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New all time high of Nifty registered at 19851 points



Indian indices continue winning run for fifth consecutive session. At close, the Sensex was up 302.30 points, or 0.45 per cent, at 67,097.44, and the Nifty was up 83.90 points, or 0.42 per cent, at 19,833.20. The market opened on a positive note and tested fresh record highs but failed to hold on to the gains and witnessed profit booking. However, last hour buying helped it to close near the day's high level.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After witnessing high volatility at the highs on Tuesday, Nifty witnessed choppy movement for mid part and sharp upsurge in the later part of Wednesday and closed the day higher by 83 points, says Nagaraj Shetti, Technical Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

After opening with a positive note, the market moved up further soon after the opening. The new all time high was registered at 19851 and the market slipped into weakness from the new highs. A sharp upside recovery has emerged in

the mid to later part of the session and Nifty closed at the highs, Shetti said. This market action indicates stiff resistance zone for the Nifty at 19850 levels. Minor negative patterns are not getting confirmed at the highs/hurdles and there is an absence of any reasonable downward corrections from the resistances, he said.

The underlying uptrend of Nifty remains intact. Nifty is expected to move above the hurdle of 19800-19850 levels in the short term. The immediate upside target to be watched around historical 20K mark. Immediate support is placed at 19700 levels, he said.

Third opposition meeting in Mumbai to decide 11-member committee, convener

PUNCHLINE: JEETEGA BHARAT

When asked when the 11-member coordination committee will be announced, the source said that the new committee will be formed during the third meeting of the opposition parties in Mumbai.

The source also said that besides the 11 member committee, the discussion over selecting a convener will be taken up during the third meeting as someone has to call the meeting of the bloc in the coming days.

The two-day meeting of the 26 opposition parties, including Congress, Trinamool, AAP, DMK, Sharad Pawar's NCP, CPM etc., held in Bengaluru came up with a new name for the alliance, which effectively replaces 2004 UPA - United Progressive Alliance.



United We Stand



"THEY CALLED PEOPLE JUST TO GET NUMBERS": NITISH KUMAR'S DIG AT NDA

Patna: Rubbishing speculation that he did not attend the press conference after the two-day mega opposition meeting in Bengaluru because he was upset, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said that the opposition is together and will work in the interest of the country.

He also took a dig at the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for holding a meeting to coincide with the one held by the opposition parties and said some of the 38 parties that took part in it were unknown.

When he was told by reporters that leaders from the BJP were saying he was upset, Mr Kumar said, "That is rubbish. I wanted to come to Rajgir. Forget about the BJP. The meeting and the discussions were done and it was not necessary for me to be there to address the press. I had to leave early. The meeting was good and all the decisions were taken after a consensus. There were 16 parties in Patna and 26 in Bengaluru. We had a good and constructive discussion. We have to stay together and move forward," he added.

He further said that during the meeting on Tuesday, several names for the opposition bloc were discussed, however, the name suggested by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was liked by all. He also said that there was almost an hour-long discussion over the new name and the opposition leader came to a consensus as some people suggested different names for the bloc but that did not materialise.

In Manipur horror, 2 women paraded naked on camera, allegedly gang-raped

The government on Wednesday said that it was ready to discuss the situation prevailing in Manipur in the upcoming Monsoon session, thus accepting the Opposition's demand, Parliamentary Affairs minister Pralhad Joshi said. He, however, rejected opposition parties' demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should speak on Manipur violence in Parliament.

Imphal | Agencies

A horrific video of two women being paraded naked on a road by a group of men in Manipur has been shared widely on social media, drawing massive condemnation and calls for action. The two women were gang-raped in a nearby field, a tribal organisation has alleged.

The incident happened on May 4 in Kangpokpi district, some 35 km from state capital Imphal, according to a statement by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF).

A day before this on-camera horror, clashes broke out between the valley-majority Meitei and the hill-majority Kuki tribe over the Meiteis' demand for Scheduled Tribes (ST) status.

The ITLF, which represents the Kuki tribe, in the statement said the two women belong to the Kuki-Zo tribe.



"A video which went viral today shows a large Meitei mob parading two Kuki-Zo tribal women naked toward a paddy field to be gang-raped. The despicable scene, which happened on May 4 in Kangpokpi district, shows the men constantly molesting the helpless women, who cry and plead with their captors," the ITLF said in the statement.

"The horrifying ordeal suffered by these innocent women is amplified by the

perpetrators' decision to share the video, which shows the identity of the victims, on social media," the ITLF said, and appealed to the National Commission for Women and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to take action.

The Manipur Police have not given a statement on the matter yet, whether anyone has been arrested or a case has been filed.

DEFYING CURFEW, WOMEN TAKE TO STREETS DEMANDING ACTION AGAINST KUKI MILITANTS

Imphal: Defying curfew, thousands of women held mass protests in five Manipur districts on Wednesday demanding action against Kuki militants and restoration of peace and normalcy in the state at the earliest.

The Manipur government on Wednesday did not offer daily curfew relaxation in the five valley districts and deployed huge contingent of security forces in view of the women's rally, organised by the Kwairamband Ima Keithel Joint Coordinating Committee for Peace (KIKJCCP).

The KIKJCCP appealed to all women to make the 'Mothers' Protest' rally a roaring success. Though no untoward incident was reported since the beginning of the protests on Wednesday morning in five districts -- Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching -- tension prevailed in these valley districts and adjoining areas.

Raising slogans, the mass protests by women continued till late on Wednesday evening.

BJP leader backs wrestlers' claims in police charge sheet

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The charge sheet filed by Delhi Police against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh discloses that the claims made by two out of the six grapplers against the former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief have been backed by a Haryana BJP leader, who also happens to a former international wrestler. The BJP leader and her sister are among the 15 witnesses mentioned in the charge sheet. The investigation involved the examination of a total of 108 witnesses, including WFI officials. Out of these, 15 have already provided partial or complete corroboration of the allegations levelled against Brij Bhushan by the 'victims'.

"During the course of investigation, notices under Section 91 of CrPC were served upon WFI, SAI, vic-



tims, nodal officers, telecom companies etc. The team members of the SIT visited different places, including Rohtak, Sonapat, Lucknow, Patiala, Kurukshetra, Hissar, Bhiwani, Chandigarh, Manimajra, and Bellari in Karnataka to examine the relevant persons," Delhi Police said in the charge sheet running 1599 pages.

It said that before the registration of the current FIR, several victims/complainants had already exercised their democratic right to protest on various issues, including the demand for a criminal investigation into the allegations.

ALL SCHOOLS IN MUMBAI WILL BE CLOSED TODAY DUE TO HEAVY RAIN

Mumbai: All government and private schools in Mumbai will remain closed tomorrow due to heavy rain. According to the weather office, some areas of Mumbai are likely to witness heavy rain tomorrow. An orange alert has also been issued for parts of Mumbai for today. Earlier in the day, train services were affected in Mumbai due to heavy rain. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde ordered that government offices in Mumbai and the neighbouring region should be closed early so that people can reach home on time. Maharashtra Chief Minister announced that the schools in areas affected by heavy rainfall will remain shut. He also said that the final call on this will be taken by local administration according to the weather conditions of the respective area.

15 die as transformer bursts near Namami Gange project site in Chamoli

Chamoli | Agencies

At least 15 persons died after a transformer exploded at the project site of Namami Gange, built on the banks of the Alaknanda river in Uttarakhand's Chamoli.

The injured are being shifted to higher centre in Rishikesh. Chamoli Superintendent of Police, Pramendra Dobhal, said, "We got a call from the village that a security guard has died of electrocution. When policemen went with villagers for the spot inspection, 21 people were electrocuted and suffered severe injuries. 15 people died in a hospital and the rest are critical," he said.

Minister in charge of Chamoli district Dhan Singh Rawat said that 15 people have died. Helicopters have been sent for rescue.

ADG law and order V Murugesan said that 15 people including a police sub-inspector and three home guards have died due to electrocution. It is being said that a youth working



in the treatment plant died on Tuesday night. When the police reached in the morning, a crowd of other people including the relatives of the deceased gathered. Some work was being done on the power line around 11:30 a.m. on

Wednesday, when suddenly the current spread to the entire campus, because of which many people got electrocuted. The injured people have been admitted to the district hospital Gopeshwar.

DO HUSBANDS HAVE IMMUNITY IN MARITAL RAPE CASES? SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE

New Delhi: Does a husband have immunity from prosecution for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex? A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court will examine this after constitution benches concluded hearing some listed pleas, said Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud when senior lawyer Indira Jaising mentioned the matter for urgent listing. The constitutional validity of an exception clause of Section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is under challenge as it exempts a husband from being prosecuted for rape for having non-consensual sexual intercourse with the spouse if she happens to be an adult.



KEPT APPOINTMENT OF SELECTED PATWARIS ON HOLD, CM CHOUHAN SAYS GUILTY WILL BE PUNISHED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said his government will conduct an inquiry into the alleged "irregularities" in the appointment of Patwaris (revenue officer) and whoever is found involved will be punished.

His statement came a week after he announced the appointment of selected candidates in the Group 4 Patwari recruitment exams.

Chouhan said: "A little doubt arose in the Patwari recruitment exam, so I decided that there will be no appointment, investigation will be done."

He also assured that if any "irregularity" is found, he will take tough action against those found involved.

"If any fault is found, 'mama' (or maternal uncle as he is popularly known) will set the culprits right," Chouhan said.

While it has been over a week since the matter came to the fore as it was found that seven out of ten toppers were from one particular



exams centre - Gwalior-based NRI college owned by BJP MLA

SanjeevKushwaha, the MP government was yet make it clear that who

exactly investigating the matter?

Around 1.4 million students appeared for the examination conducted between March 15 to April 26 and the results were declared on June 30. Chief Minister Chouhan had announced the appointment of over 9,000 selected candidates following a massive protest by aspirants in Indore and Bhopal last week.

Meanwhile, there are protests from youth enrolled with different coaching centres, especially from Indore and the youth wing of the opposition Congress, while those not get selected in any of these exams are raising their apprehensions and alleging that the Madhya Pradesh Employee Selection Board (MP-ESB) was indulging in gross irregularities.

The SEB is an autonomous body under the Madhya Pradesh government that is tasked to conduct exams for the various departments of the state government. It is the same body that at the heart of the Vyapam scam that broke out back in 2013.

High Court of MP launches online RTI portal for public access

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a move towards transparency and efficiency, the High Court of Madhya Pradesh took a significant step by launching its first integrated cloud-based online RTI portal.

Madhya Pradesh chief justice Ravi Malimath inaugurated the portal on Tuesday, in a virtual ceremony attended by companion Judges of the High Court and Principal District & Sessions Judges from all District Courts of the State.

The newly launched online RTI (Right to Information) portal is a testament to the court's commitment to embracing digital technologies and making access to information easier for the public. Unlike traditional methods, the portal operates on an end-to-end paperless mode.

Through this user-friendly online platform, citizens can file RTI applications and receive desired information within the prescribed time frame, as mandated by the rules. This development is expected to significantly enhance the overall transparency and responsiveness of the judicial system in Madhya Pradesh.

Additionally, the portal is interlinked with the cyber treasury, facilitating various types of online transactions and payments associated with the RTI process.

One of the key benefits of this new software



is its potential to promote accountability among staff members responsible for preparing the requested information. The software empowers the State Public Information Officer and other relevant personnel to closely monitor every stage of the application process, right from filing to disposal. This feature aims to streamline operations and minimize delays in providing information to the applicants.

To access the RTI portal, individuals can simply click on the dedicated e-RTI tab available on the official website of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh (www.mphc.gov.in). This user-friendly interface makes it convenient for citizens to navigate and submit their applications from the comfort of their homes or workplaces.

3-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED BY TEENAGE BOY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A teenage boy has allegedly raped a three-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district.

The accused was a neighbour of the victim and known to the family.

The incident was reported at a village in Majhauri area, around 60 km from district headquarters Sidhi on Tuesday.

Police said that the victim has sustained injuries on her private part and has been admitted at a government hospital in Sidhi. "The victim has undergone a minor surgery. She is admitted at a hospital where her condition is said to be stable. Doctors said that the victim will remain under observation for the next few days. The minor accused has been detained,"



Police said. As the accused boy was known to the family, he used to visit the family frequently. Police said that the accused took the toddler out from her home on pretext of chocolates and allegedly raped her at an isolated

place. Police said that the boy's alleged crime was witnessed by some local people, who informed the victim's family. The victim was taken to a local police station and an FIR was lodged against him.

MP govt demolish house of accused involved in alleged 'spitting' on devotees

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh administration on Wednesday bulldozed the house of a person who has been allegedly accused of spitting on the devotees who were participating in a religious procession in Ujjain city of Madhya Pradesh.

A video had surfaced on social media, few days back, showing three youth allegedly 'spitting' on devotees of a religious procession in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

Ujjain Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) AkashBhuriya said that during a recent religious procession some individuals attempted to disturb the religious harmony.

"The police registered an FIR against the accused under various sections, leading to their subsequent



arrest. We then informed the Municipal Corporation and the Revenue Department about the accused," the police officer said.

He said that the illegal encroachment by the accused has been effectively removed in the presence of the Municipal Corporation and the

Revenue Department and the police.

The bulldozer operation was carried out by Ujjain Municipal Corporation while beating drum.

When asked about beating drums, the ASP said that drums are traditionally used to publicly announce actions such as the removal of encroach-

ments. That is why we used drums today as well," the police officer said.

Police said that incident was reported during the process called - 'Mahakal Ki Sawari' on July 17.

On the basis of social media video and a complaint lodged by a person participating in the procession, Ujjain police carried a search operation.

The complainant had told the police that the procession was crossing TankiChowk when he saw three unknown boys 'spitting' on the devotees. The three persons belong to the minority community. They were arrested on July 18.

Police said that the accused have been booked under various sections, including 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings) and 153A (offence committed in a place of worship).

CROWD GATHERS IN THE ROAD SHOW OF CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today conducted a road-show in Seoni during VikasParv. A huge crowd turned up for the roadshow. A large number of people gave him grand welcome and showered flowers. Chief Minister Chouhan greeted everyone with warmth.

During the jan-darshan, Chief Minister Chouhantraveled from ChhindwaraChowk of the district headquarters, Math School, Nehru Road, NagarpalikaChauraha, bus stand to DalsagarTalab amid drizzling rain. During the visit, Chief Minister Chouhan welcomed the beneficiary women of MukhyamantriLadlibahnaYojana in Math Talab area and thanked them for depositing an amount of one thousand rupees in their accounts. In front of Math Kanya School, school girls and fishermen beneficiaries welcomed Chouhan by showering flowers at DhimriMohallaChowk.

Beneficiaries of JalJeevan Mission in front of Aanchal Sari Center while going from Math School to Nehru Road, UdyamKrantiYojana at SabziMandiChowk in front of Hanuman Mandir, Pesa Act in front of VishnuPrasadAgarwal's house,



women of UjjwalaYojana near Shiv Kirana Stores MarutiMandir Beneficiaries of PM KisanSammanNidhi, CM Welfare

Fund and Residential Land Rights Scheme in front of PM SwanidhiYojana and Vijay Katpis on MaaDurga General Stores Nehru

Road greeted Chief Minister Chouhan with garlands.

The Chief Minister was welcomed by showering flowers from Nehru Road to NagarpalikaChauraha near KesariyaJewellers by players and women beneficiaries of MukhyamantriLadlibahnaYojana and beneficiaries of AyushmanYojana and at NagarpalikaChowk. Beneficiaries and farmers of Chief Minister's interest waiver scheme, Prime Minister's crop insurance, natural farming etc. schemes in front of NetajiSubhash Chandra School during public visit from NagarpalikaChowk to DalsagarTalab, Chief Minister Kalyani, Social Security and M.P. Women beneficiaries of self-help groups of Day Rural Livelihood Mission, PM AwasYojana (Urban) near Petrol Pump, K.K. In front of Lodge M.P. Women of self-help groups of Day Rural Livelihood Mission, beneficiaries of schemes of Tribal Affairs Department near Company Garden, meritorious students at LadliLaxmiVatika/KachhariChowk, beneficiary girl students of laptop and scooty scheme and polytechnic, higher education at Jai StambhChowk And the students of ITI welcomed Chief Minister Chouhan with shower of flowers and garlands.

Change is the law of nature we should respect it : Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel distributed the prizes of Champions of Change Madhya Pradesh edition. He honoured 16 outstanding talents in the fields of spirituality, social welfare, arts, health, education and sports. The felicitation ceremony took place in the auditorium of Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center.

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that change is the law of nature. Respect for the motivators of change increases positivity in the society. Inspires and encourages the future generation to participate in social concerns. Promotes human values, sensitive, co-operative service spirit. Mobilizes innovation efforts to address new challenges of development in society. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister NarendraModi, India assumed the chairmanship of G-20 and is playing a



crucial role in solving global challenges. Under his leadership, in the last 9 years, the country is progressing with the vision of women-led development. He said that Prime Minister ShriModi has asked to protect the environment and promote sustainability through Mission Life for conscious use rather than destructive use to address the challenges of climate change. He told the need to convert environment-friendly lifestyle into a mass movement.

The Governor said that Madhya Pradesh has a great heritage of freedom fighters and revolutionary leaders, who played an important role in the development of the nation. Remembering the women freedom fighter Rani Lakshmi Bai, the Governor expected that the people of the state would inspire others to work for the society, the state and the nation while continuing the work of taking forward this great legacy. Former Chief Justice of

PM Modi to chair high-level meeting to review 'Project Cheetah' status

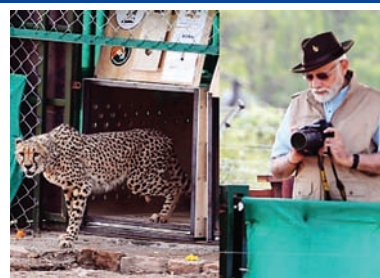
Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister NarendraModi is scheduled to chair a high-level meeting on Wednesday morning to review the status of "Project Cheetah" in wake of the deaths of several of the translocated big cats.

The meeting comes following the recent death of two male cheetahs - Tejas and Suraj - and the apprehensions were raised on the matter.

Apart from Madhya Pradesh's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Wildlife, AseemShrivastava, members of the National Tiger Conservation Authority of India (NTCA), and members of the Cheetah Screening Committee, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is also likely to attend the virtual meeting, sources said.

"Project Cheetah" is an ambitious



project of the Centre and the Prime Minister had released eight cheetahs translocated from Namibia in its first phase on his birthday on September 17 last year. In the second phase, 12 more cheetahs were brought from South Africa on February 18 this year.

However, since then a total eight cheetahs, including three out of four cubs borne to Namibian female cheetah Siyaya, have died at Kuno. The

death of two adult African cheetahs - Tejas and Suraj - have raised questions on execution of protocols on ground.

Wildlife experts have been alleging lack in monitoring and prompt response on ground. The death of Tejas and Suraj were reportedly suffered maggot-infection due to radio collar (GPS fitted belt on neck). Since then, it was suspected that radio collar (GPS system fitted on cheetahs' neck) caused injuries.

Experts, including senior forest officials, have also claimed that the problem of radio collar has become a challenge but is not a new problem as similar problems had occurred with tigers in the past. However, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change maintained that five adult cheetahs at Kuno National Park (KNP) died of natural causes.

CHEETAH CASUALTIES NATURAL: UNION MINISTRY

WILDLIFE EXPERTS OPINE RADIO COLLAR PROBLEMS NOT NEW

Bhopal: The Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry maintains that five adult cheetahs at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) died of natural causes though wildlife experts in the state suspect that the two most recently-deceased male cheetahs - Tejas and Suraj - suffered maggot infections due to their radio collars (fitted with GPS).

It has also claimed that at least three more cheetahs at Kuno are suspected to have suffered due to their radio collars, and the problem has brought the Forest officials associated 'Project Cheetah' on their toes.

Both Tejas and Suraj, which died last week, had similar organ damage. As per experts, while the radio collar may not be the fatal issue, it can be a contributing factor and it must be addressed. Madhya Pradesh's former Chief Principal Conservator of Forest, Wildlife, Alok Kumar, says the radio collar-caused injuries came as a challenge for the Wildlife

and Forest Department, but it's not the first time.

The radio collars can cause injuries to the animals during jumping and running or fighting, and the cheetahs have softer body in comparison to the tigers, he said.

"I have come across at least two such cases during my service period when radio collars caused injuries to the tigers. Especially, during the rainy season, there are more possibilities of injuries due to radio collars. Animals generally clean normal injuries on their body parts by licking, but when the injury is on their neck, they cannot do it. And, if it is not treated immediately, that particular part of the animal starts rotting and some times it caused death also," Kumar, earlier who was also a member of the Cheetah Task Force Committee, said. Sources said that the authorities have decided to remove radio collars from 11 free ranging zone cheetahs at KNP. A team of African wildlife experts has also reached Kuno on Tuesday to examine the situation.



EDITOR'S SPECS

DOCTORS ADVISE PEOPLE USING ASPARTAME NOT TO PANIC

Amid the conundrum on aspartame by the World Health Organisation (WHO), doctors on Friday advised people using the popular artificial sweetener to not panic as the evidence of it being a possible cancer causing agent is very low. Aspartame is an artificial (chemical) sweetener widely used in various food and beverage products since the 1980s, including diet drinks, chewing gum, gelatin, ice cream, dairy products such as yoghurt, breakfast cereal, toothpaste and medications such as cough drops and chewable vitamins. While evidence on the chemical being a potential for cancer has been low, the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) on Friday said aspartame should be added to the list of potentially cancer-causing substances. However, soon after, the global health body's Joint Food and Agriculture Organisation/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), said there was no reason to change guidance. The JECFA also recommended that a person can safely consume up to 14 cans of diet drink a day. "There is no need to panic and just abandon aspartame completely. There is no real proof cited in this study and the WHO is also very circumspect in its actual recommendation and side by side, there's another WHO recommendation that's come that sets the bar of consumption at very high levels," Dr. Ambrish Mithal, Chairman, Endocrinology and Diabetes, Max HealthCare, said. The IARC classified aspartame as possibly carcinogenic to humans on the basis of limited evidence for cancer in humans (specifically, for hepatocellular carcinoma, which is a type of liver cancer). There was also limited evidence for cancer in experimental animals and limited evidence related to the possible mechanisms for causing cancer, the WHO said in a statement. The committee, as well as the doctors reaffirmed that it is safe for a person to consume within this limit per day.

MNF STEPS UP CAMPAIGN FOR UNIFICATION OF KUKI, ZO-ZOMI TRIBALS IN NE STATES

Sujit Chakraborty

Amid the demand for a separate state for the Kuki-Zomi tribals in ethnic violence-hit Manipur, the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) in Mizoram continues their campaign to establish a homeland for all the Zohnahthlak (Zo ethnic tribes) across the northeastern region. Tribals belonging to the Kuki-Zo-Zomi community started trickling into Mizoram soon after the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3. Mizoram currently houses over 12,000 displaced tribals, mostly Kuki-Zo-Zomi community people from Manipur. The Chin-Kuki-Zo tribals and the Mizos in Mizoram belong to the Zo community and share the same culture and ancestry, besides, they are all Christians. The Kuki-Chin community in Myanmar and Bangladesh also belongs to the Mizo community, which consists of different tribes, sometimes known as Zofate or descendants of Zo. After Mizoram Chief Minister and MNF supreme Zoramthanga said that the question of unification of Mizo-Zo inhabited areas of Mizoram's neighbouring states to form one administrative set-up under the concept of "Greater Mizoram" is one of the demands of the MNF, other party leaders also launched a hectic campaign on the same line. Mizoram Deputy Chief Minister Tawnluia has said that the formation of the MNF mainly aimed to establish a homeland for all the Zohnahthlak (Zo ethnic tribes) across the region. "The MNF was established with the core values of keeping Mizo nationalism, preserving the rich culture, traditions and beliefs of the Mizos and advocating for an integrated and single administrative unit for the dispersed Zo ethnic tribes residing in the north-eastern states of India, Myanmar and Bangladesh," said Tawnluia, who is also MNF's senior vice-president. While addressing the party workers at the MNF's headquarters in Aizawl, the Mizo leader pointed out that the MNF is a party rooted in the principles of Mizo nationalism. No other political parties have Mizo nationalism enshrined in their constitutions. Tawnluia, who had served as the Army chief of the erstwhile banned militant outfit



MNF, asserted that the MNF would strive to protect and promote Mizo cultures and religious beliefs, as enshrined in Article 371G of the Indian Constitution. Article 371G of the Constitution deals with the special provisions for the state of Mizoram. This article was added by the 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1986. "If necessary, the MNF will fight relentlessly to keep the provisions of Article 371G in the Constitution," he vowed. Tawnluia highlighted that the 1986 peace accord between the MNF and the Indian government ensured the continuance of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system, which is currently enforced in Mizoram to protect the demographic position of the indigenous people of the state. "We should always bear in mind that the Peace Accord provides us with essential protections." About the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), the MNF leader said that India is a secular nation, but the UCC has caused great concern among religious minorities. In Mizoram, extensive consultations were held with the churches and civil society organisations, leading to the conclusion that the UCC, in its original form, cannot be

accepted, he said. After coming overground in 1986, the erstwhile militant outfit MNF was converted into a political party and was recognised as a state party by the Election Commission. After the signing of the Peace Accord in 1986, ending two decades of strife and insurgency spearheaded by the MNF, Mizoram became the 23rd state of India on February 20, 1987. Zoramthanga had earlier said that the concept of 'Greater Mizoram' was one of the demands of the MNF, and the issue was raised during the peace parleys with the Indian government before signing of the agreement 37 years ago. "The unification of all ethnic Zo or Mizo tribes in India and bringing them under one administrative unit was one of the main aims of the founders of MNF, including Laldenga, who was the Chief Minister of Mizoram from August 1986 to October 1988," he had said. The Mizoram Chief Minister, however, said that the state cannot directly interfere in the internal affairs of Manipur on the issue of 'Greater Mizoram' or unification of Zo or Mizo tribal inhabited areas in Manipur with the state. "The unification initiatives

should come from 'our kindred brothers' in Manipur as the issue of unification of Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Hmar-Zomi tribes should not be imposed," he had observed. MNF leaders' campaign for unification of Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi came close on the heels of the separate administration demand, raised by 10 Kuki MLAs of Manipur (seven of them belong to the ruling BJP), the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) and the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM). Home Minister Amit Shah and Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh have on a number of occasions rejected the separate administration demand and categorically said that the territorial integrity of Manipur will be protected and under no circumstances it will be compromised. Over 150 people have been killed and more than 600 have been left injured since ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

international

WHO CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION AS DEATHS FROM EXTREME HEAT SURGE IN EUROPE

Beijing | Agencies

With 60,000 deaths in Europe last year due to extreme heat, a top World Health Organization (WHO) official has stressed the "desperate and urgent need" to tackle the climate crisis. The number of deaths from extreme heat "is set to rise year-on-year", the WHO's Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge said on Tuesday. Current "danger zones" include southern and eastern Europe, Kluge said, urging the public to "regularly check weather reports, follow local guidance, and inform yourself about weather-related health risks from reputable sources", reports Xinhua news agency. "Beyond adapting to our new reality this summer, we must look to the years and decades ahead," he said. "There is a desperate and urgent need for regional and global action to effectively tackle



the climate crisis, which poses an existential threat to the human race." In the long run, Kluge believes that the adoption of the Budapest Declaration, which prioritises urgent, wide-ranging action on health challenges related to climate change, environmental pollution, etc., in the WHO European Region earlier this month, will go a long way toward addressing "the worst impacts of climate change on our health and health

systems." In particular, Kluge believes the declaration will mobilise young people to get involved, "because they are truly engaged on the climate issues they are inheriting and often bursting with ideas and solutions." "Action on climate change cannot be predicated on a particular government or political party; it truly needs to be a non-partisan issue championed by all sides of the political spectrum," Kluge

said. The WHO official's remarks come as large swathes of southern Europe continue to swelter in record heat. As temperatures hit a high of 46.3 degrees Celsius in Sicily, fire crews battled blazes in Greece and the Swiss Alps. Elsewhere in Europe, crews in Switzerland are battling a wildfire close to the village of Bitsch in canton Valais which authorities said started on Monday afternoon and spread "explosively" overnight. Another wildfire on the Spanish island of La Palma, which started on July 15, has destroyed 20 homes. Red alerts, warning people of a very high health risk due to the intense heat, remain in place for most of Italy, Spain, Greece and parts of the Balkans. The highest temperature ever recorded in Europe was set in August 2021 when the mercury hit 48.8 degrees in the Palermo region of Sicily.

NEARLY 8,000 STILL DISPLACED IN S.KOREA AFTER DEADLY TORRENTIAL DOWNPOURS

Seoul | Agencies

Nearly 8,000 people in South Korea are yet to return home after torrential rains pounded the country last week, despite the monsoon rain coming to a lull on Wednesday, officials said. Across the country, a cumulative 16,514 people had temporarily evacuated their homes, and of them, 7,843 were still staying at relatives' houses or shelters set up at senior centres, village halls or schools, according to the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters. The torrential rain that swept the country last week left 44 people dead and six others missing nationwide, reports Yonhap News Agency. In particular, the flooding of the Osong underground roadway in the central city of Cheongju on July 15 led to 14 deaths, when a nearby river overflowed after an embankment was brought down by rising water levels due to

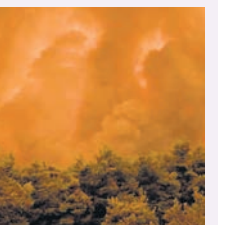


heavy rain. Downpours have also damaged 1,043 public facilities and 948 other private properties, with the damage centered around South Chungcheong province. Houses were also destroyed, with 332 reported to have been inundated and 90 others damaged, according to officials. Farmland over half the size of Seoul, amounting to 32,894.5 hectares, was flooded, and 797,000 livestock died from the downpour. Meanwhile, President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday designated 13 areas hard-hit from the downpours as special disaster zones, paving the way for them to be eligible for financial support in recovery work, relief funds for victims and other benefits.

Temperatures in Iraq likely to surpass 50 degrees

Baghdad | Agencies

A blistering heat wave is expected to hit Iraq in the coming weeks, with temperatures likely to surpass 50 degrees Celsius, a weather observatory said in its forecast. "Temperatures will peak at 52 degrees Celsius in the last week of July and the first week of August," the Green Iraq observatory said in its forecast. According to the observatory, the hottest temperature ever recorded in Iraq was 53.6 degrees Celsius in the southern province of Basra in July 2016, reports Xinhua news agency. As stated by Iraqi law, when temperatures reach 50 degrees, the government grants holidays to its institutions, excluding the security forces and medical services.



Trump says expects arrest by federal inquiry into Capitol riot

Washington | Agencies

Former US President Donald Trump said that he expects to be arrested by a federal inquiry into the January 2021 Capitol riot and efforts to challenge the 2020 election results. He made the remarks on Tuesday in a post on his Truth Social app, claiming that he had been sent a letter "stating that I am a TARGET of the January 6th Grand Jury investigation, and giving me a very short 4 days to report to the Grand Jury, which almost always means an Arrest and Indictment", reports the BBC. The former President added that he had been informed of the development by special counsel Jack Smith on Sunday night. Smith's team has investigated Trump's handling of classified documents after leaving the White House



and with managing a sprawling federal investigation into the riot and attempts by the former President and his advisers to "interfere with the lawful transfer

of power following the 2020 presidential election". Such an indictment would be Trump's third for alleged criminal offences, including 37 counts brought by Smith's team in June accusing the former leader of mishandling classified documents. Trump has also been charged in New York City with falsifying business records in 2016 hush money payments to adult film star Stormy Daniels. He is due to stand trial in that case in March 2024, while a date for the classified documents case is still being contested by the president's lawyers. In a December 2020 phone call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, Trump had asked that Georgia officials "find 11,780 votes" that would flip the state to him. A decision by Georgia prosecutors on whether to indict Trump is expected next month.

Thai PM candidate suspended from Parliament in disqualification case

Bangkok | Agencies



Thailand's Constitutional Court on Wednesday suspended Prime Ministerial candidate and leader of the Move Forward Party, Pita Limjaroenrat as an MP pending a ruling on his disqualification case submitted by the Election Commission. The court's decision came after it received a complaint filed by the Commission that the 42-year-old Harvard graduate and former tech executive owned shares in a media company at the time of registering his election candidacy for the May 14 election, which violates electoral rules, reports Xinhua news agency. In a written statement, the court confirmed that it had accepted the case and directed Pita to cease his parliamentary duties from Wednesday until a final ruling is reached. Pita was required to provide an

explanation of the allegation to the Constitutional Court within 15 days, according to the statement. Under the country's Constitutional Law, the Prime Minister does not necessarily have to be an MP. In a joint session of the bicameral parliament on Wednesday, lawmakers are scheduled to make a second bid to elect a Prime minister, following last week's unsuccessful initial attempt. In a shock election result, Pita's newcomer party won the most seats and largest share of the popular vote as citizens rejected the conservative military rule that had been in place since the 2014 coup. The court had also filed a second complaint against him that involved Move Forward's proposal to amend the draconian royal defamation law, which has jailed hundreds of critics of the monarchy.



'BARBIE' MAY BE UNSUITABLE FOR KIDS DUE TO SUGGESTIVE REFERENCES, MATURE TONE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Director Greta Gerwig's upcoming comedy-fantasy film 'Barbie' has been the talk of Hollywood along with Christopher Nolan's 'Oppenheimer', with the two being touted as the biggest releases of July. While boasting a PG-13 rating making it a film friendly for kids and families alike, doubts have been raised whether the movie is appropriate for kids, as previews have shown "suggestive references and brief language". Furthermore, due to its more mature and deep themes, the movie won't fully appeal to kids.

Due to this, the film may not be suitable for children under the age of 13, with the film's PG-13 rating strongly cautioning parents that "some material may be inappropriate."

The Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling-starrer is a very different take on 'Barbie' as it isn't just aimed at children, but also adults who grew up playing with the Barbie toys. As such, the movie has been made with both children and adults in mind.

As the initial visuals of the film's colorful costumes, bright colours and set designs appeared, the creators of this pink fantasy toy-world dreamland began dropping hints about the story.

Plus due to the film's deeper themes, it is not at all something that is childish in any way.

In a recent conversation with 'People' magazine, Greta Gerwig, talking about the film, said "We invent things like dolls to explain to ourselves what it means to be human. Part of me wondered if there was a way that we could allow the doll to also have that humanity. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Queen of Plastic was given something real?"



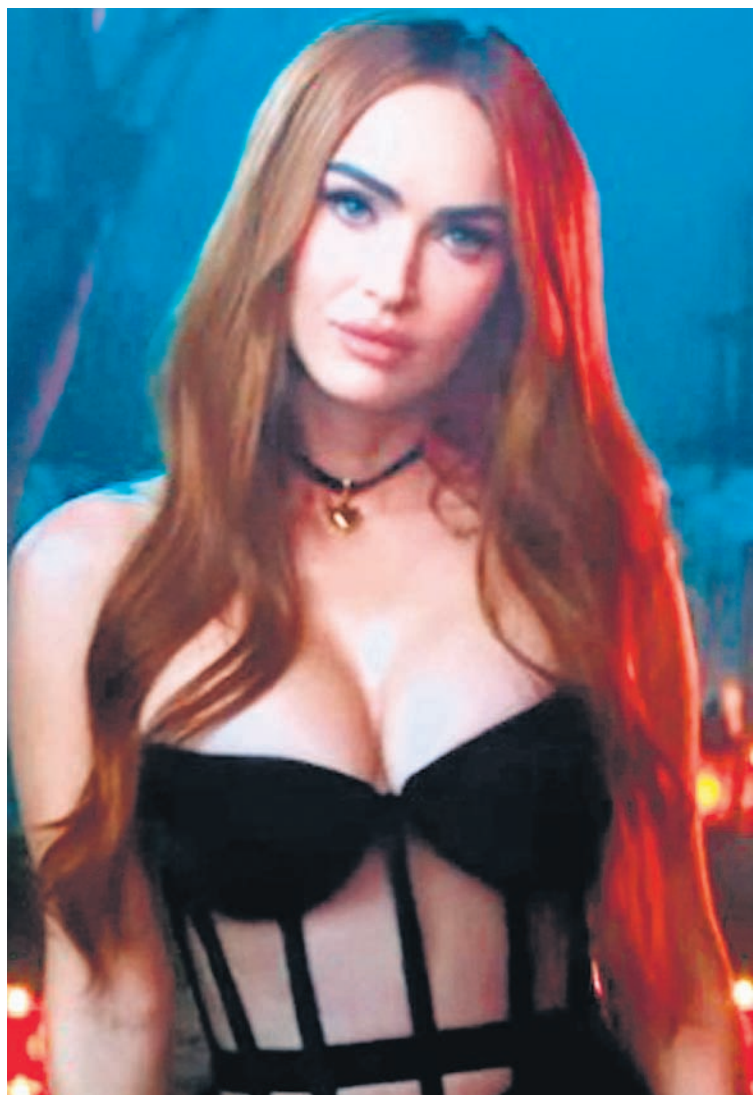
Megan Fox rocks new outfit as she gets spotted with Machine Gun Kelly

Los Angeles | Agencies

Turning up the heat, 'Transformers' actress Megan Fox is sizzling audiences with her new look as she was spotted with her long-time boyfriend and now fiancé Machine Gun Kelly.

Megan and Machine Gun Kelly, whose real name is Colson Baker, met back in 2020 when they both worked on the film 'Midnight in the Switchgrass'. Following a whirlwind romance the couple got engaged in 2022.

Following months of speculations, based on the reports that the celebrity couple are about to separate due to the difficulties they were facing in their relationship, the couple have put on a united front as they are out and about walking in the sun. To amp things up, Megan's new look leaves little to the imagination. As reported by the Mirror, Megan was seen donning a sheer black lace tank top with spaghetti straps, paired with a minuscule black miniskirt, some stripper-style heels, and a black handbag. The flame-haired beauty wore her orange locks down and billowed in the wind as she strutted her stuff beside her husband-to-be. Meanwhile, MGK donned a simple look in comparison which consisted of a white long-sleeved t-shirt, some baggy blue jeans, white trainers and blue baseball cap.



IRON MAIDEN SETS EUROPE ABLAZE WITH LATEST BARCELONA CONCERT



London | Agencies

Iron Maiden has been rocking it out hard ever since their 'The Future Past Tour 2023' took off to a strong start. But as the tour goes on, the band has set Europe ablaze with power packed performances taking place all the way from Czech Republic to Italy.

Just last week the band concluded their Venice concert, and are now in Spain as they finished their concert in Barcelona, leaving their fans awe struck with metal spirit.

Taking to Instagram, the band

thanked their fans at Barcelona and captioned: "Thank you, Barcelona!"

The concert ended on the night of July 18 (local time) complete with much theatricality, and filling out the stadiums the moment they announced their concert, the tickets began selling out faster than hot cakes.

The legendary heavy metal band however are also big football fans, and some time prior to the concert they met up with the Football Club of Barcelona (FCB) which hosted a training complex for them.

Thanking the FCB for its hospitality, the band posted a picture of themselves alongside players of the FCB as they wrote in the caption: "A huge thank you

to @fcbarcelona for hosting Maiden FC at their magnificent training complex yesterday. A thrilling encounter finished 8-3 in favour of Maiden. A big shout out to @madnesslive for playing and arranging the fixture."

Much like their shows in Prague and Venice prior, the band lit up the stage performing their many classics ranging from 'Wasted Years' to 'The Trooper' while also dishing out some of their lesser known tracks such as 'The Prisoner' and 'Alexander The Great'.

The setlist for the show also included many tracks from their latest album 'Senjutsu' such as 'Hell on Earth', 'Writing on the Wall', 'Death of the Celts' and 'The Time Machine'.

Gigi Hadid says 'all's well that ends well' in bikini post after arrest news

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Gigi Hadid's latest post says "all's well that ends well" as she posed in a bikini after the news of her getting arrested went viral. On July 18, news of Gigi being released after been arrested for possessing marijuana in Cayman Islands while on a trip with her friends took over the Internet. The supermodel was embarking on an all-girls' trip to the Cayman Islands on July 10 when she was arrested from the Owen Roberts International Airport, reports eonline.com.

Gigi's latest Instagram post, also posted on Tuesday, features a string of images from her getaway. The first post features a video of the model with her friend chilling by the sea. The second show, Gigi flaunting her perfect body in a bright yellow bikini.

The other images show glimpses of food, tan lines, jewelry and friends. She captioned the post: "All's well that ends well." The post has over 25,98,000 likes. It includes a like from Bollywood actress Ananya Panday. According to local outlet Cayman Marl Road, shortly after Hadid and her friend arrived on a private plane, Customs officials allegedly found "marijuana and equipment used for its consumption" in their luggage. Hadid and her friend were subsequently arrested, the outlet reports, adding that they were taken to the Prisoner Detention Centre, from where they were released on bail. "Gigi was travelling with marijuana that she purchased legally from NYC with a medical licence," her representative said. "It (marijuana) is also legal for medical use in Grand Cayman since 2017. Her record remains clear and she enjoyed the rest of her time on the island."



'THE MARVELS' RELEASE NEW PICTURES OF ITS 3 PROTAGONISTS, NICK FURY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Getting ready to light up the upcoming Diwali, Marvel Cinematic Universe is gearing up to release its latest feature, 'The Marvels'. It will focus on three protagonists who have the power of Captain Marvel. The new photos that have come out offer an all new look into MCU's new exciting and fiery adventure.

Fresh new stills of Captain Marvel/Carol Danvers (Brie Larson), Ms. Marvel/Kamala Khan (ImanVellani) and Monica Rambeau/Photon (Teyonah Parris). Alongside that it also features Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) have made their way to social media.

The pictures were released by Entertainment Weekly on social media. The pictures also tease the mysterious return of both the Kree and Skrulls. 'The Marvels' will act as a sequel to 2019's 'Captain Marvel'.

The trailer showed that due to an accident, the three heroes who are able to use the ability of energy absorption and conversion change places with one another every time they use their powers. This leads to a lot of difficulty in their work, and to fix this problem, these three separate female heroes must work together while fighting a new emerging threat. Along the way, the three who are all completely different from one another and in fact incompatible with each other's fighting styles despite possessing the same powers must learn to coordinate with each other as they exchange places constantly, leading to hilarious fun packed moments.

MCU is known for its action, and 'The Marvels' which will be a part of the Phase 5 of MCU will feature plenty of exciting action, complete with laser blast, space flights and unimaginable feats of strength as all three discover a new side of themselves, while at the same time getting to know one another.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Julia Fox



SHRUTI, IN INSTA POEM, SAYS SHE HAS TROUBLE FITTING IN, BUT IS STILL A PROUD 'WEIRDO'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shruti Hassan, sporting a rebellious attitude, has said that she has trouble fitting into society with all its rules and norms, with her many challenges making it difficult for her to adjust.

But taking pride in her unique self, which many term as 'weird', she shared a rhyme where she said that now she knows what to really care about, and even though she has been misunderstood, the difference in herself brings her much joy. Sharing a poetic rhyme in the Stories section of her Instagram, she wrote, "Insomnia thoughts

"Somewhere in between, I don't fit in?"

Shruti is also known for her singing talents as she is also a member of an alternative rock band The Extramentals. She regularly posts clips showcasing her daily life, new attire, music and fashion sense that has gained her a massive amount of followers.

Shruti made her Bollywood debut in 2009 with the film 'Luck'. She was later seen in Hindi films like 'DilTohBacchaHaiji', 'RamayyaVasthavayya' and 'Gabbar is Back'.

In South Indian cinema, she has worked in various hits such as 'Gabbar Singh', 'Yevadu', 'Krack', and most recently in

'WaltairVeerayya'. She will also be seen in the Prabhas starrer 'Salaar Pt.1'

For her singing she has received much praise, garnering various awards and nominations. She has also sung songs in Hindi films such as 'Aazma' for 'Luck' and 'Alvida' for 'D-Day'.

'It is not just about 'luck, it's about hard working to': **Daisy Shah**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The show 'KhatronKeKhiladi 13' will be introducing a 'red fanda week', in the upcoming episode, where the host RohitShetty will instruct the contestants to cite the one daredevil, who has made it through the last two episodes on the strength of luck.

The 'red fanda', which stands for the threat of elimination, will go to Daisy Shah after contestants unanimously agree that she lucked out in the previous stunts.

According to the rules of the red fanda, to defend her position on the show, Daisy must compete with two contestants, who she should outperform to get rid of the elimination threat.

Daisy and her competitors Aishwarya Sharma and ArjitTaneja must perform a daring stunt that will have them brave acrophobia and aquaphobia.

The contestants will be tasked with mounting up a tilted crane and collecting flags nestled in places that challenge their balance and induce vertigo.

Daisy will have to make sure that she's not the worst performer among the three. The stakes are that the fanda shall pass on to the worst performer of this stunt. Will Daisy be able to prove her mettle as a daredevil?

Commenting on the challenge, Daisy said: "It was exciting to perform a stunt where both the elements of water and height were involved. I had to defend my position and make a statement that I am not only lucky, I'm hard working too. I hope the audience will embrace me as I get into my khiladi element. Aishwarya and Arjit were great competitors. I can't wait for everyone to watch how the red fanda week panned out for us."

SRK TURNS CHOREOGRAPHER FOR TRACK IN UPCOMING

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has once again surprised his fans by not only showcasing his acting prowess, but also displaying his dance skills by choreographing his own steps in a captivating sequence of action entertainer 'Jawan'. SRK surprised his fans by grooving on the popular retro song 'BeqarKarke' in the movie. The steps capture the menacing energy of his character in the most brilliant way, adding an intriguing layer to the scene.

According to a source, it was SRK himself who conceived the idea of introducing dance steps in this particular sequence with "BeqarKarke" playing in the background.

"He took it upon himself to choreograph the steps, which completely transformed the scene and made it much more captivating," the source revealed.

The improvised dance moves devised by Bollywood's 'Badshah' have become a favourite among audiences, with the steps going viral on social media and have generated memes across the internet. The action-packed 'prevue' of the movie has pushed the anticipation for the film to the next level, captivating audiences with its grand scale and promising an extraordinary cinematic experience. Bringing together a perfect blend of action and emotion, it showcases stunning visuals and an unparalleled scale bound to leave viewers wanting more.

The movie stars Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi in pivotal roles, while DeepikaPadukone and SanyaMalhotra in cameo roles. The flick is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation, directed by Atlee, Produced by Gauri Khan and Co-produced by GauravVerma.



'Acting wasn't the career I chose, it chose me and I fell in love with it,' says Genelia

Team Absolute | New Delhi

One of Bollywood's most loved actresses GeneliaDeshmukh or 'Meow', as many fondly call her courtesy her iconic character in from the 2008 movie 'JaaneTu...YaJaane Na', has had a two-decade-long journey in the world of acting which she says she did not choose - it chose her.

Over her two decade long career, Genelia has not only worked in Bollywood but many other language films including Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

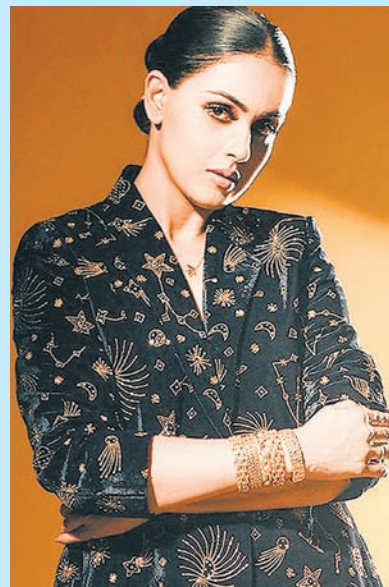
Looking back at her journey in the world of cinema, the 35-year-old actress said that she fell in love with acting along the way.

"I think my journey has been amazing. It has been a journey of appreciation because it wasn't the career that I chose, it chose me. I fell in love on the way," Geneliasaid. She added: "I've had the opportunity to work with a lot of people, regions and hence I feel your craft has developed so much more because a girl in the north will be different from the girl in south, and having the opportunity to play so much just makes it a wholesome career." Genelia, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Trial Period', was last seen on screen in the Hindi films 'Mister Mummy' and 'Ved' which released in 2022. Before that, she was in the 2016 film 'Force 2'. Would we now get to see her more often on screen?" "Initially, when I did films, I liked to plan the entire year. But now, I feel when I do a film, it means taking out that much time from kids, means giving just a lot more than just doing a number of films. So, I just want to own a choice that I make. I'd like to do a lot more work but I am happy to wait it out if it takes that kind of time to wait out too," said that actress, who is married to actor RiteishDeshmukh. Genelia and Ritesh got married in February 2012. The two welcomed their first son, Riaan, in 2014. Their second son, Rahyl, was born June 2016.

The 'TujheMeriKasam' actress wanted to focus on family life as her children were younger. "I took a break initially because my kids were younger and I felt that I needed that time. I feel that I am ready now and I feel I am ready to accept a lot more work. I feel there is a lot more work that comes according to what I want also."

She believes she would do a lot more work now. "So, I do believe I'll be doing a lot more work now versus how I was in the last 10 years." Her upcoming film 'Trial Period' is a family drama that follows the journey of a single mother Ana, played by Genelia, whose world turns upside down when her inquisitive son demands a father on a trial period of 30 days.

"Yeah 'Trial Period' is a film of humour and innocence but what caught my interest was the fact that it was about a mum and the various things that are associated with it. It's a lovely family entertainer."



Alia Bhatt