



EDITOR'S SPECS

SP eyes on MP polls

SP president Akhilesh Yadav has said his party will contest the Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh with full strength and preparedness. Madhya Pradesh, which has 230 Assembly seats, has been SP's second best-performing state. It is bracing for the elections scheduled towards the end of this year. "In 2003, we won seven seats in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, and this time we will surpass that result. If we contest the elections with unity and coordination, we will have desired results in the polls," Akhilesh said. The SP had won four Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh in 1998, seven in 2003, one each in 2008 and 2018. "We have also discussed probable candidates for the MP polls," said Rajendra Chaudhary, the SP's national secretary and spokesperson. Akhilesh went on to say that "now, SP will be unstoppable for it struggles for the poor, backward people and they all are the party's strength". "Madhya Pradesh also has a large population of tribals. The party should increase its influence among the tribal population as it is committed to social justice and respect to poor, backward and the oppressed." He said the saffron party's governments in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were neck deep in corruption and scams, and just like the latter, the people of the former also want to get rid of the BJP government. The SP's Madhya Pradesh state president Ramayan Singh Patel, former state president Gauri Yadav were in Lucknow on Monday to meet Akhilesh.

NE STATE PARTIES KEY FOR NATIONAL PLAYERS TO GOVERN A COMPLEX REGION

Sujit Chakraborty

Once a stronghold of the Congress, the eight northeastern states are now dominated by the BJP and the state parties, which are indispensable for the national parties to govern the region. Meghalaya's National People's Party (NPP), Nagaland's Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), Mizoram's Mizo National Front (MNF) and Sikkim's Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) with a solid political base are governing their respective states and are allies of the BJP led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The NPP, headed by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, however, has a substantial base in Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and a reasonable number of MLAs in these three northeastern states besides Meghalaya, where the party is dominating the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) government. In the NDA meeting, held on July 18 in New Delhi, as many as eleven parties from the eight northeastern states took part. The parties include, NPP, NDPP, MNF, SKM, Indigenous People's Front of Tripura, Naga People's Front, Asom Gana Parishad, United People's Party Liberal, Kuki People's Alliance, United Democratic Party, Hill State People's Democratic Party. On the other hand, no parties based in the northeastern states took part in the two-day meeting of the opposition alliance -- Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) - in Bengaluru. The parties, which have a substantial base in the northeastern states and are not part of either grouping, NDA and INDIA, are Assam's All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), Tripura's Tpra Motha Party (TMP), Mizoram's Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) and Manipur People's Party (MPP). The Muslim based party AIUDF, headed by Lok Sabha MP Badruddin Ajmal and former royal scion Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman led TMP have a strong base in their respective areas and might pose a challenge to both the BJP and the Congress in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The AIUDF has 15 members in the 126-member Assam assembly. The ZPM with six MLAs in the 40-member Mizoram assembly is the main opposition party in that state. Founded in 1968, the MPP, which is considered one of the oldest regional parties in India, is currently weakened due to many reasons including factional feud. It has formed governments in Manipur in three different regimes 1972-73, 1974 and 1990-1992. Of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in the eight northeastern states, 14 are currently with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) while the Congress has four and seven Lok Sabha seats are held by state parties and Independents. The AIUDF in Assam, NDPP in Nagaland, MNF in Mizoram, NPP in Meghalaya, NPF in Manipur, SKM in Sikkim and an Independent (Naba Kumar Sarania) in Assam have one seat each. Of the 25 Lok Sabha seats, Assam has 14 constituencies, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura have two seats each, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim have



one seat each. The BJP is now heading governments in four northeastern states - Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur - with the support of the local parties. The TMP, after capturing the politically important Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) in April 2021, has been demanding elevation of the areas of the autonomous body by granting a 'Greater Tiraland State' or a separate state status under Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution. Highlighting the 'Greater Tiraland State' demand and throwing a challenge to all the national parties -- BJP, CPI (M), Congress and Trinamool Congress -- the TMP, the first tribal-based party in Tripura since 1952, emerged as the principal opposition in the state in the February assembly polls and is now the main stakeholder of the vote share of tribals, who always played a vital role in the electoral politics of Tripura. Before next year's parliamentary poll, eyeing 14 Lok Sabha seats in Assam, the Congress like its previous efforts, has initiated moves to form a 'Mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance) with the like-minded smaller and state parties. The Congress held a meeting of 11 opposition parties excluding the AIUDF, Aam Aadmi Party and Trinamool Congress in Guwahati recently. Assam Congress president Bhupen Bora, who called the meeting, had said that they would check the division of votes in next year's Lok Sabha polls in Assam as the BJP always gets electoral mileage due to the division of votes among the non-BJP parties. After attending the NDA meeting in New Delhi on July 18, top leaders of the parties from the northeastern region expressed the confidence that the BJP-led NDA would do well in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in the northeast. Meghalaya Chief Minister and NPP supremo Conrad K

Sangma tweeted: "Attended the meeting of the National Democratic Alliance partners chaired by Hon'ble PM, Sh. Narendra Modi ji at New Delhi. The meeting sets an optimistic tone for a continued shared commitment for our country's future." Senior leader of NDPP and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphu Rio in a tweet said: "Happy to join NDA leaders in commemorating 25 yrs of NDA, representing NDPP along with Shri Abu Metha, Secretary General of NDPP. No alliance has been intact for this long. It reflects the able leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji. Thankful for his focus & support to the NE region." "Glad to attend a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) constituents, representing the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), along with Hon'ble AGP Working President Shri Keshab Mahanta in New Delhi," tweeted Assam Minister and Asom Gana Parishad president Atul Bora. Founding leader of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) and Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang in a tweet said: "Attended the meeting of the NDA chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji at New Delhi. Under the able leadership and guidance of the Hon'ble PM, we reaffirm our collective commitment to serve the people, provide good governance and focus on overall development for a better future." Even as the BJP remains in an advantageous position by virtue of running the government in four out of the eight states in the northeastern region, the regional parties are expected to play a significant role in next year's Lok Sabha elections.

international

UK OPENS SECOND BALLOT FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONAL VISA SCHEME FOR INDIANS

London | Agencies

The UK government has announced the opening of the second ballot of the Young Professional Scheme for Indian citizens between 18 to 30 years of age. The ballot, which opened on Monday, will close at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, the British High Commission announced in a tweet. The scheme, formally launched this year, allows Indian citizens with a graduate or postgraduate qualification to live and work in the UK for up to two years. It allows the candidate to enter the UK at any time while their visa is valid, and leave and come back at any time during their stay.



There are 3,000 places available for the India Young Professionals Scheme visa in 2023. While most places were given in the first ballot which

subsequent invitation to apply, which is usually within a month's period. Also, they must travel to the UK within six months of applying for their visa. The application fee charges have been set at 259 pounds and additional costs involved is a 940-pound healthcare surcharge and proof that the applicant has 2,530 pounds in personal savings. To be eligible for the Young Professionals Scheme visa one must be an Indian national or citizen between 18 and 30 years old and have 2,530 pounds in savings to support themselves in the UK. Also applicants should not have children under the age of 18 living with them or who they are financially responsible for.

opened in February, the remaining places will be given in the July ballot. Successful candidates in the ballot need to apply for their visa by the deadline given in a

N.Korea fires two ballistic missiles

Seoul: North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the East Sea, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said on Tuesday. "Our military detected two ballistic missiles North Korea fired from areas near Pyongyang into the East Sea at 11.55 p.m. on Monday and at midnight of Tuesday," it said.

Both missiles flew about 400 km before falling into the sea, Yonhap News Agency quoted the JCS as saying. The military is still analysing the North's latest missile launch to determine the exact type of the missiles fired, according to the JCS.

The North's latest missile launch comes as a nuclear-powered American submarine, USS Annapolis, arrived at a naval base in South Korea's southern island of Jeju as part of efforts to bolster joint deterrence against North Korea's evolving threats.

North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the East Sea on July 1, followed by multiple cruise missile launches on July 22.

Russian drones destroy grain warehouses at Ukraine ports: Reports

Kiev | Agencies

Russian drones reportedly have attacked Ukraine's Danube ports of Reni and Izmail, destroying grain warehouses and other facilities.

The attacks, using Iranian-supplied drones, follow Russia's withdrawal this month from the Black Sea deal that allowed Ukraine to export its grain and threats by both Moscow and Kiev to target civilian carriers visiting ports, The Guardian reported.

"Russia hit another Ukrainian grain storage overnight. It tries to extract concessions by holding 400 million people hostage. I urge all nations, particularly those in Africa and Asia who are most affected by rising food prices, to mount a united global response to food terrorism," Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, wrote on Twitter on Monday, without identifying the location of the target.

"Warehouses where grain crops were stored were destroyed, tanks for storing other types of cargo were damaged. There was a fire in one of the production premises, which was promptly extinguished," local police were quoted as saying by the news outlet.

The facilities are just across the river from Nato-member Romania. Officials say more than 60,000 tonnes of grain have been destroyed in the past week, the BBC reported.

Odesa head Oleh Kiper, whose region also covers the Danube ports of Reni and Izmail, said in his Telegram channel that Russia had attacked the infrastructure there for four hours with Iranian-made drones.

He said a grain hangar and tanks for storage were destroyed. Other local officials say three warehouses were bombed.

Three drones out of about 15 involved in the attack were destroyed by air defences, Kiper added. At least four people were injured in the attack.

NORWAY TO SHUT DOWN SL MISSION, SHIFT OPERATIONS TO NEW DELHI

Susitha Fernando | Colombo

Norwegian government has announced that it will shut down its embassy in Sri Lanka on July 31, and from August 1, its New Delhi-based diplomatic mission would be responsible for the country's bilateral relationship with Sri Lanka and the Maldives. "This Facebook page will be closed. We invite you to follow the page of the Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi for more updates on our ongoing cooperation with India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives," the Norwegian Embassy in Colombo said in a Facebook post. "Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi will now be the mission responsible for Norway in India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives headed by the Norwegian Ambassador to India," it added. The decision came



months after the announcement by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that five of its overseas missions would be closed down, including the Embassy of Norway in Colombo. Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Anniken Huitfeldt, in September 2022, announced that the country would make several changes to its missions abroad. Accordingly,

Embassies in Bratislava (Slovakia), Colombo (Sri Lanka) and Pristina (Kosovo), the embassy office in Antananarivo (Madagascar) and the Consulate General in Houston (USA) would be closed down. Norway and Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations in 1952 and the embassy in Colombo was opened in 1996.

Prolonged heat wave in US leads to spike in severely burned patients

Washington | Agencies

The prolonged heat wave in the US has led to an increase in severely burned patients who were injured after touching hot surfaces or objects.

According to medics in Arizona, some patients were injured after falling onto asphalt which had been heated by the scorching sun, the BBC reported on Tuesday.

The inside of a car or the dark asphalt surface of a road can be far hotter than the air temperature, research has shown.

Touching metal or asphalt for only a few seconds can be enough to cause severe burns.

Arizona's capital city of Phoenix has now witnessed a record-breaking 24 consecutive days of temperatures above 43 degrees Celsius, well past the previous record of 18 days set in 1974.

Kevin Foster of the Arizona Burn Centre told the BBC that all of the facility's 45 hospital beds are current-



ly occupied, and around one-third of those patients have suffered severe contact burns from scorching concrete and asphalt surfaces.

"Summertime is the busy time, so that's not surprising, but the numbers are a little bit higher than anticipated," he says, adding that the rate of new patients has outpaced 2022 so far this summer. Many of the patients are elderly

people, who may have fallen after becoming unsteady in the heat, or children who do not get off the ground quickly after falling.

However, he says the "biggest problem" is drug users who are often dehydrated and can faint on sidewalks. "When people go down to a hot surface and stay there, it only takes 10 to 15 minutes to suffer heat exhaustion, burns and other problems,"

Foster told the BBC, adding that some of the burns are deep, third-degree injuries that will require skin grafts.

The centre is also treating over 150 patients who have not been admitted to hospital, but need to be treated for burns sustained touching hot surfaces, such as metal car seat belts.

At least 18 heat-related deaths have occurred in Arizona's Maricopa County since April, with 69 more fatalities under investigation.

Meanwhile, the ongoing heatwave, caused by a "heat dome" or a large area of high pressure, baking the US Southwest for weeks is set to expand into central and eastern regions, reports the BBC.

According to meteorologists, beginning in the Midwest, the hot weather will extend east as far as the southern tip of Florida by Wednesday.

Temperature records were surpassed in several major cities over the weekend, and some 59 million Americans began on Monday under extreme heat advisories.



TORI KELLY HOSPITALISED AFTER FAINTING AT DINNER, MEDICS DISCOVER CLOTS AROUND ORGANS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Grammy winning singer Tori Kelly, who is known for 'Foreword', 'Unbreakable Smile', 'Hiding Place' and others, has been hospitalised and is being treated for blood clots around her vital

organs. Her situation seems to be "really serious".

Sources close to the Grammy-winning singer told TMZ that she was at dinner in downtown Los Angeles, with friends recently when her heart started beating really fast. The source said that Tori passed out, and was "out for a while".

Tori's friends wanted to make sure she wasn't taken to a hospital downtown, and instead taken to Cedars-Sinai -- one of the

country's top hospitals, so they carried her outside, loaded her in a vehicle and sped to the hospital instead of calling an ambulance.

Tori is getting care in the ICU, doctors have discovered clots in Tori's legs and her lungs, and are working to determine if any clots are around her heart.

During her treatment, the singer has been in and out of consciousness.

The singer-songwriter unveiled her first

single 'Missin U' and its Y2K-inspired music video in March, this year. The song, which samples Craig David's 2000 single 'Fill Me In', marked her first new music since 2019's 'Inspired by True Events' and 'A Tori Kelly Christmas' which was released in 2020.

In 2019, she won best gospel album at the Grammys for her sophomore album 'Hiding Place' and best gospel performance/song for 'Never Alone'.



Zoe Saldana hopes her 'Special Ops: Lioness' is a spiritual successor to 'Sicario'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Zoe Saldana, who plays Joe, the leader of a female-focused covert CIA organisation in spy thriller series 'Special Ops: Lioness', hopes it is a spiritual successor to the hit 2015 spy thriller film 'Sicario' written by Taylor Sheridan. Sheridan is the creator of 'Special Ops: Lioness' television series, which premiered on Sunday. In an interview with 'The Hollywood Reporter', Saldana was asked if she felt the spy thriller series is a spiritual successor to 'Sicario', which starred Emily Blunt, Benicio del Toro, and Josh Brolin.

She said, "I hope so. I love 'Sicario'. I thought 'Sicario' was a very interesting movie where normal people are trying to do the right thing in very bad ways, and so in a way, that felt very similar. My belief, based on the little that I know from Taylor, is that he does know, and he surrounds himself with people who have either served in militaries or been a part of programs such as the Lioness program, as well as retired Navy SEALs and CIA people."

"And I do know that he has a great deal of admiration for the real work that gets done when we're all sleeping, so he takes it upon himself to highlight this world," she added. Asked about her character Joe, who is a CIA Special Activities operative who runs the Lioness program on the ground and handles female operatives who go undercover to get close to the wives, girlfriends and daughters of terrorists, Saldana says: "I think I needed to have her intentions very clear in my mind. For me, she's a straight shooter. She's clean. There's nothing dirty about what Joe does. If Joe goes off the grid, it's because she's going to do the right thing and save people. She's incredibly responsible. So that needed to be very clear because you can play poker face for the sake of just looking mysterious and unreadable, or you can know why you're being reserved."

Billie Eilish mourns death of childhood 'lifelong best friend' pet dog Pepper



Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop star and rapper Billie Eilish is now feeling devastated as she mourns the loss of her childhood dog, a Pitbull called 'Pepper' who passed away after 15 years. Talking to social media, the 21-year old 'Bad Guy' singer expressed her anguish over the loss of her "lifelong best friend".

Sharing snapshots of her dog all the way from her childhood to one where the entire family posed together, she wrote on Instagram: "Pepper, my life long best friend. I will see you again someday sweet girl. You made it 15 years you f**** beast."

She added: "I love you, rest easy mama, I'll miss you forever. This is a really hard day."

Billie's brother Finneas O'Connell also paid tribute, with him writing in a post on his account: "Sweet Pepper our dog has, at the ripe old age of 15, transcended her mortal form."

The record producer, Finneas further added in his post following the family's loss yesterday: "A good, good dog who gave our family so much love and was loved by us all in equal measure."

Fans and celebrities went on to pay their condolences to the 'No Time To Die' artiste, with Demi Lovato writing "I'm so sorry." "Sending you lots of love," wrote former Fifth Harmony member Lauren Jauregui. Netizens from across the globe paid condolences to the star's great loss including activists and even record producers.



'Gen V' will see superheroes being befuddled about boundaries of right and wrong

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Gen V', the spin-off of the hit streaming series 'The Boys', recently released its teaser trailer and by the looks of it, the series looks to repeat the magic of its predecessor which enjoys a strong following. The teaser trailer, which is over 2 minutes in length, begins with the display of insurmountable strength of the superheroes as they're told that being a hero is not about glory but, it's all about sacrifice. The fan-favourite Homelander also makes an appearance during the initial part of the video asset which soon talks about the origins of the superheroes and the Godolkin University. Godolkin University is America's only college for young-adult superheroes (run by Vought International). 'Gen V' explores the training of the first generation of superheroes to know about Compound V, and that their powers were injected into them, rather than God-given. The young, competitive heroes put their physical and moral boundaries to the test, as they fight it out to clinch the institute's top ranking. The series cast includes Jaz Sinclair, Chance Perdomo, Lizze Broadway, Shelley Conn, Maddie Phillips, London Thor, Derek Luh, AsaGermann, Patrick Schwarzenegger, Sean Patrick Thomas, and Marco Pigossi. It also features guest stars Clancy Brown and Jason Ritter, as well as appearances from Jessie T. Usher, Claudia Doumit, Colby Minifie, and P.J. Byrne, reprising their roles from 'The Boys'. They soon learn that ambition comes with sacrifice, and the difference between right and wrong is not as clear as they once believed.



TIFFANY HADDISH REFUSES TO BE TREATED LIKE 'WOUNDED ANIMAL' AFTER HAVING 8 MISCARRIAGES

Los Angeles | Agencies

Having gone through painful miscarriages eight times, the actress Tiffany Haddish opened up about the reason why she preferred to stay "in a cave" all by herself.

"I don't want people saying, 'Are you okay? Are you all right?' Like a wounded animal, I just rather go in a cave by myself. Lick my wounds," the 43-year-old comedian explained in an interview with The Washington Post, reports aceshowbiz.com.

During the chat, the 'Like A Boss' actress also talked about her eighth miscarriage.

She recalled talking to a nurse, "Well, I'm going to be honest with you. This would be my eighth one." She went on to say, "I've got a uterus shaped like a heart. It just won't keep anything in."

Tiffany also weighed in on her starting a career in the music industry, revealing that she had been working on an album, which her longtime friend Snoop Dogg aims to release on Death Row Records.

About Tiffany's move, Snoop said: "I watched her hustle, struggle to get to the top of the mountain. I watched her take a couple of hits and then find herself climbing back. Now music is another mountaintop she wants to try to climb."

Elsewhere in the interview, Tiffany unveiled that she is opening a healthful food market around the Crenshaw neighborhood in Los Angeles.

While discussing her Disney film 'Haunted Mansion', she said: "I've always dreamed of being in a Disney movie, and this is the biggest movie I've ever been in. But it's not as important as the grocery store. I don't know if movies change people's lives."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Tori Kelly



'Lakadbaggha' wins in Stuttgart

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The vigilante action thriller 'Lakadbaggha' starring Anshuman Jha and Ridhi Dogra, has achieved international acclaim by winning the German star of India 'Director's Vision' award at the 20th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart 2023. The categories in the 'German Star of India' Award 2023 are: Best Feature Film bagged by 'MAX, MIN & MEOWZAKI' by PadmakumarNarasimhamurthy; Best Documentary bagged by 'To Kill A Tiger' by NishaPahuja; Best Short Film went to 'Nocturnal Burger' by Reema Maya; Best TVC bagged by 'Mental Health' by BaudhdhayanMukherji; and the Audience Award bagged by 'The Storyteller' by Ananth Narayan Mahadevan. Directed by Victor Mukherjee, 'Lakadbaggha' is a love letter to dogs and is the story of an animal lover vigilante against an animal abuser kingpin. The film deals with the underbelly of illegal animal trade and the inhuman treatment of the voiceless creatures. Expressing his excitement, actor and producer, Anshuman said: "Portraying the character of Arjun in 'Lakadbaggha' has been an immensely gratifying journey for me as an actor and producer. This film holds a special place in my heart as it not only entertains but also leaves a lasting impact on the audience, championing the cause of animal welfare." "Winning the prestigious German Star Of India 'Vision' Award is a true honour and a validation of our team's collective effort to create impactful cinema. 'Lakadbaggha' aims to stir emotions, spark conversations, and inspire positive change, and I couldn't be prouder of the resounding recognition it has garnered on the global stage," he added.

'Validation of effort to create impactful cinema,' :Anshuman Jha

TREVOR NOAH SET FOR INDIA DEBUT TOUR

India is one of the most exciting countries in the world



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Comic artiste Trevor Noah is all set to come to India with his 'Off The Record Tour' kicking off his Asia tour.

Commenting on his India Tour, Noah said: "After a lifetime of loving India's culture, I'm so excited to finally have the privilege of bringing my current stand-up comedy tour to one of the most exciting countries in the world!"

With sold out-shows through US and Europe between 2022 and 2023, Trevor's 'Off The Record' Tour will travel to Asia, with its first pit stop in India, followed by Dubai.

Noah was the host of The Daily Show. He has won various awards, including a Primetime Emmy Award from 11 nominations. He was named one of "The 35 Most Powerful People in New York Media" by The Hollywood Reporter in 2017 and 2018.

In 2018, Time magazine named him one of the hundred most influential people in the world. In 2023, he won the Erasmus Prize.

Born in Johannesburg, Noah began his career in South Africa in 2002. He was the runner-up in the fourth season of South Africa's iteration of Strictly Come Dancing in 2008. From 2010 to 2011, he hosted the late-night talk show Tonight with Trevor Noah. He hosted the 63rd, the 64th and the 65th Annual Grammy Awards as well as the 2022 White House Correspondents Dinner.

Abish Mathew tells Taapsee, 'Both eyes shut is best way to watch anything you do on screen'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Stand-up comedian and chat show host Abish Mathew recently roasted actress TaapseePannu on his Instagram Story.

Taapsee is inviting people in her social circle for a roast session ahead of her birthday on August 1.

The actress recently took to the Instagram Stories and invited her close friends to roast her on her online platform.

Calling Abish, the 'roast king', Taapsee, who has been on the comic's chat show 'Son of Abish' shares a good camaraderie with Abish and said that he already knows a lot about her which sets a good premise for a roast session.

Responding to the same, Abish took to the Stories section of his Instagram and shared a video of himself thanking Taapsee.

"Thank you so much, Taapsee. Thank you for inviting me, and of course we know so much about you. For instance, I know that you can't wink. Everytime you try, both eyes shut and both eyes shut is the best way to watch anything you do on screen," he said.

Taapsee shared this primer of a roast on her Instagram Story appreciating the comic.

The actress appeared on the chat show along with another comic artiste Zakir Khan.

The second time she appeared on the show along with choreographer Shakti Mohan, back in 2019.

She recently appeared on the show for the third time with 'Mirzapur' actress ShriyaPilgaonkar and stand-up artiste SapanVerma.



'I FEEL THE MOM GUILT WHEN ON SHOOT,' ANITA HASSANANDANI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Anita Hassanandani, who made her debut on television in 1998 with 'IdharUdhar', said being the mother is the most challenging role to play, and she feels the mom guilt when on the shoot.

Anita and her husband Rohit welcomed their first child, a baby boy Aarav in February, last year. With the shoot of the shows, managing mommy duties, etc, Anita said it does become challenging to play every role, when you are an actor.

"But being a mother is the most challenging, I would say. I love being Aarav's mom, and when I go to the shoot, I do feel the mom's guilt to be honest, but a mother can never leave a child," Anita said.

The 'Krishna Cottage' fame actress said it's always going to be difficult, but she took that call, as she had the family support. "My mother-in-law comes over and takes care of Aarav. So it kind of falls into place, with the kind of family support I have. And when I go out for work, 100 percent miss Aarav like crazy." Anita said the only 'mantra' she follows while performing all the roles of an actor, mom, wife, and entrepreneur, is to take all decisions that make you happy.

"You have to be happy with the decision you made, and once you are happy, everything falls into place," she said.

The 42-year-old actress called her journey wonderful, amazing, and welcoming, adding that she has no regrets.

"But sometimes, I do feel that after being a mom, I mean people say that nothing changes, it's still easy to get back and all, but after being a mom, people look at you slightly differently, and things 100 percent do change. So yeah that's how I feel," said Anita.

'Heeriye' tells dreamy love story of HeerRanjha with modern twist



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Music composer and singer Jasleen Royal has released her new song 'Heeriye', and it's a song which will have a calming effect on the audience especially in times when the world is overwhelmed by forces of nature and chaos all around.

The song has been crooned by India's superstar singer Arijit Singh, and the music video of the song features Malayalam star DulquerSalmaan and Jasleen. The music video begins with Jasleen picking the classic tale of HeerRanjha from a shelf with the character of Ranjha.

As she gets engaged while reading the book, Dulquer's character of the Ranjha from the book transcends the boundaries of reality and illusion and makes a stunning entry riding a horse into the

life of Jasleen's character in the video.

The two then go about spending some quality time as their dreamy love story soon fills the screen with warmth and a fuzzy feeling.

Jasleen has not only composed and sung the track but also produced the music video. 'Heeriye' marks Dulquer's first ever non-film project. Sonically, the track makes the use of both live instruments and minimal use of VSTs.

Jasleen and Arijit perform the duet as the song progresses forward. Visually, the song features several beautiful locations, particularly the beach. As Dulquer's character sets the race against the time to go back into his native world, Jasleen burns the page of the classic love story of HeerRanjha leading to Ranjha forever staying in Jasleen's world. The narrative loop closes as Jasleen rides the horse to the beach to get back her Ranjha.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Ridhi Dogra