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NUH VIOLENCE: TEMPLE, HOSPITAL, POLICE STATION TARGETTED BY UNRULY MOB

Fresh violence was reported in Gurugram as four eateries and scrap shops were set on fire by a group of people in the Sector 66 area on Tuesday. The violence also spread to Faridabad and Palwal and over 25-30 shanties and motorcycles were torched in Rasulpur in Palwal district. According to reports, a mob tried to disrupt traffic on the Delhi-Agra national highway in Palwal but the police force dispersed the mob from the expressway. Thereafter, the mob reached Minaar Gate in Palwal and set a motorcycle on fire there. However, the situation in Faridabad and Palwal was calm but the authorities have suspended mobile networks to maintain peace in the area.

Four people were killed in clashes that broke out during a religious procession in Nuh, Haryana, on Monday, including two home guards named Neeraj and Gursevak and an 'Imam' named Maulana Mohammad Saad and one civilian in Nuh.

A controversial video that a Bajrang Dal activist in Ballabhgarh allegedly shared on social media further added to the tensions, according to some reports.

Additionally, there were rumours that Monu Manesar, a cow vigilante previously detained for the February murder of two Muslim men, whose burned bodies were discovered in the Bhiwani region, was planning to march in the procession.

The Brij Mandal Yatra was flagged off earlier from Gurugram's Civil Lines by BJP district president Gargi Kakkar. A police contingent was deployed with the procession.

Stones were pelted on Yatra in Nuh and at least four cars, part of the procession, were set on fire. Some police vehicles were also damaged.

An MLA from Nuh, Chaudhary Aftab Ahmed claimed the event was a premeditated act of violence.

As a precaution, educational facilities were closed on Tuesday in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, and Palwal.



Gurugram | Agencies

Intense clashes between two communities have ravaged Nuh and Gurugram districts of Haryana following an attempt to stop a Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) procession.

The violence and tension started in Nuh district - where the VHP rally was held - before spreading

to Gurugram, where a mosque was burnt down overnight. Shops were also set ablaze in the Badshahpur area in Gurugram on Tuesday.

According to traders in Nuh, a mob also attacked Shiv temple, Nalhad medical college, bus stand, a Cyber crime police station, and traders' shops during the clashes on Monday.

The traders at the Nuh grain market alleged that the state government has failed to maintain the law and order situation in the district.

They alleged that the government even failed to deploy security forces on time.

Eyewitnesses told reporter that they could not recall any situation in their life where policemen were forced to run to save their lives.

Meanwhile, a policeman posted at the cyber crime police station in Nuh requesting anonymity told reporter that the attackers were pelting stones all across the police station.

The incident "appears to be part of a larger conspiracy as the Samajik Yatra has been taking place annually for several years. The authorities are investigating the incident further to comprehend the underlying causes and potential motives behind it."



Monu Manesar in spotlight after violence

Gurugram: Thirty-year-old Mohit Yadav alias Monu Manesar, the leader of a cow vigilante group in Mewat, is in spotlight after the communal violence that erupted in Haryana's Nuh and Gurugram districts on Monday.

Rumours about his presence at the religious procession taken out on Monday by Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) in Nuh, during which the clashes broke, fuelled the violence. Monu Manesar, an accused in the murder of two alleged cow smugglers in February, has been leading the Bajrang Dal's campaign against cattle smugglers in Haryana and Rajasthan. He also participates actively in efforts against "love jihad", a term coined by the rightwing to describe the "forcible conversion" of Hindu women by Muslim men. Recently, Monu Manesar allegedly posted a video on social media in which he declared his intention to attend the Nuh religious procession and urged his followers to attend it in large numbers. Later, he allegedly received a



BJD to support Modi govt over Delhi Services Bill, & to oppose INDIA's no confidence motion

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a boost to the BJP-led NDA in the Parliament, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Tuesday said that it will support the government on the passage of the Delhi Passage Bill and also oppose the no confidence motion moved by Congress-led opposition in Lok Sabha.

BJD sources said that a three line whip in this regard has been issued to all Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MPs of the party to be present in the house.

YSRCP has also said that it will support the government on the Delhi Services Bill and also oppose the no confidence motion brought against the government by the INDIA parties.

YSRCP has 22 MPs in Lok Sabha while nine MPs Rajya Sabha.

Amid opposition's protests, the controversial Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The House was adjourned till 3 p.m. soon after the bill was introduced in the Lower House. The legislation empowers the Delhi

lieutenant governor to have a final say in recommendations regarding transfer and posting of Delhi government officials. The bill was introduced in the lower House by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai. Home Minister Amit Shah was also present in the House.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, while opposing the bill, said that it was 'a graveyard for cooperative federalism' as services are a state subject and the legislation encroaches on the powers of Delhi government.

While speaking, his mike was switched off a couple of times.

RS 1 CRORE ROBBED FROM AXIS BANK IN BIHAR AT GUNPOINT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Patna: Four masked, armed men looted Rs 1 crore from an Axis Bank branch in Bihar's Vaishali district on Tuesday, police said. Vaishali police issued CCTV footage where the accused were wearing face masks and helmets and pistols in the hand and bags. The bank heist took place at Teenpulwa Chowk in Lalganj block of the district. The accused, after committing the crime, also took away the hard disk of the CCTV cameras as well. The police said that as a back-up was also already recorded somewhere else, the footage was found by police and its analysis is underway.

The robbers struck the bank as soon as it opened on Tuesday morning, barging in holding up all the employees and customers at gunpoint. They forced the employees to hand over all the money kept in the bank branch.

The exact sum of money taken away by robbers is not ascertained yet but the bank employees are assuming more than Rs 1 crore taken away by them.

High-level team constituted to probe Jaipur-Mumbai Train firing incident

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Government Railway Police (GRP) involved with the probe into the firing incident of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) jawan on the Jaipur-Mumbai Superfast Express after it crossed Palghar Station in Maharashtra, has recorded statements of more than three passengers so far, a GRP official said.

A five-member high-level committee has been constituted to investigate the incident in which the RPF constable allegedly shot dead four persons on a moving train, officials said. According to officials, the RPF constable identified as

Chetan Singh allegedly shot dead Assistant Sub-Inspector Tikaram Meena and three passengers near Palghar station on July 31. GRP officials said that the passengers whose statements are being recorded were present on the train at the time of the incident. Police are also trying to reach out to passengers and requesting them to come forward to record their statements as many of the witnesses are horrified by the incident and not ready to record the statements, said an official.

Police said that they have been attempting to reach witnesses through the IRCTC ticket booking list and are also scrutinising

CCTV footage as part of their investigations.

Following the incident, an FIR has been registered at Borivali Government Railway Police (GRP) in Mumbai against the constable identified as Chetan Kumar under sections 302, Arms Act and Railway Police Act and he was arrested.

Meanwhile, Western Railway Police Commissioner said, "He (RPF constable, Chetan Kumar) wasn't feeling well and lost his calm. There was no argument."

RPF officials said that the incident took place in the B5 coach of the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express (Train number 12956).

Delhi court to decide on Sep 6 on accepting police's cancellation report in POCSSO case against ex-WFI chief

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The minor wrestler complainant in the sexual harassment case against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Tuesday did not oppose the Delhi Police's cancellation report in court.

The purported victim and her father stated their satisfaction with the police investigation, showing no objections to the Delhi Police's report in the case.

They recorded their statement in an in-chamber proceeding before Additional Sessions Judge Chhavi Kapoor, who then reserved her order for September 6 on whether to accept the police report.

The Delhi Police had on June 15 filed a report before the court seeking cancellation of the case by the minor wrestler.

On July 4, the court sought



the minor wrestler complainant's response on police's cancellation report.

Kapoor had issued notice to the complainant during in-chamber proceedings and had directed for a response to the police report to be filed by August 1.

The 550-page report filed by police before the Patiala House Court had said that no corroborative evidence was found in allegations by the minor.

Facing financial crisis, Seema-Sachin get offer to work in film

Greater Noida | Agencies

After the news of Pakistani woman Seema Haider and Sachin Meena facing financial crisis emerged, film producer Amit Jani has extended a helping hand by offering them to work in his film.

Amit Jani has offered both of them to work in his film being made in Mumbai, so that they can earn their living by working. Amit Jani is making a film on murder of Udaipur's tailor Kanhaiya Lal Sahu.

Amit Jani of Meerut has given an offer to Seema Haider, who came to India illegally from Pakistan, to work in his films. He says that initially he was against Seema Haider but when learnt that she and Sachin are facing financial problems, he extended them a helping hand.

He said that people are extending helping hands to Anju (Indian woman) in Pakistan, whereas



Sachin and Seema Haider have said that they are not able to go out to work because of the police investigation. Seema and Sachin have a livelihood problem, as soon as this news went viral, President of UP's Navnirman Sena -- Amit Jani-- extended a

helping hand to Seema-Sachin. They have been offered acting in his film production house Jani Firefox.

Amit Jani has recently set up a film production house in Mumbai and is making a film titled A Tailor Murder Story on

the murder of tailor Kanhaiya Lal Sahu in Udaipur. The film is set to release in November. Amit Jani offered Seema-Sachin that if they work in his production, he could pay lakhs of rupees to them, so that they would be able to live their life.

CLASS 10 BOY IN ASSAM BECOMES DC FOR A DAY

Guwahati: A class 10 boy in Assam's Sivasagar town became the District Commissioner (DC) for a day as part of the state Education Department's innovative initiative, 'Arohan'.

The 16-year-old boy, Bhagyadeep Rajgarh studying at the Bokota Borbam High School, was selected to perform the duties on Monday.

Sivasagar DC Aditya Vikram Yadav went to Bhagyadeep's house on Monday morning and brought him to his office in the town.

The student attended day-long meetings of the district administration.

"To enroll in professional programmes and pursue jobs in a variety of sectors, such as those of doctors, engineers, and public servants, we want to inspire students to aspiration and hard work," DC Yadav said.

He described Bhagyadeep as a gifted young boy who, despite many challenges in life, is working hard to achieve perfection.

The boy claimed that one of his ambitions is to work as an administrative officer.



BRS NEITHER WITH NDA NOR WITH INDIA, SAYS KCR

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) President K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) on Tuesday said that his party is neither with NDA nor with INDIA alliance.

"We are not with either of them. We are not alone. We have our friends," he told reporters in Maharashtra after a day-long visit to the state.

"People have seen NDA and INDIA. What is new India? They ruled for 50 years but nothing has changed. There is a need for a change," he remarked and suggested media persons contribute to bringing a change in the country.

KCR said BRS would constitute committees in Maharashtra at various levels and they have started the work in Maharashtra.

He said BRS has 14.10 lakh functionaries in the state.

He said that the party has completed 50 per cent of the work in Maharashtra. In another 15 to 20 days, work will be completed in every



village. KCR said Maharashtra has all the resources. There is no dearth of wealth and there are plenty of employment opportunities.

He said that a city like Aurangabad was facing water scarcity.

He questioned how long will Dalit community suffer? Dalit have not got their due place in Maharashtra. He said that a country like the United

States kept aside discrimination to make Barack Obama the President. By doing so, the United States washed off its sins.

After reaching Kolhapur by a special aircraft, he visited Mahalakshmi Mata Ambabai temple and offered prayers. KCR later visited Wategaon and attended a public meeting organised on the occasion of 103rd birth anniversary of eminent poet and

writer Annabhav Sathe.

He demanded that the Centre should confer Bharat Ratna on Sathe.

Calling Annabhav Sathe a great poet, KCR called for translating his literature into national and foreign languages. Observing that Annabhav Sathe's works are universal, KCR said that Russia has already recognised Sathe's services to literature but India has not recognised.

KCR said that the successive governments at the Centre failed to honour Annabhav Sathe, who was born in a Dalit family and was a popular person from Matang community.

Sathe's writings, literature and his struggle for the downtrodden are commendable. KCR said that as a communist and an Ambedkarite, Sathe continuously worked for the establishment of an egalitarian society throughout his life.

Annabhav Sathe's grandson Sachin Bhav Sathe and Sachin Sathe's mother Savitribhai Sathe were present.

KCR also visited Chatrapathi Sahu Maharaj memorial at Kolhapur.

Haryana violence, RPF constable killing is result of spreading hatred in greed of power: Kharge

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday condemned the violence in Haryana's Nuh and RPF constable killing four people including his superior in Jaipur Express saying this is a blow to the foundation of Indian civilisation and it is result of spreading hatred in the greed of the power.

In a tweet, Kharge said, "The violence being spread in the name of religion in 21st century India is a blow to the foundation of our civilization - equality of all religions. This cannot be tolerated under any circumstances."

"What is going on in some parts of Haryana or what the RPF constable did is like giving deep wounds to the heart of Mother India. These days, the trend of disintegration of the social fabric which is being seen in the society is the result of spreading hatred in the greed of power. Mixing poison of malice in the public and making them fight with each other is like making fun of our Constitution,"



the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha said.

He said: "Such incidents raise serious questions on the weak law and order situation and our weak constitutional institutions. If we do not unite and raise our voice against these divisive elements today, then the coming generations will have to bear its consequences. The Congress party appeals to all to maintain peace and demands strictest punishment for the culprits. Leave hatred and unite India."

His remarks came after violence erupted in Haryana's Nuh in which five

people died. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar dubbed the Nuh violence as looking "like part of a bigger conspiracy."

The Muslim-dominated Nuh district witnessed violent clashes between two groups on Monday. As per the police, the clash started after Vishwa Hindu Parishad's 'Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra' was stopped by a group of young men near Kheda Mod in Nuh, and stones were pelted at the procession. Some police vehicles were also damaged.

Meanwhile, on Monday morning a RPF constable allegedly shot dead his immediate in-charge and three other passengers onboard a running train, Jaipur-Mumbai Superfast Express (No. 12956).

The incident occurred as the train was speeding between Virar (Palghar) and Mira Road (Thane) where the two on-duty cops - Constable Chetankumar Singh and his in-charge, Assistant Sub-Inspector Tikaram Meena - were on escort duty.

Tejashwi criticises ED for making 'wrong' claims on properties owned by Yadav family

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday criticised Enforcement Directorate (ED) for making 'wrong' claims on properties owned by the Yadav family.

"Any person can check online about property details. Attaching property is not new for us. First, the ED claimed that we have property worth Rs 9,000 crore. Then they said we have property worth Rs 600 crore but now the ED claims that we only have property worth 6 crore. Let us see with what figures they will come up in future," Tejashwi said while interacting with media persons in



Patna. He said that his family also had a case related to the property attachment in the past as well.

On Monday, the ED had attached properties of Yadav

family in Patna, Delhi and Ghaziabad locations.

On March 10, 2023, ED raided 15 places of Lalu Prasad Yadav and his family members.

Delhi court refuses to stay proceedings in defamation case against Raj CM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Tuesday refused to stay the proceedings in a defamation complaint filed by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat against Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for 'misleading statements' against him in connection with the Sanjivani Credit Cooperative Society scam.

The court, however, allowed Gehlot to appear before a metropolitan magistrate through video conference.

Gehlot on Monday challenged before the sessions court the summons issued to him by a magistrate's court in the matter.

Special Judge M K Nagpal of Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday said that Gehlot's physical and personal appearance before the magisterial court on August 7 may not be practically convenient and necessary, but he saw no ground for staying the proceedings.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet



Singh Jaspal had, on July 6, issued summons to Gehlot in the case, and had ordered him to appear on August 7.

The judge directed the metropolitan magistrate not to insist on physical presence of Gehlot on August 7, and permit him to join the proceedings through VC.

"Though physical and personal appearance of the petitioner as an accused before the ACMM in the above said case on August 7, 2023 may not be practically convenient and necessary, but this court sees no reason or ground for staying the proceedings of above complaint case or as to why appearance cannot be filed by petitioner in the said court through Video Conferencing (VC) mode," the judge said.

Judge Nagpal had posted the matter for further hearing on Gehlot's application on August 19.

He also directed Shekhawat to file his formal reply and detailed arguments on facts as well as on law. Earlier, the court had directed the police to investigate Shekhawat's complaint.

INDIA MPs who visited Manipur to meet President on Wednesday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delegation of the Opposition party leaders of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), who visited violence hit Manipur, will be meeting President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh in a tweet said: "The 21 INDIA party MPs who visited Manipur on July 29 and 30 will be meeting with the President of India on August 2 at 11:30 a.m. They will be accompanied by the floor leaders of INDIA parties."

The 21 MPs of the INDIA bloc had visited Manipur on Saturday and Sunday and also met the victims and the affected families in the relief camps.

The delegation had also met



Governor Anusuiya Uikey and appealed for peace in the north east-

ern state. The INDIA MPs have been

demanding for a detailed statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in both Houses of Parliament and a discussion on violence in Manipur.

The Monsoon Session of Parliament has been stormy over the demands of the INDIA MPs over their demands for a detailed discussion on Manipur and has faced several adjournments.

Ethnic violence erupted in Manipur on May 3 and since then hundreds of people have died and thousands have been forced to take refuge in the relief camps.

The opposition parties have demanded for imposition of the President's Rule in the state and also demanded for immediate removal of Chief Minister N Biren Singh for failing miserably to control the law and order situation in the northeastern state.

SC to hear pleas challenging abrogation of Article 370 today

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 5-judge bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud is slated to hear on

Wednesday (August 2) the batch of petitions challenging the 2019 Presidential Order taking away the special status accorded to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two Union Territories.

The Constitution Bench, also comprising of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B.R. Gawai, and Surya Kant, would hear the matter consecutively starting from August 2, except for Mondays and Fridays.

CJI Chandrachud and Justice Khanna are the new members of the latest 5-judge bench as CJI N.V. Ramana and Justice Subhash Reddy, who were part of the earlier bench, had retired.

The clutch of petitions was recently heard on July 11 to complete the necessary pre-hearing formalities since March 2, 2020, when another Constitution Bench ruled against the necessity of referring the matter to a seven-judge bench.



In a fresh affidavit before the top court, the Central government has defended the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that its decision to dilute Article 370 has brought unprecedented development, progress, security, and stability in the region.

It highlighted that in the past three years, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, and other public institutions have been functioning without strikes or disturbances.

Odisha train tragedy: 29 bodies yet to be identified

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Two months have passed since the tragic triple train accident at Odisha's Balasore district. However, 29 dead bodies recovered from the accident site are yet to be identified.

"All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar had received a total of 162 dead bodies in two phases, of which 133 bodies have been handed over to their relatives and family members," said Dillip Kumar Parida, superintendent, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

Out of the total 81 unidentified bodies received by the national institute, 52 bodies have been dispatched to their families, he said.

"Due to multiple claimants and few other issues, 103 DNA samples of bodies and claimants were sent to New Delhi for matching. After DNA sample

matching, the bodies have been handed over to the concerned family members with the help of railways," Parida said.

He said the 29 unidentified bodies are preserved in the containers at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. The last phase DNA sampling reports are likely to come up in a week.

The central government and Odisha government will decide what to do with the bodies, which will remain unclaimed after the last phase DNA report, he added.

At least 294 people died and over 700 were injured after Chennai-bound Coromandel Express, Howrah bound SMVP-Howrah Superfast Express and a goods train were involved in a tragic accident near the Bahanaga Bazar railway station in Odisha's Balasore district on June 2 evening.

Heavy rains likely over east and central India, warns IMD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall activity is likely over east and central India during next 3-4 days with extremely heavy falls likely over north Odisha on Wednesday and east Madhya Pradesh on Thursday, the IMD warned on Tuesday.

In the bulletin, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that in east India, from Tuesday to Saturday, there will be light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning.

"Heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected at isolated places in Bihar, Odisha till Wednesday, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand till Wednesday, and sub-Himalayan West Bengal and



Sikkim till Friday between this period," it said.

Central India will see light to moderate scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall. "East Madhya Pradesh can witness these rainfall till Friday, north Chhattisgarh till Thursday,

west Madhya Pradesh from Wednesday to Friday, and Vidarbha on Wednesday," it said. East Madhya Pradesh may also experience isolated extremely heavy rainfall on Thursday. In Northwest India, there will be light to moderate scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with iso-

lated heavy rainfall. "This will occur in Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh from Tuesday to Friday, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, west Uttar Pradesh from Thursday to Friday, and east Rajasthan from Wednesday to Saturday," the IMD predicted.

East Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, west Uttar Pradesh, and east Rajasthan may also experience isolated very heavy rainfall on specific dates.

The IMD further predicted that northeast India will experience light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall. In west India, light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected.

Patna HC allows caste-based survey in Bihar

Patna | Agencies

The caste-based survey will continue in Bihar after the Patna High Court lifted the temporary ban on Tuesday and dismissed pleas challenging the Nitish Kumar government's decision.

The Patna High Court had temporarily banned the survey on May 4 after several petitions were filed by individuals.

The Nitish Kumar government had started the survey on January 7 this year and it was scheduled to complete on May 15.

However, several petitioners went to the high court and pointed out that the survey could only be done by the Centre and the Bihar government was doing it to take "advantage" in elections.

The court had fixed the hearing on July 3 after sum-

mer vacation. After the vacation, the court opened on July 3, and the hearing of the case was held for five days in the court of Chief Justice K.V. Chandran following which the court reserved its verdict for August 1.

In the 100-page judgement, the Patna High Court has rejected all the pleas which said that caste-based survey comes under the central government's jurisdiction.

The Solicitor General of Bihar, P.K. Shahi said that it was not a caste-based census but was a caste-based survey where the state government had spent Rs 500 crore.

He also pointed out that 80 per cent of the survey has already been completed.

The Patna high court has lifted the temporary ban, and the state government will complete the remaining 20 per cent work soon.



FOURTH TIME SCALE OF PAY APPROVED

Approval given for creation of 2 new tehsils. Approval of guidelines 2023 for expansion in telecom services. Important decisions taken in Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, approval was given to implement the Assured Career Promotion Scheme for the same cadres of all departments of the state government. With this decision, the fourth time scale of pay will be approved from July 01, 2023 to the government employees of the state in case of 35 years or more of service. The Finance Department was authorised to issue guidelines for the fourth time scale of pay. On acceptance of this pay scale, the estimated expenditure burden on the government will be to Rs. 250 crore.

Approval for the establishment of 4 new government colleges

Approval was given by the Cabinet to establish 04 new Government Colleges including Government Law College Dindori, Government College Narayanganj Mandla, Government College Khirkiya Harda, Government College Khaddi Sidhi. Along with this, new faculty in 03 government colleges, Government College Tala, Satna (Commerce), Government College Ramnagar, Satna (Science and Commerce), Government College Silvani Raisen (Science), new subjects at graduate level in 03 government colleges, Government College Tala, Satna (Sanskrit, Home Science, Philosophy, Psychology), Government College New Ramnagar, Satna (Economics, Geography, Sanskrit, History), Government College Amarpatan, Satna (Computer Science) and 06 government colleges to start new subjects



at postgraduate level total creation of 341 new posts and recurring expenditure of Rs. 1981.00 lakh per year and other non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 5854.32 lakh, in this way total expenditure of Rs. 7835.32 lakh has been approved.

Approval of Telecom Ease and Expansion Guidelines 2023

To ensure planned development and expansion of telecommunication services and infrastructure in the state, "Madhya Pradesh Policy and Guidelines 2019 to facilitate the establishment of infrastructure for providing wire line or wireless based voice and data access services by telecommunication service, internet service, infrastructure providers" is currently in force. The validity period of the policy is till December, 2023. At present, the facilities of 5G telecommunication have also been rolled out within the country, the Right of Way (ROW) (Amendment) Rules, 2022 have been issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Communications, Department of

Telecommunications on 17 August 2022, in which specific provisions have been made to provide the setting up of telecom infrastructure related to 5G roll-out and further strengthening of infrastructure. The Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Security) Rules, 2022 have been issued by the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India on 3 January 2023 in which provision has been made in these rules that if any person / agency does excavation or mining work on the existing telecom infrastructure site established on public and private property, then the general public shall inform the concerned licensee through the portal. This will save the telecom infrastructure from unwanted damage.

Decision for SC and ST entrepreneurs

It was decided by the Cabinet to amend Madhya Pradesh MSME's Industrial Land and Building Allotment and Management Rules 2021 (as amended October 2022) in respect of reservation of 20 percent plot for SC and ST entrepreneurs in developed industrial areas and 50 percent exemption in premium and development fee to these entrepreneurs.

Approval for the establishment of 6 new government ITIs

The Cabinet decided to establish 6 new government ITIs in the state. Approval was given for the creation of 114 teaching and 66 administrative posts for these 6 ITIs. For these 6 ITIs, financial provision for non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 9487.20 lakh and for recurring expenditure of about Rs. 2580.00 lakh for five years was also approved.

Tribal leader Kantilal Bhuria to lead Cong's poll campaign in MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Congress has apparently played a masterstroke by appointing senior most tribal leader and former union minister Kantilal Bhuria as chairman of 20-member election campaign committee in the poll-bound Madhya Pradesh.

The party has also included young tribal leader - Omkar Singh Markam (MLA-Dindori) and a Muslim leader Arif Masood (MLA-Bhopal central) in the campaign committee.

Madhya Pradesh has around 22 per cent tribal voters, while out of total 230 Assembly seats, 47 are reserved for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates. By appointing a tribal leader - Kantilal Bhuria head of the election campaign committee, the Congress has tried to create an impression that the large chunk of population will be led by a tribal leader.

Hailing from tribal dominated area - Jhabua district, five-time ex-MP Kantilal Bhuria, will be leading a 20-member election campaign committee comprising of both senior and young party leaders such as ex-CM Kamal Nath, two-time ex-Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, former minister Jitu Patwari and Bala Bachchan and others.

State Congress head Kamal Nath's bastion Chhindwara is also a tribal dominated area and he has been presenting his home district as 'model' of development for tribals.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and ex-president Rahul Gandhi would also be addressing tribal rallies in tribal and the Scheduled Tribe and the Schedule Castes (ST/SC) dominated regions in coming weeks. Appointing a tribal leader as a head of the election campaign committee will create a positive impression in the tribal areas. It is the Congress only which had appointed a tribal leader Kantilal Bhuria as state president also in 2013, whereas, the BJP talks about tribal centric schemes to woo

the voters, but never allowed gave such representation to the leaders. I am happy that the party has assigned me a big role and my job would be to take the party's messages



at the ground among the tribals," tribal MLA Omkar Singh Markam told reporter.

In 2018, the Congress had won 36 tribal seats while the ruling BJP was reduced to 16 seats out of total 47 reserved for the tribal. This was a complete reversal of 2013, when the BJP had won 31 ST seats to the Congress's 15.

Notably, Madhya Pradesh has one of the largest tribal populations in the country, with 46 groups recognised as STs, of which three are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. Of MP's 52 districts, six are "fully tribal", while another 15 are classified as "partially tribal".

The Bhil community accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the state's ST population, followed by the Gonds at 34 per cent. While the ruling BJP apparently facing resentment from tribal community following the peggate incident in Sidhi last month. "Some more committees are also likely to be announced soon and different leaders from the different communities would be given prominent roles to play in the elections. The party has prepared its election strategy much before the ruling BJP.

The Congress has always considered tribal and other backward communities as its part. Appointment of Kantilal Bhuria as head of the committee is example of it," party spokesperson Abbas Hafeez said.

40 people fall sick after consuming cannabis-mixed 'prasad' in Agar district

Team Absolute | Bhopal

At least 40 people were taken ill after consuming 'bhag' (cannabis)-mixed 'prasad' in Madhya Pradesh's Agar district.

As per the police, on the occasion of 'Shravan' month, a large number of devotees thronged a temple in a village to offer their prayers on Monday.

During the evening hours, a procession (Mahadev's Savari) was also taken out in the locality, in which more than 200 devotees participated and were given 'prasad'.

After consuming the prasad, which was mixed with cannabis, people complained of vomiting, stomach



pain and drowsiness and were rushed to nearby hospital.

Meanwhile, a team of the local health department also reached the spot, having received information regarding the matter.

After primary treatment, some of them were rushed to

a district government hospital. As per the report, at least 15 people were admitted in Nalkhedha Civil Hospital. However, the condition of all the affected individuals is currently stable.

The district administration has directed for an inquiry into the matter.

Three doctors of GMC called her a slacker, so she committed suicide: Husband

Bala Saraswati (27), a doctor at Gandhi Medical College, committed suicide on Sunday night. She was 14 weeks pregnant. Two empty injections of anesthesia of 5 ml each were found near his bed. The police have seized Saraswati's mobile phone. In 2021, she was married to Jaivardhan Chowdhary. Both had shifted to Kohefija's apartment only 6 months back.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Junior Doctor Bala Saraswati was made to work for 36 hours at Gandhi Medical College (GMC) in Bhopal. Husband Jai Vardhan Chowdhary has blamed 3 female doctors of the department for her suicide. He says that the wife was taunted for being a slacker.

We went to Sunday lunch. Suddenly Saraswati was called on duty from there.

Bala Saraswati, 27, was a third year student of Gynecology at GMC. On Sunday night, she committed suicide by taking an overdose of anesthesia injection. She was found unconscious in the worship room of the house on Monday morning.

After the suicide of Bala Saraswati, the junior doctor stopped work from Monday afternoon. All 52 junior doctors of the Gynec department have gone on strike. They demand that action should be taken against those responsible for the death of the girl student. Only after this they will return to work.

SUICIDE NOTE

Mother - Father, please forgive me for this step. I love you. You guys have done a lot for me. Jai is the most beautiful gift of my life. I dreamed of spending a happy life with him. I feel shame for breaking promise. This college is very bad for me to survive. My thesis will never be completed. These people will never give me relief. Even if I give my soul, blood, everything, I can never live up to them.

2% less rainfall as East MP remains dry

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh has received an average of 18.11 inches of rain this monsoon season (till July 31), which is 3% more overall, but the figures for July are shocking. Generally, there is good rainfall throughout the state during this month. Sometimes it rains continuously for 5 to 6 days, sometimes heavy and sometimes light. The rivers and streams across the state remain in spate due to the monsoon rains. This time in July it was rarely seen. Last year, by this time all the districts had received twice the average rainfall, while this time less water has fallen in half the state. Especially the eastern part remained dry. Most of the districts did not get even half of



the quota. Meteorologists say that good rains

are expected in August, but heavy rains are not expected for the initial 8

to 10 days. It will rain only after the monsoon system becomes active.

Meanwhile, it rained in many districts on Tuesday. In Ratlam, more than 20 mm i.e. 1.5 inches of water fell. Sidhi, Umaria, Ujjain also received heavy rains for some time. Light drizzle occurred in Nagaon, Khajuraho, Satna, Indore, Rewa, Chhindwara, Damoh, Malanjkhanda, Dhar, Jabalpur and Gwalior.

After August 8, the period of heavy rains may start again in the state. Right now two systems are giving rain in the eastern part. Due to moisture, light rain may also occur from local systems. The Meteorological Department has issued an alert of heavy rain for the next 24 hours in 12 districts including Rewa, Satna.

Congress names Kamal Nath as chairman of Pradesh Election Committee for MP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Head of the crucial Assembly polls, the Congress on Tuesday named former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath as chairman of the Pradesh Election Committee for the state, with senior party leaders Digvijay Singh and Govind Singh as its members.

In an official communication, Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said: "Congress President (Mallikarjun Kharge) has approved the proposal for the constitution of Pradesh Election Committee for ensuring Assembly Elections in Madhya Pradesh-2023 with immediate effect." The other members of the Committee are Suresh Pachauri, Kantilal Bhuria, Arun Yadav, Ajay Singh Rahul, Vivek Tankha, Rajmani Patel, Nakul Nath, Sajjan Singh Verma, Vijaylaxmi Sadho, Tarun Bhanot,



Omkar Singh Markam, Sukhdeo Panse, Bala Bachchan, Jitu Patwari, Kamleshwar Patel, Arif Masood, as well as state heads of all frontal organisations. Earlier in the day, the Congress had announced former Union Minister Kantilal Bhuria as chairman of the party's campaign committee for Madhya Pradesh.

CM CHOUHAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO LOKMANYA TILAK ON HIS DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tribute to the great freedom fighter who instilled the spirit of Swaraj among the masses of India Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his death anniversary. Chief Minister Chouhan recalled his contribution by garlanding his portrait and offering floral tributes in the auditorium located at the residence office.

New worry for MP poll ticket-seekers: BJP, Cong stick to 'survey formula'

Sundeep Pournik | Bhopal

In view of rising number of candidates for assembly elections to be held in Madhya Pradesh, both the major political parties -- Congress and BJP -- have decided to adopt the 'survey formula', which has become a cause of concern for ticket-seekers.

The state assembly elections to be held later this year are not going to be easy for both -- the BJP and the Congress -- the party leaderships are aware of this fact, so they have decided to bet on only those candidates who can win the elections. This is the reason that both these political parties are conducting assembly-wise survey at their own level.

In the 2018 elections in Madhya Pradesh, out of 230 assembly seats, the Congress had won 114, while the BJP



bagged 109. Congress did not get full majority but with the support of Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Independent MLAs, it formed the government. The Congress government led by Kamal Nath lasted only for about 15 months and collapsed after 22 MLAs under the leadership of Jyotiraditya Scindia joined the BJP. Keeping in mind the results of the 2018 assembly elections and the subse-

quent urban body elections, both the political parties are treading cautiously in view of the forthcoming assembly elections.

At the same time, the ticket-seekers are visiting the party headquarters and politicians, in Bhopal and Delhi. The BJP leaders are constantly telling these claimants that the party will nominate only those whose names appear in the survey. The senior leaders of Congress and BJP have admitted that the parties are conducting the survey and only the person whose name appears in the survey will be made a candidate. Familyism and patronage of politicians alone will not guarantee ticket. At many places, the leaders are making the contenders to sit together and make them to pledge that they will support the candidate whom the party will nominate.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS PEEPAL, KARANJ AND GULMOHAR SAPLINGS



Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Karanj and Gulmohar in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Along with CM Chouhan, super memory power girl daughter Anayaka Pathak planted a sapling on her birthday.

Anayaka's name is recorded in the India Book of Records for her memory power. Sanjay Sharma and Mayank Agnihotri also planted saplings along with their family members and acquaintances on their birthdays.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP, Congress MLAs have assets worth Rs 16,234 cr, Rs 15,798 cr respectively

Among the 4,001 MLAs across the country, 1,356 of BJP own assets worth Rs 16,234 crore followed by 719 Congress legislators with Rs 15,798 crore, a report claimed on Tuesday. According to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the National Election Watch (NEW), the total assets of 4,001 MLAs across the country is worth Rs 54,545 crore. The report claimed that the total assets for 1,356 BJP MLAs analysed is Rs 16,234 crore, for 719 Congress MLAs it is Rs 15,798 crore. Besides the BJP and the Congress MLAs, the report said that 146 YSRCP MLAs have assets worth Rs 3,379 crore, while 131 DMK MLAs have assets worth Rs 1,663 crore. The report also said that 161 AAP MLAs have total assets worth Rs 1,642 crore. The report also highlighted that the total assets of BJP and Congress sitting MLAs are Rs 16,234 crore and Rs 15,798 crore, respectively, which add up to Rs 32,032 crore or 58.73 per cent of the total assets of Rs 54,545 crores pertaining to the sitting MLAs of 84 political parties and Independent MLAs. The amount of total assets of sitting BJP and Congress MLAs are larger than the 2023-24 annual budgets of Mizoram Rs 14,210 crore and Sikkim Rs 11,807 crore, respectively. The report was released after analysing the self-sworn affidavits of sitting MLAs in State Assemblies and Union Territories across the nation. The data has been extracted from affidavits filed by the MLAs prior to contesting their last elections. It said that a total of 4,001 MLAs out of 4,033 have been analysed across 28 State Assemblies and two Union Territories. This report covers 4001 sitting MLAs belonging to 84 political parties and Independent MLAs.

Reangs cast a shadow on ethnic peace along Mizoram-Tripura border



Sujit Chakraborty

Ending the two decades of strife and insurgency, a tripartite peace Accord was signed in 1986 and the mountainous Mizoram became the 23rd state of India and since then, except in 1997 ethnic troubles, India's second least populous state has remained peaceful in terms of ethnic harmony. Unlike Manipur, for the all round socio-economic development of different non-Mizo minority tribal communities, Mizoram has three tribal autonomous bodies -- the Lai Autonomous District Council (LADC), the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC), and the Mara Autonomous District Council (MADC). These three constitutional autonomous bodies, formed through elections, look after the overall welfare and development of the Lai, Mara, and Chakma tribals, living along borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh. In October 1997, following ethnic troubles in Mizoram after the killing of a Mizo forest official, over 38,072 Reang tribal migrants, comprising 7,364 families including women and children, had to leave their villages in the state and had sheltered in seven

camp in northern Tripura's Kanchanpur and Panisagar Sub-Divisions. A total of 6,367 tribals returned to Mizoram in eight phases after the Centre, Mizoram, and Tripura governments had made many attempts to repatriate them between 2009 and 2019 but the majority were reluctant to return to their home state unless their demands, including security and livelihood, were fulfilled. Subsequently, after several years of tussles and agitations, a quadripartite agreement was signed in January 2020 between the Centre, Tripura, and Mizoram governments and the Reang tribal leaders to resettle the 37,136 tribal immigrants comprising 6,302 families in 11 or 12 locations in four of Tripura's eight districts. Tripura too witnessed ethnic trouble after the Mizo and Bengali communities, living in northern Tripura, strongly opposed the rehabilitation of Reang tribals in Kanchanpur areas as it did not have "no sufficient lands" for their settlement. The proposed target for the resettlement of the Reang tribals by August 31, 2022 could not be achieved due to the fresh troubles, threats of agitation against the rehabilitation and numerous other issues. The worst-ever ethnic violence over

the rehabilitation of the displaced Reang tribals in December 2020 had left two persons dead and scores injured during a national highway blockade in northern Tripura. The Joint Movement Committee (JMC), an apex body of various organisations, including the Nagarik Suraksha Mancha (NSM) and Mizo Convention, had organised agitations against the "unplanned rehabilitation of Reang tribals jeopardising the security, livelihood and economic conditions of the indigenous people of Kanchanpur", bordering Mizoram. The Reang tribals, locally called 'Bru', according to the quadripartite agreement (January 2020) were to be included as voters in Tripura as maintained in the agreement after which the Centre had announced a Rs 600 crore package for the settlement of the Reang tribals, recognised as a primitive tribe in Tripura. The Election Commission had already deleted thousands of names of Reang tribals from the electoral list of Mizoram. Officials of the Mizoram Election Department said that in consultation with the Election Commission, names of several thousand voters belonging to the Reang tribal community had been, so far, deleted in three districts of Mamit, Kolasib and Lunglei.

BJP'S NE LEADERS BANK ON PM MODI TO BLUNT OPPN'S MANIPUR TIRADE

Santu Das

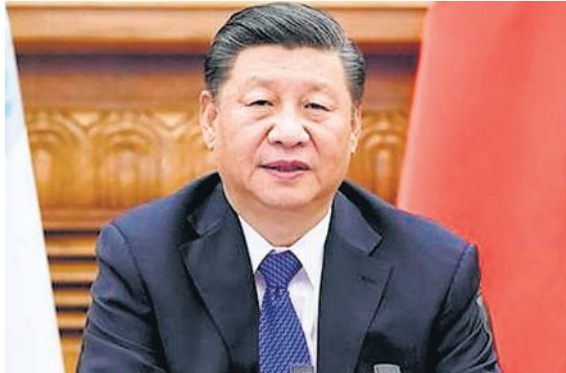
BJP MPs from the Northeastern states on Sunday said that the Manipur issue will not have any impact on other states of the region, adding that people have immense trust and confidence on Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre. They said that the government is leaving no stone unturned to restore normalcy in the strife-torn state. The parliamentarians also slammed the Opposition, led by Congress, accusing it of 'politicising' the Manipur issue. "Manipur situation will not affect other Northeastern states. People of North East have immense trust and confidence in Narendra Modi ji, Amit Shah ji, and the government-led by BJP," BJP Rajya Sabha MP from Assam Pabitra Margherita told correspondent. He said that is an accidental issue which happened in our beautiful land of Manipur. "BJP government, party and all the stakeholders are trying to make Manipur stable so that peace and harmony prevail in the area. People do know upto what level the government is trying its best," he said. Margherita, who is also Political Secretary to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, criticised the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) MPs over their ongoing visit to Manipur. "I appeal to the Opposition members who have arrived here (in Manipur) to not add fuel to the fire. Do your photoshoot but please don't create disturbance regarding peace and harmony," he said. Attacking the Congress, which was in power in several states of the region for long years, including Manipur, the MP said: "Congress always tried to dominate people (during its regime). They tried to play with bloodshed. But, this government led by the BJP is trying to resolve all problems with mutual understanding peace and harmony. This is the basic difference between them and us." BJP Arunachal Pradesh MP Tapir Gao told correspondent that, "We have seen for long that any communal incident do not affect other NE states. It will not affect other states of the region this time also." He said that the Manipur incident is unfortunate for all of us and it is our duty to resolve the Manipur crisis. "The Government of India under the leadership of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah is trying its level best to resolve the situation," Gao said. He said that the matter should be resolved amicably and both Meitei and Kuki have to live peacefully again. "Peace will prevail in Manipur again." Gao, who represents the Arunachal East parliamentary constituency, also accused the Opposition of taking 'undue advantage' on the situation in the Northeastern state. BJP Lok Sabha MP from Assam, Queen Oja told correspondent that Manipur situation will not affect other Northeastern states. "But, we are affected. No women like this kind of cruelty which has taken place in Manipur," said Oja referring to the ghastly incident of two women being stripped, paraded, and sexually assaulted on May 4 in Manipur's Thoubal district, the video of which had gone viral. Manipur police have arrested seven persons so far in connection with the horrific incident. "This is not an issue to do politics. Many such incidents have happened during the Congress rule in Assam. In 2007, an adivasi woman was also harassed in Assam. She was paraded naked in Dispur. She has not got any justice so far. Whether it is with her or the women in Manipur, such things can never be forgiven."

international

CHINA TO STAND BY PAK NO MATTER HOW INT'L LANDSCAPE MAY CHANGE: XI JINPING

Beijing | Agencies

Chinese President Xi Jinping has reiterated Beijing's unwavering support to Islamabad, saying that "no matter how the international landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan". He made the remarks in a congratulatory message to the decade of CPEC celebration event held in Islamabad on Monday which was also attended by Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, who is currently on a three-day visit to Pakistan, reports Geo News. Speaking about the bilateral ties, President Xi stressed that both countries will continue to improve overall planning and expand and deepen cooperation. Pointing out that CPEC is an important pioneering project of the Belt and Road cooperation, Xi said that China will work with Pakistan to further build the project



into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Geo News reported. He added that both countries will work to aim for high-standard, sustainable and livelihood-enhancing outcomes. "Since its launch in 2013, China and Pakistan have been advancing CPEC under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and have achieved a number of

early harvests," he added. This has added new impetus to the economic and social development of Pakistan and laid a good foundation for regional connectivity and integration, he said, adding that it is a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, and provides an important underpinning for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

IS-K claims responsibility for suicide attack at Pak rally

Islamabad: The terror group, Islamic State in Khorasan Province (IS-K) has claimed responsibility for the suicide attack at a Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) workers' convention in Pakistan which led to the deaths of 54 people, including more than 20 minors. A statement released late Monday by Amaq, the propaganda arm of IS-K, said that a suicide bomber conducted the attack on Sunday in Khar area of Bajaur district, reports Xinhua news agency. Additional Inspector General of Police Shaukat Abbas told the media on Monday that at least 83 people were also injured in the attack. "At least 12 of the deceased are below 12 years of age. The medics fear that the death toll might further rise," he added. JUI-F's Khar emir Ziaullah, his information secretary Mujahid Khan and his 22-year old son were among the victims. Abbas said that the convention began at 2 p.m. on Sunday and the explosion occurred two hours later, reports Dawn news. Meanwhile, District Police Officer (DPO) Nazeer Khan said that preliminary probe had revealed that up to 12 kg of explosives was used in the blast. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Chief Minister Mohammad Azam Khan and Peshawar Corps Commander Lt Gen Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat Khan visited Bajaur on Monday. Last year, the IS-K said it was behind attacks against religious scholars affiliated with JUI-F, which has a network of mosques and schools. In June, it said they were behind the assassination of a party official in the village of Inayat Killi.

US judge rejects Trump's attempt to derail 2020 election probe

Washington | Agencies

Former US President Donald Trump's attempt to derail an investigation into his alleged meddling in the 2020 presidential election in the state of Georgia has been rejected by a judge, the media reported. On Monday, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney rejected efforts by Trump's legal team to keep a Georgia district attorney from prosecuting him and from using certain evidence gathered in her investigation into the case, reports Xinhua news agency. In his ruling, McBurney said there are no grounds to disqualify Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis from pursuing her investigation. Willis has suggested that she may seek charges in the case in the coming weeks. Trump's legal team in Georgia had previously asked the court to throw out all the evidence from the special pur-

pose grand jury investigation and disqualify Willis, citing concerns about the constitutionality of special grand juries in the state and about "a prosecutor's office that was found to have an actual conflict, yet continued to pursue the investigation". The special grand jury did not have the power to indict. But it did issue subpoenas and hear from witnesses and issue a final report with recommendations for Willis. But despite Trump's mounting legal troubles, his status as the clear frontrunner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination continues unabated. The former President has been indicted twice in the past four months -- once in New York for alleged financial crimes and once in a federal court on charges that he mishandled sensitive government documents and obstructed an investigation. He may be on the verge of a third indictment, for attempt-

ing to overturn the results of the 2020 election. An average of opinion polls from Monday showed he has a commanding lead of 37 points over his nearest rival, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, the BBC reported. No-one else in the crowded field of 14 candidates scores over 6 per cent, and more than half of them are not even at 1 per cent. Meanwhile, the primary fundraising and political spending group supporting Trump has spent more than \$40 million on legal fees so far this year. That money, due to be confirmed in a financial filing on Monday, has been used to defend the former President and his allies across multiple cases, reports the BBC. It is a more than two-fold increase in Save America's spending on legal costs across 2021 and 2022 combined. Save America is a political action committee founded and controlled by Trump.

US, Taliban hold talks for first time since Afghanistan's fall in 2021

Washington | Agencies

For the first time since the fall of Kabul in August 2021, the US and Taliban held talks in Doha during which Washington pressed the regime to "reverse policies responsible for the deteriorating human rights situation" in Afghanistan, according to the Department of State. In a statement, the Department said that talks with "senior Taliban representatives and technocratic professionals" had been held over Sunday and Monday in the Qatari capital, the BBC reported. The US delegation "expressed support for the Afghan people's demands for their rights to be respected and for their voices to shape the future of the country", particularly for women, girls, and "vulnerable communities", it



added. According to the Department, the delegation also pressed for the release of detained American citizens and "took note" of the Taliban's "continuing commitment not to allow Afghanistan to be used as a platform

for attacks on the US and its allies", acknowledging a "decrease in large-scale terrorist attacks against Afghan civilians". On their part, the Taliban said they wanted the unfreezing of

Afghanistan's assets, as well as lifting of sanctions and travel bans. Taking to Twitter on Monday, Abdul Qahar Balkhi, spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: "Also, humanitarian aid, freedom of travel, & Afghans' access to consular services around the world were among importance issues of discussion." Removal of most of the restrictions on Afghan banks leading to easy transactions was considered a positive development. Both sides emphasized the continuation of such meetings, understanding, & interactions. "According to Balkhi, the Taliban delegation was led by Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and included representatives from the Ministry, Da Afghanistan Bank and officials from the Afghan Embassy and Political Office in Qatar.

Ex-Australian childcare worker charged with sexual abuse of 91 kids

Sydney | Agencies

Police in Australia have charged a former childcare worker with over 1,600 offences following the alleged sexual abuse of 91 children, which he also filmed and distributed it online. According to the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the 45-year-old accused, who was arrested in August 2022, carried out the crimes at 10 childcare centres in Queensland, and one each in New South Wales and an unnamed overseas country, the BBC reported. The AFP said that the man targeted young girls over a 15-year period. He is facing 246 counts of rape and 673 counts of indecent assault against children -- many of them in aggravated circumstances.



The charges carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. He also faces hundreds of charges for filming and distributing child abuse material. Police have found 4,000 images and videos on his electronic devices and also alleged that he recorded all of his abuse. Addressing the media on Tuesday, AFP Commissioner Justine Gough said the case would be "deeply distressing" for the community. "It's beyond the realms of anyone's imagination, what

this person did to these children. You try not to be shocked after a long period of time in the police... but this is a horrific case," the BBC quoted the Commissioner as saying. The 87 Australian children who were allegedly abused, some of whom are now adults, have been identified and their families contacted. Australian authorities are now working with their international counterparts to contact the other four alleged victims.



PM MODI CONFERRED LOKMANYA TILAK AWARD, DONATES IT TO GANGA PROJECT

Team Absolute | Pune

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the prestigious 41st Lokmanya Tilak National Award of the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust, instituted in the memory of the legendary freedom fighter and journalist, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, here, on Tuesday.

After receiving the award, instituted in 1983, PM Modi dedicated it to the 140-crore people of India and donated the prize money of Rs1 Lakh to the 'Namami Ganga Project'.

Earlier, PM Modi paid floral tributes to the Lokmanya Tilak (1856-1920) on his 103rd birth anniversary and recalled his glorious services to the Indian Independence movement. "The contributions of Lokmanya Tilak cannot be limited to a few words or events as he influenced all the leaders and incidents during the Freedom struggle. Even the Britishers had to call him 'Father of the Indian Unrest'. Tilak changed the direction of the Independence movement with his call for 'Swarajya is my Birthright', said Modi.

Paying tributes to the institution-building to nation-building capabilities of Lokmanya Tilak, the PM said that Mahatma Gandhi had called him



as the architect of modern India, and how he had collaborated with Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal to form the formidable triumvirate of 'Lal, Bal and Pal', his journalism through the newspaper 'Kesari' which is still read in Maharashtra. PM Modi highlighted Lokmanya's traditions while launching the community celebrations of the 10-day long annual Ganeshotsav and Shivaji Jayanti, "which were both a campaign of stitching India into a cultural thread and a complete conception of 'Poorna Swaraj' with the big goals of social reforms and Independence".

Referring to Lokmanya Tilak's faith in the youth, the PM recalled how he inspired Vinayak D. Savarkar - later Swatantryaveer Savarkar, setting up the prestigious New English School the Fergusson College and the Deccan Education Society.

Recalling Lokmanya Tilak's Gujarat-connect, Modi said he had spent around 6 weeks in Sabarmati Jail in Ahmedabad and he was welcomed by over 40,000 people in 1916 who came to listen to him and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Later, when Sardar Patel headed the Ahmedabad Municipality, he installed a statue of

17 killed as crane crashes on girder in Maha's Thane district

Team Absolute | Thane

At least 17 workers were killed and three others injured when a crane crashed on a girder in Shahpur where work on the Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway (Samruddhi Mahamarg) was underway in Thane, the home district of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, authorities said.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - who arrived in Maharashtra for a day-long visit - have condoled the deaths and offered solace to the families of the victims.

Modi also announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the victims and Rs 50,000 to those injured in the mishap from the PM National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde who is in Pune for Modi's visit, called his ministers and officials for a briefing of the tragedy that struck in Thane, his home district.

Shinde announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakhs for



the families of each deceased worker and free treatment for the injured, besides deputing Minister Dadaji Bhuse to the spot in Shahpur to oversee the rescue and relief operations.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has ordered a thorough investigation by experts into the disaster.

According to the Thane Regional Disaster Management Unit and the NDRF, the incident occurred at around 1 a.m. on Tuesday when the massive gantry-crane tumbled on the girder, trapping the workers.

At that time, a group of workers was busy erecting a gigantic gantry-girder on a section of the third and final phase of the 701-km long Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg, coming up at a cost of Rs 55,000 crore.

The cause of the accident is not immediately clear, and there are apprehensions that the death toll may further increase, officials indicated.

The accident site is located between Sargaon and Sarambegaon, and a huge rescue effort on a war footing has been launched by NDRF, SDRF and other local agencies.

Sharad Pawar could have turned his back on event with PM Modi: Team Uddhav

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena (UBT) today said NCP chief Sharad Pawar, who shared stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Lokmanya Tilak National Award ceremony in Pune, could have turned his back on the event to clear doubts about him among those who have taken a dim view of it.

An editorial in the Shiv Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana' claimed PM Modi accused the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) of corruption and then engineered a split in the party and muddied the politics in Maharashtra.

"Still Sharad Pawar will welcome (Narendra) Modi and this has not gone down well with some people. This was a good opportunity for (Sharad) Pawar to turn his back on the programme and clear the doubts about him among people," the Marathi daily said. PM Modi is on a visit to Pune today to launch various development projects and also receive the Lokmanya Tilak National Award, constituted by Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983 to honour the legacy of Lokmanya Tilak.



Notably, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar last month led a split in the NCP and joined the Shinde government along with eight other party MLAs.

The editorial said if Sharad Pawar would have stayed away from the event to protest the against the engineering of a split in the NCP, then his leadership and courage would have been appreciated.

It said the country is fighting against "dictatorship" and the INDIA alliance comprising 26 opposition parties has been formed for the

Shiv Sena symbol row: SC refuses urgent hearing on Uddhav Thackeray's plea

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to urgently list the plea filed by Uddhav Thackeray against the order of the Election Commission allotting party name 'Shiv Sena' and its symbol 'Bow and Arrow' to the Eknath Shinde faction.

"Wait for the Constitution bench on Jammu and Kashmir to get over and we will give a date", told a bench comprising Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra to Uddhav's counsel, advocate Amit Anand Tiwari, who mentioned the matters for urgent listing.

The bench also declined to urgently hear the plea filed by Uddhav Thackeray against delay by the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker in deciding the disqualification proceedings filed against Chief Minister



Eknath Shinde and his camp. In this matter, the Court had sought responses of Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar and CM Eknath Shinde by July 28.

Earlier on July 10, the Supreme Court had agreed to hear on July 31 the plea against the order of the Election Commission allotting party name and its symbol to the Shinde



faction. However, the plea could not be listed before the court for hearing. On February 22, the Supreme Court had called Shinde and EC to file their reply on Thackeray's plea within two weeks and directed the matter to be listed after three weeks. The top court had refused to stay the Election Commission's decision recognising the Eknath Shinde fac-

tion as the official Shiv Sena and granting them the party name and symbol but agreed to issue notice on the petition filed by Uddhav Thackeray challenging it.

Thackeray, in his plea filed before the apex court, has contended that the EC has failed to appreciate that the petitioner enjoys overwhelming support in the rank and file of the party.

Further, the plea contended that the EC has failed to discharge its duties as a neutral arbiter of disputes under para 15 of the Symbols Order and has acted in a manner undermining its constitutional status.

In response, the poll body in its counter-affidavit has told the top court that it has passed a "well-reasoned" order, in a quasi-judicial capacity, allotting the name and party symbol of the Shiv Sena to Shinde faction.

Mumbai train firing: Accused constable Chetan Singh remanded to police custody till August 7

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A court in Mumbai on Tuesday remanded the Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable Chetan Singh (34) to police custody till August 7, Press Trust of India reported.

A tragedy unfolded in Mumbai in the wee hours of Monday on board the moving Jaipur-Mumbai Central Express train where the Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable shot dead his senior and three passengers near Palghar station on Mumbai's outskirts.

The assailant was nabbed with his weapon while trying to flee after passengers pulled the chain of the train which stopped near Mira Road station (on the Mumbai suburban network) at around 6 am, but the motive behind the chilling incident was not



yet known. Constable Chetan Singh (34) shot dead RPF Assistant Sub-Inspector Tika Ram Meena and another passenger in B5 coach with his automatic weapon after 5 AM. He then shot dead another passenger in the pantry car five coaches away and went on to kill one more passenger in B6 coach, which is 8th bogie from the S5 coach, an official said.

Members of a high-level commit-

tee, set up to conduct a probe into the incident of a RPF constable shooting dead four persons on a train, reached Mumbai on Tuesday and they are expected to meet officials concerned, authorities said.

The Railway Board has set up the five-member committee to conduct a "comprehensive inquiry" into the incident which took place on Monday on the Jaipur-Mumbai

Central Express train, an official said. The probe committee comprises the principal chief security commissioners of the Western Railway and the Central Railway, the principal chief commercial manager of the North Western Railway, the principal chief medical director of the North Central Railway and the principal chief personnel officer of the West Central Railway.

According to railway officials, the panel has been asked to submit its report on the train firing incident to the Railway Board in the next three months. "An ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh has been announced for the passengers who died in this unfortunate incident.

The family of ASI Tikaram will receive dues as per service rules," a statement from the Western Railway said.

Body of man who jumped from Bandra-Worli Sea Link recovered

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The body of a 57-year-old businessman who jumped from the Bandra-Worli Sea Link (BWSL) in Mumbai was recovered from the Arabian Sea on Tuesday.

A resident of Khar, Tikam Makhija drove to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, parked his car and jumped into the sea on Monday morning.

"The man was disturbed for the past few days," the police official said.

After being alerted about the suicide, the Mumbai Police and fire brigade roped in the Navy, Indian Coast Guard and local fishermen to launch a search to trace Makhija.

A Chetak helicopter of the



Indian Navy was pressed into service apart from a team of divers. The search operation continued on Tuesday and the Navy helicopter spotted a body floating on the sea around 2 pm in the afternoon. "A rescue team was rushed to spot on a boat and the body was brought to the Chaityabhoomi jetty in Dadar," the police official said. Family members identi-

fied the dead man as Makhija.

A case of accidental death would be registered at the Shivaji Park police station in Dadar.

"After post-mortem, the body will be handed over to the family," he said.

The official said Makhija had slipped into depression after suffering serious head injuries in a road accident at Kalina, a western suburb, last month.

"The businessman underwent surgeries but was upset since then. He would tell his family members about ending life," the official said.

According to the police, a day before he jumped into the sea, Makhija spoke to a relative and talked about suicide.

23-YEAR-OLD MAN KIDNAPS MINOR GIRL FROM SEWRI

Mumbai: The Mumbai police have arrested a 23-year-old man for allegedly kidnapping a minor girl from Sewri.

According to the police, the accused identified as Irshad Khan was apprehended from a bag-making unit in New Delhi on Monday and the minor girl was rescued.

"Khan, a native of Begusarai in Bihar, allegedly abducted a 17-year-old girl from Sewri last month," the police official said.

"Based on the girl's call records, the police zeroed in on the accused," the police official added.

Further probe is underway.

ATS recovers bomb-making supplies from Pune forest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) conducted a fresh search operation in a forest area in Pune, assisted by the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS), which led to the recovery of various chemicals used for making bombs and laboratory equipment necessary for conducting tests, the ATS said in an official statement.

The prime suspect in the case-Mohammed Imran Mohammed Yusuf Khan-disclosed the location in Pune's forest area, prompting the ATS to initiate the search operation in collaboration with the BDDS, which ultimately led to the seizure of different chemicals involved in the manufacturing of explosives and laboratory equipment.

Additionally, the ATS disclosed that the suspect had



connections with the recently dismantled ISIS module case, wherein they were found to be recruiting youth and imparting bomb-making training. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also seized a 'Do it yourself (DIY)' kit for weapon and explosives fabrication.

Furthermore, the ATS revealed links between one of the suspects-Zulfikar Ali Barodawala-and individuals arrested earlier in connection with the Al-Sufa case. The ATS has moved an application before the NIA court, seeking custody of Barodawala. The court is scheduled to announce its decision on Tuesday.

Ahead of election season, PM Modi gifts bouquet of projects to Pune

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his day-long visit here on Tuesday, lavished several mega-projects on Pune in different sectors worth around Rs 15,000 crore as the election season approaches.

They include the new Pune Metro lines and trains, homes built under various schemes, foundation stones for other housing projects, and a waste-to-energy plant for the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC).

The PM flagged off trains marking the inauguration of services on the completed sections of two corridors of Pune Metro Phase I - Phugewadi to Civil Court



stations and Garware College to Ruby Hall Clinic stations. The foundation stone for this project was laid by him in 2016.

Moving close towards the mission of Housing For All, the PM handed over more than 1,280 houses constructed under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY) by the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) and 2,650 PMAY houses built by Pune Municipal Corporation

(PMC). Modi also laid the foundation stones for around 1,190 PMAY houses to be constructed by PCMC and another 6,400 houses which shall be built by Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA).

The PM inaugurated a Rs 300-crore 'Waste to Energy Plant' in PCMC which will use up to about 2.5 lakh MT of waste annually to produce electricity. Incidentally, the new

Pune Metro lines will link up major places in Pune like Shivaji Nagar, Civil Court, PMC Office, RTO and the railway station, affording people with modern, environment-friendly mass rapid urban transport systems all over India.

The designs of some of the Pune Metro stations are inspired from the legendary Maratha warrior king, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

For instance, the Chhatrapati Sambhaji Udyan and Deccan Gymkhana stations have a unique design of the 'Mavala Pagdi' - a headgear worn by the soldiers of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, while the Shivaji Nagar underground station has a distinctive design of forts constructed by the great ruler.

MAN STABBED TO DEATH OVER PERSONAL ENMITY; ONE HELD

Mumbai: A 32-year-old man was stabbed to death over personal enmity in Powai.

The victim identified as Kishor Gaikwad was allegedly attacked by one Sandip Birare on Monday night in a public place, an official from Powai police station said.

"The duo, both residents of Ramabai Chawl locality, had a personal dispute," he said.

"Birare fatally stabbed the victim in the neck with a knife and killed him before fleeing the spot," the official said.

Passersby alerted the Mumbai Police. The accused was arrested immediately," the police official said. A case under section 302 (murder) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code.



Carmen Electra

FINE DESPITE LOOKING EXASPERATED WHILE CRYING IN PUBLIC

Los Angeles | Agencies

Former 'Baywatch' actress Carmen Electra sparked concern after she was photographed crying and looking distraught during a rare sighting around her house in Los Angeles.

In photos and a video obtained by Page Six, Carmen appeared exasperated while sitting hunched over the stoop of her home. The 51-year-old model and actress looked troubled as she took deep breaths, reports aceshowbiz.com.

At one point, the Playboy cover girl could be seen holding her hands up to her face while frowning. It seemed like Carmen also cried as she appeared to wipe away her tears from her makeup-free face.

During the public meltdown, the 'Scary Movie' star looked casual in a Guns N' Roses graphic tee that she paired with camouflage cargo pants and black Adidas sneakers. As for her signature blond hair, she let it tied up into a very messy bun.

Despite that, her representative appeared to try to brush the concern off, telling the news outlet that there is "nothing to worry about." The rep further noted, "It looks like she had a migraine, and it's really hot out. The sun is basically in her eyes!"

Earlier this month, Carmen opened up about her venture on OnlyFans in an interview with Fox News Digital.

"At first I wasn't sure if it was something I wanted to do, but I really looked into it and I realised I could be my own boss," she shared. "I love being a part of OnlyFans because I shoot when I want to shoot. I have creative control of doing whatever I want to do."

Carmen then revealed one of her most requested photos from her millions of fans.



LUCY LIU, DAVID HARBOUR, SETH ROGAN AMONG CELEBRITIES TO JOIN PICKET LINE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Carla Gugino, Lucy Liu, Paul Giamatti, David Harbour and Seth Rogan were among the host of celebrities, who joined the picket line in New York and Los Angeles, as the Hollywood strike entered the third-week.

Carla, 51, looked comfortable in a black V-neck top and red jeans. The 'Leopard Skin' star styled her dark, curly hair into a high ponytail and wore large aviator glasses as she joined her fellow strikers in

New York, Daily Mail reported.

Lucy, 54, marched by her in solidarity wearing a white T-shirt and jeans and a brown leather belt.

The 'Shazam! Fury of the Gods' star placed a faded black billed cap over her dark bob and wore large, dark sunglasses.

Oscar nominee Paul Giamatti, 56, tried to keep cool in the concrete wearing a gray collared shirt, blue shorts and black sneakers.

'Stranger Things' star David Harbour, 48, wore a black SAG-AFTRA Strong with black jeans and sneakers.

He wore a black billed cap and carried a strike sign and a cup of coffee.

'Billions' star Samantha Mathis, 53, beat the

heat in green khaki shorts and a black SAG-AFTRA T-shirt and sneakers.

She pulled her blonde locks up and placed them beneath a black billed cap.

'Oppenheimer' actor David Krumholtz, 45, joined the picket line in New York in a black and brown plaid shirt, tan shorts and sneakers.

He wrote a long message on Instagram that read "AMPTP can end this nonsense with one sit down with @sagaftra leadership. Put thousands upon thousands of people back to work."

"Make no mistake, there are GOOD PEOPLE on the other side of this. But they are deathly frightened of rocking the AMPTP's boat for fear they may be blacklisted," he posted, adding, "That is a travesty and a damn shame."

CARDI B SUSPECT IN BATTERY CASE AFTER THROWING MICROPHONE INTO CONCERT CROWD

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Cardi B is said to be listed as the suspect in a battery case following an incident at her Las Vegas concert, where she hurled a microphone at a concert-goer.

The 30-year-old Washington-born musician was filmed fuming in the aftermath of an incident which saw a gig goer splash her in the face with water. She angrily appeared to raise her arm while holding her microphone before lobbing it into the audience.

The venue's security can then be seen heading towards the person in the crowd, reports mirror.co.uk.

As the security leap off stage and into the crowd, Cardi was seen shouting at the person who threw the drink at her. She then composes herself, fixes her hair and the video ends.

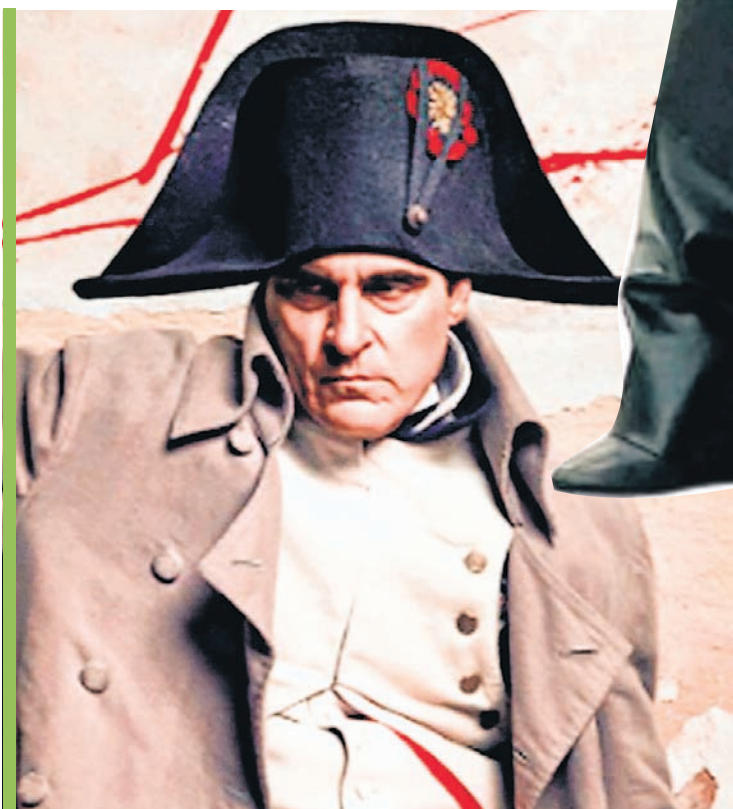
However, another clip shows the singer had initiated the water throwing in the first place. She was filmed crudely asking people to "put that s*** in my p***y b***h" and posed while fans splashed her.

The issue seemingly came as one fan later went too far and aimed the liquid too high for Cardi's liking. And now it's reported the songstress may have more than just a wet face to contend with - however police have confirmed there have been no arrests regarding the incident.

According to TMZ, the woman who was struck by Cardi's mic when she hurled it into the crowd at Drai's Nightclub on Saturday reported the incident to the Las Vegas Metro Police Department the following day.

The publication claims the concert goer told police she had been hit by an item which had been thrown from the stage.

The microphone appeared to strike the drink thrower before bouncing off and hitting another person. It's not clear which is said to have gone to the police.



Ridley Scott cast Joaquin Phoenix after his performance in 'Joker'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Director Ridley Scott, who is directing the biopic 'Napoleon' starring Joaquin Phoenix in the titular role, said he cast the Hollywood star after his Oscar winning performance as Arthur Fleck in 'Joker'.

As reported by Deadline, while speaking to Empire Magazine, Scott said: "I'm staring at Joaquin and saying, 'This little demon is Napoleon Bonaparte'. He looks like him."

Phoenix went on to say that he was nostalgic at the idea of reuniting with the director after he had played the role of Roman Emperor Commodus in 'Gladiator' which garnered him critical acclaim and an Oscar nomination.

He told the outlet: "The truth is, there was just a very nostalgic idea of working with Ridley again. He's approached me about other things in the past, but nothing that felt like it would be as demanding for both

of us. And so I really liked the idea of jumping into something with Ridley that was going to be that."

Talking about Napoleon Bonaparte, Scott said: "I compare him with Alexander The Great. Adolf Hitler. Stalin. Listen, he's got a lot of bad s*** under his belt. At the same time, he was remarkable with his courage, and in his can-do and in his dominance. He was extraordinary."

Scott also mentioned that just two weeks before filming was set to start, Phoenix approached him and told him: "I don't know what to do," to which the director continued, "Oh God, I said, 'Come in, sit down.' We sat for ten days, all day, talking scene by scene. In a sense, we rehearsed. Absolutely, detail by detail."

While the film will pay special attention to Napoleon's rise to power and his tumultuous relationship with his wife Empress Josephine, it won't per say be a biopic as such.

Matthew McConaughey undecided on entry into politics

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey is still undecided whether he wants to swap Hollywood for a career in politics.

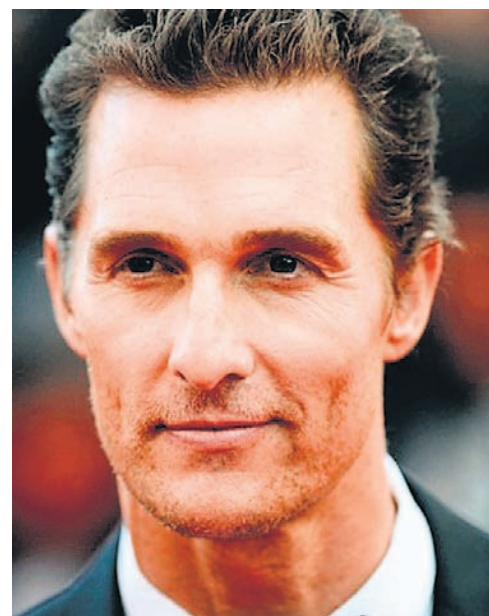
McConaughey, 53, has been getting more involved with politics in recent years and has discussed gun reform policies with US President Joe Biden after a shooting at a school in his hometown of Uvalde, Texas in 2022. However, McConaughey isn't sure if his future lies in office, Aceshowbiz reported.

During an appearance on US TV's 'This Week', McConaughey was asked if he could see himself running for office and he replied, "There's a great question that I'm still answering."

The 'Dallas Buyers Club' actor elaborated on his Greenlights Grant Initiative which he launched with his wife Camila Alves in July to help communities access government grants to prevent school violence and support the mental health of young people.

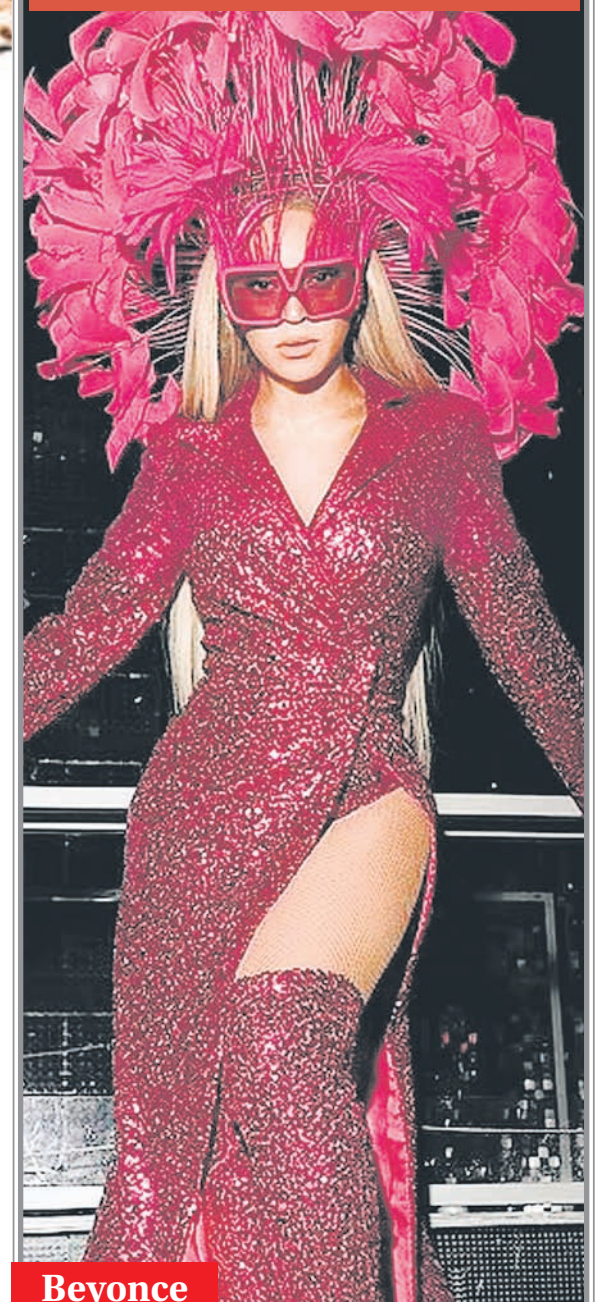
"As of right now, to be a private citizen with my wife and to come up with an idea like the Greenlights Grant Initiative. To work with the government publicly to help them, not doing the job for them, helping them pull off what they set out to do in the first place. There is an argument that that's more useful, what I'm doing right now, in a small way," he said.

McConaughey previously floated a run for Texas governor in 2021 after polls showed him with a lead



against the incumbent Republican Governor Greg Abbott. He ultimately decided against it, however, noting at the time that it wasn't the right moment for him. In a video posted on X, he explained, "It's a humbling and inspiring path to ponder. It is also a path that I'm choosing not to take at this moment."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Beyoncé



IND v WI, 3rd ODI IND v WI, 3rd ODI

INDIA SCORED MASSIVE 351-5 AGAINST WEST INDIES

Tarouba | Agencies

Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Sanju Samson and Hardik Pandya smashed half-centuries each as India posted a massive 351-5 in their 50 overs of the ODI series decider against West Indies at the Brian Lara Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.



Kishan was at his best in taking up the aggressor role, and hitting everything which came in his arc to smash eight fours and three sixes in his knock of 77 off 64 balls.

Gill started off slowly, but played some delightful shots while hitting 11 fours and played anchor in his 85 off 92 balls.

Pushed into batting first, Kishan got off the mark by driving Jayden Seales past cover for a boundary. In the next over, he received a life when Keacy Carty dropped his catch at backward point.

Gill joined the party with delightful pull, short-arm jab and brilliant punch past cover for boundaries.

With the ball not swinging much, Kishan used his bottom hand power to collect three boundaries off Kyle Mayers through the leg-side.

power-play.

Kishan continued to hit big boundaries and reached his third successive ODI fifty in 43 deliveries, followed by Gill reaching his fifty in 51 balls with a pulled four off Cariah.

Kishan's knock ended in the 20th over when he missed Cariah's delivery on attempting to heave through the leg-side and was stumped. After Gaikwad's edge on drive was caught by second slip, Samson announced his arrival by lofting Cariah for two sixes on both sides of 'v'.

After surviving an lbw appeal, Samson stylishly flicked Seales for six. Gill and Samson would continue to deal in boundaries, with the latter reaching his third ODI fifty in 39 balls.

But immediately after,

World University Games

Sift Kaur, Ashi Chouksey finish 1-2 in women's 50m 3P as India bag two gold

Chengdu (China) | Agencies

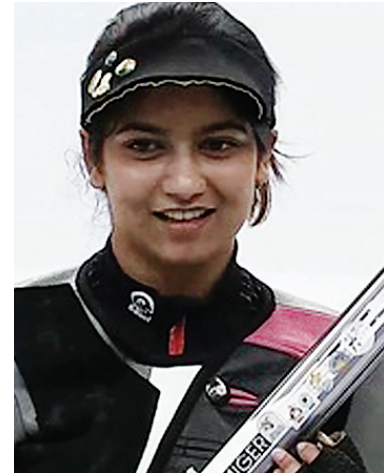
Rifle shooters Sift Kaur Samra and Ashi Chouksey won gold and silver as Indian shooters continued to shine bright in the 31st FISU World University Games on the fourth day of competition on Tuesday, winning two gold and one bronze medal.

With these four medals on Tuesday, India and China tied for the first position in shooting with 13 medals. India were on top with eight gold, three silver and two bronze as compared to 4 gold, four silver and five bronze medals.

Sift Kaur and Ashi finished first and second in the Women's 50m Air Rifle 3-position event while both of them were part of the team that came up with a brilliant performance to win gold in the Women's 50m Rifle 3-Position on Tuesday.

The men's 10m Air Pistol team of Arjun Cheema, Varun Tomar and Anmol Jain bagged the bronze medal.

In the women's rifle event, Sift Kaur was in superb form as she shot 462.9 to finish ahead of compatriot Ashi Chouksey, who shot 461.6 for silver.



China's Wang Zeru claimed bronze with a score of 451.1.

Manini Kaushik, the third Indian in the final, was the first to crash out, after failing to do well in the first two series.

Sift came up with the second-best scores of 154.1 and 166.8 in the first two series with all scores in the 50-plus range. Ashi started the first series with 49 in knee-

ing and 50.4 and 50.6 in both prone and standing positions. He shot 52.0, 52.6, and 52.5 in the second series as she maintained herself in medal contention. Sift shot 50.7 and 51.5 in the next series while Ashi shot 52.2 and 51.6. Sift managed her upper hand to win the gold medal with Ashi in second position.

The Indian women's team of Ashi, Manini and Sift tallied an aggregate score of 3527 points with 194 inner 10s in the final to win gold. China took the silver medal with a score of 3523 (173x) and the Czech Republic took bronze with 3501 with 164 inner 10s.

Sift Kaur led the scoring for India with a score of 1180 (66x) with Ashi contributing 1174 (67x) and Manini Kaushik scoring 1173 (61x).

In the 10m Air Pistol Team competition, the Indian team comprising Varun Tomar, Arjun Singh Chema and Anmol Jain finished third with 1730 points and 57 inner 10s score.

They finished behind South Korea and China tied for the top spot with 1742 points, but the Koreans had 67 hits to the inner 10 to 61 by the Chinese, thus giving the Koreans the gold.

Cricket Australia congratulates Pat Cummins & Co. for winning WTC title, retaining Ashes

Canberra | Agencies

Cricket Australia (CA) on Tuesday congratulated the Australian senior men's team on its successful tour of England during which it won the World Test Championship (WTC) title for the first time.

On the three-month-long tour of England, the Australians completed a unique double -- winning their maiden World Test Championship title and retaining the Ashes. The Ashes series finished tied 2-2 after England won the fifth Test at The Oval on Monday.

The Ashes and World Test Championship victories comprised an exciting and physically demanding period in which the Australians played six Test matches in eight weeks, Cricket Australia said in a release on Tuesday.

"We are all enormously



proud of Pat Cummins and his team for all they have achieved on their tour of England," Nick Hockley, Cricket Australia, chief executive, said. "The squad was determined to return with the World Test Championship trophy and the Ashes, and to achieve both objectives in often diffi-

cult conditions against world-class opposition and in front of extremely passionate and occasionally hostile crowds, is a credit to all the players and support staff," he was quoted as saying in a release. Hockley said the series lived up to the billing of one of the greatest rivalries in cricket.

Australian players make big moves in the ICC Women's ODI Rankings after series win over Ireland

Dubai | Agencies

Australia's dominant 2-0 ODI series triumph over Ireland in Dublin has seen a majority of their players make big moves in the latest update to the ICC Women's Player Rankings.

Australia's off-spin all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner, who also won the ICC Women's Player of the Month for June 2023, reached career-best ranking in all three lists starting with jumping five slots from 21st to 16th and 579 rating points in the batters list after a quick-fire 65 from 39 deliveries in the second match.

She has also moved one place to a personal best fourth place in the bowlers rankings, with 673 points after taking three wickets for 38 runs in the third game. Her efforts also meant Ashleigh got her best ranking of number two and 389 points (from fourth place) in the all-rounders list,



that continues to be topped by England's Natalie Sciver-Brunt, who also continues her stronghold over the top batting position.

Her teammates, Annabel Sutherland and Phoebe Litchfield smashed a century each in their 10-wicket victory in the third match to

rise to their own, career-best rankings of 36th (up 13 slots with 418 points) and 51st (up 22 with 357 points) respectively.

Premier all-rounder Ellyse Perry's 99-ball 91 saw her rise to eighth position among the batters, one up from her previous seventh, with 686 rating points, while leg-spinner Georgia Wareham also made significant gains in all three lists, reaching her personal best in the batters (66th from 80th) and all-rounders (22nd from 30th) lists. Georgia has also risen four slots to 25th in the bowlers list, five places shy of her best, at 20th.

Despite the series loss to Australia, Ireland have also seen several personal best gains in the latest update to the rankings. Gaby Lewis rose two places to 21st in the batters list with 557 points, followed by Amy Hunter who jumped nine slots to 54th and 338 points.

Igor Stimac names 22-member squad for Asian Games men's football competition

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India senior men's team head coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday announced a 22-member squad for the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, to be held from September 19 to October 7.

The Indian team are placed alongside hosts China PR, Bangladesh, and Myanmar in Group A.

There are 23 teams, who have been divided into six groups. Group A, B, C, E, and F have four teams each while Group D has three teams.

Twice Asian Games champions India are participating in the football event of the continental games for the first time after nine years.

The Squad:
Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Gurmeet Singh, Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem
Defenders: Sandesh



Jhingan, Anwar Ali, Narender Gahlot, Lalchungnunga, Akash Mishra, Roshan Singh, Ashish Rai

Amarjit Singh Kiyam, Rahul KP, Naorem Mahesh Singh
Forwards: Siva Sakthi Narayanan, Rahim Ali, Aniket Jadhav, Vikram Partap Singh, Rohit Danu, Sunil Chhetri
Head Coach: Igor Stimac

Next two months crucial for the team: Harmanpreet Singh

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the team set to play the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai followed by the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, in the next two months will be crucial for the Indian men's hockey team, says skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

The team is targeting the Asian Games as winning the gold medal will also earn a direct berth to next year's Olympic Games in Paris. India won a bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympic Games and would like to improve on that in Paris and prove that Tokyo was not a flash in the pan and that Indian hockey is really on the upswing.

The Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and vice-captain Hardik Singh on Tuesday talked about the team's preparations for the upcoming important tournaments



including the Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023 which will be followed by the Hangzhou Asian Games, where the Indian team will be competing for direct qualification of the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

In the latest episode of Hockey Te Charcha, a podcast series launched by Hockey India, Harmanpreet Singh and Hardik Singh stressed the significance of special camps conducted by goalkeeping coach Dennis van de Pol from the Netherlands, as well as the appointment of mental health conditioning coach Paddy Upton, ahead of crucial tournaments.

Novak Djokovic to play doubles at Cincinnati Masters

Ohio (US) | Agencies

Novak Djokovic signed up for a doubles draw with compatriot Nikola Cacic at Cincinnati Masters, his only warm-up event before the US Open, as per the entry list released on Monday.

The 23-time Grand Slam winner had already been confirmed for the singles of the ATP Masters 1000 event, which will be held from August 13-20.

This will not be the first time Djokovic will play a doubles event. Earlier, he played doubles ahead of his successful title run at the Australian Open at the start of the year when he teamed up with Vasek Pospisil at the Adelaide Open, but the pair lost in the first round.

The Serbian has been out of action since his Wimbledon final loss against world no. 1 Carlos Alcaraz a



little over two weeks ago. He further delayed his return to the tennis court by skipping the Canadian Open.

The singles and doubles clashes in Cincinnati will be Djokovic's only competitive matches before the final Grand Slam of the year, the US Open, starts on August 28

at Flushing Meadows in New York.

Djokovic will return to the US for the first time in two years. He had missed last year's edition due to vaccine protocols that require international travelers to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Ind vs WI, ODIs

'Was there any pressure from broadcasters to put Rohit, Kohli in team?'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After Indian skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were "rested" for the last two ODIs against West Indies, the fans expressed their displeasure and slammed the BCCI and the team management for their "bizarre" decisions.

Netizens raised questions, asking the Indian board and coach on why Rohit and Kohli were named in the ODI series when they are getting rested. "They should have picked another team then."

However, one user said that the BCCI was under pressure from broadcasters to put Kohli and Rohit in the team. "Arre... broadcasters promo me kya daalenge fir. Ad walon ko kaise convince karenge."

"Interestingly, we have the ICC ODI World Cup this year and our



main players are getting rested before that and not playing ODIs. Wow, Rahul Dravid what's happening. "It made no sense to carry Rohit or Virat for the ODI series if they were not going to play. I understand, you have to try out fringe players too

but carrying the two made no sense," wrote another. Meanwhile, West Indies captain Shai Hope won the toss and elected to bowl in the 3rd ODI at the Brian Lara Stadium on Tuesday. Hardik Pandya will be leading India again.

Such comments are generally made when team loses a match: Jadeja reacts to Kapil Dev's 'arrogant' remark

Tarouba (Trinidad) | Agencies

In a robust reply to former captain Kapil Dev's remarks about the Indian team becoming arrogant due to the influence of money, star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja brushed aside the criticism and said such comments crop up when a team loses a match.

In a recent interview with The Week magazine, Kapil commented that the current bunch of Indian cricketers seem to have become arrogant as they seem to think they know everything.

"Sometimes, when too much money comes, arrogance comes. These cricketers, they feel they know everything," Kapil had said.

Speaking to reporters ahead of the crucial third ODI against



West Indies in Trinidad, Jadeja made it clear that the team is fully committed to securing victories for India, emphasising that there are no personal agendas among them.

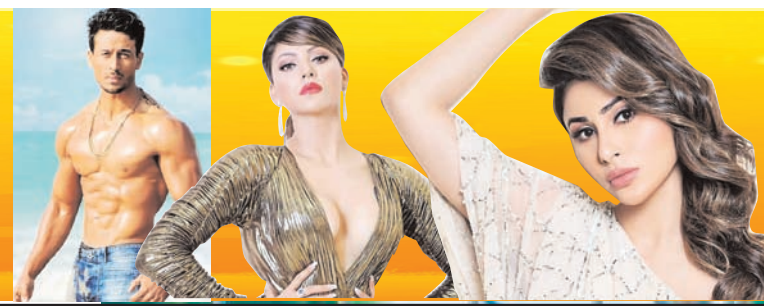
"Everyone has their own opinion. It's nothing like that. Everybody is enjoying their game and working hard. Players are not taking their place in the team for granted. Whenever they are getting chances, they are giving their 100 per cent and

trying to win games for India," Jadeja said.

"Such comments generally come when the Indian team lost a match. Nobody is arrogant. Everybody is representing India. We are working hard and playing for the country. There is no personal agenda," he added.

The star all-rounder also defended coach Rahul Dravid's decision to experiment excessively with the team combination in the ongoing ODI series against West Indies.

After rejigging their batting line-up in the first ODI, India continued their experimentation as they rested Rohit and Kohli for the second ODI and the move backfired as the Caribbean team cruised to a six-wicket triumph that squared the series at 1-1 on Saturday.



SUNNY LEONE: ANURAG KASHYAP HAS ABILITY TO SEE PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAY



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sunny Leone is over-the-moon as her movie 'Kennedy' after Cannes Film Festival is set to premiere at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2023.

Praising her director Anurag Kashyap, she said that he has the ability to see people in a different way that makes him special.

Sunny told reporter: "I definitely think he's a magician. I think he has the ability

to see different people in a way that makes him special and chooses who he works with and how he helps them and nurtures them through either professionally or personally. He is such an amazing man."

What is that one thing Sunny took back home from 'Kennedy'?

The actress said: "That really anything can happen in life and your life can change within one phone call and I am very very excited about everything what's going to come after this huge debut in Cannes and Kennedy being accepted all over the world from many festivals."

Directed by Kashyap, it also stars Rahul Bhatt.

The neo-noir thriller film marks the third collaboration of Kashyap and Bhat after 'Ugly' (2013) and 'Dobaaraa' (2022).

The film follows the story of an insomniac former cop, Kennedy, who has been presumed dead for years.

'Kennedy', an insomniac ex-police officer who operates secretly for the corrupt system, lives in different conditions and goes on a lookout for salvation.

'Kennedy' premiered at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival on May 24, 2023.

It is also being premiered at 2023 Sydney Film Festival and Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival.

Talking about the IFFM premier, she said: "I am very excited to be going to Melbourne and being able to showcase the film there and do believe that a lot of people from the fraternity will also be there so it will be very interesting to see their feedback within the Bollywood industry as well and it's going to be fun."



For Vidisha Srivastava, quality matters more than quantity when it comes to friendship

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Vidisha Srivastava, who portrays Anita Bhabi in the superhit television show 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai', has spoken about the friendship bond with her bestie and shared that though they may not speak regularly but the two share such a mature friendship that they are always there when one needs the other.

Ahead of the Friendship Day which happens to be on August 6, the actress said that she believes in quality over quantity when it comes to friendship.

Talking about the same, the actress said: "In life, we meet numerous people. Still, some leave a lasting impact, and my dear friend Shilpy is one of those special individuals. Despite my busy shooting schedule, she's been by my side through thick and thin, and I cherish our close bond. Although I may not speak with her often, she remains understanding and always there when I need her."

The actress further mentioned that for her the quality of friendship matters more than anything else. She believes in having fewer friends but is confident that all her friends will always be by her side should she need emotional support or help with anything else.

KARTIK AARYAN EXUDES PRIDE AS HE DONS 'INDIA' BLAZER IN HIS UP COMING'S FIRST LOOK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan, after registering a sturdy success of his last theatrical film 'Satyaprem Ki Katha',

in which he starred alongside Kiara Advani, is set to headline another film titled 'Chandu Champion', the first look of which was unveiled on Tuesday.

It shows Kartik looking into the camera as he dons the blazer with "India" written on it.

The picture also shows "military" written on the blazer signifying that Kartik's character serves in the Indian forces.

The upcoming film, directed by Kabir Khan of 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' fame, is based on a true story of a sportsperson.

The actor sports short hair in the first look, and has attempted a never seen before look for the film.

His off screen messy hairdo may command a colossal following and therefore, it's refreshing to see the actor take a 180 degree turn for his character. His sharp buzz-cut haircut and the intense look on his face gives the viewers a glimpse that he has a riveting story to tell and one that will make the nation proud.

'Chandu Champion' went on floors with its mahurat shot in London in the presence of Sajid & Warda Nadiadwala along with Kabir Khan and Kartik Aaryan present at the location with, a special guest of honour Minister of Culture, Media and Sports of the UK, Stuart Andrew.

The film is being jointly produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and Kabir Khan.

'Chandu Champion' has booked a grand release on the occasion of Eid in June 2024.



Kangana wishes to be paired opposite Vidyut Jammwal in action film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Tagging herself with actor Vidyut Jammwal as a "nice pair", actress-filmmaker Kangana Ranaut wants someone to cast them in an "action film".

Kangana took to her Instagram stories, where she posted a video from a fashion show, where the actress and

Vidyut were the show stoppers.

On the video, Kangana wrote: "Nice pair...someone should cast us in some action film."

Vidyut made his debut in 2011 with 'Force'. He also practices Kalaripayattu. He ranked in The Times of India's listing of India's Top 10 Most Desirable Men in 2012 and 2013. In 2012, People Magazine India listed him as one of The

RAFTAAR MAKES ACTING DEBUT WITH COMEDY SERIES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rapper Raftaar, who is known for tracks such as 'Baje Re Andhadhun', 'Mantoiyat', 'Ghana Kasoota', 'Dhaakad', is set to make his acting debut, and it's something that he always wanted to do. The rapper, who will be soon seen showcasing his acting chops with the webseries 'Bajao', spoke about checking all boxes as an artiste.

The series also came in like a full circle moment for him as the streaming show has been directed by the same set of directors with whom he shot a music video about seven years back.

Touted to be a laugh riot, 'Bajao' is a coming of age, bromance-comedy, set up in Delhi. The show explores the funny and wacky world of the Punjabi music industry which is extremely colourful and comes with a host of atrangi characters and swanky rappers.

Thrilled about his acting debut, the rapper shared: "I have always wanted to check all the boxes as an artist, and being able to act was one of them. This was a coming full circle moment for me since the directors (Shiv Varma and Saptaraj Chakraborty) are the same people I shot a music video with 7 years ago." Directed by Shiva Varma and



Saptaraj Chakraborty, 'Bajao' presents a crazy comedy driven by three boys amid the pressures of making it and surviving in the "Punjabi music world".

Sexiest Men Alive. In 2020, he was named in 'The World List Of 10 People You Don't Have To Mess With' alongside Vladimir Putin and Bear Grylls.

On the work front, upcoming film 'Crakk- Jeetega toh Jiyega', an adrenaline-rushing extreme sports film. Directed by Aditya Dutt, it is based on two brothers who are set to perform daring stunts mixed with extreme sports to win. It is written by Sarim Momin and Rehan Khan.

Kangana will be seen in 'Emergency'. 'Emergency', which stars Kangana as the former Indian Prime Minister.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nitibha Kaul

SRK lip-synced first time in three languages for a song



Team Absolute | Mumbai

This would be the first time when Shah Rukh Khan lip synced in three languages for the song 'Zinda Banda' in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

The song is titled 'Zinda Banda' in Hindi, 'Vandha Edam' in Tamil, and 'Dhumme Dhulipelaa' in Telugu. The music video features Shah Rukh Khan dancing with thousands of girls along with the other female co-stars from the film. The vibrant and catchy song bears Anirudh's signature style.

According to a source close to the project, SRK lip-synced for the first time in three languages for this first song. He learned the

song's lyrics for the Tamil and Telugu versions, and the Chennai unit supported and assisted him during the shoot. He shot this song three times for the three languages. The filming of the first song spanned five days, and the result is full of grandeur and celebration featuring Shah Rukh Khan's unmatched energy and dance moves. The song is a perfect blend of captivating visuals and Anirudh's infectious beats, promising to get the entire nation grooving along. Music composer Anirudh, who is known for 'Vaathi Coming' and 'Arabic Kuthu', said that this is the first time he is composing for the Badshah of Bollywood, who is synonymous with featuring in iconic songs.