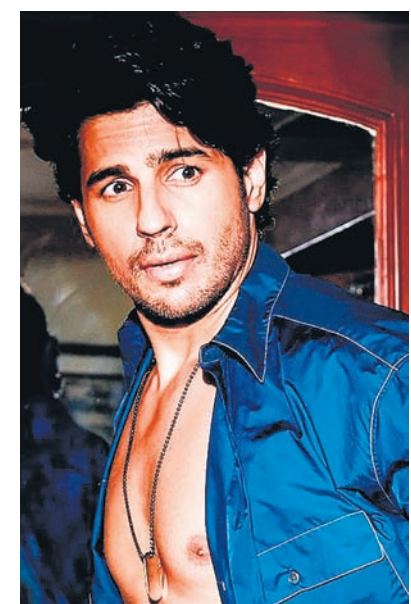
"Playing a comic character is challenging because no matter what you are feeling in your personal life, you have to perform with full enthusiasm and in an energetic way. The dialogue delivery in comic characters is high-pitched and your body language has a lot of movements and you can't play subtle. You have to be expressive. I love experimenting with different characters and this is the reason it took so much time to get something." "Usually it happens that after doing one show, you can't show offers related to that type of character, but I prefer waiting so that I get something different. I believe in performance and don't want to go into type cast," shared the 'Suhani Si Ek Ladki' actress.



'True stories have always piqued my interest'

Sidharth Malhotra had a 'wholesome experience' playing a spy from the 70s

Team Absolute | New Delhi



Bollywood actor Sidharth Malhotra got candid about his latest film 'Mission Majnu', preparing to play a spy from the first time, and what made him accept the project. He also revealed the most challenging part to act in the movie.

Sidharth shared: "True stories have always piqued my interest, and 'Mission Majnu', an espionage thriller drama, was something I couldn't pass up. Yes, I have been a part of action-packed dramas in the past, but this is my first assignment as a spy for the country. It is an excellent combination of real-life events and a compelling and thrilling story." The 'Student of the Year' actor added more about playing a RAW agent in the film and how he prepared for this role: "Preparing for 'Mission Majnu' involved many facets. Every role was on a different level, be it that of a tailor, plumber, or spy agent. It was challenging because we knew nothing about RAW agents, and

everything about secret services and intelligence was confidential. I got the opportunity to play many shades, which I thoroughly enjoyed. As the film is set in the 1970s, I also attended a week-long workshop where I learned how to use an old-fashioned sewing machine." The actor further spoke about the challenges he faced while playing a RAW agent in his current project: "The role promises a challenge, a dual life in a single film where I portray Aman and Tariq. Much effort went into the character's look, especially to make it convincing as a tailor. We also prepared for the different dialects and languages of Rawalpindi in the seventies."

"Every character demands that you have a distinct personality. However, technology does help and plays a different role now. I hope my portrayal after this thorough research does justice to the agents and how they live and operate. It was a wholesome experience, which I've particularly enjoyed in a decade-long career," shared the 38-year-old actor.

Megha Chakraborty shares BTS scenes from her show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Imlie' actress Megha Chakraborty, who is seen playing the titular role in the show is enjoying shooting

for the fictional drama and keeps sharing reels and pictures from the sets.

Recently, she shared a reel in which she can be seen shooting for a sequence in the show and her co-actor Karan Vohra, who is playing her on-screen husband Atharva in the show can be seen walking carrying her in his arms. It seems as if both were shooting for some action sequence as they looked injured and Atharva saved Imlie from some danger. The caption reads: "Ek dil ek jaan hai". After she shared this romantic reel, many social media users liked it and recalled their chemistry from the 2018 show 'Krishna Chali London' in which they both played the lead roles.

One of the fans wrote: "Chahe Krishna Chali London ho ya ho Imlie, this jodi always rocks." (Be it Krishna Chali London or Imlie, this couple always rocks) Another social media user commented: "I was blown away by the scene. Great fit."

While the other fan mentioned: "Mesmerising couple. Krishveer Athlie will be remembered for a lifetime. This should be the cover page of Imlie book."

Meanwhile, the show is seeing a lot of ups and down in the life of the three lead characters, Imlie, Atharva and Cheeni, played by Seerat Kapoor.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Asha Negi