

absolute india

VOL. 10, ISSUE 225, MUMBAI | FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

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Rahul's convoy stopped by police at Manipur's Bishnupur

CONG-BJP SPAR WORDS

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday visited relief camps in Imphal and Churachandpur, where displaced people took shelter after the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3. The Congress leader visited Churachandpur, one of the worst violence hit districts, and met the inmates in the relief camps there. After coming back to Imphal, he visited some relief camps in Imphal West District.

Imphal | Agencies

Congress leaders alleged that Manipur Police, under the instructions of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, on Thursday stopped party leader Rahul Gandhi from visiting Bishnupur district to meet the violence-affected people.

However, Bishnupur's Superintendent of Police Heisnam Balam Singh said that they cannot allow VIPs like Rahul Gandhi to visit in such a place where the militants create law and order problems and they use sophisticated arms and triggering IEDs. The Congress leaders were stopped by police at Bishnupur, around 20 km from Imphal.

After a few hours, Gandhi, who was accompanied by party General Secretary K.C. Venugopal and in-charge of several northeastern states, Ajay Kumar came back to the Imphal



airport and took a helicopter to Churachandpur, one of the worst violence hit hill districts. Immediately after his arrival on a two-day Manipur visit, he left for Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts but the police stopped his convoy in Bishnupur. Gandhi was scheduled to interact with the civil society organisations, tribal and non-tribal leaders, as well as prominent citizens in the two districts -- Bishnupur and Churachandpur. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge condemned the Manipur Police action.

"I came to listen to all my brothers and sisters of Manipur. People of all communities are being very welcoming and loving. It's very unfortunate that the government is stopping me. Manipur needs healing. Peace has to be our only priority."

Rahul Gandhi



"Rahul Gandhi's convoy in Manipur has been stopped by the police near Bishnupur. PM Modi has not bothered to break his silence on Manipur. He has left the state to fend for itself. Now, his double engine disastrous governments are using autocratic methods to stall a compassionate outreach by Rahul Gandhi."

Mallikarjun Kharge



"It is most unfortunate that the Modi Govt is preventing Rahul Gandhi from visiting relief camps and interacting with the people outside Imphal. His 2-day visit to Manipur is in the spirit of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Why stop Rahul Gandhi's efforts to listen to all sections of the Manipuri society and provide a healing touch?"

Jairam Ramesh



"Gandhi was in a hurry to open the 'Shop of Love.' Exactly what we feared happened. People thronged the roads with placards asking Rahul Gandhi to go back. Due to heavy protests, his convoy had to be stopped at Vishnupur. If he had listened to us and travelled by helicopter, the situation would not have turned tense."

Sambit Patra



"He is no messiah of peace just a political opportunist, who wants to keep the pot boiling. His visit to Manipur is not borne out of concern for people but his own selfish political agenda. There is a reason no one trusts either him or the Congress."

Amit Malviya



Indian economy presents picture of resilience, robust financial system boosting growth: RBI document

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian economy presents a picture of resilience, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) financial stability report has said.

The report, which is a half-yearly report card of financial institutions' health, while presenting an overview of the financial sector, noted: "Sustained growth momentum, moderating inflation and anchoring of inflation expectations, a narrowing current account deficit (CAD) and rising foreign exchange reserves, ongoing fiscal consolidation and a robust financial system are setting the economy on a path of sustained growth."

"Healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates are engendering a new credit and investment cycle. Strong revenue growth, higher profits and lower leverage are helping corporates to



improve their bottom lines," it added. Banks and non-bank financial intermediaries are posting strong earnings and robust credit growth with strengthening buffers, the report said. These improvements are brightening the prospects of the Indian economy, fortified by the rising pace, the RBI document added. However it cautioned at the same time, that the stability of the global financial system is tested by high inflation, tight financial conditions and banking system fragilities. Simultaneously, geopolitical tensions and economic fragmentation are threatening macroeconomic stability. Bouts of volatility surge through financial markets amidst rapid shifts in investor sentiments.

Bhim Army chief discharged from hospital, vows to continue fight

Saharanpur (UP): Bhim Army chief and President of Azad Samaj Party, Chandra Shekhar Azad, has been discharged from SBD Hospital in Saharanpur.

He was admitted here on Wednesday after armed men attacked his convoy and a bullet grazed his stomach.

Talking to reporters after coming out of the hospital, Chandra Shekhar said that the attack would not deter him from working on his mission which was to empower the weaker sec-



tions of society. "I am not going to give up my mission and those who attacked me should know that I will not bow to such tactics," he said.

US Supreme Court strikes down race-based affirmative action in college admissions

Yashwant Raj | Washington

In a landmark judgment, the US Supreme Court on Thursday declared race-based affirmative action in college enrollment unconstitutional.

The court held affirmative action violative of the US Constitution's 14th Amendment, which guarantees equal protection. All six conservative justices, including Chief Justice John Roberts, ruled to strike down affirmative action, while the three liberals ruled against.

The court's ruling came in a challenge to the race-based affirmative action by Harvard and University of North Carolina. "The student must be treated based on his or her experiences as an individual-not on the basis of race," Chief Justice Roberts wrote in the majority opinion. "Many universities



have for too long done just the opposite. And in doing so, they have concluded, wrongly, that the touchstone of an individual's identity is not challenges bested, skills built, or lessons learned but the color of their skin. Our constitutional history does not tolerate that choice." Roberts added that the court had previously "permitted race-based admissions only within the confines of narrow restrictions. University programs must comply with strict scrutiny, they may never use race as a stereotype or negative, and -- at some point -- they must end".

SWEETS EXCHANGED BY BSF, PAKISTAN RANGERS ON JAMMU BORDER ON EID

Jammu: The BSF and the Pakistani Rangers exchanged sweets on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha on Thursday at various border outposts of the Jammu Frontier in a very cordial atmosphere, officials said.

The BSF said the exchange of sweets was done all along the BoPs in Samba, Kathua, RS Pura, and Akhnoor border.

"BSF Jammu offered sweets to Rangers and Rangers also reciprocated the BSF gesture by offering sweets to them," the BSF said. "The BSF has always been on the forefront in creating a peaceful and congenial atmosphere on border while dominating the border effectively. Such gestures help build a peaceful atmosphere and cordial relationships on border between both border guarding forces."



CBFC sets record straight on '72 Hoorain' trailer; says reports are 'misleading'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

"Misleading." That is how the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has described the storm in a teacup stirred by Ashoke Pandit with regard to the trailer of the upcoming film '72 Hoorain'.

The Board has officially stated that the reports about the film's trailer not getting a censor certificate are misleading as they don't paint a complete picture. The certification of the trailer is under due process.

The board officially communicated that contrary to reports, the film 'Bahattar Hoorain (72 Hoorain)' was granted 'A' certification on October 4, 2019. The certificate for the trailer of the film, directed by Sanjay Puran Singh



Chauhan, was applied for on June 19, 2023, and it is under due process.

Reports quoting Pandit, the co-producer, about the film's trailer being refused the censor certificate now seem like being a publicity stunt for the film before its release. The film tells the story of how brainwashing by terrorists is done. The Board said that the trailer has been examined in accordance with the Guidelines issued under Section 5B(2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

"After this, the applicant was asked for requisite documentary submissions under intimation and upon receipt of the same, certification was granted subject to modifications," the Board said.

"A show-cause notice communicating the modifications was issued to the applicant/filmmaker on 27-6-2023 and the same is pending for the applicant's response/compliance," the Board added in its clarification.

Pawar shocker: Over 6,800 women-girls 'disappeared' in Maha in past one year

Pune | Agencies

In a startling revelation, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar on Thursday said that thousands of women or girls have 'disappeared' in Maharashtra in the past one year or so, raising serious questions on the law and order situation in the state.

"It has been one year since this new government (of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis) came to power in Maharashtra. The state is facing many issues, but law and order is at the top. Attacks on women and girls are the biggest concern and are increasing day by day everywhere," said Pawar.

Citing official figures collected from various municipal corporations, police commissionerates and rural police headquarters, he said that over 6,889 women/girls are missing in the past one year, May 2022-May 2023.

Reeling off specific details, Pawar said that in the first half of 2023, between Jan. 23-May 23, a total of 2,458 girls/women are mysteriously off the radar in four major municipalities of the state.

"This is a very serious matter... The state Home Minister should take measures for the safety of our daughters and sisters instead of just making statements. There is a need to trace them out and it's the government's responsibility to hand them over to their families," he demanded.



Pawar also slammed the ruling Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party regime - which will celebrate its first anniversary in office on Friday (June 30) - for the spate of riots that have erupted in different parts of the state in the past few months, on which the Maha Vikas Aghadi allies Congress and Shiv Sena-UBT have also raised questions in the past. Terming these as "planned", he contended that the riots broke out in Kolhapur, Ahmednagar, Akola and other places, and said it needs to be probed whether these clashes and disturbances were allegedly being engineered keeping in mind the upcoming civic, parliament and assembly elections.

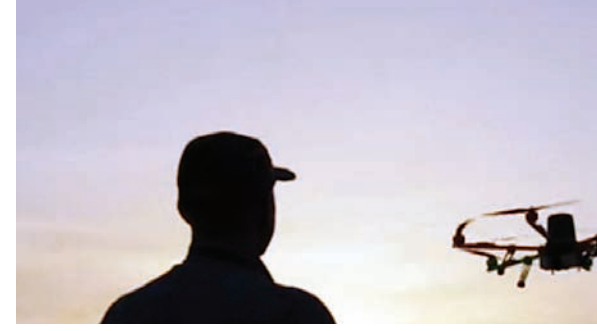
They comprise: 738 from Mumbai, 937 from Pune, 721 from Thane and 62 from Solapur, while the information on missing women/girls from the 10 other civic corporations was not available. From the state's 36 districts, a total of 4,431 females have disappeared from 14 districts of Amravati, Beed, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gondia, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Nanded, Pune, Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Washim, as per the details from the local police. In the past one year -- May 2022-May 2023, a whopping 6,889 women/girls have gone missing in the state with no information on their whereabouts, said Pawar.

Chennai gets India's first Police Drone Unit

Chennai | Agencies

The Greater Chennai Police on Thursday launched the 'Police Drone Unit', touted as the first such in the country, for aerial surveillance over the Tamil Nadu capital.

The unit, which has a total of nine drones under three categories -- Quick Response Surveillance drones, heavy-lift multi-rotor drones, and Long Range Survey wing plane -- and 20 trained police personnel, was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Director General of Police, C. Sylendra Babu. These drones are equipped with built-in artificial intelligence (AI) facilities and can be operated upto 10km from the ground station. Chennai City's Police Commissioner, Shankar Jaiswal, briefing media per-



sons, said that drones have thermal object imaging facility and will detect if any suspect has a knife or some other objects on his body.

He said that night patrolling will become much easier and based on information provided by drones, the suspects could be caught easily. He also said that drones will be used to monitor movements at isolated places

as well as uniting of anti-social elements.

The Commissioner also said that drones could be used to read the number plates of vehicles.

Sylendra Babu told media persons that deploying drone unit was an important milestone for the Tamil Nadu Police and added that the unit was established at a cost of Rs 3.6 crore.



NARENDRA MODI

Prime Minister



EKNATH SHINDE

Chief Minister, Maharashtra



The State shall become

is the People's will!

"With the inspiration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the spirit of 'Swaraj' (self-rule) and 'Surajya' (Good Governance) is strongly manifested in today's India as well as in the double engine governments."

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Farmer

- 'NaMo Shetkari Mahasman Nidhi Scheme' – State will provide Rupees 6,000 for each farmer annually, benefiting 1.15 crore farmers.
- Crop Insurance in 1 Rupee; Government shall pay rupees 3312 Crore towards Crop Insurance premiums.
- The Jalyukta Shivar campaign (Phase-2) resumed in 5000 villages, aiming to restore water abundance in the state's villages.
- 29 water resource projects accorded revised approvals, which will irrigate 6 lakh 50 thousand hectares of land.
- A fund of Rs.7093.19 crores has been distributed to 62 lakh 60 thousand farmers for the period of June to October 2022.
- An incentive of Rs. 50,000 each has been disbursed to 12.84 lakh farmers, totaling Rs. 4683 crores.
- Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Vahini Yojana 2.0, revolutionary decision for farmers to provide electricity to agricultural pumps during the day.

Infrastructure

- The Hindu Hriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Samruddhi Maharashtra Samridhi Highway is now operational up to Nagpur-Shirdi-Bharveer (601 Km)
- Bandra- Versova Coastal Bridge has been named Swatantra Veer Savarkar Bridge.
- The state plans to construct 5000 km of access control highways.
- The Mumbai Trans-Harbor Link project is 95% complete and has been named Atal Bihari Vajpayee Smriti Shivdi-Nhava Sheva 'Atal Setu'.

Women and Child Development

- The 'Lek Ladki' scheme has been introduced in a new form, providing benefits to the girl child of families holding yellow and orange ration cards. Financial assistance of up to 1 lakh will be provided until the child reaches 18 years of age.
- Women will receive a 50 percent discount on ST travel, benefiting women travellers.

Employment

- The recruitment process for 75000 posts in Government has been expedited, examinations to be conducted through TCS and IBPS.
- More than 12,000 entrepreneurs granted loans through the Chief Minister's Employment Generation program, leading to the employment of over 1 lakh youth.
- A separate corporation has been established for unorganized workers, providing relief to crores of workers.

Education

- Students will now receive substantial scholarships, with a significant increase in the amount.
- Free uniforms, shoes, and socks will be provided to all students up to class VIII.
- PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) to emerge as exemplar schools in providing high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment

Cultural Affairs

- The song "Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha, Garja Maharashtra Majha" has been officially recognized as the Maharashtra State Anthem.
- 'Shiv-Srishti', will be built on 45 acres at the base of Fort Raigad.
- An authority envisaged for the conservation of For Pratapgad

Industry

- Maharashtra once again ranks first in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), attracting an investment of rupees 1 crore 18 lakh Crore rupees in the last year.
- MoUs of rupees 1 lakh 37 thousand crores of investment in Maharashtra has been signed at Davos.
- A New Information Technology policy has been announced, expected to attract an investment of rupees 95,000 crores.
- The approval of a New Textile policy is expected to attract an investment of rupees 25,000 crores.

Health

- 'Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana' and 'Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Arogya Yojana' have been merged. 2 crore health cards will be distributed, providing health coverage up to 5 lakhs rupees per annum.
- In Maharashtra, 700 "Hindu Hriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Aapla Dawakhana" will soon be started. Additionally, 160 health centres have been established in Mumbai, benefiting 7 lakh citizens.
- Approximately Rs. 82 crores in assistance was provided last year through the Chief Minister Medical Assistance Cell (Mukhyamantri Sahayta Kaksha).
- New government colleges will be established at 9 new locations in the state, with a provision of Rs. 4365 crore.

For All Inclusive Development

- The 'Modi Awas Gharkul Yojana' aims to build 1 million houses for Other Backward Classes in 3 years.
- Financial assistance in the 'Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar/ Shrawanbal Yojana' has been increased from rupees 1000 to rupees 1500 (50% increase).
- Petrol tax has been reduced by Rs. 5 per litre, and diesel tax by Rs. 3 per litre.
- Senior citizens who have completed 75 years of age are eligible for free ST travel as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, benefiting over 10 crore senior travellers.
- "Anandacha Shidha" (ration) is distributed to all ration card holders in the State on the occasion of Diwali, Gudipadwa, and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Birth Anniversary.
- Under the "Shasan Aplya Daari" program, 40 lakh citizens have received direct benefits through the State government.
- A separate policy will be implemented to obtain affordable sand and prevent illegal mining.
- Prolonged slum-redevelopment plans expedited; MHADA authority to speed up the redevelopment of dangerous, cessed buildings.



*With Blessings of
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj,
One year of 'Surajya'*

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1 KILLED IN MUMBAI DUE TO HEAVY RAINFALL, WATERLOGGING SEEN IN MANY AREAS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Heavy rains led to waterlogging in many areas of Mumbai on Wednesday, forcing the closure of the busy Andheri subway, civic officials said.

A tree collapse incident claimed a man's life in suburban Malad, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said in a release.

The local train traffic on the Central and Western Railway routes was mostly normal though the trains were running a few minutes late, railway officials said.

"Due to accumulation of 1.5 to 2 feet of water, Andheri Subway is closed for vehicular movement. Traffic is diverted towards SV Road," Mumbai Traffic Police tweeted in the afternoon.

The civic-run Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport or 'BEST' buses on three routes were diverted at Ketti pada in Dahisar East.

In the 24 hours since previous morning, there were 26 incidents of tree fall, 15 incidents of short-circuit and five incidents of collapse or partial collapse of houses, the BMC said.



Rains also pounded neighbouring Thane city, leading to waterlogging and incidents of wall and house collapse.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted more showers in Mumbai, with moderate to intense rain spells in isolated places. Kaushal Doshi, 38, was severely injured in a tree fall at Mamledarwadi junction in the west-

ern suburb of Malad. He was rushed to the civic-run Shatabdi Hospital where the doctors declared him "brought dead", a BMC official said.

The island city (south Mumbai), eastern and western suburbs received 12.44 mm, 42.41 mm and 40.46 mm of rainfall, respectively, between 8 am to 12 noon on Wednesday, as per civic officials. IMD Mumbai issued a 'nowcast'

Vegetable prices soar in Mumbai retail outlets, but score on e-markets

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Mumbai and other major cities have been rattled by a sudden and steep spurt in the prices of most daily consumption vegetables, with the tomato commanding almost a king's ransom, in the past few days, and the situation may continue to be grim until at least August.

In contrast, the prices of the same daily use, popular vegetables are between 20-40 per cent cheaper in e-markets or on most major online portals like Jio Fresh, Amazon, Reliance Smart, Amazon, BigBasket, Natures Basket.

A perusal of several of these sites showed that not only are the prices lower compared with the markets, the fresh vegetables are in great demand and so some companies promise delivery only after 24-48 hours.

For instance, the prices of tomato on the online portals range between Rs 70-90, compared with Rs 100-130 in the open markets, plus there are gaping differences in the rates of most other veggies online and offline.

Other popular but smaller online retailers or departmental stores in the city have either dropped the pricey veggies off their lists or quote near-similar rates veggies, thus giving a tough competition to the friendly neighbourhood streetcorner 'bhajiwala' or the mobile 'feriwalla' roaming the Mumbai streets.

Experts and market players claim that the



recent steep hike in prices since mid-May -- from double to triple to quadruple, depending on the vegetable -- is due to an array of reasons.

Prime among these are the delayed onset of monsoon in most parts of India, coupled with unexpected shortages, changes in cropping patterns and scalding fuel prices.

Market expert and Vashi APMC Director, Ashok Walunj said what the market is getting in the past few days is old stock, due to the delay in rains, that has led to an unusual shortage, fuelling the price hikes.

Plus, huge quantities of onions and potatoes were spoiled and there are no takers for the stocks which are now going for Rs 10-12/kg in the APMCs, and around Rs 20-25/kg in the retail markets, but these will shoot up to Rs 35-45/kg by August, he cautioned.

Flutter as speeding motorbike rams Aditya Thackeray's car, no injuries

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A speeding motorcyclist banged into the slow-moving SUV of Shiv Sena-UBT leader Aditya Thackeray outside the Shiv Sena Bhavan in Dadar on Wednesday afternoon, creating a minor security flutter, party leaders said.

The incident occurred when Thackeray junior was proceeding to the party headquarters for a meeting when the motorcycle, apparently out of control, rammed into the right side of his vehicle and the rider fell down. He again got up with the bike even as Thackeray's police and security detail rushed towards him to help.

From viral videos, it appears that the motorcyclist apprehended a collision and



attempted to slow and control his vehicle but it still hit the SUV. Scared of the consequences, the unidentified man attempted to start his motorcycle and escape, but a security personnel hopped after him, took him aside and removed the ignition key before taking him away for questioning.

On reaching the Shiv Sena Bhavan, Thackeray, who was sitting in the front seat beside

the driver, enquired after the condition of the motorcyclist and was told that "he's fine, all normal".

Meanwhile, the incident - coming days after his security cover was reportedly trimmed - sparked concerns in various quarters.

Thackeray was barraged with phone calls and messages prompting him to tweet that "all are safe and nobody was injured" in the accident.

GOATS FOR EID TRIGGER POLICE CASE AGAINST 11 AT MUMBAI APARTMENTS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The arrival of two goats at a private housing colony near Mumbai sparked tensions, prompted slogans of Jai Shri Ram and recitals of the Hanuman Chalisa on Tuesday before police intervention managed to bring matters under control.

A police case has now been filed against 11 individuals in connection with the incident, news agency ANI reported.

The incident took place in the Thane district's Mira Road, next to Mumbai, where resident Mohsin Sheikh had brought the animals into his home ahead of the Muslim festival of Bakrid, traditionally marked by the sacrifice of livestock.

The move sparked uproar among many society members, who subsequently gathered to protest. Protesters chanted religious slogans and recited the Hanuman Chalisa, a Hindu devotional hymn.

"Our society had passed a rule that no livestock would be allowed inside



the society, but they violated it and brought two goats inside. We are opposing it and will not allow it."

Police were called to the scene to manage the escalating tensions and encountered a heated exchange with

the residents. "We appeal to all to maintain communal harmony and follow the rules of the society," another resident said. Despite the police's intervention, there was a brief clash between the officers and some of the

society's members.

Sheikh stated that in previous years, the building's owner had provided space for Muslim families to keep livestock for the festival. This year, however, he was told that there was no space available. He also claimed that he had requested a place within the society to keep his goats but was denied.

With no other option, Sheikh brought the two goats into his home early Tuesday morning. He maintained that the animals were not intended for sacrifice within the society, stating, "We always get the slaughter done elsewhere."

The police informed society members that according to the rules, no sacrifices were permitted within the society, and urged Sheikh to remove the animals in consideration of the sentiments of other residents.

The incident has set off a fierce debate on social media, with a video of the event circulating on multiple platforms. The video shows residents shouting and preventing Sheikh from taking the goats into his home.

WhatsApp Pink scam on rise, Mumbai Police issues red alert for Android users

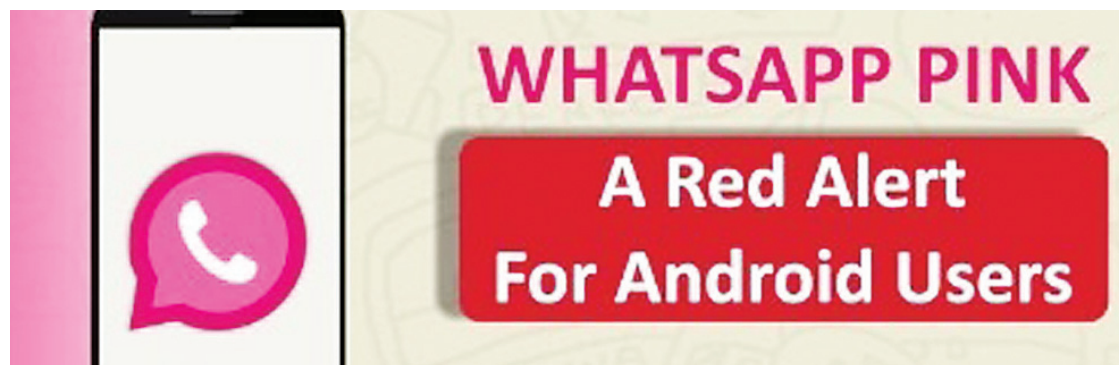
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police have issued a red alert for Android users who have downloaded WhatsApp in Pink.

In a Twitter post, the Mumbai Police said, "WHATSAPP PINK - A Red Alert For Android Users", along with a picture explaining the consequences as well as the measures to protect yourself from the scam.

"The news about 'New Pink Look WhatsApp with extra features' which is recently doing rounds among the WhatsApp users is a hoax which can lead to hacking of your mobile through malicious software," the picture reads.

"It is not an uncommon instance, to see the fraudsters come up with variety of new tricks and ways to lure gullible users into falling into their trap to commit cyber frauds. It is for the users to be Aware, Alert, and



Attentive to these kinds of frauds and remain safe and secure in the digital world." Downloading WhatsApp in Pink can lead to misuse of contact numbers and pictures saved on mobile phones, financial loss, misuse of your credentials, spam messages, and more.

People are advised to immediately uninstall the fake app downloaded on

their mobile by navigating to settings> apps> WhatsApp (pink logo) and uninstall it.

You should never click on links received from unknown sources without proper verification or authentication. Also, you should always install applications through the official app store of Google or iOS or a legitimate website. Always keep in mind to

never share your personal details or financial information like login credentials, passwords, credit or debit card details and other such information online with anyone, as it can be misused. aware and alert about such attempts of cyber criminals by keeping track of the latest news and updates on the activities of cyber fraudsters.

After National Award, makers of '72 Hoorain' are upset over CBFC rejecting its trailer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The makers of the National Award winning movie '72 Hoorain', at the movie's trailer launch, expressed disagreement with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for their decision to reject the trailer.

Labeling the decision as regressive to the artistic spirit, Ashoke Pandit who is the co-producer of the movie, said: "We are extremely hurt and disturbed because of CBFC's unfair decision of rejecting the trailer without any reason."

This action raises a big concern about creativity, freedom and realistic filmmaking. We will not take this lightly and will knock on the doors of the high court too, if needed."



"Further, we will also be requesting the I&B ministry to intervene and question the authority at CBFC for rejecting the trailer."

The director of the movie, Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan, a two-time National Award Winner, who seemed visibly unhappy with CBFC's decision, added: "The movie has won the National Award by the gov-

ernment and has received a censor certificate already. The trailer carries the same essence of the movie."

"So on what basis has CBFC rejected the trailer!" He added: "We would request everybody to watch the movie and then jump to any conclusion. The movie only states facts and certainly does not target any religion or hurt religious sentiments."

OLD MAN KILLED BY SPEEDING CAR; DRIVER ARRESTED

Mumbai: A 76-year-old man was killed in a hit-and-run case after a speeding car rammed into him in Mumbai's Mulund on Tuesday night, police said. The car's driver has been arrested, they added.

According to Mulund police, the accident took place at 8.45 pm when 22-year-old Amresh Yadav hit Tukaram Sawant, who was walking on the side of a road, and scooter driver nearby with his car. The driver then abandoned his car and fled.

While Sawant died on the spot, the scooter driver was badly injured and is receiving treatment at a hospital.

A case has been registered against Yadav for rash driving, causing hurt and death by negligence under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Motor Vehicles Act.

"BJP's Team B": Team Uddhav 's dig at KCR's party

'Saamna', the official newspaper of the Uddhav Thackeray faction took a dig at the Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao in its editorial calling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) the 'B' team of BJP.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Telangana CM is on a two-day trip to Maharashtra from Tuesday.

"KCR is making an emotional appeal to the farmers of Maharashtra, seeking votes in the name of farmers. But the overall picture is that his party will pave the way for BJP to divide votes. BJP's politics has always been like this. In Maharashtra, BJP has already kept many horses and mules as the 'B' team. Another party from Telangana has joined it," it said.

"KCR has decided to enter national politics by establishing a party called the Bharat Rashtra Samithi. However, there was no need for this. He had a regional party and it was doing well, but the worm of national politics had entered Rao's mind," it added.

The mouthpiece of the Uddhav Thackeray faction said that although Rao has contributed a lot to the establishment of Telangana and has successfully implemented various schemes to improve the standard of living of the farmers, even then it's not sure whether he'll remain in power in 2024 or not.

"In the establishment of the state of Telangana, K.



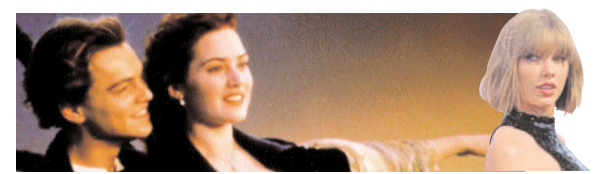
Chandrasekhar Rao's struggle is big. It is equally true that if Rao had not fought, the Telangana state would not have been formed. Rao became the Chief Minister of Telangana twice. Although he has successfully implemented many such schemes to improve the standard of living of the farmers there but still no one can guarantee whether KCR's party will remain in power in 2024," it stated.

Pointing out the relationship between All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi and BJP, the mouthpiece said that earlier BJP used Owaisi for dividing votes but now after understanding Owaisi's ploy, it is clear that Muslims and Dalits will not go with him. So is BJP trying to field KCR instead of Owaisi?

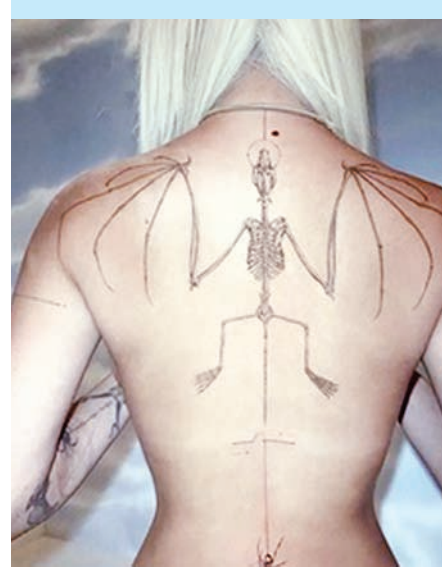
"Since 2019 the AIMIM's Owaisi is being used by the BJP for the purpose of dividing votes. Owaisi moved to Maharashtra and other states to divide votes.

They did their job well, but after understanding Owaisi's ploy, it is clear that Muslims and Dalits will not fall for him. So is that why BJP has now fielded KCR instead of Owaisi? Are KCR and his party acting as the 'B' team of the BJP?" it said.

Sanjay Raut said that KCR came to Maharashtra fearing loss in Telangana where, he said, the fight is between KCR and Congress.



DOJA CAT SHOWS OFF HER NEW TATTOOS IN TOPLESS INSTAGRAM POST



Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Doja Cat has got inked and she is showing it off. The 'Need to Know' rapper, 27, added a spider to her back tattoo collection and more elaborate designs to her right hand. She shared two topless photos

on her Instagram recently, which showed off the spider tattoo added to her lower back. The insect appears to be spinning a web that continues from the tail of the bat skeleton tattoo she got in May, reports 'People' magazine. In the photo series, Doja Cat also included a photo of her right hand, which has a tattoo of an eyeball with a sword through it. She also has designs on her middle finger, as well as small dots near each nail. Doja Cat tagged the tattoo artist, Mr. K, adding a spider emoji.

"Another session w @dojacat in LA and perfectly healed," the artist wrote on his own Instagram page, where he shared the same photos.

As per 'People', the 'Streets' rapper's lower back ink is a fine-line tattoo like her bat tattoo. While Doja Cat did not provide context for her newest body art, she did explain the meaning behind the skeletal bat.

"Bats often represent death in the sense of letting go of the old, and bringing in the new," the rapper's May 4 message read.

"They are symbols of transition, of initiation, and the start of a new beginning," she added. The "new beginning" Doja Cat is looking forward to might be the start of her new tour.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Kim Cattrall has opened up on her highly-anticipated 'And Just Like That' cameo.

The actress, 66, detailed how she came to reprise her iconic role of Samantha Jones for the season 2 finale of the 'Sex and the City' revival series. Her character was only featured in the first season via text message exchanges with Carrie Bradshaw (played by Sarah Jessica Parker), reports People magazine.

"It's very interesting to get a call from the head of HBO saying, 'What can we do?' and I went, 'Hmm, let me get creative,'" Cattrall shared that during her appearance on 'The View' on Wednesday. "And one of those things was to get Pat Field back because I just thought that if I'm going to come back, I gotta come back with that Samantha style. I gotta push it. And we did," she revealed.

Cattrall made headlines earlier this month when it was announced that her 'Sex and the City' character Samatha Jones would be making an appearance in this season's finale of 'And Just Like That...' and that she was outfitted by none other than Field, 82. As per People, Field, who famously dressed the cast of the Sex and the City series and its two spin-off movies, notably didn't return for the TV series 'And Just Like That'. However, she made an exception for her good friend Cattrall's return.

According to Variety, Cattrall filmed the cameo on March 22 in New York City. The outlet also reported that Cattrall did her scene "without seeing or speaking with the stars of the series," including Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis, nor did she reportedly interact with series creator Michael Patrick King.

Boris Becker's lookalike model daughter Anna turns heads at gala

Berlin | Agencies

Former German tennis ace Boris Becker's daughter Anna Ermakova turned heads on Tuesday night when she attended the Media Night at Aachen in Germany.

According to the Daily Mail: "The model looked stunning in a long black strapless figure-hugging dress which clung to her slim frame and accentuated her sculpted shoulders."

They added: "The 23-year-old model, who looks just like her famous father, finished the look with a Louis Vuitton black bag and 15,800 pounds Vintage Alhambra long necklace from Van Cleef and Arpels." "Her signature red locks were bumped up with volume as she posed with her arms raised above her head, finishing the look with a bold red lip."

Excited to attend, Anna shared clips

from the evening with her 131 thousand followers on her Instagram.

In March, Anna won the final of Germany's equivalent of 'Strictly Come Dancing' with a record number of votes.

Boris, 55, had then taken to social media to express his deep love and admiration for his daughter. He conveyed that he could not be more proud of the remarkable young woman she is blossoming into. "I wish my beautiful daughter only the very best on her special day! I couldn't be more proud of the woman she is becoming in front of our eyes! Love," he wrote.

According to Mirror.co.uk, Anna was conceived during an infamous encounter between Becker and Russian model Angela Ermakova in a broom cupboard in London's Nobu restaurant in 1999.

Boris initially refused to acknowledge paternity of his daughter before a DNA test later confirmed he was the father.



THE BEE GEES WOULD ARGUE CONSTANTLY DURING RECORDING SESSIONS, SAYS NEW BOOK



London: Disco legends, the Bee Gees would argue constantly in recording studios, but always made up over a cup of tea, a new book reveals.

According to the book 'Bee Gees: Children of the World', the 'How Deep Is Your Love' singers, Barry Gibb, 76, and his twin brothers Robin and Maurice, knew it was "time to get back to work" once the kettle had boiled, reports Mirror.co.uk. Studio engineer John Merchant tells how the brothers were "world champions of sniping at each other" until they had made a cuppa. The book's author, pop historian Bob Stanley, wrote: "John reckoned the spats were part of the work process. They knew what the other was capable of, and would not rest until their brother had delivered. They would challenge each other consistently. And, like an unrealistic sitcom, everyone knew the situation would be resolved as soon as the kettle went on." Tragedy struck when Maurice died aged 53 in 2003, and Robin died in 2012 aged 62 from cancer.

When the Bee Gees peaked in the 70s with hits such as 'Saturday Night Fever', Barry never lost his taste for home.

'Celebration Tour postpones'

Madonna rushed to NYC hospital after being unresponsive

Los Angeles | Agencies

International pop star Madonna was found unresponsive, and was rushed to a New York hospital after suffering from a bacterial infection leading to a multi-day hospital stay. Though she is on the mend with expectations of a full recovery, her upcoming 'Celebration Tour' has been postponed.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, "Guy Oseary, the singer's talent manager and producer, confirmed that she had been admitted to an intensive care unit on June 24 due to the infection."

"Her health is improving, however, she is still under medical care. A full recovery is expected," he wrote in an Instagram statement. "At this time we will need to pause all commitments, which includes the tour."

Back in 2020, Madonna underwent hip

replacement surgery, post her injury during her 'Madame X Tour', which forced her to cancel several North American shows.

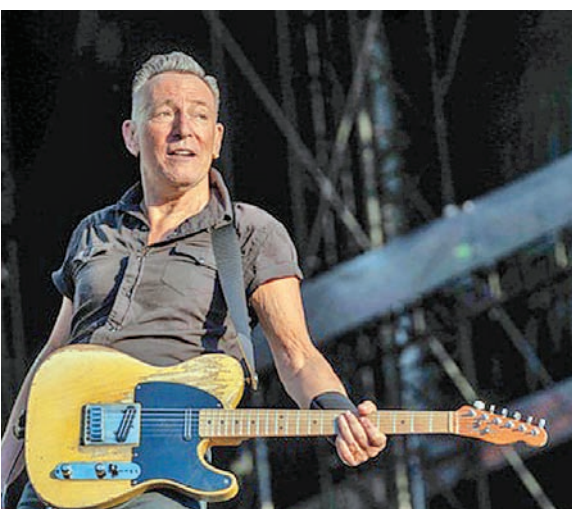
The Grammy winning pop sensation had announced her 'Celebration Tour' back in January with a video featuring other big names such as Amy Schumer, Lil Wayne, Kate Berlant, Jack Black, Judd Apatow and Eric Andre among others. As per The Hollywood Reporter, "It paid tribute to her 1991 'Blond Ambition World Tour' documentary Truth or Dare."

USA Today states that Madonna's upcoming 'Celebration Tour' was expected to cover all sides of Madonna's 40-plus year career, and was scheduled to begin in Vancouver July 15.

Oseary added that a new start date for the Tour along with the dates of the rescheduled shows shall be announced soon.



Bruce Springsteen set to rock Hyde Park after 11 years



Los Angeles | Agencies

Rock music legend Bruce Springsteen is returning to London's Hyde Park -- where he was famously cut off 11 years ago -- in July.

But this time, the organisers said, "The Boss" will not be silenced. Bruce is going to take stage earlier, at around 7 p.m., so his 'notoriously' long set won't run over and fall foul of the 10.30 p.m. curfew deadline, reports 'The Mirror'. A source said the scheduling would ensure that the icon gets to play all his hits with no interruption when he takes to the stage next on July 6 and July 8.

The source told 'The Mirror', "Fans needn't worry... There will be plenty of time to hear what will be

two historic sets."

The 73-year-old, whose hits include 'Born In The U.S.A.', 'Dancing In The Dark', and 'Streets of Philadelphia', among many others, last played at the Hyde Park in 2012 as part of the festival Hard Rock Calling, which was arranged by a different promoter.

Sir Paul McCartney had joined Springsteen and his E Street Band to play Beatles classics 'I Saw Her Standing There' and 'Twist and Shout'. But as the stars appeared ready to launch into another number, their microphones were switched off.

Westminster Council insists on a 10.30 p.m. finish, which caused Steve Van Zandt, one of the E Street Band guitarists, to vent his fury at the "police state".

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Chrissy Teigen



OTT IS SHIFTING TO FAMILY VIEWING FROM INDIVIDUAL VIEWING: RIDDHI DOGRA

Actress Riddhi Dogra, who is known for her work in 'Asur', 'Pitchers 2' and the recently released streaming series

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The actress, who has been juggling with different OTT projects, and has two big theatrical releases, 'Jawan' and 'Tiger 3', has opined that OTT is slowly becoming a family viewing medium.

Elaborating on the same, she said: "OTT is for individual viewing, primarily. But I feel the opposite is happening. There are many shows being made that are catering to the entire family. Or at the least is for family viewing, while individual viewing continues. There is definitely a move in the direction of content for people to sit and watch together. We are a country that lives together."

So on the contrary to what you're saying, any platform

will keep trying to get all eyeballs on their content, massy or not." Ever since her debut on OTT with 'Asur', the actress has picked up off beat subjects. When asked what compelled her to make such brave choices rather than massy entertainers on OTT, she said: "When I came into OTT, I had enjoyed a certain space of recognition through my work there. I never left tv for any other medium but for my growth as an artist. So I knew that if I'm leaving behind the privilege of having an entire show on my shoulders and the spotlight that it brings, I have got to push myself as an actor and do something that pushes me in a new direction. I guess that's why the choices."

The portrayal of women in Indian stories has evolved to a great extent. Expressing her views on this, the actress said: "Badtameez Dil" is a classic example of that. You see a very refreshing and real rom com. So while content is concerned, our show is a definite attempt in that direction. It may be a story about love on the face of it. But the writing is so interesting and real that today's audiences are bound to relate to it."

'A HORROR SHOW WITH MEDLEY OF FRIENDSHIP, LOVE & LONGING'

Ishwak Singh says 'Adhura' pushes boundaries of horror genre

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ishwak Singh, who is set to act in the horror series 'Adhura', said that the series pushes the boundaries of the horror genre and it brings out its essence beautifully.

For the series, helmed by the duo Gaurav of and Ananya Banerjee, Ishwak Singh has joined forces with co-stars Rasika Dugal and Aparshakti Khurana.

Elaborating on the point, Ishwak said: "Adhura" is a gutsy horror show with a medley of emotions, for me it's a story of friendship, love and longing. Being authentic to the horror storytelling Ananya Banerjee and Gaurav Chawla have brought out the essence of the genre so

beautifully."

Talking of the show's theme, he said: "The show is a portal to the supernatural realm with spirits that gives a very unsettling feeling but the true masterstroke of the show is that it delves into the demons within us." In addition Rasika Dugal "As an actor, I found it extremely interesting to explore the life of a person who is seemingly in complete control... only to realise, as the story unfolds, that no one is free from their inner demons. That's why I was thrilled that a character like Supriya came my way," said Rasika Dugal. "As a student counsellor in a boarding school, Supriya has a complex and captivating journey in which she finds herself torn between her need to nurture and a terrifying past that she cannot seem to leave behind."

"Adhura" explores the delicate balance between human compassion and the unknown forces that lurk within. I'm glad to be back on Prime Video with a new genre and I am hoping audiences will resonate with the humanness of this story while enjoying the spookiness if it all", she added. "Adhura" is a horror series set in an elite boarding school harbouring a dark secret which rapidly shakes up the lives of everyone connected to it.

ANIL KAPOOR'S BUCKET LIST INCLUDES 'DOING MORE THEATRE'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor, who has been in the industry for over 40 years and has entertained the audience with many memorable roles, spoke about his bucket list - he wants to do more theatre and perform live in front of the audience. Anil Kapoor's role in 'The Night Manager' was loved by all. The first season garnered great response from the audience and everyone is super excited to watch part two of the show. A press conference was organised in Mumbai with the cast and crew of the show. Anil Kapoor spoke at length about the show, his journey in the industry so far and much more. Talking about his bucket list, the actor said, "My biggest regret is that I couldn't do theatre. I wish I had done more theatre in my career. It gives you great exposure to perform live in front of the audience. To do more theatre is definitely on my bucket list."

Talking about the preparation for this role, he said: "For this role, we had a book, we had an international show to look for. Apart from this, every actor has a different way to dive into the character. I had to get emotionally, physically and spiritually into the character. I used to dream about the role. I used to record the voice over and send it to my director and writer. I used to watch films which showcased a role like this.

When we started our career, we had to travel to Pune to watch the archives. Today everything is available at the tip of the finger and that is the reason today our actors are at par with international actors."



Tilotama says it took a few filmmakers to imagine her in roles

Team Absolute | Mumbai

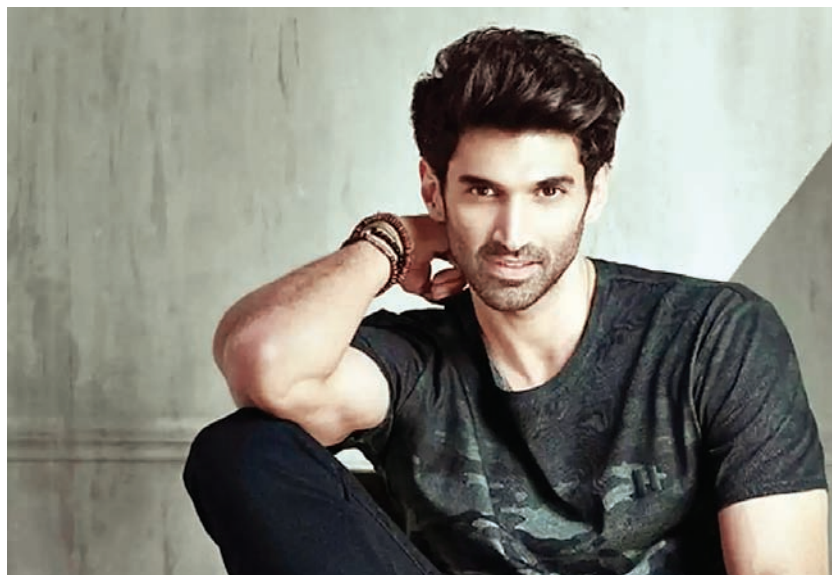
Actress Tilotama Shome, who is a renowned Indian face on the global map, feels that it took a few filmmakers to take that risk and imagine her in roles which were different from representing a poorer section of our society.

Tilotama Shome is a fine talent and the audience has been witness to that since her debut film 'The Monsoon Wedding'. The actress was present at the special press conference held for the season 2 of 'The Night Manager' recently in Mumbai.

The actress has performed varied roles in her career and her performances can not be boxed in any single genre. When asked if that has always been her criteria of choosing the roles that one should be different from the other, she said: "The thing is that I get bored very easily. It's a childhood thing. My father was in the Air Force so every four years we used to change locations, learn new languages, and go to new school. Of course then I never wanted to be an actor. But I think somewhere it was preparation for the future."

She further mentioned: "I played a maid in my debut film 'Monsoon Wedding' but the representation of a class that is less fortunate was depicted in such a romantic, magical way that I did not realise I would have to bear the cross of having played a maid and that directors could only imagine me to play a certain class. Initially in my career I did not have much of a choice. I kept taking those roles."

Working with Anil Kapoor gives you a complex: Aditya Roy Kapur



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aditya Roy Kapur, who has worked with Anil Kapoor on various projects, says there is a flip side of teaming up with an energetic star.

Aditya Roy Kapur was interacting with the media on 'The Night Manager 2' in Mumbai along with the Disney+ Hotstar show's creator, Sandeep Modi, and co-stars Anil Kapoor, Shobhita Dhulipala and Tilotama Shome.

After 'Malang', the 2020 action thriller directed by Mohit Suri, 'The Night Manager' marks the second outing of Aditya Roy Kapur with Anil Kapoor, so he was naturally asked about the pros and cons of working with a senior actor.

"One complex you do get while working

with Anil Kapoor is that you feel you aren't working hard enough, as he is the most hard-working actor," Aditya said. "I can only think of that as a con, for you feel like shit and keep thinking you need to pull up your socks."

Continuing in the same vein, he added: "There is plenty to learn from him. I was working with him for the second time, yet he never ceases to amaze you -- the kind of zest he approaches his work with, the passion with which he approaches his roles, his attention to detail, and being a team player who wants everyone to succeed."

"He has the wisdom, and he wants everyone in the team to succeed, so in return the whole project becomes successful. His love and experience have been invaluable to this project," Aditya added.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Rashmika Mandanna

