



EDITOR'S SPECS

Do hearing personal experiences increase Covid vaccination rates?

Hearing personal experiences of someone who got sick with Covid-19 or died from the disease are twice as likely to receive a Covid-19 vaccine, a new study has shown. According to the study published in the journal *Vaccine*, the researchers surveyed 1,193 people in the US who were eligible for the vaccine to see who knew family members or friends who had recovered, were still sick or had died from Covid-19 and had received at least one dose of the vaccine. The researchers found that essential workers and people with good or better health status were more likely to have received an initial vaccine dose within four months of the EUA (Emergency Use Authorisation) as older respondents, had a higher income or a higher education level. Conversely, uninsured people, Alaskan natives or American Indians were significantly less likely to receive the vaccine within four months of the EUA, the study mentioned. "This study shows that the messenger matters more than the message: Hearing about the experiences of a trusted person, such as a friend or a family member, can be more effective than vaccine mandates," said Saurabh Kalra, a doctoral student at the US-based Rutgers School of Public Health and lead author of the study. These findings indicate the need for targeted efforts to increase vaccinations among young adults, those with lower levels of education, and those living in lower-income households, said the study. "These findings should encourage people to share stories about their Covid-19 illness and bereavement experiences with their friends and family as well as through social media as it may motivate people to be vaccinated," said co-author Irina Grafova, a health economist at Rutgers School of Public Health.

MVA ALLIES ARE AS INSEPARABLE AS 'AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY'

With the countdown for the 2024 Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly elections started, the national Opposition parties are busy calculating various political alliances, permutations, combinations and strategies to boost their electoral arithmetic vis-a-vis the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Much to the chagrin of the Opposition parties, in the past two Lok Sabha (2014-2019) elections -- despite their best efforts -- the EVM machines kept popping out saffron bunnies sporting BJP caps, with the magic attributed to baton-masters, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Home Minister Amit Shah. Three years ago, an unforeseen and probably belated alliance of Congress-Nationalist Congress Party-Shiv Sena (UBT) named MVA, stonewalled the BJP's attempts to return to power for a second consecutive term after the October 2019 Assembly elections. Barely recovering from the 'hijack', but fretting in the Opposition, the BJP managed to topple MVA Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in June 2022 and grabbed power with the help of the Balasahebchandra Shiv Sena (BSS), proping up Eknath Shinde as the new Chief Minister. Though heavily 'leaking' and 'bleeding', Sena (UBT) President Thackeray did not desert the MVA allies -- which in turn reciprocated by keeping him within the fold, with full dignity. As the national political landscape looms with the likelihood of at least three Opposition combines, it is abundantly clear that NCP-Sena (UBT) will throw its lot in any coalition comprising the Congress -- though they may be at political loggerheads in different states with powerful local satraps and influential regional parties. In December 2021, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and in February 2022, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao met with Maharashtra leaders to discuss their national political designs. They met NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and Sena (UBT) tiger Thackeray, both the Maharashtra bigwigs accorded Banerjee and Rao a warm welcome, but politely cold-shouldered suggestions hinting at a non-Congress front as "unfeasible". Pawar and senior NCP leaders such as



Praful Patel, daughter Supriya Sule, nephew Ajit Pawar, state president Jayant Patil plus Sena (UBT)'s Thackeray, Sanjay Raut, Arvind Sawant and Aditya Thackeray, among others, on various occasions, have stressed the need for Opposition unity including the Congress to pose an all-out challenge to the BJP in 2024. Pawar and Raut have aired their views on how only the Congress commands a pan-India presence, acceptance among all sec-

tions, experience and a nationally recognised leadership, that would be an asset in effectively grappling the BJP challenge. While Pawar Sr. continues his backroom manoeuvres in New Delhi and through his legion of friends' across the political spectrum towards this aim, the recently-concluded Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) led by MP Rahul Gandhi proved to be the proverbial booster dose' for the Congress and partly the

Opposition's sagging morales. Willy-nilly stamping their support to Congress, NCP's Sule, Patil, Dr. Jitendra Awhad and other bigwigs joined Gandhi's BJV, followed by Sena (UBT)'s Aditya Thackeray, Ambadas Danve, Sanjay Raut and Urmila Matondkar joined him at various points in Maharashtra and in Jammu & Kashmir. On earlier occasions, the trio -- uncharitably labelled as autrickshaw' by the BJP -- stuck together when in a morning shock for MVA, Devendra Fadnis was sworn-in as Chief Minister and Ajit Pawar (NCP) as the Deputy Chief Minister on November 23, 2019. The development came even as an ecstatic Thackeray was finalising his wardrobe for his own swearing-in as the MVA Chief Minister, decided just a couple of days before. However, the NCP and Congress virtually moved heaven-and-earth and ensured that the two-man government crashed in just 80 hours and a victorious Thackeray took the oath as Chief Minister on November 28, 2019. Weeks before the MVA government collapsed in June 2022, Pawar had sounded categorical warnings to Thackeray of the impending disaster awaiting his party, as revealed recently by Ajit Pawar. Ostensibly, the Sena leaders misjudged the gravity of the situation as "the most trusted people" were involved -- who ultimately betrayed them through the abrupt coup d'etat. As the central probe agencies went after several NCP and Sena (UBT) leaders, even reaching upto the relatives of the Pawars and Thackerays, the MVA partnership did not crumble. The MVA fought the recent MLC biennial polls to emerge victorious in three seats, the BJP and a rebel Congressman got one each. The three parties are now contesting the upcoming bypolls to two Assembly seats in Pune, which will be a further test of their political resilience. After the MLCs polls, the MVA's message, as stated by the Congress President Nana Patole, Ajit Pawar and Raut, is clear -- "united we stand, divided we crash".

international

23 THAI TOURISTS OUT OF CONTACT AFTER ARRIVING IN S.KOREA

Seoul | Agencies
A total of 23 Thai tourists have gone out of contact after arriving at Muan International Airport in southwestern South Korea over the past week, the Justice Ministry said on Monday. The Ministry said 10 Thais disappeared soon after landing at the Muan airport in Muan, 385 m south of Seoul, on a chartered flight from the Southeast Asian country on Monday morning, reports Yonhap news Agency. It said all efforts are under way to find the missing Thais. Earlier, 13 out of 174 Thai tourists who arrived at Muan International Airport last week have not shown up for their return flight and



remained out of contact, according to the Ministry. The 174 Thais landed at the Muan airport on a chartered flight on January 30 to visit major tourist attractions

in South Jeolla Province. But 13 of them disappeared soon after their arrival at the airport and did not board their return flight slated for Sunday, the ministry said. International flights resumed at the Muan airport in July last year after a Covid-19-related hiatus of over two years. Last week's chartered flight from Thailand was the first of its kind to arrive in Muan since the outbreak of the pandemic. The provincial government of South Jeolla, to which Muan belongs, aims to attract about 2,400 Thai tourists via chartered flights by the end of March but the latest disappearance of some Thai tourists is expected to negatively affect the goal.

70% of Mongolian territory covered by snow

Ulan Bator | Agencies



About 70 per cent of the Mongolian territory has been covered with snow of up to 60 cm in thickness, local media reported on Monday. The condition increases the risk of extreme wintry weather -- known as "dzud", said the report, citing the country's Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry. Dzud is a Mongolian term to describe a severely cold winter when a large number of livestock die because the

ground is frozen or covered by snow, reports Xinhua news agency. Herders across the country have used 60 per cent of the total hay and fodder stored for the livestock, it said. Since the beginning of this year, more than 233,000 heads of livestock have been killed in the country due to the harsh winter and other reasons, according to the Ministry.

SOUTH KOREA, AUSTRALIA RENEW CURRENCY SWAP DEAL FOR 5 YEARS

Seoul: The central banks of South Korea and Australia have agreed to renew their bilateral currency swap deal for five more years. The Bank of Korea (BOK) and the Reserve Bank of Australia extended their existing currency swap agreement, in which the South Korean currency is swapped for the Australian dollar, for five more years through February 5, 2028, Xinhua news agency reported citing an official statement released on Monday as saying. The size of the agreement was unchanged at A\$12 billion, or 9.6 trillion won. The central banks initially signed the swap deal in 2014 and extended it in 2017 and 2020. The BOK said the two countries shared a view that the currency swap agreement contributed to increased trade and financial market stability.

Fire damages Buddhist temple in Melbourne

Melbourne | Agencies

A Buddhist temple in Melbourne was gutted by fire, with about 80 firefighters battling the blaze on site on Monday. The Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) crews were called to the Bright Moon Buddhist Temple in the Australian city's south-east at about 8 p.m. and arrived to find the large multi-storey building ablaze, reports Xinhua news agency. According to the FRV, the incident has been deemed under control at about 10.35 p.m. Nearby residents were told to stay home, close all exterior doors and windows and turn off heating and cooling systems. There were no injuries reported in the fire. FRV Assistant Chief Fire Officer Paul Foster told local media that the firefighters were still putting out the remaining blazes on Monday



morning. Foster said that it was a large and "rather spectacular" fire as the temple was about 150 meters by 100 metres and five-storey tall. "This was an extensive fire, very rapidly developing and quite spectacular to look at... It was seen for many kilometres around," Foster said. The temple, belonging to the Bright Moon Buddhist Society, was purchased and converted into the present hall and prayer areas in 1991 and gradually became a popular worship place for local Buddhist communities.

Inflation in Laos hits 23-year high

Vientiane | Agencies

The inflation rate in Laos climbed to 40.3 per cent year-on-year in January 2023, the highest in 23 years, with a surge in energy and consumer goods prices. According to a report issued by the Lao Statistics Bureau on Monday, the soaring price of fuel, gas and other imported goods, compounded with the depreciation of the Lao currency kip, are among the main factors driving inflation, reports Xinhua news agency. The price of communications and transport rose 49.9 per cent, affecting both the cost of production and the cost of living. Meanwhile, the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages category jumped 47.1 per cent. The cost of medical care and medicine increased 42.2 per cent. The cost of household utilities gained 34.2 per cent. According to the report, the cost of the hotel and restaurant category surged 34 per cent. The



cost in the alcohol and tobacco category rose 26.3 per cent. In addition, the cost of housing, water, electricity, and gas category rallied 26 per cent. The cost of clothing and footwear increased 24.9 per cent. Inflation in Laos has increased significantly since the beginning of 2022, with rising prices continuing to inflict hardship on people. The annual average inflation rate in the Southeast Asian country was 23 per cent in 2022, jumping from 3.8 per cent in 2021. In response to the economic woes, the Lao government has outlined the 2023 work plan, vowing to take stronger action to revitalize the stagnant economy, notably by stabilizing currency exchange rates, curbing inflation, and amassing more revenue to boost its spending power, according to the report.



SANT SHIROMANI RAVIDAS MAHAKUMBH IS FOR ALL ROUND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL CLASSES: CM CHOUHAN

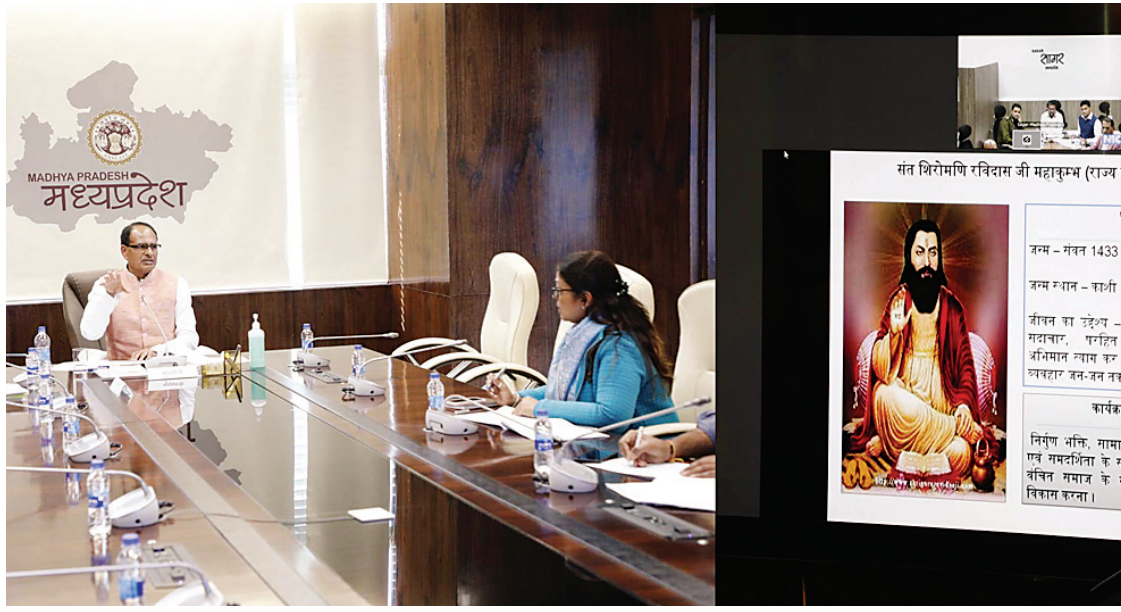
Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has directed that the talents of Scheduled Castes should be honoured and the products made by entrepreneurs should be displayed at the state-level Sant Shiromani Ravidas Mahakumbh to be held in Sagar on February 8. Activities should also be conducted to connect more and more people with the schemes and programs run for the welfare of Scheduled Castes.

Chief Minister Chouhan was reviewing the ongoing preparations for Mahakumbh. Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains and Principal Secretary Pallavi Jain Govil were present in the meeting held at Mantralaya. Commissioner Sagar and Collector took part virtually.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the objective of the programme is all-round development of scheduled castes and all sections of the deprived society with social harmony, equality and equanimity. All the districts of the state should be connected with the Mahakumbh.

It was informed that the program will be held at Kajali Van Sadar locat-



ed on Jhansi Road in Sagar from 1 pm. A photo exhibition focused on Scheduled Caste welfare and an exhibition of products made by selected Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs will also be held at the venue. Benefits will also be distributed in the pro-

gram. Bhajans focused on Sant Ravidas darshan will be presented and Ravidasi sect seers will be honoured in the Mahakumbh. Along with this, a photo exhibition focusing on his life will also be organized. Followers from the districts includ-

ing Damoh, Tikamgarh, Vidisha, Raisen, Guna, Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Bhopal, Ashoknagar, Chhatrapur, Panna and Niwari will join the Mahakumbh. The program will be broadcast live on various platforms of social media.

Six-year-old boy kidnapped, killed in Mhow; two detained

Team Absolute | Mhow:

A six-year-old boy was allegedly kidnapped and killed for ransom in Mhow area of Madhya Pradesh's Indore district, police said on Monday. The police have detained two suspects, and one of them is a relative of the victim, an official said.

The boy went missing from Pigdambar village around 6 pm on Sunday and was found dead in a deserted place on Monday, he said.

The police launched a search operation after receiving a complaint about the missing boy. However, his body was found in a culvert between Saindal and Mairdal villages in the Choral forest area, Kishanganj police station in-charge Kuldeep Khatri said.

The deceased was last spotted with a relative near the railway line passing through Pigdambar village. Based on this, the police have



detained him and another person, he said.

Meanwhile, the boy's father Jitendra Chouhan and his uncle Vijendra Chouhan, a Congress leader from Mhow, claimed that they received calls from an unidentified person demanding Rs 4 crore. But before they could act

in the matter, they received information about the boy's body lying in the Choral forest area, they said.

Khatri, however, said, "The police are yet to record the statements of the boy's family members and as of now, nothing could be said about the ransom call or demand for money."

7-year-old stabbed 29 times by man who tried to rape her

Team Absolute | Indore

A man was sentenced to death by a court in Indore in Madhya Pradesh on Monday for killing a 7-year-old girl after abducting her with the intention of committing rape but failing to do so as she raised an alarm that attracted a mob.

Additional Sessions Judge and Special Judge (POCSO Act) Surekha Mishra sentenced Saddam (31) to death and also imposed a fine of 9,000 on him, while directing the state government to give 3 lakh as compensation to the girl's family.

Saddam was charged with murder and abduction under provisions of the Indian



Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, district public prosecution officer Sanjeev Srivastava said. "Saddam abducted the seven-year-old girl with the

intention of raping her on September 23, 2022 when she was playing near her grandmother's house in Azad Nagar area. He took her to his house but failed to rape her after she raised an alarm. Enraged, he stabbed her 29 times and killed her," Srivastava said. "After committing the crime, Saddam came out of his house and threatened the eyewitnesses saying he would kill them if they approached police. A CCTV camera installed in the Azad Nagar area had footage of Saddam abducting the girl and his fingerprints were found on the knife recovered from his possession. The DNA report also confirmed his involvement," he informed.

AUTO DRIVER KICKED, HIT WITH STICKS

Bhopal: An auto driver was brutally beaten up by a group of men, including officials of the railway police, in front of his wife in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain on Sunday. An investigation has been launched after the video of the assault was shared online. Police officials, however, claim that the man was assaulted after he hit a railway police official who had intervened after he picked up a fight with a hotel employee.

The incident reportedly took place when the auto driver had an argument with the hotel staff over picking up passengers from the railway station, located near the hotel. The argument soon led to physical assault. A video shows the auto driver being punched and kicked as he tries to defend himself. The hotel staff called a group of railway policemen from the station, who also thrashed the auto driver with canes as he lay on the ground. At one point, the railway officials even pushed the auto driver's wife as she begged them to spare him.

"The auto driver is a habitual offender; he has been creating a nuisance in the area. He has been picking up fight with people regularly. He has once been caught vandalising a hotel. Complaints against him have been filed in two police stations in the area. He even assaulted a policeman who tried to investigate the matter," said a police official.

Management Development Program organised for Indian Navy officers

Team Absolute | Bhopal

To enhance the professional efficiency of NAVY personnel, CRISP

International has organized specially designed management development program at CRISP, Bhopal residential campus. The program was greatly acclaimed by the participating officers and they revealed that the training programmes helped them in improving managerial, administrative, leadership, communication & Presentation skills.

The one-week training included self-awareness, memory skills, stress management, effective communication skills, motivation, emotional intelligence based on interactive methodology of audio-video discussions, group discussion, Power point presentation, lec-



ture, management games, role plays, case studies, mind power games, psychological testing and proving techniques.

One of the participating officer Joga Rao said that 'CRISP

soft skills training experience is amazing as apart from significant professional applications, it can apply to improve their family life also.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS BANYAN, SAPTAPARNI AND KHIRNI SAPPLINGS WITH CITIZENS



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Banyan, Saptaparni and Khirmi in the garden located at Shyamala Hills. On February 19, 2021, Chief Minister Chouhan had taken a pledge in Amarkantak to plant saplings daily. Today is the 717th day of CM Chouhan's resolve to plant saplings every day. Along with the Chief Minister, Swadeep Singh Bhadauria and Monika Bhadauria planted saplings on their marriage anniversary. Kuldeep Singh Bhadauria, Rita Singh Bhadauria, M.S. Bhadauria and Mithilesh Bhadauria were also with them. Former District Panchayat Vice President of Bhopal Kalpana Meena planted saplings on her birthday. Social workers Brijesh Meena, Ashok Meena and Vijay Meena were also present on the occasion.

Banks are the lifeline of the economy: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that banks are the lifeline of the economy. Presently it is not possible to imagine life without a bank. PM Modi launched a campaign to open every person's account, as a result of which bank accounts were opened for all poor people. The amounts of public welfare schemes of the Central and State Governments are deposited directly into the accounts of the eligible persons. With the expansion of banks and the facilities being provided by them to the general public, transparency in the system has received a boost and people's lives have become easier. HDFC Bank's cooperation in encouraging self-employment activities in the state and empowering women self-help groups is commendable.

Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the inauguration programme at Manas Bhawan located



in Shyamala Hills for the virtual launch of 20 branches of HDFC Bank in Madhya Pradesh. CM Chouhan cut the ribbon of HDFC ATM at Manas Bhawan and inaugurated 20 branches in the state virtually. HDFC's head office in Mumbai and 20 branches of the state were virtually connected to

the programme. Former Rajya Sabha member Raghunandan Sharma, Circle Head of HDFC Bank Ashu Garg, MP State Head Neeraj Nema and other officials were present. Chief Minister Chouhan garlanded the statue of great poet Tulsidas located in Manas Bhawan.

Railways JE held for rape on pretext of marriage

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Delhi Police have arrested a 28-year-old Junior Engineer (JE) of the Indian Railways for allegedly raping a 24-year-old girl on the pretext of marriage after getting in touch with her through a matrimonial website, an official said on Monday. The accused has been identified as Vipin Karpanter, a resident of Rajgarh in Madhya Pradesh. He was arrested on February 3.

According to a senior police officer, the girl, a resident of Delhi, came in contact with Karpanter on the matrimonial website and remained in touch with him till September 2022. "She had alleged that the accused, who works as a



Junior Engineer in Indian Railways, had physical relation with her on the promise of marriage," the official said. "A FIR under Section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal

Code has been registered at Shakarpur police station and the accused has been apprehended. Vipin is married and has two children," the official added.

Khelo India Youth Games 2022

National Games medallist Shauryajit Khaire gunning for gold in Mallakhamba

Team Absolute | Ujjain

When Shauryajit Khaire won a bronze medal in Mallakhamba during the National Games held in Gujarat last year, he became the talk of the whole country after becoming the youngest athlete to win a medal at the Games.

Now 10-year-old is in Madhya Pradesh to participate in the Khelo India Youth Games for the first time and he is aiming at nothing less than gold.

After his medal at the National Games, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated Shauryajit, a Class 5 student of Vadodara's Bharati Vidya Bhavan, on his success.

"I was very proud when I won the medal at the National Games. People started knowing me. Everyone from the colony to the school expressed happiness over my success. I felt good," he said.



Shauryajit is the youngest athlete in the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 and is all set to replicate his performance from National Games. Regarding his preparations and intentions, he said, "This time I am practicing a lot to win

the medal and I will take gold. I am fully prepared for Ujjain and will try to get maximum points there."

The 10-year-old athlete doesn't know much about the Khelo India Youth Games as no one from his school or family has been into sports. It was Shauryajit's father, who liked Mallakhamba, and he used to take him to watch and practice the sport. "I practice for two hours daily but my focus is more on studies. No one does Mallakhamba at home. My father liked Mallakhamba. He used to take me. When I went to see it, I liked it and that's why I chose Mallakhamba." It is noteworthy that five traditional games including Mallakhamba are a part of the KIYG 2022. While Yogasana & Malkhamb are being hosted in Ujjain, the other indigenous sports will be played across different cities in the state viz; Kalarippayattu in Gwalior, Gatka in Jabalpur, Thang-ta and Yogasana.

'WANTS TO WIN MEDAL IN FOR THE COUNTRY'

Vinatai sets youth games record at KIYG 2022;

Team Absolute | Indore

Vinatai Aher, who won the 40kg title in the girls' weightlifting event, wants to win a medal for the country. 17-year-old Vinatai lifted a total of 129 kg that included 57 kg in snatch and 72 kg in clean and jerk to set a Youth Games Record.

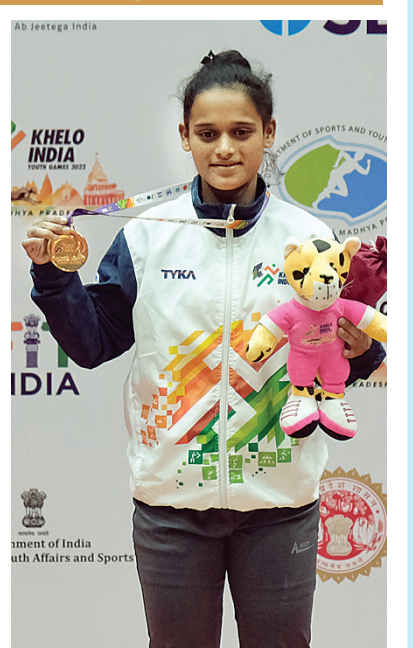
Vinatai, who practices under the supervision of Praveen Vyavhare at the Manmad gym, practices with national youth record holder Akanksha Vyavhare, who is 14 years old and has arrived for the first time to participate in the Khelo India Youth Games in Madhya Pradesh.

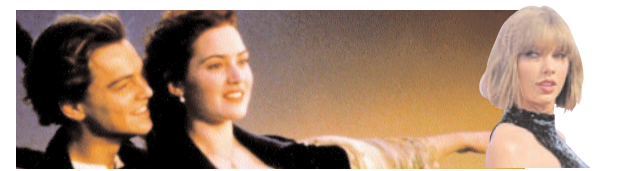
Vinatai, who studies at MG College, Manmad, said that she wants to win a medal for the country. Vinatai said, - It was a great experience to be here. The competition is also very good. It opens

the way for players like us to go ahead. From here onwards I have to go for International. I will put in all I have to get selected in the national team. My aim is to win a medal for the country.

Vinatai played his first national event in Nagercoil last year. Vinatai said, - "I finished second in Nagercoil. The first place was won by Joshna Sabar of Odisha, whom I defeated here. Now I will prove myself by participating in more and more national events."

When asked if she got into weightlifting from any inspiration, Vinatai said, "My inspiration is my brother who is a weightlifter himself. He plays international. His name is Mukund Aahe and he holds the national record in 55kg. My younger sister is also into weightlifting and we all practice under the supervision of Praveen sir."





65TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS

BEYONCE SETS GRAMMY RECORD WITH 32 TROPHIES

Los Angeles | Agencies

Its official: Beyonce has the most Grammy wins of all time. On Sunday night, she made history with four wins, bringing her career total to 32, reports 'Variety'. Her 'Renaissance' wins for best dance/electronic album put her in the history books, after also winning best R&B song for 'Cuff It', best dance/electronic recording and traditional R&B performance.

Beyonce's record-breaking status will not completely mollify fans who think she should have won album of the year or record of the year by now, notes 'Variety'.

On Sunday night, those awards went to Harry Styles and Lizzo, respectively. The song of the year trophy, which she has won just once in the past, when she was still a member of Destiny's Child, went to Bonnie Raitt.

Before the 2023 Grammys, according to 'Variety', the record for most Grammy wins was held by the 31 claimed by classical music figure Georg Solti -- a benchmark set all the way back in 1997 when he earned his final prize, for best opera recording. Solti died that same year.

Beyonce led the 2023 nominations with nine, putting her in a tie for all-time Grammy nominations with her husband, Jay-Z -- 88 each. Beyonce's tally includes her pre-solo work as Destiny's Child member.

Coming into Sunday's awards, she had won 28 Grammys, already making her the most awarded female artist in Grammy history.



'ABOUT DAMN TIME' GETS LIZZO RECORD OF THE YEAR

Los Angeles | Agencies

American singer Lizzo was conferred with the Record of the Year honour at the recently concluded Grammy Awards, which came for her viral hit 'About Damn Time'. For her, the win was "unexpected" as she dedicated the award to the late artist Prince.

"When we lost Prince I decided to dedicate my life to creating positive music," she said. She went on to share her hopes to spread positivity through her work.

"I'd like to believe that not only can people do good, but that we just are good," she said. "We are good inherently. And anybody at home who feels misunderstood or on the outside looking in like I did, just stay true to you. I promise you you'll attract people who believe in you and support you."

BEST MUSIC VIDEO FOR TAYLOR SWIFT'S 'ALL TOO WELL: THE SHORT FILM'

Los Angeles | Agencies

American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift won Best Music Video for 'All Too Well: The Short Film' at the recent Grammy Awards. Swift beat out work from Adele, BTS, Doja Cat, Harry Styles, and Kendrick Lamar. The video of 'All Too Well: The Short Film' has been self-directed by Swift. Before tonight, Swift had won 11 Grammys, including one for Best Music Video. Since directing the 'All Too Well' short film, Swift has been tapped to direct her debut feature, based on a self-penned screenplay. Swift was not at the premiere ceremony to accept her Grammy Award, but she tweeted later, "I can't put into words what this means to me. For the Recording Acad and my peers to acknowledge me as a director, and in doing so, acknowledge my work to try and reclaim my music. I'm blown away. Thank you to all the fans that willed this to happen."



Ricky Kej wins 3rd Grammy for collab album with Stewart Copeland

Los Angeles | Agencies

It seems to be India's year at the global entertainment arena as after the Golden Globe and Critics' Choice Awards win of 'Naatu Naatu' from the S.S.Rajamouli directorial 'RRR', along with Oscar nominations for 'The Elephant Whispers' and 'All That Breathes', Indian music composer and producer Ricky Kej clinched the honour at the recently concluded Grammy

Awards.

The composer picked up his career's third Grammy for 'Divine Tides', which was nominated in the Best Immersive Audio Album category. The album 'Divine Tides' is a collaborative project with rock legend and Police drummer Stewart Copeland.

Sharing his happiness right after the win, Ricky posted a picture and wrote: "Super grateful, my 3rd Grammy Award."

LAMAR GETS BEST RAP ALBUM FOR 'MR. MORALE & THE BIG STEPPERS'

Los Angeles | Agencies

American rapper Kendrick Lamar picked up his 15th Grammy Award this time for the Best Rap Album, for 'Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers' at the 65th annual Grammy Awards.

He said in his acceptance speech: "I finally found perfection with this album. As artists we're all entertainers. We say things to provoke thoughts and feelings and emotions. Making this record, one of my toughest to make, allowed me to do that and share other people's experiences."

The rapper took home the award over fellow nominees Pusha T, Jack Harlow, Future and DJ Khaled. Lamar has now won Best Rap Album thrice after having been victorious in the category in 2016 'To Pimp a Butterfly' and 2018 for 'Damn'.

OZZY OSBOURNE BAGS TROPHIES FOR BEST METAL PERFORMANCE, BEST ROCK ALBUM

Los Angeles | Agencies



British rock legend Ozzy Osbourne made splashes at the 65th Annual Grammy Awards as he bagged two honours - Best Metal Performance for the song 'Degradation Rules', which also features his Black Sabbath musician Tony Iommi, and Best Rock Album for 'Patient Number 9'.

Ozzy won the Best Metal Performance honour over the Black Keys, Elvis Costello & The Imposters, Idles, Machine Gun Kelly, and Spoon. Producer Andrew Watt accepted the award on his behalf, giving shoutouts to the late Taylor Hawkins and Jeff Beck for their support of the album.

Osbourne recently announced that he is likely finished touring. "Never would I have imagined that my touring days would have ended this way," he revealed. "My team is currently coming up with ideas for where I will be able to perform without having to travel from city to city and country to country."

VIOLA DAVIS COMPLETES EGOT WITH FIRST GRAMMY WIN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Viola Davis is the fresh inductee to the group of EGOT winners. EGOT signifies a recipient of an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and a Tony award. Davis is the 18th person to achieve EGOT status, joining the likes of Audrey Hepburn, Mel Brooks, Andrew Lloyd Webber and John Gielgud. She won her first Grammy at the 65th annual Grammy Awards for her audiobook recording of her memoir, 'Finding Me'.

"I wrote this book to honour the six-year-old Viola," Davis said on stage at the ceremony in Los Angeles. "To honour her life, her joy, her trauma, everything. And, it has just been such a journey -- I just EGOT!" She previously won an Emmy for her role in 'How to Get Away with Murder', an Oscar for 'Fences' and two Tony awards for 'King Hedley II' and 'Fences'.



HARRY STYLES WINS BEST POP VOCAL ALBUM FOR 'HARRY'S HOUSE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Former One Direction member Harry Styles took home the Best Pop Vocal Album title for his studio album 'Harry's House' at the 65th annual Grammy Awards. He edged out 'Voyage' by ABBA, '30' by Adele, 'Music of the Spheres' by Coldplay and 'Special' by Lizzo to bag the honour.

Styles described making 'Harry's House' with two of his best friends as "the greatest experience of my life" and playing it for people "the greatest joy I could've asked for".

This year, he was nominated in six categories; in addition to Best Pop Vocal Album, he received recognition for Album of the Year ('Harry's House'), Record of the Year ('As It Was'), and Song of the Year ('As It Was'), Best Pop Solo Performance ('As It Was'), and Best Music Video ('As It Was'). 'Harry's House' also won for Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical.



SAMARA JOY FETED WITH BEST JAZZ VOCAL ALBUM

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 65th edition of the Annual Grammy Awards is here and it's bigger than ever. The Best Jazz Vocal Album was conferred upon American Jazz singer Samara Joy.

The honour came in for her album 'Linger Awhile' which was released on Verve Records

in September 2022. Joy first began singing jazz while attending Fordham High School for the Arts in the Bronx, New York, and she carried that voice to State University of New York at Purchase. During her time in college, she not only won the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, but was also awarded the Ella Fitzgerald Scholarship in 2020.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jennifer Lopez



SIDDHARTH-KIARA'S WEDDING VIBES

Groom's guests outnumber the bride's

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Around 17 guests have arrived so far from Siddharth Malhotra's family to attend his wedding to Kiara Advani. Siddharth came with his father Sunil Malhotra, mother Rima Malhotra, Brother Harshad Malhotra and others at around 8 p.m. on February 4. Siddharth's grandmother told media that she is very excited and happy. Delhi boy Siddharth's guest list is longer than Kiara's. It includes his mother's friends as well. These guests have come from Delhi and Punjab.

The couple's common friend Karan Johar was on the list from both sides. Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, film producers Aarti Shetty, Pooja Shetty and many others will attend the wedding.

10 people have come from Kiara's family so far.

Kiara's guest list at the wedding includes people from Bollywood as well as business families. The most special is her childhood friend Isha Ambani. Isha and her husband had reached Jaisalmer airport by their private charter at around 9.30 p.m. on Sunday night. Apart from this, Kiara's Bollywood friend Shahid Kapoor came with his wife Meera and Karan Johar on Sunday morning. Actress Juhi Chawla and her businessman husband Jai Mehta, choreographer Shabina Khan, business woman Jeba Kohli, and actor Ishaan Chandok will also attend the wedding. The event management company has called a team of waiters from Mumbai and Delhi to maintain the privacy of the wedding. Local people are not being engaged for any

work in marriage. A team of around 500 waiters has been deployed, of which 200 are from Mumbai. The dress code of white pants and shirt and turban on the head has been decided for the waiters. The event management will be assisted by the hotel staff.

A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY BRIDE'S BROTHER

Jaipur | Kiara's brother Mishaal will give a special performance for his sister and brother-in-law on the occasion of their wedding in Jaisalmer's Suryagarh palace. Mishaal has prepared a song especially for this occasion. He is a rapper, composer and music director by profession. Mishaal released his first track 'No My Name' in November 2022. The event reportedly will also feature a performance by Shahid Kapoor and Karan Johar. Both may dance on the song 'Dola Re Dola' from 'Devdas'. This was mentioned by both of them in an episode of 'Koffee-with-Karan'. Kiara and Shahid were much liked in the film 'Kabir Singh'. Shahid arrived with wife Meera Rajput on Sunday to attend the wedding. Karan is also a common friend of the couple who gave Siddharth his break in Bollywood with 'Student of the Year'.

GUESTS TO FEAST ON 100 DISHES FROM 10 COUNTRIES

Jaipur | More than 100 dishes from 10 countries will be served to the guests at the wedding of Bollywood stars Kiara Advani and Siddharth Malhotra. The menu includes Italian, Chinese, American, South Indian, Mexican, Rajasthani, Punjabi, and Gujarati cuisines. Jaisalmer's Ghotwan Ladoo will be among the sweets. Punjabi boy Siddharth has taken special care of his guests from Punjab and Delhi and has made arrangements for spicy food for them. There will be more than 50 stalls at the wedding with 500 waiters in their dress code. The responsibility of attending to each guest has been given to each waiter. Two to three dishes will be kept at each stall. Besides, many dishes are on the breakfast and lunch menus.



GUESTS TO SHAKE LEGS ON BEATS OF DJ GANESH

Jaipur | The guests at the Siddharth-Kiara wedding will shake legs on the beats of DJ Ganesh, who has already made big Bollywood stars groove to his beats. He is now in Jaisalmer to attend and give dance beats in Kiara-Sid's wedding. DJ Ganesh has performed in more than 30 countries so far.

DJ Ganesh got fame in Bollywood after performing at Karan Johar's birthday party. After this, he made everyone dance to his beats at Isha Ambani's engagement, Richa Chadha and Ali Faizal's wedding. Now they have come to add colour to Kiara-Sid's marriage.

Hari and Sukhmani bands have also been called for music night on Monday and to make the wedding special. Both also performed at Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's wedding. Hari and Sukhmani sing a mix of English and Punjabi songs. The band of both starts the song with the English line. After that line of Folk and Sufi songs, they sing in Punjabi.

Both Hari and Sukhmani Malik met in 2008. After this, both of them formed their band in 2009. Together they made 10 songs. The duo's band now performs at live concerts, Bollywood actors' and high profile weddings.

'GHAR MEIN GHUS KE MARUNGI': KANGANA THREATENS COUPLE 'SPYING' ON HER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After hitting out at a 'well-known' actor for spying on her, Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, on Monday again took to her social media to send a public warning to the actor while she also shared that there has been no spying since she put up her last post.

Taking to the story section of her Instagram, Kangana wrote a note, telling her followers that the incessant spying around by the paparazzi has stopped. She wrote: "All those who worry about me please know that since last night there are no suspicious activities around me, no one is following me, with or without cameras."

She then pointed the gun again at the said actor, as she wrote: "There's no point in having a conversation with those who understand only through muscle. Message to gang changu mangu: guys haven't dealt with a village blood, mend your ways or you are going to have it from me."

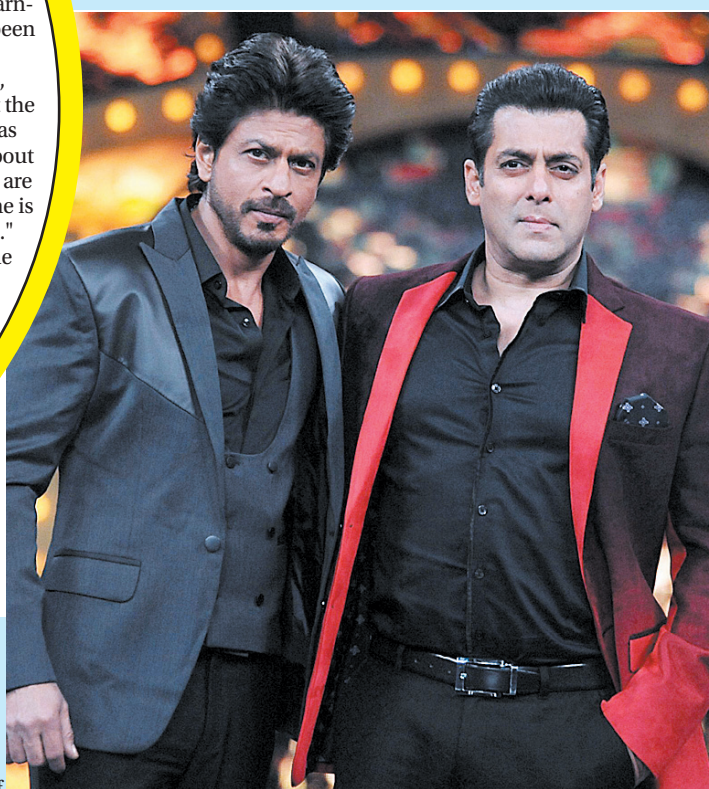
She also had a message for those who think that she's insane: "Those of you think that I'm insane, you know that but don't know the level of my insanity."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan teamed up on-screen for the delight of their fans in 'Pathaan' and now the post-credit scene is turning out to be a landmark in Hindi cinema given the magnitude of their stardom and their impact on the screen.

The two actors spoke on joining forces as their titular characters of Tiger and Pathaan and also the spy universe of YRF. Salman said: "For Shah Rukh and I to come together on the big screen, it always needed a special film and I'm glad 'Pathaan' is that film. When we did 'Karan Arjun', it was a blockbuster and now, Pathaan, which is part of YRF's Spy Universe, has also turned out to be a blockbuster. I'm aware that audiences love to see us together on screen and I'm happy that they have given us so much love in 'Pathaan'. I was floored when Adi narrated the sequence to me and told me about his vision to bring us together on screen again." SRK said: "Trust me when I say this, Salman and I have always wanted to act together but we were waiting for the right film, the right script because we both knew that there would be incredible excitement to see us on screen but we would have to deliver that promise to audiences because they love us so much. If not, they would be mighty dejected and it wouldn't work for the project. Since it's for the fans the script has to be good."

SRK, Salman open up on working together, spilling of spy universe



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Donal Bisht