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# No-confidence motion a compulsion as PM is silent on Manipur: Congress

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Tuesday moved the no-confidence motion against the government in Lok Sabha, saying that it was a compulsion to do so, as despite its repeated demand, the Prime Minister Modi failed to come in the House and speak over the Manipur crisis.

"This motion is our compulsion. It was never about numbers. It is about justice for Manipur. This motion is by the INDIA alliance for seeking justice for Manipur," Gogoi said, while initiating the discussion on the motion.

He said that the motion was also brought against the government to break Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Maun Vrat' on the Manipur violence.

He said that Manipur demands justice.

Gogoi also posed three questions to the Prime Minister.

"We have three questions for him - Why did he not visit Manipur till date? Why did it take almost 80 days for him to finally speak on Manipur? And why has the Prime Minister not sacked the Manipur Chief Minister so far?" Gogoi asked.

As the lower house took up the motion moved by Gogoi, there were heated exchanges between the opposition and treasury benches after Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi wondered why Rahul Gandhi's name as lead speaker was withdrawn at the last minute.

Soon after Gogoi ended his speech, there was furor in Lok Sabha when BSP MP Danish Ali brought to the notice of the House that the television screens inside the House were not running anything about the no-confidence motion, but displaying information on the various initiatives of the government.

Birla said he had no control over what the official Sansad television was showing.

Joshi tried to play down the situation, saying that it was nothing extraordinary as the speeches were being telecast live.

However, as the television screens stopped the scrolls showing government's achievements, the House resumed business.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey while speaking against the motion, raised questions on the parties which form the INDIA alliance.

Targeting former Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi, he said, "Sonia Gandhi now has only two jobs. 'Set the son and give presents to the son-in-law.' Sonia Gandhi smiled while Dubey made these comments.

## 'ARROGANT' OPPN ALLIANCE BROUGHT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION TO TEST ITS UNITY: PM MODI

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the no-confidence motion brought by the Opposition parties' alliance.

He was addressing the BJP Parliamentary meeting. Briefing the media after the meeting, Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal, while explaining Prime Minister Modi's address, said that the "arrogant" Opposition parties' alliance has come up with a no-confidence motion to test its own unity.

The Prime Minister said, "The BJP has majority numbers in both the Houses of Parliament so I do not understand the meaning of this no-confidence motion brought by the Opposition parties' alliance. But this 'arrogant' alliance members are not sure of their unity hence they have brought in this no-confidence motion to test their solidarity and unity."

## PM HAS VISITED 7 NATIONS IN 2 MONTHS BUT NOT NE STATE: TMC

New Delhi: The opposition INDIA alliance parties attacked the government during the discussion in Lok Sabha on the no-confidence motion on Tuesday, with TMC MP Sougata Ray saying that President's rule should be imposed in Manipur.

Participating in the discussion on the no-confidence motion, Ray said that there should be President's rule in Manipur for what has happened there since May.

He said that between May and July, the Prime Minister visited seven nations, but did not have time to visit Manipur. "Is he a roving ambassador or a travelling salesman?" Ray sought to know.

NCP's Supriya Sule also sought to know how a BJP-led government could call itself a party with a difference, when it has toppled nine governments in nine years.

## Several prominent leaders of Azad's DPAP & AAP from J&K join Congress

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Several former ministers and MLAs of Jammu and Kashmir, including Yashpal Kundal of the AAP, Haji Abdul Rashid Dar of the Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) joined Congress here at the residence of party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders said on Monday.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani said that every day people from every district of Jammu and Kashmir are joining the party.

Several prominent leaders from the Aam Aadmi Party and the DPAP and others joined the Congress. They were inducted

into the Congress at the residence of Kharge, where party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, Jammu and Kashmir in-charge Rajani Patil, J&K unit chief Wani were also present.

According to party leaders 21 leaders joined the Congress on Monday.

Meanwhile, DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday said that he will stand like a rock to defend the interests of local people and will not allow anyone to take over the local resources since the people of Jammu and Kashmir are its primary stakeholders.

"Be it Roshni scheme, or other socioeconomic projects all have been targeted and people are systematically disempowered.



## NORTHEAST INDIA HAS CHANGED UNDER PM MODI'S LEADERSHIP: KIREN RIJJU

New Delhi: Science and Technology Minister Kiren Rijju on Tuesday attacked the opposition in Lok Sabha, claiming that prior to 2014, many people from the Northeast faced racial discrimination and atrocities, however the situation has completely changed now. "Before 2014, many people from the Northeast faced racial discrimination and atrocities in Delhi and other major cities of the country. After 2014 the situation changed, and the DGP conference was held in Guwahati for the first time after Independence. During this meeting, the prime minister directed that police must ensure the security of people from the Northeast," Rijju said while participating in the discussion on the no-confidence motion. He questioned the timing of the no-confidence motion, saying it had been brought at a wrong time and in a wrong manner.

# ‘मेरी माटी, मेरा देश’

## (माझी माती, माझा देश)

### मातीला नमन, वीरांना वंदन

“वीर-वीरांगनांच्या सन्मानार्थ ‘मेरी माटी, मेरा देश’ अभियान राबविण्यात येत आहे. या अभियानांतर्गत आपल्या अमर हुतात्म्यांच्या स्मरणार्थ देशभरात अनेक कार्यक्रमांचे आयोजन केले जात आहे.”

**नरेंद्र मोदी**  
प्रधानमंत्री



९ ऑगस्ट  
क्रांतीदिन चिरायू होवो

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मातीसोबत सेल्फी काढा आणि अपलोड करा

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# AS PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES MANIPUR, BOTH TRIBALS AND MEITEI LEADERS LOBBYING IN DELHI ON DEMANDS

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Imphal

While the Lok Sabha debates on the Manipur issue, leaders of both tribals and Meitei community are lobbying in New Delhi and holding meetings with Home Ministry officials.

A meeting between Home Minister Amit Shah and leaders of Manipur's Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) was scheduled to take place on Tuesday but was not held as the Minister was busy with the Parliament session.

Senior ITLF leader and spokesman Ginza Vualzong said that the meeting with the Union Home Minister would now be held on Wednesday and they held meetings with the Home Ministry officials on Tuesday.

On the other hand, leaders of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an umbrella body of the Meitei community, also held meetings with Central government officials in Delhi.

COCOMI spokesman Khuraijam Athouba said that his organisation vehemently opposed the Union Government's intention to "engage in talks with the self-proclaimed ITLF".

"This group is at the forefront of individuals directly involved in the ongoing violence in Manipur. Their



members are known to be leaders of the immigrant Chin-Kuki Naro-Terrorist organisations, coercing innocent Kuki civilians into participating in violent activities. The Manipuri populace has been exposed to numerous video footage and images depicting these members brandishing sophisticated sniper rifles and operating drone cameras from hilltop locations within Manipur," the COCOMI alleged in a statement, issued from Delhi.

Accusing Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga of supporting ITLF's

activities, the COCOMI spokesman said that various instances have emerged where the Chief Minister of Manipur has vehemently protested against the unwarranted interference in the state's internal affairs.

The COCOMI has been strongly opposing the ITLF and other tribal organisations' demands for separate administrations (equivalent to separate state) for the tribals in Manipur.

Meanwhile, a four member delegation of the ITLF went to Delhi on Monday to meet the Union Home Minister to press for its demands,

which include a separate state for the tribals. The other demands of the ITLF include state police and commando forces should not be deployed in the hill areas of Manipur, inmates lodged in the jails in Imphal should be shifted to other states of the country, and legalisation of a site for mass burial of tribals killed during the ethnic violence.

"We will press for early solutions to our demands as the Manipur situation, due to the misgovernance of the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh-led government, has been deteriorating fast. Tribals are victims due to the state government's anti-tribal governance," Vualzong, who is also a member of the ITLF delegation, told IANS over phone.

Meanwhile in Manipur, security has been further tightened ahead of Wednesday's mass rally, to be organised by the United Naga Council (UNC), the apex body of the Nagas in Manipur. The UNC would hold a mass rally in the Naga areas of the state for resolving the decades-old Naga political issue based on the Framework Agreement, signed on August 3, 2015.

The apex Kuki tribal body Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) has announced to support the UNC's mass rally in four Naga-dominated districts -- Tamenglong, Chandel, Ukhrul, and Senapati.

# Assam: College principals, professors joining ABVP sparks row

Guwahati | Agencies

Even as there is no bar for the teachers of colleges to join the student organisation Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the sudden upsurge in the numbers of joiners that include a few college principals in Assam has sparked a row in the state.

The principals of a few prominent colleges like North Lakhimpur College, J.B. College in Jorhat, and Gurucharan College in Silchar -- have joined ABVP.

A large number of professors also joined the right-wing student organization recently. Although, the ABVP had a base in Assam even before the BJP came to power, and a few school and college teachers were part of the organisation, the numbers witnessed a huge boost in the last few years.

More importantly, this is probably the first time that college principals have also joined the ABVP.

All Assam Students Union (AASU), a prominent student's body in Assam, criticised this development and alleged that since the elections in a number of colleges are due in the upcoming September month, this move can be seen as a 'tactic' to capture the students' bodies in most of the colleges in the state.

"If the principal of any college joins the ABVP, there will be a big question about the impartial conduct of the student elections," AASU president Utpal Bora said.

"These things are happening for the first time in the colleges of Assam."

He further alleged that recently a college principal was suspended as he joined a protest to oppose the ongoing delimitation



exercise in Assam. "The teachers and principals in large numbers may be joining ABVP to avert any such situation," Bora claimed.

The state president of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), Krishanu Baruah, has demanded that at least the principals of the colleges leave ABVP immediately to maintain the sanctity of the educational institutions. Senior Congress leader Debabrata Saikia said: "Our party was in power for several years in the state. But no teacher or principal was forced to join any Congress-affiliated organisations. Unfortunately, the BJP has been involved in doing this to undermine the stature of educational institutions."

However, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma refuted the claims made by Saikia and others.

He said: "ABVP is a social organization, and it is not the BJP's wing. As long as the normal classes are not hampered in the institutions, the teachers can join the students' bodies."

# Manipur police file FIR against Assam Rifles; state BJP urges PM to replace force

Imphal | Agencies

Manipur Police have registered an FIR accusing the personnel of the ninth battalion of Assam Rifles of blocking their movement in Bishnupur district.

A police officer in Imphal said that Assam Rifles jawans, led by their officers, had last week blocked police vehicles on the Kwakta Gothol road while the police were going to undertake operations against militants.

The Assam Rifles officers, however, said the para-military troops were undertaking their task assigned by the command headquarters to ensure security of the people and to prevent clashes between Kuki and Meitei cadres.

Meanwhile, after various Meitei organisations, includ-



under considerable criticism and public outrage."

Since the outbreak of the ethnic violence on May 3, the Assam Rifles troopers completely failed to maintain their impartial role to restore peace and normalcy in the state, the letter said.

The Manipur government, by an order issued on Monday, replaced Assam Rifles by the state police and the CRPF at the check-gate in Moirang Lamkhai in Bishnupur district after fresh violence erupted there last week. The notification, issued by Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) L. Kailun, said "The check-point at Moirang Lamkhai on the road from Bishnupur to Kangvai shall be manned by the civil police and 128 Bn CRPF in place of Assam Rifles."

ing the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) and Meira Paibi, the ruling BJP in the state also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday to replace Assam Rifles with any other central paramilitary force in the state.

A letter jointly signed by state BJP President A. Sharda Devi and Vice-President Chidananda said, "The role of Assam Rifles with regard to the ethnic unrest and in maintaining peace and tranquility in the state has been

# Rahul likely to participate in no-confidence motion discussion in LS on Wednesday

► CONGRESS MP RAHUL GANDHI IS LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION DISCUSSION IN THE LOK SABHA ON WEDNESDAY. ACCORDING TO A PARTY SOURCE, THE FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT WOULD MOST PROBABLY TAKE PART IN THE DEBATE DURING THE FIRST HOUR OF THE DEBATE, AS HE HAS TO PARTICIPATE AT A RALLY IN RAJASTHAN, LATER IN THE DAY.



As the rally is scheduled for around 3 p.m., Gandhi is likely to participate in the no-confidence motion discussion during the initial part of the day, sources said.

The discussion is expected to continue till August 10 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to reply to the motion on the same day.

On Tuesday, Congress' deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi initiated the discussion after moving the motion, a move which surprised the treasury benches.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi was seen asking why Rahul Gandhi wasn't initiating the discussion as the Congress had conveyed to the Speaker in the morning about the former Congress president initiating the discussion.

Party sources had said that Gandhi's last minute withdrawal was part of a strategy, as it was decided that he would speak after some big leaders from the BJP had spoken.

Congress sources said that this decision was taken as part of a strategy of not exposing Gandhi to all the attacks, which he might have faced if he had spoken first.

# "KANGRA DHAM": THE TRADITIONAL DELICACIES OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

Himachali Food Festival "Kangra Dham" is starting from 10th August (Thursday) at Jaipur Marriott Hotel. You can enjoy it at Okra Fine Dining from 7:00 pm onwards.

Snow-capped mountains, lush green valleys, freshness in the air, calmness in the atmosphere, these are some of the things that best describe Himachal Pradesh, but one unique thing that often gets silenced is the delicious food here. From street vendors to authentic cafes and restaurants, Himachalis pour their heart out in their cuisine. So Marriott brings to you a wide array of traditional Himachali dishes which include Seppu Badi Ka Madra, Mutton Ka Khatta, Chicken Krotiwala, Himachali Rajmaha, Chane Ki Daal, Kale Chane Ka Khatta, Himachali Kadi Gobhi. The guests will get to enjoy the traditional flavor of Himachal



and a variety of delectable dishes at the festival.

Chickpeas play a very important role in the Himachali cuisine. One

of the most popular dishes of this state is the Madra, it's an high protein rich delicacy composed of soaked chickpeas and vegetables, cooked in spices such as cloves, cardamoms, turmeric etc.

Hotel's Executive Chef Jatinder Dhaliwal, Jaipur Marriott Hotel explains that the dishes here are a perfect blend of spices which are vital and healthy for our body. The traditional way of doing Dham is to sit in a row on the ground and enjoy the food with your hands. These recipes have been selected keeping in mind your health and the needs of your body. Each dish has its own advantage; For example, sweet rice is served last as it helps with digestion.

Chef. Arjun katoch who belongs from Kangra, Himachal Pradesh mentions that Kangra Dham is not just a feast, it is an amalgamation of flavours, spices and lots of love that then makes a perfect dish!

# Portable toilets for women to be must at all rallies in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a significant initiative, the Maharashtra government plans to make portable toilets for women compulsory at the venues of all rallies and events in the state, ahead of the Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections in 2024.

Women & Child Welfare Minister Aditi Tatkare has given a written assurance to a social group campaigning for #HerRightToPee by activist Tirtha Samant through her petition on Change.Org.

Tatkare said that she was in agreement with the suggestion and she would request Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar to issue relevant directions to all



District Collectors, Police Commissioners, Superintendents of Police and others concerned. They would be asked to ensure the facility of arranging for clean, portable toilets for women before granting permission for political rallies or events which attract huge crowds, including many women. The petition, signed by over 2,000, has also urged

the heads of women's wings of all political parties like Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress, Shiv Sena, Shiv Sena-UBT, Nationalist Congress Party factions, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena and others to ensure portable public toilets for women during their political events, especially the forthcoming parliament and assembly elections.

# THREE HELD FOR SETTING MAZAR ON FIRE IN GURUGRAM

Gurugram: The police have arrested three out of the five suspects who reportedly set a mazar at Khandas village on fire on the intervening night of August 5-6, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The arrested accused have been identified as Gulshan (shopkeeper), Vijay (auto driver), and Lalit (pharmacy delivery boy). The police have also managed to identify the remaining two suspects, who are currently on the run.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime), Varun Dahiya, said that the five men committed the act after being influenced by social media content related to the communal clashes that erupted in nearby Nuh district.

These clashes subsequently spread to various parts of Gurugram and its vicinity in the past week.

"The group devised the plan after consuming alcohol and being exposed to multiple social media posts about the Nuh violence. In an intoxicated state, the accused set fire to the mazar before fleeing from the scene. We have apprehended three of them and there interrogation is underway," Dahiya said at a media briefing.

Incidentally, Section 144 of the CrPc was clamped in Gurugram at the time of the incident, which prohibits gatherings of five or more individuals.

According to the FIR accessed by reporter, which was filed by Ghasite Ram, the caretaker of the mazar, people from different religious backgrounds used to frequent the place for worship.

# Delhi HC restrains 22 rogue websites from airing upcoming Asia Cup cricket tournament

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has issued an order restraining 22 rogue websites from unauthorised broadcasting of cricketing events or highlights related to the upcoming Asia Cup tournament.

A bench of Justice Prathiba M Singh, hearing a lawsuit filed by Star India Pvt Ltd and Novi Digital Entertainment Pvt Ltd against the unauthorised dissemination of Asia Cup cricket matches and content, has restrained the listed websites from hosting, streaming, broadcasting, rebroadcasting, or otherwise communicating any cricketing events, extracts, excerpts, or highlights associated with the Asia Cup.

The court was convinced that the defendant websites as "rogue websites" are primarily involved in distributing pirated content.

The plaintiffs, who broadcast several TV channels in multiple languages, possess



the exclusive media rights for various sporting events, including the Asia Cup tournaments from 2018 to 2023.

Novi Digital Entertainment operates the online video streaming platform Hotstar.

They contended that the 22 websites might illegally stream and telecast the Asia Cup cricket events, similar to how they had illegally streamed past events like the ICC T20 Men's World Cup Qualifier, 2023.

The court observed that the documents indicated that the rogue websites extended their activities beyond streaming Star Sports channels, covering a variety of other channels, including sports events like the 'France Ligue' and 'LALIGA Football'.

Given the plaintiffs' substantial investment in media rights, the court said that the potential impact of illegal broadcasting will be severe on their financial interests and the value of such sporting events' rights. It ordered domain name registrars to immediately block the domain names, maintain status quo, and disclose complete details of the offending sites.

It also directed both the Central government and internet service providers to block these rogue websites. In case other similar websites are discovered, the plaintiffs can file an affidavit to have those new sites blocked as well, the court said.

The court will take up the matter next on December 19.



MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER'S MP SON RECITES HANUMAN CHALISA IN LOK SABHA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde... store into the Uddhav Thackeray faction for "abandoning" Hindutva and Bal Thackeray's ideology...



sold the Hindutva ideology and stepped away from Balasaheb's ideology," Mr Shinde said.

"No one could have imagined Shiv Sena will have an alliance with Congress. Those who formed this government cheated the voters. They even had an alliance with Samajwadi Party, which fired on kar sevaks," he said...

from reciting Hanuman Chalisa in Maharashtra. "I know the whole Hanuman Chalisa..." he said and started reciting the hymns.

He, however, did not complete it as the Chair asked him to continue with his speech.

A row had erupted in Maharashtra last year as Amravati MP Navneet Rana and her MLA-husband Ravi Rana were arrested on April 23 by the Mumbai Police after the couple announced they would recite the Hanuman Chalisa outside the then

chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's private residence 'Matoshree' in Mumbai.

The BJP had also organised public recitations of the Hanuman Chalisa as an act of defiance against the then MVA government of Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP.

Uddhav Thackeray was ousted after Eknath Shinde revolted against him and joined hands with the BJP. Shinde said that the opposition brought the no-confidence motion against the government in 2018 but the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) came back with more MPs.

"Today once again the Opposition has brought a no-confidence motion, this time NDA will cross 400," he said.

On the Opposition alliance's new name, he said, "They changed the name of UPA to INDIA. They think people will support them... They have changed the name because UPA reminds people of scams, corruption, terror attacks, and remote control governments."

"They have all gathered against one person. They have no leader or policy. Every leader here wants to be the prime minister because this team has no captain," he said.

Farmer installs CCTV camera in farm to keep an eye on Tomatoes



Aurangabad | Agencies

Heavy demand and sky-rocketing prices of tomatoes have prompted a farmer from Maharashtra to install a CCTV camera on his farm to keep an eye on his plantation of the kitchen staple.

The red berries are being sold between Rs 100 and Rs 200 across the country. The grower said he embraced digi-

tal surveillance for his farm at Shahpur Banjar, about 20 km from Aurangabad, after tomatoes thieves struck there.

Sharad Rawte said that he cannot afford to lose more tomatoes, the most in-demand vegetable today. He said a crate of 22-25 kg of tomatoes is now being sold for Rs 3,000. mR Rawte said his farm is spread across 5 acres and he has grown tomatoes on 1.5 acres, which could

easily fetch him Rs 6-7 lakh. "Around 10 days ago, 20-25 kilos of tomatoes were stolen from my farm in Gangapur taluka. To protect the remaining crop that is yet to ripen, I've installed a CCTV camera worth Rs 22,000," he said.

The farmer said the camera runs on solar energy so he doesn't have to worry about its power supply. "I can also check the visuals anywhere on my phone," he said.

Woman fights sexual assault, thrown off Udayan Express in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a shocker, a 29-year-old woman was pushed out of a running train by a man after she fought off his attempts to rob and sexually molest her on the Udayan Express here, officials said here on Tuesday.



The accused was arrested later.

The incident occurred on Sunday night on the Bengaluru-CSMT Mumbai train around 8.30 p.m. as it was moving out of Dadar station before terminating at CSMT. Just then, a man barged into the unreserved ladies' compartment with very few passengers, targeted the woman, molested and attempted to snatch her bag containing cash and valuables. As she screamed and

fought off his attempts, the accused pushed her out of the train and fled from there.

On Monday, the victim approached the Government Railway Police to lodge a complaint and the accused was nabbed within a short time, said an official. The GRP scanned through CCTV footage and based on statements of eyewitnesses, man-

aged to identify and track the accused.

A team was deployed which launched a manhunt and managed to nab him from near the CSMT station. He has been booked for molestation, attempt to murder, causing hurt, robbery and other charges and further investigations are on.

As Parliament debates no-confidence motion, Ambedkar pops up 7 questions to Rahul

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On a day when the Congress and other Opposition parties were debating a no-confidence motion against the BJP-led government at the Centre in the Lok Sabha, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) came up with seven questions to embarrass the grand old party, here on Tuesday.

"Since the Congress was busy celebrating Rahul Gandhi's reinstatement as an MP in the LS yesterday, allow me to divert Congress' and their allies' attention to very legitimate issues and questions as a former 2-time MP," said VBA President Prakash Ambedkar, the grandson of the Chief Architect of Indian Constitution, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Shooting off his queries, Ambedkar asked when with the Congress an allies raise the real affairs and issues of the Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims and OBCs rather than taking a token half-hearted stand, as their reactions in both the Manipur violence and Nuh incidents were terribly late and reeked of political correctness.

Ambedkar asked the Congress and allies when they would raise the real questions on the Manipur



crisis -- like why was the ST status given to the Hindu Meites, which party initiated the process, and what is their stand now.

Ambedkar demanded to know why the Congress didn't participate in the debates on the draconian Data Protection Bill, which the government passed in the LS faster than an order is delivered from a food delivery App. "When is the Congress going to corner the government on its recent policy to ban import of laptops, which directly helps a particular manufacturing enterprise whose shares have soared since the ban?" said Ambedkar's next dart.

He wanted to know what is the Congress' stand on the 'seed of corruption' -- the electoral bonds -- in India.

The VBA chief asked the Congress allies whether it was in agreement with the government's data and replies, time and again reiterated in both Houses of Parliament, that the practice of manual scavenging has ceased to exist in India.

Ambedkar sought the Congress' explanation on the Karnataka government's move to divert SC sub-plan and ST sub-plan funds for its guarantee schemes.

In another arrow, Ambedkar wondered how different is the Congress from the BJP if its ex-CM Kamal Nath is hosting Bageshwar Baba -- who routinely raises demands for a Hindu Rashtra? "Dear Rahul Gandhi, you were 'silenced'. But was the whole Congress and the I.N.D.I.A. alliance silenced too, all this time? Jawab Dena Hoga!" concluded Ambedkar.

The VBA has been making attempts to join the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance in Maharashtra, hoping to fight the upcoming civic, Parliament and Assembly elections jointly, but has got a cold response so far.

SEVEN MONTHS AFTER SURGERY, INDIAN SAMBAR AGAIN FROLICHS IN THE WILD

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a heartwarming recovery, a seriously injured young Indian Sambar -- which underwent surgery -- nearly seven months ago, has fully recovered, and was recently released back into the wild in Thane forests, officials said here on Tuesday.



The wounded, bleeding and shocked female Sambar was found in the Tokawade Forest Range in Thane by the Maharashtra Forest Department rangers in January this year.

Seeing the creature, around nine months old, in a critical condition and in deep pain, the team of Pradeep Roundhal, RFO, rushed it to the veterinary experts of the Wildlife SOS (WSOS) for treatment.

The veterinarian team found that her body was covered with multiple wounds presumably due to dog bites or other predators, plus she had suffered a fracture on the right forelimb possibly due to a collision or a fall.

Seeing the critical condition, the vets decided to go all out to give her a

second chance at life in the wild and made untiring efforts, at times almost round-the-clock to treat the Sambar.

First she underwent treatment at the Manikdoh Leopard Rescue Centre in Junnar (Pune), according to

Dr. Chandan Sawane, Veterinary Officer, WSOS.

"We first took help of fibreglass plaster but did not get the desired result. So we performed a minor surgery on the Sambar and then kept her

under postoperative observation for a few months to assess whether she could walk properly or not," said Dr. Sawane.

After months of extensive treatment, observation and loving care, the Sambar finally made a miraculous recovery, she got back on her feet and was back to freedom in the forests, said a delighted CEO and Co-Founder of WSOS Kartick Satyanarayan.

"This is the third treatment and release in Maharashtra this year... Earlier we helped and treated an injured Shikra bird and a Chinkara before sending them back into the wild habitat," said Satyanarayan.

Forest department officers lauded the WSOS efforts, saying it proves how dedicated their veterinary teams are and all were thrilled to see the Sambar regain her health and go back to the wild.

The charitable WSOS was formed in 1998 to rescue and rehabilitate wild animals in distress all over the country, promote conservation, combat poaching, illegal wildlife trading, etc.

Alongside Rahul's BJJ 2.0, Maha Congress to take out padayatras, bus yatra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Congress on Tuesday said that the party will launch a state-wide series of padayatras and a bus-yatra to coincide with the upcoming Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) 2.0 to be taken out from West to East of India by party MP Rahul Gandhi.

State Congress President Nana Patole said that while Rahul Gandhi will launch his BJJ 2.0 from Gujarat in the West to East India, the Maharashtra Congress will simultaneously launch a foot-and-bus yatra to expose the "corruption of Bharatiya Janata Party" before the masses in the state.

While district and regional leaders will organise 'padayatras' in six different domains, after which there will be a bus yatra that will cover the entire

state, and cover some of the remotest areas to reach out to the masses there.

The regional padayatras shall be led by Patole (Nagpur), Leader of Opposition Vijay Wadettiwar (Amravati), Congress Legislative Party Leader Balasaheb Thorat (North Maharashtra), ex-CM Ashok Chavan (Marathwada), ex-CM Prithviraj Chavan and President of Mumbai Congress Prof. Varsha Gaikwad (Mumbai), and then all leaders will converge in a padayatra in the Konkan region. "The BJP government has misled the people of the country with their false promises, farmers, labourers, working class, the youth and women are all facing severe problems and uncertain futures... It has failed the masses on burning fronts like inflation, unemployment, law

and order, etc," said Patole.

"Instead, the BJP is only creating divisions in the name of caste and religion, working for the interests of its few industrialist friends and leaving all the others to fend for themselves... We shall expose all these issues through the padayatra and the bus yatra," Patole added.

Kickstarting the ground-work for the Lok Sabha elections, the party has appointed observers in all 48 parliamentary constituencies to prepare detailed study reports for each seat.

The observers shall review each constituency critically, assess the local political situation, the strength of the Congress vis-à-vis allies and the Opposition, the prospects and proposed strategies and submit a report to the state party leadership by Aug. 15, said Patole.

MAN DIES BY SUICIDE AFTER WIFE ASKS FOR DIVORCE IN NAGPUR

Nagpur: A 26-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at his house in Maharashtra's Nagpur city, after his wife sought to divorce him, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred at Ramteke Nagar under Ajni police station area on Monday afternoon, an official said.

Mohit Sukhchand Choudhary, a native of Balaghat district of neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, hanged himself from the ceiling at his rented accommodation, he said.

The victim, who worked as a painter, got married last month. But the couple fought and argued frequently, and his wife returned to her parents' house, the official said.

Choudhary's wife eventually sought a divorce from him, he said.

The police recovered a suicide note from the spot, in which Choudhary cited his wife's intention to divorce him as the reason for the extreme step, the official said, adding that a case of accidental death has been registered.

WHO raises red flag on contaminated India-made syrup in Iraq

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday that contaminated common cold syrup found in Iraq last month was manufactured by an Indian pharmaceutical company based in Maharashtra.

The contaminated batch was manufactured by Fourts (India) Laboratories Pvt. Ltd for Dabilife Pharma Pvt Ltd, according to a WHO statement.

The cold medication made in India named 'Cold Out', found on sale in Iraq, contains toxic chemicals, reports had claimed last month.

The tests showed the cold medication is contaminated with ethylene glycol, a toxic industrial solvent.

The new WHO product alert "refers to one batch of substandard (contaminated) COLD OUT syrup (Paracetamol and Chlorpheniramine Maleate) identified in the Republic of Iraq and reported to the



WHO on July 10, 2023 by a third party", said the global health agency.

A sample of the Cold Out Syrup was obtained from one location in Iraq and submitted for laboratory analysis.

"The sample was found to contain unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol (0.25%) and ethylene glycol (2.1%) as contaminants. The acceptable safety limit for both ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol is no more than 0.10%," the WHO said in a statement.

Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal. "To date, the stated manufacturer and the marketer have not provided guarantees to WHO on the safety and quality of the product," it added.

The compound is lethal to humans in small amounts and allegedly played a role in mass child deaths caused by Indian-made cough syrups in Gambia and Uzbekistan last year, according to earlier reports.

MUMBAI POLICE ARREST 61-YEAR-OLD MAN FOR MAKING THREAT CALL TO MANTRALAYA

Mumbai: Mumbai Police on Tuesday arrested a 61-year-old man for making a threat call to Maharashtra Mantralaya, stating that a "terror attack" would take place in a day or two.

The man arrested is Prakash Kishanchand Khemani.

"Kandivai Police arrested a 61-year-old man, Prakash Kishanchand Khemani for making a threat call to Maharashtra Mantralaya last night, stating that there will be a terror attack in a day or two," Mumbai Police said.

The Mantralaya Control officer informed that they received a threat over the phone at 10 pm from an unidentified caller after which the police started to trace the caller and arrested the man Monday night.



EDITOR'S SPECS

## Rahul Gandhi: Main target of BJP

As opposition parties are upbeat after the Supreme Court stayed conviction of Rahul Gandhi in the 'Modi surname' defamation case, BJP is also gearing up to shift its strategy to attack Rahul Gandhi with a view to counter the opposition. A top BJP leader said that this question will be asked to Rahul Gandhi, who is excited only by the stay on conviction, that what is his thinking now on the independence of the judiciary and other constitutional institutions of the country and his continuous derogatory statements about democracy in India. It is being said that from Monday, in the last week of the monsoon session of the Parliament, the BJP leaders will start cornering Rahul Gandhi and the Congress in both the Houses - Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, regarding this double standard. According to sources, the BJP has included MPs from more than 12 states in the list of leaders supporting the party in the House during the discussion on the no-confidence motion. The list of leaders includes BJP MPs and ministers from poll-bound states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana as well as from West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and northeastern states. As per sources, MPs who will speak in Lok Sabha on behalf of BJP, are also preparing to attack Rahul Gandhi regarding his old statements and the statement given after the Supreme Court's decision on Friday. BJP will not only target Rahul Gandhi on his statements but will also attack states ruled by the Congress and its allies on increasing atrocities against women in Rajasthan, scams in Chhattisgarh, violence during West Bengal panchayat elections, situation in Bihar, 'corruption' of Kejriwal government. It will also target the opposition-led alliance INDIA on the condition of the states ruled by its allies.

# FOR TRIPURA'S TRIBAL PARTIES, ASSERTION OF ETHNIC IDENTITY A POLL-TIME RITUAL

Sujit Chakraborty

In the past over five and a half decades, tribal-based parties in Tripura raised tribal-centric demands including creation of the tribal autonomous body, Roman script for tribal Kokborok language, adopting traditional customary laws, wearing traditional attire, but on their own, they achieved little being short-lived in the absence of a serious ideology.

Since 1967, more than a dozen tribal-based parties in Tripura emerged and they have tried to play a crucial role in the state's electoral politics, but due to their issue-based politics sans any ideology, they became non-existent after their issues were resolved or when they raised irrelevant demands.

Of Tripura's four million populations, tribals, with 19 communities, constitute one third and out of 60 assembly seats, twenty reserved for the tribals, who belong to both Hindu and Christian faiths.

Of the state's two Lok Sabha seats, one - Tripura East -- is reserved for the tribals, who in terms of economic status are better than the tribals of other states in the northeast region and other parts of the country.

In June 1967, the Tripura Upajati Juba Samity (TUJS) was formed as the first major tribal party, raising some tribal-centric demands including creation of the tribal autonomous body.

After continuous agitations by the CPI-M led Left parties, the TUJS and a section of Congress leaders, the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) was formed in 1985 under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to protect and safeguard the political, economic and cultural interests of the tribals.

The TTAADC, which has a jurisdiction on over two-thirds of Tripura's 10,491 sq km area and is home to over 12,16,000 people, of which around 84 per cent are tribals, is, in terms of its political signif-



icance, second to the Tripura Assembly.

Tribal parties, including the Tripura Motha Party (TMP) and Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), along with the Left parties, are now demanding more constitutional power and more funds for the TTAADC.

The TMP, led by former royal scion Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman, has been governing the TTAADC since April 2021 while the IPFT is an ally of the ruling BJP.

Both the TMP and the IPFT, to capitalise the tribal vote bank, raise tribal-centric demands like upgradation of the TTAADC as a separate for the tribals even though they fully aware that such demand would never be fulfilled due to obvious reasons.

The TMP, before and after capturing the TTAADC, has been demanding elevation of the areas of the autonomous body by granting a

'Greater Tipraland State' or a separate state status under Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

Both TMP and the IPFT in support of their separate state like demands organised agitations both in the state and in the national capital Delhi.

The ruling BJP, CPI-M led Left parties, Congress and the Trinamool Congress have been strongly opposing the demands of both the IPFT and the TMP.

The TMP, in its maiden electoral battle, fielded 42 candidates, including 20 on tribal reserved seats, in February Assembly polls, and bagged 13 seats and 19.69 per cent votes as it highlighted its demand for 'Greater Tipraland State' or a separate state.

However, after the announcement of the results of the February 16 assembly polls on March 2, the TMP gradually shifted its stand on the demand.

Now the party is demanding the adoption of the Roman script for the tribal Kokborok language, the second official language in Tripura.

TMP chief Deb Barman said that his party would continue to fight for the all round development of the tribals, who, according to him, were deprived by the mainstream and national parties.

Deb Barman, who was a close friend of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, was the President of Tripura Congress but quit the party in September 2019 over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) issues.

Political commentator and writer Satyabrata Chakraborty said that the tribal parties, raising sentimental and tribal-centric demands, achieved electoral gains but after the elections, they remained

indifferent over their demands and are even though not even serious over the basic problems of tribals.

"Roads, electricity supply, health services, educational facilities and various other infrastructures are not good in the tribal areas. The tribal-based parties are only focusing on the sensitive, ethnic and emotional issues to get the electoral mileage, forgetting the tribals' day to day issues and problems," Chakraborty told correspondent.

Political analyst and author Sekhar Datta termed Deb Barman's politics as "most opportunistic".

"What is the meaning and structure of Greater Tipraland State? He is yet to convince the people of Tripura about his demand. He is misleading the people, especially the tribals.

"The TMP somehow won 13 tribal reserved seats in the recent polls, but the party's success and survival in future is gripped with deep uncertainty as more than a dozen tribal-based parties have vanished in the past six decades in Tripura," Datta told correspondent.

Before merger with the Indian union on October 15, 1949, the erstwhile princely state of Tripura was an independent kingdom under the tribal dynasty with about 185 kings ruled the kingdom for several hundred years.

However, many of the former kings have promoted Bengali culture and maintained close relations with many top personalities including Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore and Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose.

Tagore's close relations with the princely state of Tripura and its four successive tribal kings form an important chapter in the state's history.

This relationship prompted the world famous bard to visit the state as many as seven times between 1899 and 1926.

## international

# 147 PEOPLE DEAD IN US DUE TO EXTREME HEAT

Washington | Agencies

A total of 147 people have died in the US states of Arizona, Nevada and Texas this month as a result of the excruciating summer heat wave that has swept major parts of the country.

The three states have been the most-affected by the worst of this summer's extreme heat, reports CNN.

Of the 147 fatalities, Arizona's Pima and Maricopa counties accounted for 64 and 39, respectively; while 26 deaths occurred in Clark county, Nevada; and 11 and seven in Texas's Webb and Harris counties.

Several heat-related deaths were also reported in California, parts of the South and the Midwest, though the tolls have not been as high as those in the five counties mentioned above.



Maricopa county, which is home to the city of Phoenix and has officially tallied at least 39 heat-related deaths, has 312 more fatalities still under investigation.

The fatalities came as temperatures soared to record-breaking levels at the end of June, and continued to bake much of the South and

Southwest through July, reports CNN.

Phoenix logged the hottest month of any US city on record, with 31 consecutive days at or above 43 degrees Celsius from June into July.

The death toll from extreme heat to-date is far higher than tornadoes and flooding combined.

# 22 UKRAINIAN POWS RELEASED FROM RUSSIA

Kiev: Russian authorities have released 22 Ukrainian servicemen after they were held as prisoners of war, a top official in Kiev announced.

In a post on Telegram, Andriy Yermak, head of the Office of the President, said on Monday: "Today, 22 more Ukrainian soldiers were returned home from captivity. Among them are two officers, privates and non-commissioned officers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces."

"They participated in battles in different areas, and there are wounded among the released."

According to the official, the oldest of the soldiers is 54-years-old and the youngest is 23-years-old, CNN reported.

"Each of the liberated soldiers will undergo physical and psychological rehabilitation, reintegration and be provided with the necessary treatment with the support of medical specialists," he said.

Yermak thanked the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War and their team for assisting.

"We have to fulfill the President's task and return all of our people," CNN quoted Yermak as saying.

Without providing additional details, Dmytro Lubinets, the Human Rights Commissioner in the Ukrainian Parliament, said some of the released soldiers were injured.

Since the war began in February 2022, a total of 2,598 Ukrainians have been released from Russian captivity.

# Fierce clashes break out between Sudanese army, RSF

Khartoum | Agencies

Violent clashes have erupted between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Omdurman city, north of the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

Witnesses reported heavy artillery bombardments in the old neighbourhoods of Omdurman, leading civilians to flee the area, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Sudanese army bombarded the RSF stations in the old neighbourhoods such as Bait Al-Mal, Al-Shuhada, and Al-Mulazemin, while the RSF responded with anti-aircraft missiles, leading to casualties among civilians and the destruction of houses.

Local medics reported that the RSF randomly bombarded the area, resulting in the death of five people in the al-Sharifiyah neighbourhood.

The Resistance Committees of Omdurman's Abu Rouf neighbourhood stated that both the Sudanese army and RSF ordered residents to evacuate their homes, declaring the area an operation zone.

Also on Monday, the Sudanese army shared videos on its Facebook page showcasing the deployment of its forces in various areas of

Omdurman.

"Today, August 7, the heroes of the special forces carrying out combing operations starting from the Al-Imtidat area to Ombada neighbourhoods (in Omdurman)," the army said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Malik Agar revealed a government-proposed roadmap on his Facebook page to end the conflict. The roadmap includes separating the warring forces, expediting humanitarian aid delivery, protecting civilians, and initiating a political process based on state establishment.

Since April 15, Sudan has experienced deadly clashes between the Sudanese army and the RSF in Khartoum and other regions, resulting in over 3,000 deaths and more than 6,000 injuries, as reported by the Sudanese Health Ministry.

Negotiations between the Sudanese warring parties have been taking place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of Saudi Arabia and the United States since May 6. Multiple truces have been reached and violated, with both sides accusing each other of breaches.

UN estimates indicate that more than 3 million people have been displaced within and outside Sudan.

# 17 KILLED IN TWO TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MALI

Bamako: A

total of 17 people were killed and two others injured in two terrorist attacks over the weekend in central Mali, local authorities have said.

The first attack took place on Saturday in Bodio village in Bandiagara region, leaving 15 people dead and two injured, according to a statement of the Bandiagara governorate. And two people were killed in another attack on Sunday at a mine between Bodio village and Anakanda village, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Operations are underway to track down the perpetrators of this despicable act which will in no way discourage us from our eternal fight for the preservation of our country," the statement issued on Monday said.

The attacks occurred one day after the handover of the Ogoosagou camp, a military base in Bandiagara, to the Malian government from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.



# Pak puts onus on India for conducive environment for talks

Hamza Ameer | Islamabad

In response to a recent statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs holding Pakistan responsible for failing to create an environment free of terror and hostility for talks, Islamabad has now put the onus on New Delhi to create a favourable atmosphere for dialogue and peace in the region.

Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch Mumtaz Zahra Baloch stated that "dialogue was important between Pakistan and India in an environment, which is free of coercion and free of belligerence that India continues to demonstrate in the region".

The FO's statement comes in response to the Indian Ministry's recent comments on Prime Minister's Shehbaz Sharif's speech, in which he said that Pakistan was ready to talk to its neighbour "provided that the neighbour is serious to talk on serious matters, because war is not an option".

"Pakistan believed in a peaceful



neighborhood and wanted peace with all its neighbours on mutual and in conformity with international law," said Mumtaz Baloch.

"The comments of the prime minis-

ter reaffirm this position. We also believe dialogue is important between Pakistan and India in an environment which is free of coercion and free of belligerence that India continues to

demonstrate in the region. We believe the ball is in India's court to create an environment for peace and dialogue." Pakistan and India have been engaged in cross accusations against

each other, blaming one another for failing to meet the requirement and prerequisites for the peace talks.

Experts say both sides have gained their respective political mileages in the past and want to continue doing so in the future as well.

"Be it India or Pakistan, both sides and their respective governments have gained major mileage in their political standings in front of their supporters and votes in the past," senior political analyst Javed Siddique said.

"The hatred among the two countries has overpowered any hope and wish for peace or any similar initiative undertaken through a considerate decision by both parties. This is why foreign external intervention, to pressure both sides to sit across the table becomes part of a foreign policy campaign."

Sadly, the counter statements from both sides has been an ongoing practice for years, which now, for many has gained a reputation of being rhetoric and of symbolic value, limited to statements only.



## MP SHARES 13 PERCENT FORESTS OF THE COUNTRY: CM SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Madhya Pradesh has immense reserves of forest, mineral and water resources. It shares 13 percent of the country's forests. Dense forests are continuously increasing. He said that Madhya Pradesh is a Tiger State. He heartily congratulated the Forest Department for their efforts to keep it a Tiger State. He said that we are also Leopard and Alligator State. The Chief Minister was addressing inauguration ceremony of Rs 180 crore Van Bhawan at Tulsi Nagar here today.



Now there are 785 tigers in the state. Twelve lions, white tigers are also dwelling. New records have been achieved in the field of forestry. Bamboo clusters are being developed. The cooperation of the Forest Department in implementing the PESA rules is commendable. Slippers, shoes, flasks, sarees and umbrellas are being given to tendu leaf collectors. The Chief Minister said that we have made forests a boon for the people. The newly constructed Van Bhawan is a complete green building, in which full care has been taken for

air, water and light. This building will inspire the staff. There will be no dearth of space for the departmental works. Every effort will be made to improve the lives of those who protect forests.

The Chief Minister said that protection of wildlife is a pious act. It is endeavour of the state government to preserve forests, so that the emission of oxygen takes place on a large scale, and the state becomes the "Oxygen Hub".

Chouhan said that there is a deep connection between forests and for-

est dwellers. Efforts will be made to ensure prosperity in their lives through forests. Human life is not possible without forests. The earth belongs to all living beings. Environmental protection is necessary to maintain it. Commendable work has been done for protection of environment in Madhya Pradesh.

The Forest Minister Shri Shah said that under the supervision of Chief Minister Chouhan, the conservation and promotion of forests is going on excellently. Chouhan plants a sapling everyday, which is a source of inspiration for us. The Forest Department is making efforts to stop the use of plastic. Pickup vehicles have been handed over to forest committees. Provision has been made for financial assistance on death due to wild animals.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Forest Force Chief Ramesh Kumar Gupta said that every effort will be done in providing benefits of the welfare schemes to the needy. Additional Chief Secretary Forest J.N. Kansotia said that the department is dedicated to the conservation and promotion of forests. All activities will be conducted from Van Bhawan and we will be on top in every task.

## Unlike 2018, Shivraj not to solely lead BJP's 'Jan Ashirwad Yatras' in MP this time

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The BJP high command has decided to take out five 'Jan Ashirwad Yatras' in the poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, during which five prominent leaders of the party will lead the campaign to seek support from people across all 230 assembly constituencies in the state.

The party's decision to deploy five leaders to lead the campaign is seen as a major blow to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who solely led the Yatra in 2018.

According to sources, the BJP has decided to take out five yatras from different parts of the state. These yatras will be started in September.

Apart from Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister Jyotiradiya Scindia, Union Minister and Convenor of Madhya Pradesh Election Management Committee Narendra Singh Tomar, BJP National General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and state BJP President V.D. Sharma



will be the faces of the yatras.

Besides these five leaders, the party will also deploy several Union Ministers and veteran state leaders during the campaign.

According to sources, each 'yatra' will cover around 46 assembly seats in the state. Thus, these 'yatras' together will cover all the 230 assembly constituencies of the state. The campaign will conclude in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the state capital Bhopal.

Sources said that Prime Minister Modi will also address a "Karyakartas Mahakumbh" in Bhopal on September 25.

The decision regarding the Jan Ashirwad Yatra, according to sources, was taken in the meeting held at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence in New Delhi on Sunday late night.

Chouhan had also raised the issue of the programme and leadership of this yatra during the meeting, but the party high command, in a way, rejecting his suggestion, decided that it would not make any leader of the state its face this time, sources added.

With this decision, the BJP high command has given a clear indication it will contest Madhya Pradesh elections under collective leadership.

## Goa govt drops afforestation plan in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Panaji

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said that the government has dropped the plan of compensatory afforestation in Madhya Pradesh, instead it will be done in the state itself.

Replying to a question raised by Goa Forward MLA Vijai Sardesai during the ongoing Assembly session, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that after reviewing the situation, the government has taken a decision to afforest in Goa itself.

"Review of afforestation has been taken and will be done in Goa itself. We have cancelled the plan of afforestation in Madhya Pradesh. It will be done in vacant land of forest areas of the state. We have dropped plan for Madhya Pradesh," he reiterated.

Sources informed that the compensatory afforestation was advised by the Central Empowered Committee after thousands of trees were cut for highway and power projects



in the state. Last year, Goa BJP government had come under attack from the Opposition for deciding to afforest in Madhya Pradesh, which is now dropped.

## NO REASONS TO DISBELIEVE CENTRE, SAYS SC ON PROJECT CHEETAH

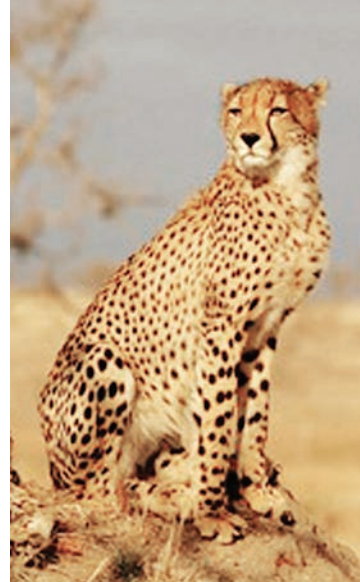
Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday said that it has no reasons to disbelieve that the Union government is taking all steps in accordance with the scientific Action Plan for introduction of cheetahs in India.

A bench of Justices B.R. Gavai, P.S. Narasimha, and Prashant Kumar Mishra said the inclusion of an expert on Steering Committee of Project Cheetah is the exclusive domain of the Central government and the court cannot thrust any expert in the panel as the court itself is not an expert in the matter.

"The number of deaths is not low given the fact that 20 cheetahs were translocated. But the general public is concerned about what is being done about the deaths," remarked the bench as nine cheetahs have died so far at Kuno National Park.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) said that the chee-



tahs are showing signs of adapting well in Indian conditions and a dedicated team of forest officials, experts,

and veterinarians are undertaking 24x7 monitoring of cheetahs. It further added that in terms of the Action Plan, 12-14 cheetahs per year will be introduced from African countries over the next 5 years, subject to their availability.

The Union government informed the Supreme Court that the Steering Committee will decide feasibility and implementation of the suggestions received from the experts in the best interests of augmenting the objectives of Project Cheetah. It has maintained before the Supreme Court that none of the cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park had died due to unnatural reasons such as poaching, snaring, poisoning, road hits, electrocution, etc. The affidavit filed by the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change said that "cheetahs in general have very low survival rates, i.e., less than 50 per cent in adults in non-introduced populations". The reply said in the case of

introduced population, the survival rates may lead to about 10 per cent survival in cubs. The Union government submitted that the veterinary care, day to day management and monitoring and other aspects relating to ecology and behaviour of cheetahs is being done by the NTCA in consultation with international experienced experts. The bench had suggested the government to consider if cheetahs could be relocated to other locations, like in Jawai National Park in Rajasthan.

The NTCA told the Supreme Court, after consulting experts, that the Mukundra Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan is not suited to accommodate cheetahs as there were five tiger deaths/disappearances in 2020 within a very short span of time. The tiger reserve has a large number of feral cattle carrying a significant amount of parasitic load which can be detrimental to the survival chances to the cheetahs, it added.

## Two Minors Gang-raped In Rewa; 5 Held

TWO MINOR GIRLS WERE ALLEGEDLY GANG-RAPED BY SEVEN ACCUSED IN A FOREST IN MADHYA PRADESH'S REWA DISTRICT, A POLICE OFFICIAL SAID ON TUESDAY.



Team Absolute | Rewa

The incident occurred under Hanumana police station limits in the district around 25 days ago. The accused had also shot a video of the crime and made it viral on social media after which the matter came to light.

Rewa Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Anil Sonkar said, "A minor girl along with her cousin sister

had gone to the forest to graze goats. During this, there were some boys of

the same village who were roaming in the forest and they raped both the

girls."

After that, the accused had threatened the victims that they had made a video of the incident and would make the video viral if they dare to tell anything to anyone. As a result of which the victims did not register a complaint out of fear in the matter, the officer said. "After the video of the incident went viral, the Hanumana police investigated, reached out to the victims and talked to them. The victims accepted that such an incident occurred after that a case was registered into the matter. It was also found that seven accused had raped the girls on incident day, out of which the police arrested five accused and two escaped," Additional SP said.

Following which two police teams have been searching separately to nab the remaining two accused. They will be arrested soon, he added.

## P.M. Modi is visiting Madhya Pradesh on August 12 - Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Madhya Pradesh on August 12. He will lay foundation for Sant Ravidas Temple and Memorial at Badkuma in Sagar. Sharing this information with media representatives after planting saplings at the garden located at Shyamala Hills here today, the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Samarsata Yatras are going on and will conclude on August 12 at Badkuma in Sagar.

It may be recalled here that on the birth anniversary of Sant Ravidasji, it was announced at Sagar that a grand temple and a memorial of Sant Ravidasji would be

built at Badkuma (Sagar) at a cost of Rs 100 crore. It is a matter of happiness that the Prime Minister Modi is visiting for foundation laying ceremony.

**PETROCHEMICAL EXPANSION PLAN WORTH 50 THOUSAND CRORES**

The Chief Minister Chouhan said that Prime Minister Modi will offer many gifts to Madhya Pradesh and Bundelkhand in the form of development initiatives. He will perform Bhumi Pujan of expansion projects of Bina Refinery Petrochemical. The BPCL's refinery is operative in Madhya Pradesh since 2011, now it will be expanded to making of petrochemicals. BPCL will spend about Rs. 50 thousand crore rupees on

this project. Tax exemption and facilities have been made available to BPCL by the state government.

**Bhoomipujan of Mori-Kori-Vidisha-Hinautia 'Fourlane' and Hinautia-Melua 'Two Lane' roads**

The Chief Minister further informed that the Prime Minister Modi will also lay foundation for 47 kilometer Mori-Kori-Vidisha-Hinautia Package-1 'Four-Lane' and Hinautia-Melua Package-2 'Two-Lane' roads costing about one thousand crore rupees. This will provide better connectivity in Central India and tourists could easily reach the Buddha Stupa of our World Heritage Sanchi, Ashoka Pillar and cave temples built on the rocks of Udayagiri.

## 15 Tribals From Anuppur Beaten In Rajkot, Congress Mounts Attack

Team Absolute | Bhopal

People from Anuppur district who went to Rajkot in Gujarat in search for work, were beaten by contractor who charged them with burglary.

Congress party has demanded inquiry into the matter. The incident took place under Paal police station limits on August 5.

The tribal youths were thrashed mercilessly and kept hostage. Four youths received severe injuries. The company management confiscated their Aadhaar cards and mobile phones. A video of the act went viral.

Instead of taking action against those who beat tribal youths, Gujarat Police forced both the parties to compromise, sources said.

Former chief minister Kamal Nath has demanded



justice for tribals. "I want to know from state government

whether they will take action against brutal treatment of

## Welfare of poor is our firm resolve, AUGMENTING basic facilities and welfare schemes will continue for social justice: C.M. Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that basic civic amenities will be continuously maximized and welfare schemes will be implemented more effectively for social justice. Welfare of the poor is our resolve. Madhya Pradesh is continuously progressing. Poverty is reduced by concerted efforts. Only income is not the measurement of poverty. Prosperity is possible by strengthening infrastructure and by raising the standard of living, balancing the environment, conservation of wildlife.

The Chief Minister Chouhan expressed happiness by that Madhya Pradesh's has contributed about 10 percent to reducing the burden of poverty in the country. He congratulated citizens as well as all the members of the team involved in development processes for this success.

The Chief Minister was addressing a discussion session with experts on the report of NITI Aayog at Kushabhau Thakre International



Convention Auditorium here today. A policy brief on multidimensional poverty was handed over to the Chief Minister. This report highlights the journey to free 1 crore 36 lakh people from poverty. A copy of the policy brief published by the Madhya Pradesh State Policy and Planning

Commission was also released. The Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Secretary to Chief Minister and Public Relations Vivek Porwal along with senior officers, economists and research students were also present.

It is worth mentioning that 1 crore 36 lakh people have come out of

poverty in Madhya Pradesh between 2015-16 and 2019-21. The intensity of poverty, which used to be 47.25 percent has reduced to 43.70 percent. The intensity of multidimensional poverty is measured by taking into account the average percentage of the three dimensions of health, education and standard of living.

The Chief Minister Chouhan said the only fulfilling the basic need of food, clothes, housing, employment, education and medicine is not enough. Every human being aspires a happy life. For this sound body, soul, intellect and mind are a pre-requisite. In past there was no electricity, no proper roads, no water system in Madhya Pradesh. Today we have succeeded in increasing the irrigation capacity from 7.5 lakh hectare to 47 lakh hectare in two decades.

Foodgrain production has increased. The per capita income, which was only 11 thousand, has increased to one lakh 40 thousand today. The contribution of Madhya Pradesh to the country's economy has increased from 3 percent to 4.8 percent.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Noah Schnapp is grateful that his 'Stranger Things' character has helped him come out as gay, as the actor much like his character in the series was unsure of how to tackle the subject. In an interview with Variety, Schnapp opened up about how having his 'Stranger Things' character Will Byers embrace his sexuality in the series also allowed him to do the same. The 18-year-old actor said he kept putting off posting a video announcement he had shot on his phone.

His closest friends kept texting him: "When are you going to post it? I want to see the world's reaction!" Schnapp kept replying: "No, I'm not ready. I'm not ready. I'm not ready."

But on January 5, after his family dropped off his twin sister, Chloe, at college in Boston, he felt ready. As they started the hours-long drive back to their home in Westchester, N.Y., he posted the eight-second video to more than 31 million followers on TikTok. "When I finally told my friends and family I was gay after being scared in the closet for 18 years and all they said was 'we know'."

"Once I did fully embrace that Will was gay, it was just an exponential speed towards accepting it for myself," said Schnapp. "I would be in a completely different place if I didn't have Will to portray, and to embrace and help me accept myself."

Schnapp, founder of TBH, a hazelnut spread, admitted: "I think if I never played that character, I probably would still be closeted."

Though Schnapp initially was hesitant to confront his sexuality and address it with the world, publicly confirming that his character was gay helped shift his perspective.

"It kind of blew up in the press, and everyone was like, 'Oh, Will's gay! Hooray!'" he recalled. "I saw all these comments on Instagram and TikTok. There was not one bad thing about him being gay. I was like, 'If he has all this support, then why should I worry about anything?'"

Since sharing his truth, Schnapp was able to celebrate his first Pride Month in New York City. He shared a glimpse of his celebrations on Instagram, including photos of him rocking a rainbow-coloured "Straight Out of the Closet" T-shirt. "First pride," he captioned the post.

Noah Schnapp says, his 'Stranger Things' character helped him come out as gay



## BTS SENSATION V TO RELEASE SOLO ALBUM 'LAYOVER' ON SEPTEMBER 8

Seoul | Agencies

K-pop sensation Kim Taehyung, professionally known as V from BTS, is now gearing up to release his own solo album, much to the delight of the BTS Army and K-pop lovers in general. The album will consist of over six tracks and is called 'Layover' and will release on September 8, 2023. The album was announced by the South Korean company BigHit Music, which said "Hello. This is BIGHIT MUSIC. We are excited to share more details about the release of BTS member V's solo album 'Layover'". "Layover" consists of six tracks in total - five tracks and a bonus track. To fully appreciate the album's flow, we recommend listening to it in sequence from start to finish, the label further mentioned.

The album will mark a slight departure from BTS style and focus entirely on V's own vocals as he adopts new vocal techniques and stylistically different aspects to both songwriting and music production while keeping intact the K-pop style and BTS vibe that V is famous for. The singer's inaugural solo debut will consist of five announced tracks which are called 'Rainy Days', 'Blue', 'Love Me Again', 'Slow Dancing', 'For Us', and an additional as of yet untitled bonus track.

The album has largely been kept a mystery, though according to a few bits of information provided by BigHit Music on Weverse and some fans from X, the album aims to expand beyond K-pop and will add in some elements of R&B, electronic, techno, power-pop and some level of experimental/avantgarde approach, though it will largely still be rooted within the traditional songwriting structure of K-pop. Talking about the tracks, BigHit said: "1. 'Rainy Days': In this track, V's voice melds beautifully with the sound of rain and everyday white noises, tugging at the listeners' heartstrings.

## ZOE TERAKES RESPONDS TO KUWAIT'S BAN ON 'TALK TO ME'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kuwait in an usual move had banned the Australian horror film 'Talk To Me' on Friday due to it featuring a trans actor. In response, Zoe Terakes, who identifies herself as trans, gave out a statement saying there are no LGBTQ themes in the movie, and that they are just an actor who got the role.

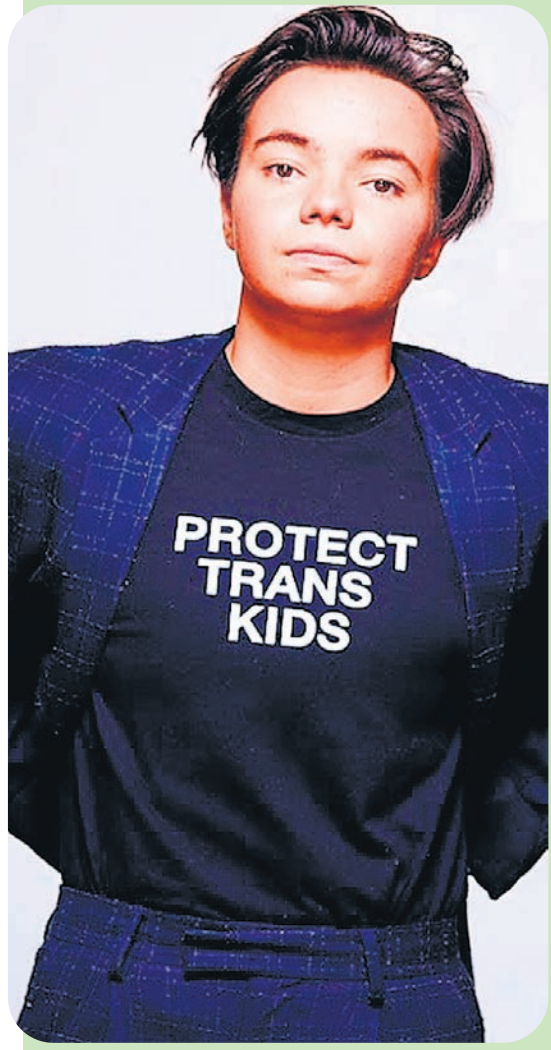
In a statement on X, Terakes talking about the ban said: "Our film doesn't have queer themes. I am a trans actor who happened to get the role. I'm not a theme. I'm a person."

They added, "Kuwait has banned this film due to my identity alone. It is a targeted and dehumanising means to harm me."

In a post back in August 4, the actor further said: "As much as it is very sad to be on the receiving end of this, what is even more heartbreaking is what this precedent means for the queer and trans people of Kuwait."

"Eliminating trans actors on screens will not eliminate trans people (as much as the government of Kuwait wishes it would) but it will eliminate a lot of hope. And hope is such a large part of how we live as marginalised people. It's how we learn to move through the hatred and the mistreatment and the violence," they further mentioned.

This is nothing new as Kuwait is one of the strictest countries not just in Middle East, but in the whole world when it comes to pro-LGBTQ and pro-Left content, leading to a ban on many films, the latest example being 'Barbie', despite it being greenlit for release in both Saudi Arabia and the UAE. What made the ban surprising is that this ban was caused entirely due to someone's identity, which is new for the country.



Los Angeles | Agencies

## ADAM DEVINE SAYS MARVEL HAS 'RUINED' GENRE OF HOLLYWOOD COMEDY MOVIES

Actor Adam Devine has shared his theory that Marvel movies and other superhero films killed the traditional Hollywood comedy.

The 'Workaholics' and 'Pitch Perfect' actor recently appeared on Theo Von's 'This Past Weekend' podcast during his press tour for Netflix's 'The Out-Laws' and shared his theory, reports Variety.

The actor noted that because Marvel movies rely so much on humour they ended up becoming Hollywood's new de facto comedy films.

"You watch comedies nowadays and you're like, this is not a f\*\*\*\*\* comedy," Devine said.

"Where are the jokes? Where are the bits? There are still good (comedy) shows, but movie comedy, it's hard. My theory: I think Marvel ruined it. I feel like superhero movies ruined comedies because you go to the theatre and you expect to watch something that cost \$200 million to make, and comedy movies aren't that."

He further mentioned, quoted by Variety, "So you're like, 'Why would I spend the same amount of money to go watch a little comedy in the theatre if I can spend that and watch something that is worth \$200 million?' And they still make those movies kind of funny, like, 'Oh my god, is that raccoon talking?' This is hilarious! Which it is, but it's not a real comedy."

"Every studio used to put out several comedies a year," Devine noted. "And there were like 45 comedies in the theatre per year. So every week or so, there's a new comedy in the theatres. Now, last year, there were like 6 or 7. It's crazy."

'The Out-Laws', produced by Adam Sandler's Happy Madison company, is more akin to the Hollywood comedies that used to exist, Devine argued. The movie puts an action spin on 'Meet the Parents' and includes Pierce Brosnan, Nina Dobrev and Ellen Barkin.

## Jennifer Aniston turns off Insta comments amid Jamie Foxx's controversy



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Jennifer Aniston has turned off comments on her Instagram account amid the controversy over Jamie Foxx's anti-Semitic comments. Jamie came under fire last week after he posted a message on Instagram that read: "They killed this dude called Jesus...what do you think they'll do to you?????" and used the hashtags #fakefriends and #fakelove.

Many people took this as an anti-Semitic post, as some believe that the Jewish people are to blame for the death of Jesus.

The message appeared to have been

liked by an account using the name Jennifer Aniston. There are various accounts on the social media app that use the name 'Jennifer Aniston' in their bio.

The 'Friends' star quickly denounced the post and denied any connection to it in her Instagram Stories.

She clarified her stance earlier, saying: "This really makes me sick. I did not 'like' this post on purpose or by accident. And more importantly, I want to be clear to my friends and anyone hurt by this showing up in their feeds - I do NOT support any form of anti-Semitism. And I truly don't tolerate HATE of any kind. Period."

Jamie deleted the offending post, and wrote a statement clarifying that he did not have the Jewish community in mind when he uploaded the note.

He clarified that he was "betrayed by a fake friend" and that's who he was calling out with the post, "not anything more". Celebrities like Winnie Harlow supported Jamie by saying, "I'm so confused...it's so clear what you were saying."

Rapper WakaFlocka spoke out supporting Jamie Foxx saying it was clear that he wasn't trying to be antisemitic.

Other X users agreed, with one writing: "Any black person growing up in the south will tell you that Jamie Foxx wasn't referring to Jewish people."

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jordana Brewster



### Women's World Cup

## COLOMBIA MAKE FOOTBALL HISTORY BY MOVING INTO LAST 8

Melbourne | Agencies

Colombia made football history in FIFA Women's World Cup as they built on the momentum to reach the quarterfinals by knocking out Jamaica 1-0 in a Round of 16 match here on Tuesday.

Colombia moved to the knockout phase for the second time by winning Group H having previously achieved the feat at the finals in 2015. Their last appearance in the round of 16 saw them go down 2-0 to the U.S., reports Xinhua.

Jamaica have earned an unexpected last-16 spot after eliminating Brazil in Group F and qualified for the knockouts for the first time, becoming the third team from CONCACAF to achieve that in the history of the competition after U.S. and Canada. They are one of three teams that did not concede a single goal in the group stage.

It was fairly a tedious first half, as both sides failed to create genuine chances. Jamaica saw their two attempts wide of the framework while Colombia only managed one



of five shots on target. The tempo accelerated straight after the break as Colombia tipped the balance of the tie in the 51st minute, when Ana Guzman spread the play down the right, Deneisha Blackwood's error allowed Catalina Usme to beat goalkeeper Rebecca Spencer one-

on-one. Jody Brown was close to equalising for Jamaica just three minutes later, but her header from a close range was cleared off the line.

Jamaica created another huge chance in the 82nd minute, but Drew Spence saw her towering header inches

wide, while on the other end, Leicy Santos steered her header onto the upright.

Despite Jamaica's bid for an equaliser, Colombia's solid defense left them no chance until the final whistle. Colombia will now face England in the quarterfinal on Saturday.

### IND vs WI T20I

## India beat WI by 7 wickets to keep series alive

Georgetown (Guyana) | Agencies

Under fire for his recent failures in ODI matches and first two T20Is, Suryakumar Yadav bounced back with an explosive knock of 83 off 44 balls while Tilak Varma struck an unbeaten 49 as India beat West Indies by seven wickets in the third T20I at Providence Stadium, here on Tuesday.

This triumph keeps India alive in the five-match series as they reduced to margin to 2-1.

After the early dismissal of debutant opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, India swiftly regrouped with Suryakumar Yadav's classy performance as he built an impressive 87-run partnership for the third wicket with Tilak (49 not out).

Thanks to Surya and Tilak's impressive knocks, India chased down the 160-run target in 17.5 overs, revitalising their hopes in the series after facing defeats in the first two matches.

Chasing 160, India had a shocking start as they lost Jaiswal early in the first over. Then, Yadav came and quickly launched an attack with his big hits.

Gill once again fell cheaply as he threw his wicket in the fifth over when he looked to pull it away but got the top edge for Jonathan Charles to take a comfortable catch.



Varma, who was the top scorer in the last two games, continued with his fine form and started with back-to-back boundaries. Suryakumar and Varma went for three big hits to take the Power-play score to 60/2.

Soon, Yadav brought up his 14th T20 fifty off just 23 with a fine boundary. He maintained his aggressive approach, achieving a milestone of 100 international sixes by skillfully dispatching a slower ball for a spectacular maximum. Building on that achievement, he promptly struck a boundary. At the halfway point, India found themselves

in a dominant position at 97-2. Surya's impressive innings concluded in the 13th over, as he directed Alzarri Joseph's full toss towards fine leg, where King remained stationary and completed the catch without any difficulty.

After Surya's dismissal, Tilak took centrestage and went for a few big hits but missed out on his second fifty as captain Hardik Pandya finished the chase with a maximum to keep India alive in the series.

Earlier, opting to bat first, West Indies got off to a decent start with openers Kyle Mayers and Brandon King stitched a 55-run opening stand. However, India made a comeback with Kuldeep Yadav taking two wickets in an over.

But the hosts got the rhythm through skipper Rovman Powell, who's unbeaten 19-ball 40 quickfire powered West Indies to 159/5 in 20 overs.

### Brief scores

**West Indies 159/5 in 20 overs (Brandon King 42, Rovman Powell 40\*; Kuldeep Yadav 3-28) lost to India 164/3 in 17.5 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 83, Tilak Varma 49 not out; Alzarri Joseph 2-25) by seven wickets.**

## Sports Ministry to fund 28 Indian athletes for World Athletics Championship in Budapest

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sports Ministry will fund the participation of the Indian contingent, consisting 28 athletes, for the upcoming World Athletics Championships, which will be held in Budapest, Hungary from August 19.

A 42-member contingent, including coaches and support staff, are heading for the world event which will have the best of the best athletes from across the world competing.

In the previous edition, a total of 6 individuals reached the finals at the World Championships in 2022 with 3 of them making it to Top 8 finishes & Neeraj returning with a historic silver medal.



This was India's best performance in any edition of the World Athletics Championships.

The funding will cover the team's training cost, plus boarding/lodging costs, air-fare, visa costs and Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA) among other expenditures, a media release from the Ministry said on Tuesday.

Out of 28 competing athletes, 13 are Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) athletes and 15 would be competing at the World Championships for the very first time.

Former U20 World Athletics Championships silver medalist, Shaile Singh, is the youngest member of the contingent. The 19-year-old would be competing in her first senior World Championships this year.

### 132nd Durand Cup

## Sadaoui's hat-trick helps FC Goa start season with 6-0 win over Shillong Lajong

Guwahati | Agencies

Top Indian Super League (ISL) club FC Goa began their Durand Cup 2023 group stage campaign on a rousing note on Tuesday, beating Shillong Lajong FC 6-0 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium here.

Rowlin Borges, Victor Rodriguez and Carlos Martinez scored a goal each on their debut for the Men in Orange, while Noah Sadaoui picked up from where he left off last season by notching a hat-trick.

Assistant coach Benito Montalvo led the Gaurs' charge on Tuesday, in the absence of head coach Manolo Marquez who is serving a red-card suspension from the last season.

The Argentinian tactician handed Sandesh Jhingam, Odei Onaindia and Rowlin Borges their first starts for the Club, while Carlos Martinez, Victor Rodriguez and Raynier Fernandes also made their debuts in the second half. It took FC Goa just



15 minutes after kick-off to break the deadlock. Brandon found Devendra Murgaokar in the six-yard box with a free-kick, and the latter flicked the ball on to Borges to find the back of the net with ease. Noah Sadaoui doubled their lead five minutes later, with Murgaokar once again in the thick of things as he laid the ball off for his teammate to finish into an empty goal, with the goalkeeper caught out of position.

The Moroccan international scored his second goal in the 27th minute, after latching on to a long pass played by Brandon from close to the halfway line and beating the keeper with a fine shot into the far corner of the net.

Following the change of ends, FC Goa adopted a relaxed approach to playing the game and were happy to just move the ball amongst themselves patiently in search of the next opportunity to strike.

This was finally delivered by substitute Sanson Pereira in the 68th minute when he squared it to Victor Rodriguez from the edge of the six-yard box for the latter to score within minutes of coming on. Carlos Martinez then put his name on the score-sheet in the 83rd minute, while Sadaoui completed his hat-trick, three minutes later to add the finishing touches to FC Goa's first win of the season.

Next up for the Men in Orange in Group D of the Durand Cup, is a clash against fellow Indian Super League (ISL) outfit NorthEast United FC, at Guwahati on Saturday.

## Swimmer Shoan Ganguly bags silver at Youth Commonwealth Games

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian swimmer Shoan Ganguly won silver at Youth Commonwealth Games in Trinbago.

Ganguly claimed silver in the boys 400m individual medley swimming event. He came with the best Indian time of 4:25.47 to finish behind England's Reece Grady (4:24:16), while Scotland's Evan Davidson won the bronze with a swim of 4:25:68.

Notably, the fastest time clocked by an Indian swimmer is called "Bested Indian Time" while a timing is considered a national meet record when it has been achieved at the National Aquatic Championships. Meanwhile, another Indian athlete Anupriya Valliyot Sasi won bronze medal in the girl's shot-put at the ongoing Commonwealth Youth Games.

Anupriya threw the iron ball to a distance of 15.62m in her third attempt to claim the third spot, behind South Africa's



Alicia Eli Khunou (17.97) and Australia's Xylavene Beale (16.31) respectively.

In other results, Ridhima Kumar Veerendra (30.04) finished seventh in women's 50m backstroke.

A 24-member Indian contingent is competing at the Commonwealth Youth Games 2023, which will conclude on August 11.

### Leagues Cup

## Messi's Inter Miami to face Charlotte in last eight

Washington | Agencies

Charlotte came from behind to secure a 2-1 away victory over Houston Dynamo and set up a Leagues Cup quarterfinal with Lionel Messi's Inter Miami.

Corey Baird put Houston ahead with an early strike at the PNC stadium and it took until the 80th minute for the visitors to equalize as Patrick Agyemang fired home after combining with Jaylin Lindsey, Xinhua reported.

Brazilian central defender Micael gifted the visitors the lead a minute later when he inadvertently turned the ball into his own net while attempting a clearance. Charlotte defended resolutely thereafter and will now face Messi and company in Fort Lauderdale on Friday. In Monday's only other Leagues Cup fixture, Queretaro also advanced to the quarterfinals by beating New England 4-3 on penalties after the scores were tied 1-1 at the final whistle.

The Leagues Cup is an annual competition that includes teams from the United States, Mexico and Canada.



## Bridge: Indian U31 team bags bronze medal in World Youth Teams Championship

Kolkata | Agencies

The Indian under-31 bridge team comprising Sagnik Roy, Sayantan Kushari, Souvik Kar, Pritam Das, Wrik Chakraborty and Swarnashish Chatterjee has won a bronze medal in the 18th World Youth Teams Bridge Championships held in Veldhoven, the Netherlands.

The team added a feather to its cap when it finished third by defeating China in the event for the event held from July 31 to August 7.

The Indian team, coached by former Asiad gold medalist Shibnath Dey Sarkar, narrowly lost to France in the semifinals but came back strongly to beat China in the play-off for bronze. France beat Belgium 159-136 in the



final to win the gold medal.

The Indian team defeated China 112 IMP to 104 in the third-place playoff on Monday evening, outscoring their rivals 43-40 in the first segment. In the second segment, China outscored India 36-27 but in the third segment, the Indians came back strongly and bagged it 42-28 for a total of 112-104.

Before that, India overcame Bulgaria 128-126 IMP in the

quarterfinals after the team was ranked second with 253.79 points at the end of the 19-round preliminary stage with China (269.05 IMP) topping the table.

In the U-16 category, the Indian team finished 20th in the round-robin league and failed to make it to the knockout stages. In the U21 category, India finished 17th while in the U26 team also came 20th in the preliminary round.

### Canadian Open

## Keys holds off Venus Williams in opener; Brady beats Ostapenko

Montreal (Canada) | Agencies

Madison Keys defeated Venus Williams 6-2, 7-5 in the first round of the Canadian Open, here.

In the sixth career meeting between the two Americans, Keys secured her fourth win over Williams with a steady performance from the baseline. Seeded 13th in Montreal, Keys has been in resurgent form since the start of the grass season. She has made the quarterfinals or better in her last three tournaments, including last week at the Mubadala Citi DC Open.

Keys kept Williams at bay for most of the match, going unbroken until she stepped to the line to serve out the win at 6-2, 5-4. Williams played her best game of the match, digging in to save seven match points before breaking Keys for the first time. Keys responded immediately, breaking Williams for a fourth time in the match before closing out the 1-hour and 52-minute win on her ninth match point of the Monday night. Keys will face Italy's Jasmine Paolini in the second round. Paolini defeated Donna Vekic 7-



6(3), 6-2 earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, 2020 US Open finalist Jennifer Brady's comeback picked up steam after surviving two match points to defeat Jelena Ostapenko 7-6(7), 0-6, 7-6(8) in the first round. The victory marked a full-circle moment for the American, who last faced Ostapenko two years ago in Cincinnati. Brady sustained a knee injury in that match, which would trigger a series of injuries that would keep her off the tour for nearly two years. Brady will face 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina in the next round.

### Asian Games

## Indian men's hockey team to start off against Uzbekistan; Women to face Singapore in opener

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) and the Organising Committee of the 19th Asian Games on Tuesday jointly announced the pools and competition schedule for the men's and women's hockey competitions.

The Hockey schedule was approved by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

The men's team is placed in Pool A along with reigning Asian Games champions Japan, and arch-rivals Pakistan, Bangladesh, Singapore, and Uzbekistan complete Pool A. Korea, Malaysia, China, Oman, Thailand and Indonesia are the remaining nations competing at the Games and are placed in Pool B.

With a chance to earn a direct



qualification to next year's Paris Olympic Games, the Indian men's hockey team will open its campaign against Uzbekistan on September 24.

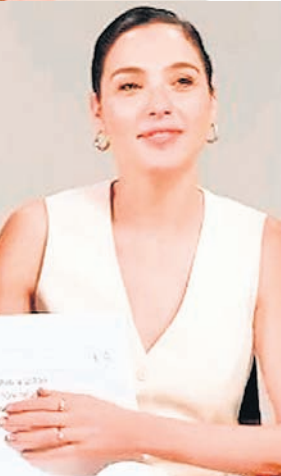
After the opening game against Uzbekistan, men's team will play Singapore on September 26 before locking horns with Japan on

September 28. The highly-anticipated India vs Pakistan clash has been scheduled for September 30, followed by their last group-stage match against Bangladesh on October 2.

Meanwhile, the women's team, which won the silver medal at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, are placed in Pool A along with Korea, Malaysia, Hong Kong China, and Singapore. Reigning Champions Japan, along with China, Thailand, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia are the other teams in the competition and are placed in Pool B. After playing Singapore in their opening match on September 27, the India women will lock horns with Malaysia on September 29, followed by a clash with Korea on October 1. Their last group stage fixture will be against Hong Kong on October 3.



## GAL GADOT SPEAKS TELUGU IN Q&A SESSION WITH ALIA BHATT



Team Absolute | New Delhi

**G**al Gadot, best known for her role as Wonder Woman in the DCEU, is all set to release her upcoming action-spy-thriller film 'Heart of Stone'.

During the promotions for the movie, where she was sitting with her co-star Alia Bhatt, Gadot in a very surprising move spoke Telugu which really captivated the Indian audiences, particularly Telugu speakers.

The DC star was sitting with Alia as the latter tried to teach her a little bit of Telugu during their Q&A session on 'Wired' answering 'Google's Most Asked Questions.' One of the subjects which emerged was 'Does Gal Gadot speak Telugu?'

To this, Alia, who is just now riding off the success of her film 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii PremKahani' said that she can speak a little bit of Telugu though she is not fluent in the language.

Gadot asked Alia to teach her some to which she complied and taught her the line "Andariki Namaskaram," which roughly translates to "Hello everyone."

Gadot then proceeded to speak the sentence with confidence with the correct pronunciation,

which really took everyone by surprise. The language has become a big phenomenon globally after the massive success of 'RRR' in 2022 which brought Tollywood into the international limelight.

While Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam films had some audience outside of India such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Korea, China, Thailand, Japan, Bangladesh, the UAE, Russia, South Africa, Nigeria, Tajikistan etc. South Indian cinema only began gaining full on global traction with 'Bahubali' and then exploded with 'RRR' gaining a massive audience in the West and even other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Ireland and Israel.

'Heart of Stone' is directed by Tom Harper with Gadot also serving as producer where she will portray a lethal spy named Stone while Alia will serve as one of the primary antagonists KeyaDhawan, a proficient hacker and killer.

## Sonu Sood gets huge pop art tribute spanning 1.17 lakh sqft in Punjab

Team Absolute | Mumbai

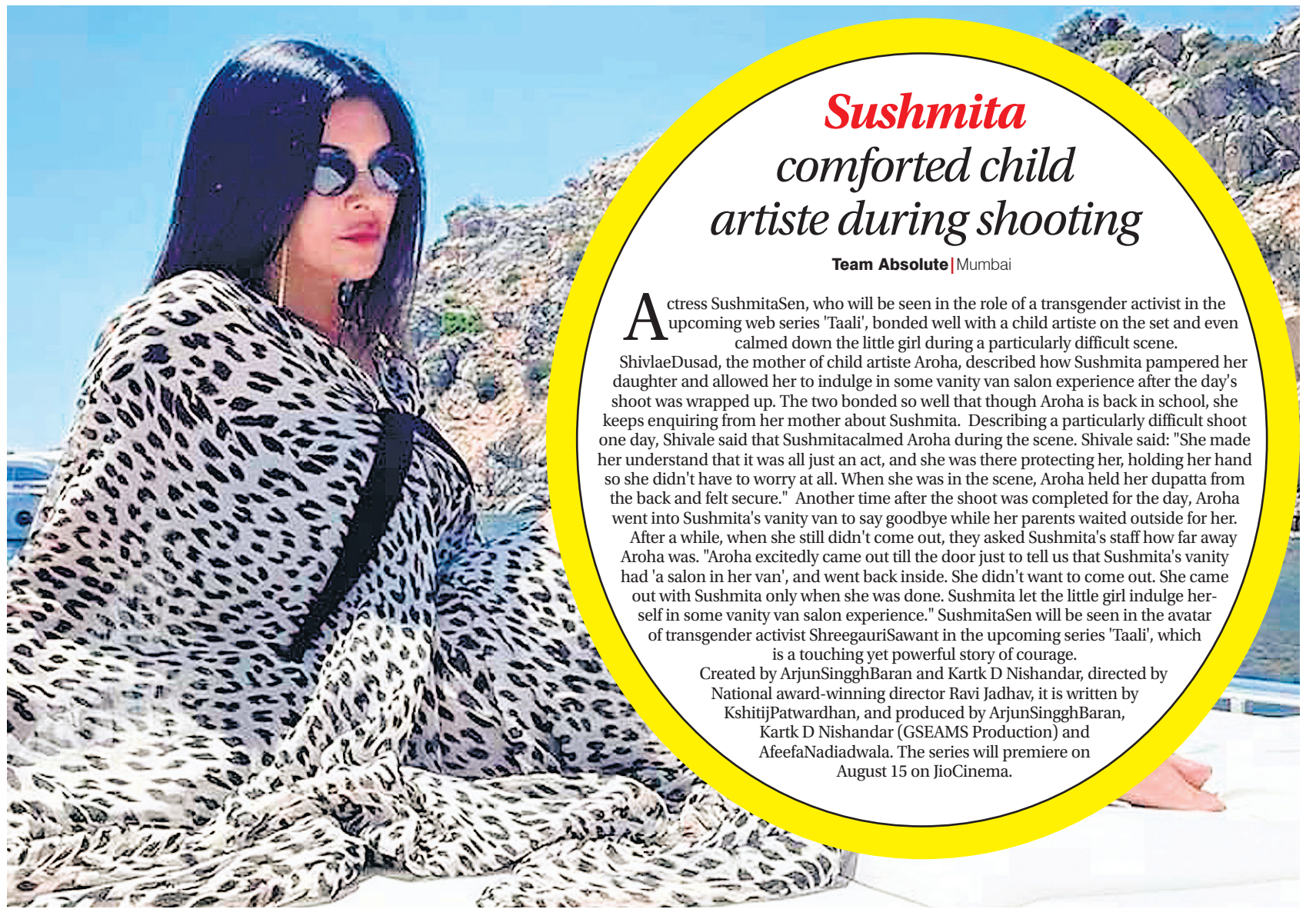
**I**n a great show of a passionate tribute, actor SonuSood has been honoured with a well crafted massive pop art piece which spans over an enormous 1.17 lakh sqft at the village of Ajitwal, in the Moga district of Punjab.

The art piece was a recognition for Sonu's creative talent, many contributions to the entertainment industry and his humanitarian efforts. Sonu's own humanitarianism gained national traction when he was helping people at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, particularly during crisis of oxygen cylinders, beds and hospital admissions along with getting vaccine shots.

The art piece was created by Team Indian Creative Unity which is a collective unit of passionate artists, and skilled craftsmen.

The art piece by the cohort was an extraordinary way for the team to express their own admiration. Through their artistic brilliance, they aimed to encapsulate not only the actor's cinematic journey but also his many humanitarian efforts during times of crisis.

Recently, as the host of MTV Roadies 19 or 'MTV Roadies: KarmYaKaand', Sonu has been engaging the viewers with his attitude, endearing personality and his intelligent spree in handing out tasks to the Gangs. On Roadies, the 'Singh is King' actor has gained a flair for the dramatic, where he often hands out things in the most unexpected manner which catches audiences by surprise. Packing a solid fan base, the actor's ardent admirers are looking forward to the release of his latest film 'Fateh,' an action-packed feature that promises to take viewers on a wild ride.



## Sushmita comforted child artiste during shooting

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Sushmita Sen, who will be seen in the role of a transgender activist in the upcoming web series 'Taali', bonded well with a child artiste on the set and even calmed down the little girl during a particularly difficult scene.

Shivlaxmi Dusat, the mother of child artiste Aroha, described how Sushmita pampered her daughter and allowed her to indulge in some vanity van salon experience after the day's shoot was wrapped up. The two bonded so well that though Aroha is back in school, she keeps enquiring from her mother about Sushmita. Describing a particularly difficult shoot one day, Shivlaxmi said that Sushmita calmed Aroha during the scene. Shivlaxmi said: "She made her understand that it was all just an act, and she was there protecting her, holding her hand so she didn't have to worry at all. When she was in the scene, Aroha held her dupatta from the back and felt secure." Another time after the shoot was completed for the day, Aroha went into Sushmita's vanity van to say goodbye while her parents waited outside for her.

After a while, when she still didn't come out, they asked Sushmita's staff how far away Aroha was. "Aroha excitedly came out till the door just to tell us that Sushmita's vanity had 'a salon in her van', and went back inside. She didn't want to come out. She came out with Sushmita only when she was done. Sushmita let the little girl indulge herself in some vanity van salon experience." Sushmita Sen will be seen in the avatar of transgender activist Shreegauri Sawant in the upcoming series 'Taali', which is a touching yet powerful story of courage.

Created by Arjun Singh Baran and Kartik D Nishandar, directed by National award-winning director Ravi Jadhav, it is written by Kshitij Patwardhan, and produced by Arjun Singh Baran, Kartik D Nishandar (GSEAMS Production) and Afeefa Nadiadwala. The series will premiere on August 15 on JioCinema.

## Jayati Narula: Director Gul Khan treated 'Aashiqana' series like her baby

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**A**ctress Jayati Narula, who has joined the family of 'Aashiqana' in the season four has heaped praises on the series director Gul Khan, saying she treated the show like her 'baby'. Gul Khan has created a world of her own for fans and audiences with 'Aashiqana' across seasons and we can't seem to get enough.

Talking about working with Gul, Jayati shared: "The first time I got an opportunity to see Gul Khan in person, I was amazed by how she makes everything comfortable and warm with her presence. It wouldn't be wrong to say that she has treated the Aashiqana series like her baby! I could see pin boards everywhere in her house, all filled with details of Aashiqana." 'Aashiqana' season four deals with bigger threats, several hurdles and a mysterious folklore.

As the modern world meddles with old world and customs, a Pandora's box opens unleashing a curse, an untold mystery and paranormal forces like never before. Zaynab Khan (as Yash), and Khushi Dubey (as Chikki) have returned with this season to unveil the secrets of the past and face the brunt of an unforeseen curse.

While Yash and Chikki are standing on different paths, their lives are set to take an unusual, spooky turn, leaving us wanting for more. The series also features Himani Shivpuri, Jayati Narula, Indrajeet Modi and Geeta Tyagi in pivotal roles. Directed by Gul Khan, and produced by Gen K Studios, 'Aashiqana 4' is streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.



## FARIA ABDULLAH WENT 500 FEET DEEP INSIDE REAL MINE TO SHOOT 'THE JENGABURU CURSE' SCENES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Faria Abdullah, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming streaming series 'The Jengaburu Curse', has shared that the team went 500 feet deep inside the mines to shoot some scenes of the series. For the same, they had to wear helmets and boots. The shoot also led to the dropping of oxygen levels. While talking about her shooting experience, Faria Abdullah, who portrays the character of Priyambada Das said that they had shot at real locations, be it the airport or the market.

She said: "The team has really put in efforts to hold on to the authenticity of the locations. I remember shooting in a buzzing market and the team constantly instructing people to not look in the camera and look elsewhere. The most exciting yet thrilling part of the shoot was to shoot in the real mines."

"We went 500 ft deeper inside the mines to shoot some scenes. We had to wear helmets and boots; the oxygen level dropped as we went deeper inside the mine. We were scared but the experience was surreal."

Produced by Studio Next, 'The Jengaburu Curse' is created and directed by Nila Madhab Panda. Written by Mayank Tewari, Paulo Perez serves as the DOP on the series. Alokanda Dasgupta and Durga Prasad Mohapatra serve as music directors and production designers respectively. Edited by Jaben Merchant, the series features Faria Abdullah, Nasser, Makarand Deshpande, Sudev Nair, Deepak Sampat, and Hitesh Dave in pivotal roles.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Tanvi Gadkari