

## NATION &gt; 02

K'taka woman officers spat turns ugly as IPS officer questions...



## HOLLYWOOD &gt; 06

Megan Fox addresses 'baseless' MGK cheating allegations...



## SPORTS &gt; 07

India clinch semis spot by beating Ireland via DL method ...



## Spate of viral infections hit India, dry cough just doesn't go away

A long-lasting dry cough that refuses to go away, repeated flu/viral infections, and low immunity amid disturbing weather patterns, Indians from Delhi-NCR to Mumbai are suffering a lot in the New Year. Health experts on Monday said that poor air quality coupled with increased susceptibility to viral infection have contributed to the current situation. Dry cough is a common complication of upper and lower respiratory viral infection and it may be present for 3 weeks to 3 months after acute phase.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

According to health experts, there has been a spate of viral infections which has been doing rounds since December 2022. Most of the infections are related to respiratory tract and are in the form of cold, cough, and fever.

"What has been a concern is the fact that most of the patients are taking about 2 to 3 weeks to get better from the post-viral cough. It is thought that the poor air quality coupled with increased susceptibility to viral infection both have contributed to the protracted convalescence," Dr Anita Mathew, Infectious Disease Specialist, Fortis Hospital, Mulund, told correspondent.

No age group is exempt and the reason is mainly attributed to post viral inflammatory cascade affecting upper or lower airway or both, added Dr Anish Gupta, lead consultant, ENT, C.K. Birla Hospital, Gurugram. "Quality of air may also be responsible for increase in severity and duration of coughing," said the doctor. Changes in temperature can

weaken the immune system, making people more vulnerable to flu or viral infections that can cause a persistent dry cough due to inflammation and irritation of the airways or postnasal drip from congestion and sinus pressure. According to Dr Shovna Veshnavi, Consultant, Department of Internal Medicine, Jaypee Hospital, exposure to indoor or outdoor air pollution can irritate the respiratory system, causing inflammation and making it more vulnerable to infections. "Prolonged exposure can weaken the immune system, increasing the risk of infections and causing respiratory symptoms such as coughing," she told correspondent.

Individuals with a history of respiratory illness, such as asthma or COPD, are at an increased risk of contracting respiratory infections and may experience severe symptoms, including coughing, shortness of breath, and chest tightness.

They may also have weaker immune systems, making it more challenging to fight off infections. "Flu can lead to acute bronchitis. It can cause inflammation in the bronchial tubes that carry air to the

## ADENOVIRUS TAKING ALARMING SHAPE AMONG CHILDREN IN WEST BENGAL

**Kolkata:** In the current time of season change, Adenovirus appears to be taking an alarming shape among the children in West Bengal. Although the state health department is yet to compile the definite figure of deaths of children being affected by Adenovirus, unofficial estimates indicate that since December last year, more than ten children have died of cold and breathing problems, symptoms which are typical of being affected by the virus. The common symptoms of Adenovirus are flu-like ones, cold, fever, breathing problems, sore throat, pneumonia and acute bronchitis. The children of two-years of age and below are most vulnerable to being affected by the virus. The virus can spread through skin contacts, by air through coughing and sneezing and through an infected person's stool. So far, there have not been any approved medicines or any specific treatment-line to treat the virus.

lungs. This can result in coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath. Individuals with weakened immune systems or pre-existing respiratory conditions may be more vulnerable," said Dr Veshnavi.

Dr Mathew said that the pollution in Mumbai has been a major contributory factor for the prolonged cough. "Breathing exercises, having home-based remedies also help. Vaccination for flu preferably in May-June of every year will also reduce the

incidence of catching infection," she told correspondent.

Drinking plenty of fluids can help to thin mucus and soothe a dry cough. Water, herbal tea, and warm broth can all help to keep you hydrated and soothe your throat.

"If the cough persists or is accompanied by other symptoms such as chest pain or difficulty breathing, it is important to seek medical attention to rule out any underlying medical conditions," said Dr Veshnavi.

## Everything said won't amount to hate speech

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday observed that everything which is said could not be equated with hate speech, stressing: "We have a common enemy, that is hate. That is the only thing. Remove hate from your minds and just see the difference."

A bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna, hearing a batch of petitions seeking directions against hate speech, also considered a plea by Shaheen Abdullah in connection with an event organised by a body known as the Sakal Hindu Samaj in Mumbai earlier this month.

The top court had directed the Maharashtra government to record the event scheduled on February 5, and stressed that the government has to ensure that hate speeches are not made, while seeking a report on it.

Earlier, The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Delhi Police to place on record the charge sheet in a case of hate speeches made at Dharam Sansad in Govindpuri in December 2021. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K.M. Nataraj, appearing for the Delhi Police, submitted that the probe in the matter is at an advanced stage.

Nataraj contended before a bench headed by Chief



Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud that they were expecting a forensic science laboratory (FSL) report on voice samples of the accused. He further added that the police will soon file a charge sheet in the matter.

The top court noted that the ASG has submitted that

the investigation is now at an advanced stage and the report of the voice sample is expected soon from the forensic lab.

The bench, in its order, said: "A copy of the charge sheet be placed on records. The matter is in the first week of April."

## PLEA FOR UNIFORM MARRIAGE AGE REFUSED

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking direction to ensure uniform age of marriage for men and women, saying it can't issue mandamus to the Parliament to legislate.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud also pulled up petitioner-advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, saying: "We are not here to please you or any section of the polity. Don't you give me gratuitous comments. This is not a political forum..."

Upadhyay submitted that the matter involves a question connected with gender equality and the court as custodian of law must intervene to remove the anomaly to prescribe minimum age of marriage as 21 years for both men and women.

## UPENDRA KUSHWAHA RESIGNS FROM JD-U, ANNOUNCES NEW PARTY

**Patna:** Upendra Kushwaha, who has been skirmishing with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for some time now, on Monday announced his resignation from the primary membership of Bihar's Janata Dal-United (JD-U) and the setting up of a new party. Addressing a press conference here, he said that the decision was taken after the two day meeting of his supporters in Sinha Library here. Kushwaha also said that he will soon resign from the state Legislative Council too. Kushwaha also announced the launch of a new political party, the Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal.

## Sitharaman refuses to provide NPS funds for old pension scheme

Jaipur | Agencies

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday refused to give the money kept aside for the New Pension Scheme (NPS) to the state governments for the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

"If any state takes a decision for some reason that the funds of NPS can be collected from the Centre, then it will not be available," the Finance Minister said. It needs to be mentioned here that Rajasthan recently announced the OPS for its state employees. In fact, the Congress government has also announced OPS in Himachal Pradesh.

This Old Pension Scheme will receive a setback due to the fresh announcement by the Finance Minister.

Sitharaman said that it is the employee's money and that money will come into the hands of the employee at the time of retirement or whenever it is required by



the employee.

"The collected money will not come into the hands of the state government. When the right time comes, only then will this money be given to the employee," said Sitharaman while interacting with the media after the budget discussion at a hotel here on Monday.

On the free schemes run by the Rajasthan government, Sitharaman said: "When the financial condition of the government is good, (you) run such schemes. Make provision for

them in your budget. If the financial condition of your state is not good, you are not making provision in the budget, you are taking a loan for that. It is not right. Who will give this money? That is why the Finance Secretary said that there is no free lunch." The Finance Minister further said: "To bring such schemes, the states should raise funds from their own resources and earn from taxes. For free schemes, the states are putting their burden on someone else... it is wrong."

## Rs 350cr allocated for rejuvenation of internal roads of urban bodies

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday came out with another plan to provide funds for rejuvenation of internal roads falling under the ambit of the local urban bodies.

The government has approved Rs 750 crore for the rejuvenation campaign of the roads of 413 urban bodies of the state, and the first installment of Rs 350 crore was transferred to 413 urban bodies of the state on Monday.

While transferring the funds during a programme at Kushabhau Thakre Auditorium in Bhopal, Chouhan claimed that "it was the first time the state government is providing funds from its budget to the urban



bodies for the maintenance of roads". Chouhan said the rejuvenation campaign of internal roads was started by the state government with the objective of ensuring that the urban bodies have adequate funds for the maintenance of roads, due to which it has been decided to provide funds to the urban bodies. Meanwhile, he also

asserted that civic bodies will have to take initiative to develop financial resources on their own.

Addressing a gathering, the Chief Minister directed the officials of the urban bodies to work towards legalising the illegal colonies within a time frame. "It has also been decided that no new illegal colony will be allowed to be

built in the state. It is the responsibility of the urban bodies to ensure time-bound implementation of the process of legalising old colonies and to eliminate any possibility of the construction of illegal colonies in their area immediately," Chouhan said.

In the rejuvenation campaign, funds were allocated on the basis of the category of population for the upgradation of the roads of the urban bodies. An amount of Rs 25 crore has been allocated for cities with a population of more than one million, while Rs 7 crore for cities with a population of 2-10 lakh.

Besides, Rs 3 crore has been kept aside for cities having a population of 1-2 lakh, while Rs 2 crore for a catering population of 50 lakh for a population.




## पावरग्रिड भिंड गुना ट्रांसमिशन लिमिटेड

### माननीय श्री ज्योतिरादित्य एम. सिंधिया

नागर विमानन एवं इस्पात मंत्री, भारत सरकार

द्वारा

राज्यांतरिक पारेषण प्रणाली की स्थापना के अंतर्गत  
400/220 के.वी. गुना उपकेन्द्र एवं 220/132 के.वी.  
भिंड उपकेन्द्र और सम्बद्ध ट्रांसमिशन लाइनों के

## राष्ट्र को समर्पण

विशिष्ट अतिथि

माननीय श्री प्रद्युम्न सिंह तोमर,  
ऊर्जा मंत्री, मध्य प्रदेश शासन

माननीय श्री महेंद्र सिंह सिसोदिया,  
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माननीय डॉ. कृष्णपाल सिंह यादव,  
सांसद, गुना

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माननीय श्री अरविंद धाकड़,  
जिला पंचायत अध्यक्ष, गुना

दिनांक: 21 फरवरी, 2023 | समय: अपराह्न 12:30 बजे  
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पोस्ट ऑफिस - मगराना, जिला - गुना (म.प्र.) - 475001





# PROJECTS WORTH RS 2,478 CR INAUGURATED IN 15 DAYS OF BJP'S 'VIKAS YATRA' IN MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the last 15 days of the BJP's 'Vikas Yatra' led by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, public welfare projects worth Rs 2,478 crore have been inaugurated across the state.

Besides this, foundation stones were laid for over 20,000 proposed projects amounting to Rs 4,024 in the same period.

The yatra kick started on the occasion of Sant Ravidas Jayanti on February 5, and since then, the entire MP BJP unit involving both Central and state ministers, have been carrying out walkathons in their respective areas.

It will conclude on February 25. "Our Vikas Yatra is continuously fulfilling the goals of public welfare, and presenting the development picture of Madhya Pradesh. So far, as many as 27,421 projects, which were completed have been inaugurated and handed over to the people. At the same time, foundation



stones of 20,676 proposed development projects were laid across Madhya Pradesh. Meanwhile, the issues of 4.84 lakh people have been

positively resolved," Chief Minister Chouhan said on Monday.

During the yatra, various initiatives were implemented by the district administrations for public welfare.

For example, a 'Home Again Centre' opened its doors in Indore in an effort to connect mentally ill women who have been neglected by their family to the society.

Similarly, in Burhanpur district, a rejuvenation campaign has been launched for better management of hostels run by Tribal Affairs Department and Backward Classes Welfare Department.

In Alirajpur district, Red Cross is helping towards conducting surveys of senior citizens with cataract and dental issues.

A special campaign is being run in Agar-Malwa district to make composite cards and remove errors.

Along with this, necessary certificates are being prepared for nomads, semi-nomads and people belonging to denotified castes.

# Cong to contest MP Assembly polls on Kamal Nath's face: Digvijaya Singh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh has said that state Congress chief Kamal Nath will be the party's face in the upcoming Assembly elections due at the end of the year.

Singh said the party will contest the elections under Kamal Nath's leadership, and therefore, "he will be the face". Singh made this statement while talking to the press reporters in Bhopal on Sunday.

Importantly, Singh's statement comes days after a section of the senior party leaders of the MP Congress unit objected to posters projecting Kamal Nath as the chief ministerial face. A group of party workers, including Congress spokespersons on January 1, had put banners at several parts of the state, including in Bhopal, projecting Nath as 'future chief minister' of Madhya Pradesh.



However, some senior Congress leaders, including former Union minister Arun Yadav and former leaders of opposition Ajay Singh (Rahul) had opposed the 'posters' projecting Kamal Nath as the Chief Minister's face. "The Chief Minister's face has always been decided by the elected MLAs," they had said then. Subsequently, responding to this, Kamal Nath had also said that he was not in the

race for any post but his prime goal was to bring the Congress into power in Madhya Pradesh. Notably, for the last few days, Digvijaya Singh has been visiting different Assembly constituencies and meeting party workers to review the preparations for the upcoming Assembly elections. On Sunday, Singh visited Rehti village under Budhni Assembly constituency in Sehore district.

# Cyclists planted saplings with Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Banyan, Khirri and Sarika Indica in the garden located at Shyamala Hills. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Anjana Malviya of Kishore Kumar Sangeet Academy, Bhopal planted saplings on her birthday. Dr. Rajesh Kumar Malviya, Dr. Pawan, Dr. Swatantra Chaurasia, Dr. Nayan Ram, Rajanshi and child Rhythm were with him.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Sundaram Tiwari and Rituraj of Pratapgarh Uttar Pradesh also planted saplings. Both the youths have set out on a cycle tour from Lucknow with the aim of encouraging tree plantation. During his visit, he is motivating the students of schools, colleges and social



organizations to plant trees. About 14 thousand kilometers have been traveled by them so far. Giving best wishes to both the youths for a safe journey, Chief Minister Chouhan inspired them to

continue the pious work of planting trees. Along with Chief Minister, Rishabh Rai also planted saplings on his birthday. Omprakash Rai and Hrithik Rai were also with him.

# MAN IN PAKISTAN JAIL SINCE 2019 RETURNS TO INDIA

Khandwa: A 44-year-old man who went missing from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh five years ago and was later jailed in Pakistan after inadvertently crossing into that country has returned to India, an official said on Monday.

Raju Pindare, a resident of Indhawadi, has been handed back to Indian authorities and a four-member team comprising policemen and a medical professional has been sent to Amritsar to bring him here, additional collector Shankar Lal Singhade said.

"Information about Pindare being handed over to India was received by us through Amritsar's Red Cross Society. He will be handed over to his family after legal formalities are completed," Singhade added. Subhash Sharma, Project Manager, Red Cross Society of Amritsar, said Pindare was released by Pakistan authorities on February 14 at the international border at Wagah and handed over to Khandwa police on Monday. Khandwa's Superintendent of Police (SP) Vivek Singh said he has been in constant touch with the police headquarters regarding the man's return.

Meanwhile, Pindare's mother Basanta said he was mentally unwell and she had got information about his arrest in Pakistan through some local officials in 2019, six months after he went missing. Her son used to wander here and there but it is still not known how he managed to get to Pakistan, Basanta said.

# MP INTRODUCES NEW EXCISE POLICY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government has introduced a new excise policy under which consumption of alcohol at 'ahatas' will be prohibited.

Ahata is an area attached to alcohol outlets where people can sit and consume liquor.

The decision to introduce the new policy was taken during a cabinet meeting late Sunday.

Following the approval of the new excise policy, 2,580 ahatas and 31 shop bars will get closed across the state.

"It has been decided by the cabinet that henceforth all liquor vends will only sell liquor. All ahatas and shop bars (allowing consumption of liquor within shops premises) will be closed," the state government's official spokesperson and home minister Narottam Mishra said, while briefing about the cabinet meeting's decision.

"Further, it has been decided that the distance between liquor



shops and places of worship and educational institutions, particularly girl schools, colleges and hostels, will be increased from the present 50 metres to 100 metres," Mishra added.

He further informed that the state cabinet has also approved a proposal for making stricter provisions for the suspension of driving licenses of those who get caught for drunk driving.

"Our government is committed to discouraging consumption of liquor in the state, owing to which no new liquor shop has been allowed to be opened in the state since 2010. On the contrary,

many shops have been shut down. During our Chief Minister's Narmada Seva Yatra in 2016-17, as many as 64 liquor shops were closed," Mishra added. The move comes amid senior BJP leader Uma Bharti's sustained pressure on the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led Madhya Pradesh government to have a controlled liquor policy.

Recently, she tied cows and fed them with fodder outside a liquor shop in Orchha town as part of her campaign titled 'Madhushala mein Gaushala', urging people to drink milk instead of alcohol.

# Roads of urban bodies will be maintained in rejuvenation campaign: Chief Minister

Chief Minister Shri Chouhan gave approval for road upgradation works worth Rs 750 crore, released the first installment amounting to Rs 350 crore with a single click.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that for the first time in the history of the state, the state government will provide funds from its budget to the urban bodies for the maintenance of roads so that the internal roads of the state's cities are in good condition and the life of the citizens is smooth. Getting it done Maintenance of roads is the responsibility of the urban bodies. With a view to ensuring that adequate funds are available with the urban bodies for the maintenance of roads, the state government has decided to start a rejuvenation campaign and provide funds to the urban bodies. The



Chief Minister said that civic bodies will have to take initiative to develop sources of resources at their own level. In this direction, the innovation of issuing green bonds by the Indore Municipal Corporation is exemplary. Chouhan approved Rs 750 crore for the rejuvenation

campaign for the roads of 413 urban bodies of the state from the Kushabhau Thackeray Auditorium today and transferred the first installment of Rs 350 crore to the urban bodies with a single click. 413 urban bodies of the state were connected virtually with the programme. Chief Minister also interacted virtually with the office bearers of Indore, Mandsaur, Jaura, Rampur, Nekin and Dhanpuri urban bodies.

**Complete the tender process in 15 to 20 days** Chief Minister Chouhan said that the work of maintenance of roads should be done within the time limit. After completing the process of tender in the next 15 to 20 days, repair of all the roads should be ensured by the month of May by appointing an agency.

# Action on defaulters of electricity company

FIR on 13 people and bank accounts of 52 defaulters seized

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Strict action is being taken by the Central Region Power Distribution Company against unauthorized and illegal users of electricity as well as against electricity bill defaulters. Electricity Act 2003 along with registration of FIR against 13 people in the concerned police stations under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code for unauthorized use of electricity by using restricted power

wires during checking by the company in Morena and Ambah Bills of more than one lakh 34 thousand have been issued after registering a case under section 135 of the IPC.

Similarly, information about the arrears of electricity bills has been registered in the accounts of eight consumers. Along with this, due to non-payment of electricity bill dues of more than one crore 8 lakh 64 thousand rupees by 52 consumers, their bank accounts have

been seized by contacting their banks. Transactions from the bank accounts of these consumers have been completely banned till the electricity dues are not paid.

The company has appealed to the general public and electricity consumers not to make unauthorized use of restricted power cables. Ensure timely payment of your outstanding electricity bills as well as current dues and avoid any untoward action by the company.

# DR ANSHUL RAI RECEIVED "DAKHAL PRIDE AWARD"



**Bhopal:** Dr Anshul Rai, Additional Professor, Dentistry, AIIMS, Bhopal received Dakhal Pride Award for his work in the field of Dental surgery and for his social work. The Award given to him by Famous Bollywood Actor Ashutosh Rana, Ex minister Sanjay Pathak, Anurag Upadhaya and Shefali Gupta on 19th Feb, 2023 at Kukkut Bhawan, Bhopal. AIIMS Bhopal family and friends congratulate Dr anshul Rai for getting this prestigious award.

# MP WILL GET 12 NEW CHEETAHS EVERY YEAR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

There is good news for the wildlife lovers of Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh will get 12 leopards every year. An agreement has been signed with the Government of India and the Government of South Africa in this regard. State Forest Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah has confirmed this. He said-Every year a consignment of 12 cheetahs from South Africa will come to Madhya Pradesh. They will be released in Gandisagar and Nauradehi sanctuaries.

Earlier, 8 cheetahs had come to Kuna from Namibia. It was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At the same time, on February 18, 12 cheetahs came from South Africa. They were released by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Kuno Sanctuary. They have been released in the quarantine enclosure. There are now a total of 20 cheetahs in the Kuno-Palpur sanctuary. This clan of cheetahs will continue to grow in the state. After Kuna, tourists will be able to see cheetahs in other sanctuaries as well. The Forest Minister said that leopards would also be seen in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary situated in the border areas of Neemuch-Mandsaur district and



Nauradehi Sanctuary situated in the border areas of Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur districts. Minister Vijay

Shah told that the government of South Africa has agreed to give 12 leopards every year.

# State level employment day program on February 23 in Mahidpur

State level employment day program will be held on February 23 in Mahidpur development block of Ujjain district.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be the chief guest of the program and will also distribute acceptance letters in various schemes to youths who start self-employment. Earlier this program was scheduled to be held on February 25 at Katni district headquarters.

Secretary MSME I P. Narhari informed that along with the state level function to be held in Ujjain, programs will also be held at all the district headquarters of the state. He informed that Chief Minister Chouhan will also hold virtual dialogue with each beneficiary of

Harda, Ashok Nagar, Katni and Niwari districts. The program will also be telecast live from all media platforms.

In the Employment Day program to be held in the district headquarters, acceptance letters will be given to the people's representatives by inviting the beneficiaries who have benefited in the district in the financial year 2022-23 under various self-employment schemes. The program will be executed after determining the outline of the event to be held in the districts under the direction of the District Collector. There will be participation of concerned departments and banks in this and public representatives will be invited.



EDITOR'S SPECS

# The Mankurad Mango

Goa's Mankurad mango, awaiting for Geographical Indication (GI) tag, has arrived in the main markets of the coastal state and it is costing Rs 6,000 per dozen. The Mankurad is one of the most sought-after mango varieties in Goa during summer and having a Mankurad tree in the yard is regarded as a matter of pride for the homeowner. For many mango farmers, Mankurad is the source of income during this season. A mango wholesaler from Margao in South Goa, said that as the harvest is less, the prices have gone up. "The rate is considered as per size of the mango. Presently the big size Mankurad is costing around Rs 6,000 per dozen and the smaller size goes for Rs 4800." He said that vendors from across the state visit the Margao market to purchase at wholesale rate and then sell in their areas. According to him, this market opens at 3 a.m. in the morning and closes soon after the vendor leaves the place. "Presently the harvesting of Mankurad mango is less, but by April we may get in large quantities," he said, adding that mango farmers from many areas of state come to sell their produce in Margao. Last year, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had taken a dig at the summer pride of Maharashtra, the Alphonso mango, by insisting that the Mankurad mango, a native Goan variety, tastes better than its counterpart. "We all say that the Alphonso mango is popular, but I can say for sure that the Mankurad mango is tastier. I can say it with a lot of pride," Sawant said. For the past two years, Goa has been awaiting the GI tag for Mankurad mango after the proposal was submitted in 2020.

## Asad Mirza

A recent disconcerting report based on an investigation carried by 30 global media outlets, including the Guardian and DeSpiegel, claims to have exposed a team of freelance units based in Israel, which disrupt elections and manipulate public opinion using disinformation campaigns. Undercover reporters recorded a group of covert cyber influence specialists as they pitched their services for seeking fresh business, which involve using disinformation campaigns, false intelligence, hacks and blackmail to promote their clients' interests. The group, which calls itself 'Team Jorge', claims to have worked on dozens of presidential elections around the world and charges multimillion-dollar fees.

Undercover journalists who carried out the investigation included Gur Meggido (The Marker), Frederic Metzereau (Radio France), and Omer Benjakob (Haaretz).

The journalists were part of a collaborative investigation called 'Story Killers', which was coordinated by 'Forbidden Stories' -- an international consortium of investigative journalists that pursue the work of journalists who have been killed or work under threat.

As reported, the covert units or contractors, used the pseudonym 'Team Jorge' headed by Tal Hanan, who previously worked as an Israeli special forces operative, and was apparently caught in an undercover sting operation by the journalists posing as potential clients.

However, Tal Hanan denies any wrongdoing. But he allegedly told the reporters that his unit's services were available to intelligence agencies, political campaigns, and private companies, and that many European, African, Americans well

# EXPLOITING TECHNOLOGY TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY



as Central and South American clients had already used them around the globe.

Their modus operandi is said to involve creating thousands of fake social media profiles on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Telegram, Gmail, Instagram, and YouTube. These fake accounts, which allegedly used profile pictures from real social media accounts, were also linked to credit cards and could be used to create thousands of bots that sent mass messages.

In one secretly filmed meeting quoted by the Guardian, Hanan is seen boasting that at present his team is now involved in one election in Africa, besides two other teams in Greece and the UAE. Boasting further, he said that his team has so far delivered 33 presidential-level campaigns globally, 27 of which were successful.

Hanan also reportedly boasted to the undercover reporters that he could hack the email and messenger services of election campaigners, and send messages to their contacts designed to damage their campaign.

The investigators found that Team Jorge's tech toolbox included "a platform of influence" called Advanced Impact Media Solutions or AIMS, which Hanan claims to have sold to the intelligence services of more than 10 countries. The AIMS software is designed to create convincing avatars for social media campaigns. The avatars, or bots, use stolen photos of real people, operate on any social media platform, and can be connected to functioning Amazon and Bitcoin accounts. They also appear to have a long-standing presence online, including Gmail accounts and trite comments on celebrity YouTube videos, to give investigators the impression they are real people.

In this regard Hanan told reporters that they relied successfully on imitating human behaviour.

Though nowadays most online accounts require phone number and email address verification to keep out bots like those deployed by AIMS. But to overcome that there are websites available, which have been set up specifically to allow one-off SMS-verification services, for 50 cents or less. Many accounts such as Gmail and WhatsApp --- can be registered with "verified" phone numbers. Apparently Team Jorge used a service called SMSpva.com for phone number verifications.

Keeping abreast of social media

platforms checks, AIMS relied on residential proxies to reroute internet traffic from bots through people's homes so it appeared authentic, in order to avoid detection and shut-downs by social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook. This made it difficult for social media platforms to identify a coordinated disinformation campaign.

Verification and analysis of the recorded conversations by reporting partners Le Monde and the Guardian identified clusters of avatars, including those seen in Hanan's pitch presentations, that appeared to have been used for coordinated Twitter campaigns.

Reporters found over 1,700 Twitter accounts connected to 21 AIMS-related campaigns, whose networks had produced tens of thousands of tweets.

In December last, during an in-person meeting with undercover reporters, Team Jorge showed off a new capability of AIMS: Artificial intelligence tools to generate fake news using specified key words, tone and topic.

The identities of Team Jorge members were shrouded in secrecy but reporters managed to piece together some background information on some members of the clandestine group. Some of it lines up with claims Team Jorge made about team members in calls with journalists.

One team member described his other colleagues as former senior information officers, former senior financial information and warfare experts, and psychological warfare specialists, all with intelligence services background.

Hanan indicated that he had orchestrated lobbying operations in the US despite not registering as a "foreign agent", as required by law. He

said he worked via consultants and companies that are already registered, and told reporters he had recently set up a public relations firm called Axiomatics to promote Team Jorge with "existing lobby groups".

During calls with undercover reporters, Team Jorge went into specifics about the technology they say the group uses to swing elections. They added that they have six offices and employ at least 100 people, emphasising that they draw on the backgrounds of colleagues with experience in the intelligence services. This pushes Team Jorge's activities far beyond the realm of public relations strategies that are commonly deployed in elections.

As far as the financial pickings are concerned, Team Jorge told the reporters they would accept payments in a variety of currencies, including crypto currencies such as Bitcoin, or cash. He said he would charge between 6 million euros and 15 million euros for interference in elections.

The information gleaned by the investigative reporters points to one rather disconcerting fact, that there are people out there and they would be there in future too, who would always be ready to interfere in other country's internal affairs and ready to subvert the democratic institutions.

But the bigger question is shall we just ignore them calling it scaling another frontier in the technology advancement or shall we start a campaign to ban such illegal and undesirable activities which may one day be able to destabilise the whole global democratic system?

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi)

## international

# As Biden visits Ukraine, China's top diplomat heads to Russia

Hong Kong | Agencies

As US President Joe Biden touched down in Ukraine to meet with his counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday, China's top diplomat was travelling in the opposite direction, on his way to Russia, according to a media report.

Wang Yi - who was promoted as Chinese leader Xi Jinping's top foreign policy advisor last month - is due to arrive in Moscow this week as part of his eight-day Europe tour, a trip that brings into focus China's attempted diplomatic balancing act since Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine a year ago, CNN reported.

The optics of the two trips - taking place just days before the one-year anniversary of the brutal war on Friday - underscores the sharpening of geopolitical fault lines between the world's two superpowers, CNN reported.



While relations between the US and China continue to plummet - most recently due to the fallout from a suspected Chinese spy balloon that entered US airspace - China and Russia are as close as ever since their leaders declared a 'no limits friendship' a year ago - partly driven by their shared animosity towards the United States.

And as the US and its allies reaffirm their support for Ukraine and step up military aid, Beijing's deepening partnership with Moscow has raised alarms in Western capitals - despite China's public charm offensive in Europe to present itself as a negotiator of peace, CNN reported.

At the Munich Security Conference on Saturday, Wang had addressed a room of European officials as "dear friends" and touted China's commitment to peace, while apparently attempting to drive a wedge between Europe and the US.

# N.Korea fires 2 short-range ballistic missiles

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) toward the East Sea on Monday, a day after South Korea and the US staged joint air drills, involving B-1B bombers.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launch from the Sukchon area in South Pyongan Province between 7 a.m. and 7:11 a.m., and that the missiles flew some 390 km and 340 km, respectively, reports Yonhap News Agency. Hours after the launch, Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported that the artillery unit of the Korean People's Army fired two shots from the 600-mm multiple rocket launcher during firing drills, and that they flew 395 km and 337 km, respectively.

The weapon system is a "tactical nuclear attack means boasting of the great might powerful enough to assign only one multiple rocket launcher with four shells so as to destroy an enemy operational airfield", the KCNA said.

In a ceremony to "present" the 600-mm rocket launcher at a key party meeting in late December, the country's leader Kim Jong-un called it an "offensive weapon" capable of carrying tactical nuclear warheads that could put all of South Korea within its range. Some observers here noted that given their flight distance, the rockets fired Monday can reach a South Korean air base in Cheongju known to be home to the South's F-35A stealth fighters. Cheongju is located 112 km south of Seoul.

# Taliban shuts down main border point with Pakistan

Kabul | Agencies

The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan has ordered the shut down of one of the country's main trading and border crossing points with Pakistan, accusing Islamabad of reneging on its commitments.

The Afghan Taliban commissioner for Torkham said the border point had been closed down for travel and transit trade, reports Dawn news.

"Pakistan has not abided by its commitments and so the gateway has been shut down on the directions of (our) leadership," Taliban commissioner at Torkham Maulavi Mohammad Siddique tweeted. He advised the people of Afghanistan to avoid travelling to the border crossing in eastern Nangarhar province.

However, the Taliban official did not specify the commitment Islamabad allegedly breached.

Some unconfirmed media reports suggested the Taliban were irked by an unannounced ban on travel of Afghan patients



seeking treatment in Pakistan, Dawn reported.

There was no immediate official word from Foreign Office in Islamabad.

The Afghan Taliban appear unlikely to shift their strategic calculus on providing support to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group, an analysis by the US Institute for Peace (USIP) said last week.

It furthered that much of the TTP's political leadership and capability was based in Afghanistan and the outlawed faction was able to fundraise through extortion inside Pakistan as well as in Afghanistan, The Express Tribune reported.

It reiterated that the Afghan Taliban remain "very supportive" of the TTP and are providing the group with a permissive safe haven.

# China-linked online superstore surpasses Amazon & Walmart, becomes most downloaded app in US

Hong Kong | Agencies

A new online shopping platform linked to one of China's top retailers has quickly become the most downloaded app in the US, surpassing Amazon and Walmart, CNN reported.

Temu, a Boston-based online retailer that shares the same owner as Chinese social commerce giant Pinduoduo, made its Super Bowl debut on Sunday.

Temu, which runs an online superstore for virtually everything -- from home goods to apparel to electronics -- unveiled a commercial during the game that encouraged consumers to "shop like a billionaire".

The pitch? You don't have to be one, CNN reported.

The surprisingly low prices -- by Western standards, at least -- have drawn comparisons to Shein, the Chinese fast fashion upstart that also offers a wide selection of inexpensive



clothing and home goods, and has made significant inroads into markets including the United States.

Shein is considered one of Temu's competitors, along with US-based discount retailer Wish and Alibaba's AliExpress, according to Coresight Research, CNN reported.

Temu, pronounced "tee-moo", was launched last year by PDD, its US-listed parent company formerly known as Pinduoduo. The company officially changed its name just this month.

PDD's subsidiary Pinduoduo is one of China's most popular e-commerce platforms with approximately 900 million users. It made its name with a group-buying business model, allowing people to save money by enlisting friends to buy the same item in bulk, CNN reported.

Since its rollout in September, the application has been downloaded 24 million times, racking up more than 11 million monthly active users, according to Sensor Tower.

In the fourth quarter of last year, US app installations for Temu exceeded those for Amazon, Walmart and Target, according to Abe Yousef, a senior insights analyst at the analytics firm Sensor Tower, CNN reported.

# 19 KILLED IN BRAZIL FLOODS, LANDSLIDES

Brasilia | Agencies

At least 19 people were killed due to floods and landslides caused by heavy rain along the coast of Brazil's Sao Paulo state, authorities have confirmed.

Among the victims were a seven-year-old girl who died when a rock fell on top of her family's house and a woman who was killed by a falling tree, local television channel GloboNews reported.

Carnival celebrations were suspended in several coastal cities in Sao Paulo, Brazil's most populous state currently bustling with tourists due to the celebrations this week, reports Xinhua news agency.

"We are summoning the Armed Forces to help rescuers reach places where



there may be victims," said Sao Paulo Governor Tarcisio de Freitas, who visited the disaster zone on Sunday.

The storm mainly affected the municipalities of Sao Sebastiao, Ubatuba, Bertioga, Guarujá, Ilhabela and Santos. Sao Sebastiao's local government declared a state of calamity as landslides and road damage closed highways and prevented rescue from reaching affected parts of the city.

"There were many landslides that washed away houses, therefore there are many people under the rubble. The situation is chaotic

because it is not possible for rescuers to access those places," Sao Sebastiao Mayor Felipe Augusto told the daily Folha de S.Paulo.

The federal government dispatched lifeguards from the national civil defence agency and Minister of Integration and Regional Development Waldez Góes is expected to visit the area on Monday, according to an official statement.

Góes said the Defence Ministry will help in the rescue operations.

More heavy rain is expected in the area, threatening to make conditions even worse for emergency teams.

Last year, torrential rain in Brazil's south-eastern city of Petropolis killed more than 230 people.



# 76th BAFTA Awards

## 7 WINS TOPPED BY BEST PICTURE:

# 'All Quiet On The Western Front' creates buzz



**London** | Agencies  
The German epic film "All Quiet on the Western Front" dominated the BAFTA Awards in London on with a record-breaking seven wins, including Best Director, Best Film and Best Film Not in the English Language.

The tally means the World War I epic now holds the record for a film not in the English language. The previous record was held by 1988 film "Cinema Paradiso", which won five BAFTAs, reports 'Variety'. Meanwhile, Colin Farrell-starrer "The Banshees Of Inisherin" won the second most awards of the night, including both supporting actor categories with wins for Barry Keoghan and Kerry Condon, who emerged as the correct winner after fellow nominee Carey Mulligan's name was initially called in error. Writer and director Martin McDonagh also won for Original Screenplay and Outstanding British Film.

Other than the unfortunate Best Supporting Actress mix-up, the ceremony ran without a hitch, featuring performances from last year's Best Supporting Actress winner Ariana DeBose and singer-songwriter Dylan.

BAFTA Chair Krishnendu Majumdar opened the ceremony by paying tribute to Elizabeth II, who died last September. Later in the ceremony, Helen Mirren -- who played the monarch in "The Queen" -- also delivered a two-minute tribute. As per 'Variety', Queen Elizabeth II's grandson Prince William and his wife, the Princess of Wales, were in the audience at the Royal Festival Hall on Sunday evening. The prince is President of BAFTA, an honorary role.

Also in the audience were nominees, presenters and guests, including Michelle Yeoh, Eddie Redmayne, Jamie Lee Curtis, Ariana DeBose and Daryl McCormack. Other attendees included Angel Basset, Jessica Henwick, Patrick Stewart, Emma Thompson and fashion designer Vera Wang.

Best Adapted Screenplay: "All Quiet On The Western Front".  
Best Supporting Actress: Kerry Condon for "The Banshees Of Inisherin".

Best Supporting Actor: Barry Keoghan for "The Banshees Of Inisherin".

Best Film Not In The English Language: "All Quiet On The Western Front".

Best Casting: "Elvis".

Best Editing: "Everything Everywhere All At Once".

Best Cinematography: "All Quiet On The Western Front".

Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer: Charlotte Wells for "Aftersun".

Best Animated Film: Guillermo Del Toro's "Pinocchio".

Best original Screenplay: "The Banshees Of Inisherin".

Best Special Visual Effects: "Avatar: The Way Of Water".

Best Documentary: "Navalny".

Best Original Score: "All Quiet On The Western Front".

Best Sound: "All Quiet On The Western Front".

Best Costume Design: "Elvis".

Best British Short Film: "An Irish Goodbye".

Best British Short Animation: "The Boy, The Mole, The Fox And The Horse".

Outstanding British Film: "The Banshees Of Inisherin".

Best Production Design: "Babylon".

Best Director: "All Quiet On The Western Front".

Best Make up & Hair: "Elvis".

EE Rising Star Award: Emma Mackey.

Leading Actor: Austin Butler for "Elvis".

Leading Actress: Cate Blanchett for "Tar".

Best Film: "All Quiet On The Western Front".

The BAFTA awards were held at the Royal Festival Hall in London and were streamed live on Lionsgate Play.



## 'Bittersweet time', says Austin Butler as he honours Lisa Marie after win

**London** | 'Elvis' star Austin Butler paid tribute to Lisa Marie Presley following his BAFTA win for Best Actor, reports 'Variety'. "It's been a really unimaginably tragic time, you know, and grief is a long process," Butler said in the winners' press room following his win, according to 'Variety'.

"And so my heart and my love was with [the Presley family] always. I feel honored to have been welcomed into the family. It's a bittersweet time," he added, expressing how lucky he felt to portray the legendary singer, a thought that often crossed his mind while he was making the film.

"How lucky I was to get to have that experience," he said. "The feeling of standing on an international stage and looking out and looking down at the jumpsuit that I was wearing and realising there were certain moments where I was seeing the closest thing to what Elvis would have seen during his '68 Special or whatever that was and I miss it a lot. I miss that experience." "I don't miss the terror," he added, according to 'Variety'. "But I felt every day the elation that you feel with that. And I miss the people that I got to make the film with, they became completely like family to me. I really miss them a lot."

## MEGAN FOX ADDRESSES 'BASELESS' MGK CHEATING ALLEGATIONS

**Los Angeles** | Agencies

Actress Megan Fox claims no third parties were involved in her and rapper Machine Gun Kelly's alleged split.

The actress returned to Instagram to set the record straight amid various reports that her fiancé was unfaithful, reports pagesix.com.

"There has been no third party interference in this relationship of any kind. That includes, but is not limited to...actual humans, DMs, AI bots or succubus demons," the 'Jennifer's Body' star wrote in a statement via her Notes app.

"While I do hate to rob you of running random baseless news stories that would have been much more accurately written by ChatGPT, you need to let this story die and leave all these innocent people alone now." All other posts from Fox's feed have been archived after she temporarily deactivated her account last weekend. She is also currently following zero people after previously hitting the follow button on Harry Styles, Timothee Chalamet and Eminem, the latter of whom MGK notoriously feuded with over the years. As Page Six previously reported, the rumour mill went wild with theories during Super Bowl 2023 weekend when Fox shared a cryptic Instagram post, unfollowed MGK and eventually deactivated her account.



## Rebel Wilson announced engagement to Ramona Agruma

**Los Angeles** | Agencies

Actress Rebel Wilson has announced that she has got engaged to her girlfriend Ramona Agruma. The 'Pitch Perfect' actress gave fans a look at their Disneyland proposal, reports aceshowbiz.com. The Australian beauty broke the exciting news on Instagram. She first shared a close-up photo that showed Ramona flaunting her engagement ring as they locked lips. Rebel followed it up with a picture of her and her now-fiance being surrounded by large bouquets of pink, white and yellow roses at Disneyland. While the 'Senior Year' leading lady and her partner were both down on one knee, the former held an engagement ring box from Tiffany's in her hand. In the caption, the comedienne exclaimed: "We said YES!"

The proposal took place just days after Rebel admitted that Ramona's family disapproves of their relationship. On the "Life Uncut" podcast, she opened up: "My whole family has just been amazing... Ramona's family hasn't been as accepting."

"And so in many respects, it has been a lot harder on her to have to make the news public. With her, she's not in the public eye, it's much harder on her," she continued. "It's so sad to see what happened with her family over it."

Hopefully, people will change their attitude about things." Rebel later confessed she felt forced to share her romance with the world before she was ready. She said: "There were a couple of hurried conversations that I would have liked to have just taken my time with. I've had instances with the Australian press being really mean towards me... It was just another thing in that line of nasty things that they've done over the years."



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Maya Jama

## Adele & Ed Sheeran declined to perform at King Charles' coronation concert

**Los Angeles** | Agencies

Singers Adele and Ed Sheeran have declined the offer to perform at King Charles' coronation concert. The 'Hello' hitmaker rejected the invitation while 'The A-Team' singer Ed found it "difficult" for him to perform at the May 7 show at Windsor Castle due to his gig in America, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The Sun reported that Adele has nothing publicly scheduled for May 7 or after March 25 when her Las Vegas residency is set to end, but she is apparently "locked in to other commitments that will prevent her from attending."

"There is a team set up to get the talent signed up but they were unavailable, which was a massive disappointment. They are titans of the showbiz industry and are quintessentially British but also known across the globe. It's such a shame." Sheeran is scheduled to appear at a show in Texas the day before the coronation show, and insiders told the Mail that even though it would make it "difficult" for him to get to the Windsor show he could still "make the nine-hour journey in time by private jet."

The singer closed the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant in June 2022 with his hit 'Perfect', chosen as a tribute to the then monarch and her late husband Prince Philip.

King Charles is said to want Harry Styles to play the show while Lionel Richie is said to be close to agreeing, as are the Spice Girls.







## I'LL NEVER RETIRE FROM ACTING, WILL HAVE TO BE FIRED: SRK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, whose latest release 'Pathaan' created a tizzy at the box-office, said that he will never retire from acting - he will have to be fired from it!

Shah Rukh treated his fans to a question and answer session, where one asked him about who will be the next big thing after he retires.

SRK replied: "I will never retire from acting...I will have to be fired...and maybe even then I will come back hotter!"

Talking about when he first saw himself on screen, the star said: "I get awkward seeing myself in screen."

A user asked him about his favourite car from his line-up and the one he would never sell, SRK told the user that all the news about his luxury cars is "bogus".

"Actually I don't have any cool cars...except Hyundai of course. All social media articles about luxury cars I allegedly have are bogus."

A user said that an FIR should be filed against the star for saying that he is 57-years-old. The fan also shared a picture of the actor flaunting his well-chiselled body.

To which, SRK replied: "Please mat karo yaar. Theek hai main hi maan jaata hoon I am 30 years old. There I have now told you the truth...and that's why, even my next film is called Jawan."

A fan asked him about his book, he replied: "Not yet but after I finish final shoot of Jawan and Dunki I will get back to it."

A netizen wanted the key to a happy married life from the superstar.

"Gauri has the most simple heart and mind. She has just kept us all believing in the goodness of family and love," said Shah Rukh.

One asked about what keeps him occupied when he does "absolutely doing."

"Yes, I spend a lot of time doing nothing...it clears the mind for things that I need to do later. "Jo kuch nah karte woh kamaal karte hain."



## 'My biggest blessing'

Sonam Kapoor shares a heartwarming note as her son turns six months

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress and new mom Sonam Kapoor shared a heartwarming note as her son Vayu Kapoor Ahuja turns six months old. She expressed that being a mother was the best job in the world and called her son her "biggest blessing".

Sharing a photo and video of Vayu on Instagram, Sonam wrote: "6 months of my Vayu. The best job in the world...my biggest blessing...love you my dar-

ling boy...your papa and me couldn't have asked for more..."

In the photo, the mother-son duo looked adorable as she was wearing yellow pyjamas, while Vayu looked cute in a white onesie. Sonam also shared a short video of Vayu crawling, while playing with his toys.

Sonam's husband Anand Ahuja commented with heart eyes emojis and wrote: "pajama partyyyyyyy."

Sonam and Anand got married on May 8, 2018 after dating for a few years. They welcomed their son Vayu on August 20, 2022.



## Ranbir says DDLJ inspired him to play charming lover boys in cinema

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor, who is back on-screen as the quintessential romantic hero in the much-awaited 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar', said that SRK's character Raj from 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' (DDLJ) inspired him to play charming lover boys in cinema, having seen the iconic film at least 20 times.

"Raj was everything! You know, he could do anything! I think Aditya Chopra gave us a character that was aspirational, he was naughty, he was charming, like it shook you up! I know I saw that film probably 20 times in the theatre!" reveals Ranbir.

'DDLJ' is the longest running film in the history of Indian cinema as it still plays at Maratha Mandir in Mumbai. The actor was seen speaking about the film in Netflix's latest release 'The Romantics'.

From Aamir Khan to Salman Khan, from Shah Rukh Khan to Ranbir Kapoor, from Amitabh Bachchan to Ranveer Singh, from Rani Mukerji to Hrithik Roshan, from Katrina Kaif to Anushka Sharma, the mega-stars and icons of Hindi cinema have come together and spoken about Yash Chopra and YRF's contribution to Indian cinema in 'The Romantics'.

'The Romantics' has been directed by Oscar & Emmy-nominated film-maker Smriti Mundhra, who returns to Netflix after the phenomenal success of 'Indian Matchmaking' and the 'Never Have I Ever' franchise.



## BHUVAN PRAISES SHEHNAAZ GILL AND CALLS HER THE 'TORCH BEARER' OF THE INDUSTRY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shehnaaz Gill made his talk show debut on Desi Vibes with Shehnaaz Gill. Bhuvan Bam, a social media star, was the next guest on her program, and the session included the duo discussing their highs and lows as well as engaging in some amusing banter. Shehnaaz questioned Bhuvan about why he came on Desi Vibes with Shehnaaz Gill as he settled into his seat. She noted how despite being one of the most popular YouTubers, he chose Desi Vibes to advertise his show. Bhuvan explained that it's all about 'vibes' with a wide smile. He stated that he had never met or spoken with Shehnaaz, but he felt a connection to her and the spirit of the program, so he said yes.

The actor-singer laughed when she said that she got the 'biggest YouTuber' on her show so that she could gain an advantage for her show, which streams on the platform. "Likes aur comments karna BBKivines ke fans," Shehnaaz said.

Shehnaaz Gill also discussed how her brother persuaded her to create a YouTube account since it allows her to earn money for the rest of her life.

"This is a man's world. I do want to help women get their rights," she said before being interrupted by Bhuvan Bam, who called her the 'torch bearer'.

Shehnaaz and Bhuvan also played a delightful game of 'This and That', in which he chose content over the controversy and YouTube over acting.



**RESHAM SAHAANI PRAISES HANSAL MEHTA FOR INTRODUCING NEWCOMERS IN THE FILM**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Resham Sahaani, who made her acting debut with Hansal Mehta's latest film 'Faraaz' also starring Zahan Kapoor and Aditya Rawal, shared her experience working with the filmmaker, spoke about her character.

The actress praised the director for introducing new faces in the movie.

She shared: "Faraaz" by Hansal Mehta introduces two new actors coming from well-known families from the entertainment industry, Aditya Rawal (Nibras) and Zahaan Kapoor (Faraaz). But the story didn't just revolve around them. It was encouraging to see how beautifully my character or other characters were also brought to light. All the characters were important in moving the story for-

ward. In fact, Ayesha, played by me, is a character so fierce in her words and actions that she triggers the terrorists."

Talking about the idea behind the movie, she said: "Faraaz" revolves around a very sensitive terror attack. So hats off to Hansal Mehta for choosing new faces to present his film in a refreshing way. Had there been known faces, the audience would organically judge the actors and their personalities more than their characters in the film, but Faraaz as a film gives the audience an authentic perspective to relate to each character. All the new faces have outdone themselves in this film. Hansal Mehta has always managed to bring something new to the table." "It's very refreshing to see filmmakers who support and bring in newcomers. And I am really grateful and humbled for the opportunity that was presented to me," she concluded.



**Riya Sharma, Ishaan Dhawan shares what makes their show intriguing**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

TV actors Riya Sharma and Ishaan Dhawan shared their perspectives about the new show 'Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi Se Pare' and said that they found the concept very unique and intriguing and that the audience would also connect with the story. Ishaan, who is playing Dhruv in the show, commented: "Dhruv is a sincere, down-to-earth guy whom I identify with on a personal level. He never could have imagined falling in love with a princess from a completely different era. I believe the show has an extremely unique plot as although Dhruv and Tara's worlds differ entirely, they end up being attracted to each other."

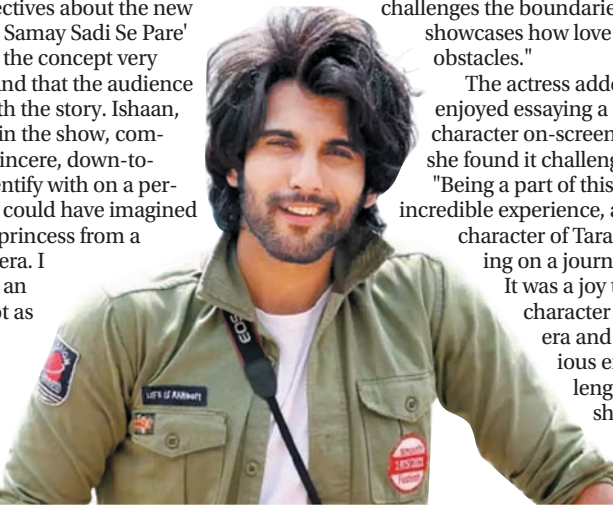
While talking about the experience of

being part of the show and playing the role of a princess Tara, the 'Saat Phero Ki Hera Pherie' actress Riya added: "Dhruv Tara' is a timeless love story that challenges the boundaries of time and showcases how love can conquer all obstacles."

The actress added that though she enjoyed essaying a different kind of character on-screen at the same place she found it challenging also.

"Being a part of this show was an incredible experience, and playing the character of Tara was like embarking on a journey through history.

It was a joy to bring to life a character from a different era and to portray the various emotions and challenges that she faces as she navigates through a new world," she added.



Sandeepa Dhar