

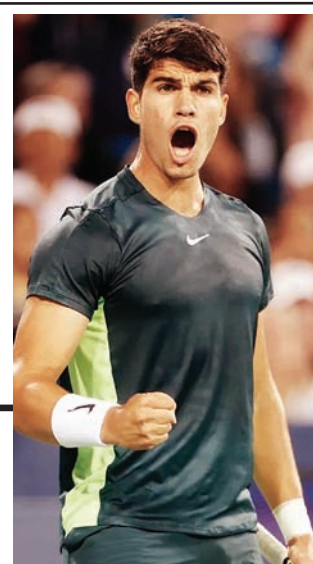
NATION > 02
Congress in damage control mode after goof up over contesting...



HOLLYWOOD > 06
Adele helps couple announce their baby's gender on-stage...



SPORTS > 07
Alcaraz beat Thompson for 50th win of season; Djokovic loses...



CAG FLAGS DEFICIENCIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF IEC PLAN IN AB-PMJAY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In its performance audit report on Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) highlighted deficiencies in implementation of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) plan under the scheme.

The AB-PMJAY provides a health cover up to Rs 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation services. It provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiaries at the point of service. The CAG's audit report on AB-PMJAY which was presented in Parliament recently, revealed that in between 2018-21, the National Health Authority (NHA) had spent Rs 64.07 crore for IEC activities. "During 2018-19 to 2020-21, NHA has incurred an expenditure of 64.07 crore on IEC activities. However, NHA did not allot a specific budget for these activities, in the absence of which audit could not verify whether the expenditure was within the prescribed budget ceiling.

"The NHA did not provide any details and records about a comprehensive IEC plan and its implementation status at the Central level. In the absence of these details and records, audit could not verify whether IEC activities were carried out at the central level in a planned manner and how far the planned targets were achieved," the report added.

It went on to say that "the NHA also did not provide any details of the mechanism for monitoring of IEC activities in various states all over India at the Central level".

"The audit could not verify whether NHA has monitored the IEC activities being carried out in States for creating awareness regarding benefits of the scheme among beneficiaries in order to increase registration of beneficiaries and coverage of the scheme.

"In seven states -- Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Punjab,



Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand -- IEC cell was formed. In 12 states -- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Rajasthan and Tripura -- IEC Cell was not formed, whereas no information was available about remaining states," the report added.

It further revealed that in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh, expenditure on IEC activities ranged from zero to 20.24 per cent of the allotted budget against the prescribed benchmark of 25 per cent.

"NHA needs to make special efforts and sensitise the entitled beneficiaries to generate awareness about the scheme. It needs to ensure that adequate expenditure is done by the SHAS (State Health Agencies) to generate awareness about the scheme," the CAG audit report said.

CONGRESS ALLEGES CORRUPTION IN GOVT SCHEMES

New Delhi: The Congress on Wednesday charged the Centre over alleged irregularities in several government schemes and projects as highlighted by the Comptroller Auditor General of India (CAG) and demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi to break his silence.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said: "It is a big issue of scams. The CAG, which does the auditing of the government accounts, has highlighted seven scams. Now we feel that Prime Minister and the government should carry out a raid on CAG, as how they are questioning the government."

"Taking a jibe at the Prime Minister, she said that he does nothing wrong and has built an image of honesty, but the CAG report questions it, adding that it must be a big international conspiracy.

Citing the alleged irregularities in the Bharatmala Project and Dwarka Expressway, the party spokesperson said that the cost of both the projects have escalated.

She also highlighted the irregularities flagged by the CAG in the Ayushman Bharat scheme, Ayodhya project works and in schemes and projects of the Union Rural Development Ministry.

The CAG has highlighted irregularities in several Central government schemes and projects with the opposition parties alleging corruption.

CJI announces release of handbook on combating gender stereotypes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prostitute, hooker, whore, keep, mistress, slut -- these are among 40-odd words red-flagged by the Supreme Court in its latest handbook to sensitise judges against inadvertently furthering gender biases by using stereotypical words in court judgments.

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud launched the 'Handbook On Combating Gender Stereotypes' this morning. Flagger stereotypical words used in past court judgments, he said, "These words are improper and have been used for women in court judgments. This handbook's objective is not to criticise those judgments or doubt them. This is just to underline how gender stereotypes are perpetuated inadvertently." Explaining

how stereotypes may impact judicial decision-making, the handbook states, "Like any person, a judge may also unconsciously hold or rely on stereotypes. If a judge relies on preconceived assumptions about people or groups when deciding cases or writing judgements, the harm caused can be enormous."

"Even when judges reach legally correct outcomes, the use of reasoning or language that promotes gender stereotypes undermines the unique characteristics, autonomy, and dignity of the individuals before the court," it stated, adding, "The use of stereotypes by judges also has the effect of entrenching and perpetuating stereotypes, creating a vicious cycle of injustice."

Listing several stereotypical words and their alternatives, the handbook stated

that words such as "faggot" or "fallen woman" or "harlot" need to be done away with in court judgments. Instead, it said, judges should accurately describe the sexual orientation of the person concerned -- homosexual or bisexual, use "woman" and avoid words such as "fallen woman" and "harlot".

Likewise, words such as "dutiful wife" and "obedient wife" should be avoided, the handbook stated. The use of words such as "ravished" in cases of sexual assault or rape was also red-flagged in the handbook.

The handbook also busted several stereotypes attached to women, such as women being overly emotional and indecisive, unmarried women being incapable of taking decisions and all women wanting to have children.

Nuh violence accused Bittu Bajrangi sent on 1-day police remand

Gurugram: Raj Kumar aka Bittu Bajrangi, who was arrested for allegedly instigating the July 31 communal clashes in Haryana's Nuh district that killed six people, was on Wednesday sent to a one-day police remand. He was arrested on Tuesday and was produced before the court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM), Anjali Jain in Nuh on Wednesday. The ACJM's said that her daughter was also targeted and their car was set a blaze by the mob on July 31. Bittu Bajrangi has been accused of obstructing government work, snatching weapons, and misbehaving with the police. He was questioned in connection with a fresh FIR registered against him at Nuh's Sadar police station based on a complaint by Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Usha Kundu. Before the Brajmandal Yatra in Nuh on July 31, Bittu Bajrangi had put out provocative videos on social media.

Hundreds of villages in Punjab, Himachal inundated; evacuation underway

Chandigarh/Shimla | Agencies

Hundreds of villages in Punjab located along the swollen Sutlej and Beas rivers were inundated on Wednesday with the opening of floodgates of the crucial Bhakra and Pong dams as the inflow in these reservoirs has alarmingly increased owing to torrential rains in its catchment, mainly Himachal Pradesh, in the past three days.

Rescue and evacuation of people are currently underway by teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Authorities, however, said the inflow in the reservoirs declined significantly compared to Tuesday with the decline in the rainfall activity.

The flood gates of both dams, which serve the irrigation requirements of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, were opened to lower the reservoir level. With the opening of the floodgates, flood-like situa-



tion prevailed mainly in Punjab's Ropar, Anandpur Sahib and Hoshiarpur districts and Himachal's Kangra district.

In Punjab, the inundation of villages has been reported second time within a month, severely impacting the standing crops.

While the Bhakra dam is built on the Sutlej river, the Pong dam is on the Beas and the Ranjit Sagar on the Ravi.

At present the water level in the Bhakra dam's Gobind Sagar reservoir and the Pong dam reservoir stood at 1,677 feet and over 1,390 feet,

respectively, said an official of the BBMB, which manages both the dams built on the Punjab-Himachal border.

The Pong dam on Tuesday released almost 1.5 cusecs of water that led to severe flooding in areas of Indora and Fatehpur in Kangra.

The NDRF and SDRF teams are on the spot but due to heavy flow and the rescue operations, officials said. The official data said the water level in Bhakra Dam is still three feet below the upper limit, while it has crossed the limit of 1,390 feet in Pong Dam reservoir.

Mehbooba Mufti invokes Lord Ram, Raghukul while battling for Article 370

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday invoked Lord Ram and his clan 'Raghu' to refer to promise made by the Indian Union in terms of Article 370 of the Constitution to state of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947.

"Today, I appeal to the collective conscience of this country...faith of the majority community is 'Raghukul reet sada chali aayi, pran jaye par vachan na jayi' (verse from Ramcharitmanas saying that promises must be kept, even if you have to sacrifice your life)," said Mufti.

"I am not talking about those who kill in the name of 'Jai Shri Ram' and lynch in the name of 'Jai Shri Ram'. I am talking about those of the majority community people who believe in 'Ramchandra ji' and his vachan (promise). I think that 'vachan' (referring to the promise made by the India Union to the state of Jammu & Kashmir) is on trial today before the



Supreme Court," she added, while interacting with press in lawns of the

Supreme Court. Mufti made an arrival at the Supreme Court when a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud is hearing a batch of pleas challenging abrogation of Article 370. She said that there is still some faith in the Supreme Court and abrogation of Article 370 has broken backs of the people in Jammu and Kashmir, who believed in the idea of India. "We know what has happened to institutions in the country. Fortunately, we still have some faith in the Supreme Court of this country," the former chief minister said. Mufti alleged that the central government has destroyed Jammu and Kashmir in the name of ending militancy. "They have strengthened those who talked about separatism, Pakistan and independence as they did not believe in (Article) 370. We believed in Article 370," she said. Notably, a five-judge Constitution Bench of Supreme Court has been hearing the pleas challenging abrogation of Article 370 from August 02.

UP Shocker: Six held for abducting, attempting to rape girl

Jaunpur | Agencies

In a shocking incident at Rasoolabad in UP's Jaunpur, six men abducted a girl from her house and were seen trying to outrage her modesty on camera.

The horrific video clip showed at least four men abusing the girl and forcing themselves on her. The girl fought the accused men, even as they twisted her arm and attacked her physically.

The girl could be seen yelling for help as the accused keep forcing themselves on her. One of the accused is seen capturing the entire incident on his mobile phone.

The video was posted on social media and the netizens tagged Jaunpur police seeking for action against the accused persons seen in the video.

According to local sources, the girl managed escape from the clutches of the six accused men who then ran away.

The police on Wednesday arrested all the six accused and a probe into the case is underway. The Jaunpur incident came days after a 14-year-old school girl was raped by two of her schoolmates in Meerut district, raising concerns about the safety of girls and



women. The incident had taken place when the girl was on her way home from school. The victim's father told the police in his complaint that the accused were stalking his daughter. The police filed a case and launched an investigation into the matter. The accused were absconding after the crime, said the police. Teams were formed to nab the accused and the police said that arrests would be made soon.

KCR's daughter takes "1,000 mice" dig at Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra

Nizamabad | Agencies

Hitting out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Bharat Jodo Yatra. You know how I feel (about that yatra?) A cat that killed 1,000 mice going on a pilgrimage."

Kavitha, who spoke at a party meeting in Bhodan, also took a dig at the Congress and said it ruled the country for 62 years, during which the "poor remained poor" despite the party's 'Garibi Hatao' slogan.

This is Ms Kavitha's first visit to Nizamabad Lok Sabha Constituency after she publicly announced that she would be contesting from here in the 2024 General Elections. BRS cadres held a huge rally to welcome her.

"He (Rahul Gandhi) took out a foot-march -- Bharat Jodo Yatra. You know how I feel (about that yatra?) A cat that killed 1,000 mice goes on a pilgrimage. That is how Rahul Gandhiji (acted)," the BRS leader said. "The Congress Party ruled for 62 years after the country gained independence. What have you done for Muslims? You (the Congress Party) kept on saying 'Garibi Hatao'. What have you



done for the poor? You removed poor people, but not poverty," she added. Kavitha, who is the daughter of Telangana Chief

Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), asked the BRS party cadres to go to every household and mosque in the constituency and meet maulanas (Muslim men who are revered for their religious knowledge) to explain to them why one should not vote for the Congress.

"No one could bring the revolution in Telangana that Chief Minister K Chandrasekar Rao has been able to usher in the last 10 years in the state. Our minority brothers should think about whether one should vote for the Congress," she said.

She claimed that there has been no development in the country despite the rule of Congress leaders for generations.

According to her, Telangana Muslims are not thinking of anything other than "Car and Sarcar (government)". Car is the poll symbol of the BRS Party. During the past 10 years under KCR's rule, there has been no communal violence in the state, Ms Kavitha said.

The MLC added that Rahul Gandhi says that the Constitution and democracy are under threat, but the truth is that Telangana has a powerful leader and a powerful democracy, and the Constitution is thriving under the leadership of CM KCR.



CONGRESS IN DAMAGE CONTROL MODE AFTER GOOF UP OVER CONTESTING ON ALL 7 LS SEATS IN DELHI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress came in damage control mode on Wednesday after a party spokesperson said that the party leadership has decided to contest on all seven seats in upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha polls independently.

The spokesperson's statement drew sharp reactions from the AAP while Congress once again clarified saying that no such discussion on alliance with AAP took place.

Congress said that those commenting on the alliance issue are not the authorised to speak on behalf of the party.

The controversy erupted after Congress spokesperson Alka Lamba, following a meeting between Congress High Command and Delhi unit, said that the leaders have been instructed to contest on all the seven Lok Sabha seats independently.

Following Lamba's statement, the Delhi Congress leaders again went for second round of talks with the party leadership.

After the second meeting, Delhi



Congress in-charge Deepak Bararia said: "I feel that the people in AAP are immature. If they want to take such a big decision on the basis of media reports then even God cannot save them."

He said that the person who had given the statement had clarified to me that she has not given any such statement. He also said that there was

no such discussion (on alliance with AAP or being ordered to prepare for contesting on all the seven Lok Sabha seats).

"If someone has given a statement in the media, as they have clarified to me that they have not given such a statement. And even the media should understand that those people are not competent to make com-

ments on such a big issue," Bararia said.

The remarks from the Delhi in-charge came after Lamba announced the grand old party's decision to contest the Lok Sabha elections alone.

AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said that Congress has called Lamba's statement 'premature'.

"Now they have said that her statement is premature," she said.

AAP sources said that the party had decided not to attend the meeting of the opposition-led INDIA if Congress chose to contest all seven seats in Delhi independently.

However, they said that the final decision will be taken by party leaders. "We have observed the statement from the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee President. If Congress has indeed chosen to contest alone in Delhi, there may be no need to attend any INDIA meeting. Nevertheless, the ultimate decision will be taken by party leaders," party sources said.

The meeting at the Congress headquarters was called to discuss the poll preparedness ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

ED challenges Robert Vadra's anticipatory bail in money laundering case before Delhi HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday challenged before the Delhi High Court anticipatory bail granted to Robert Vadra by a trial court, claiming non-compliance of bail conditions, contrary to Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Vadra, who was granted anticipatory bail by a trial court on April 1, 2019, is former Congress president Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law, facing allegations of money laundering involving the purchase of a property in London.

The ED's counsel said he will file an additional affidavit to demonstrate that Vadra has breached the bail conditions. On the ED seeking some time to place it before court, it has been granted a two-week window by Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain.

The matter is likely to come up next for hearing in



the second week of September.

The ED had earlier told the high court that it wanted to question Vadra in custody, citing direct links between him and the alleged "money chain" in the case.

The agency had also said that Vadra was not cooperating during the investigation.

In response to the ED's allegations, Vadra's side had denied any wrongdoing and said that he had fully cooperated with the investigation, and that he had appeared before the probe agency whenever summoned.

Vadra had argued that the agency's seizure of all relevant documents pertaining to the case demonstrated that he had no intention to tamper with evidence.

He further criticised the ED's investigation as a "fishing and roving enquiry" lacking substantial material to support their allegations.

The specific allegations against Vadra pertain to his involvement in the purchase of a property located at 12, Bryanston Square, London, with an estimated value of 1.9 million pounds (approximately over Rs 17 crore).

Junaid-Nasir murder case: Six months on, Monu Manesar still at large

Gurugram | Agencies

Even as the police have arrested Rajkumar a.k.a. Bittu Bajrang for his alleged role in instigating the mob during the communal clashes in Haryana's Nuh on July 31, Mohit Yadav a.k.a. Monu Manesar continues remaining absconding even six months after his name surfaced in connection with death of two Muslim youth -- whose charred bodies were found in a car in Rajasthan's Bhiwani.

Monu Manesar was named along with 21 others in the abduction and killing of two Muslim men -- Junaid and his cousin Nasir, whose charred bodies were found in a burnt car in Rajasthan's Bhiwani on February 16.

Manesar, who heads the cow vigilante wing of Bajrang Dal in Haryana, is still at large since the Rajasthan Police registered a case against him in connection with the abduction and murder of the two Muslim men.

Besides, another case was also registered against him at Pataudi in Haryana in connection with rioting, including an attempt to murder and other sections of the IPC.

"Police from Rajasthan and Haryana had previously carried out raids on Monu Manesar's home in Manesar village and other suspected hideouts. Ever since his name was linked to the two murders in February, he has



been absconding. Our teams are trying to trace and capture him," a senior police officer said on the condition of anonymity.

While he had also posted a video that he would also join the procession, he did not turn up for the event on VHP's suggestion as it was feared that his presence would create tension. Bittu Bajrang, the key accused in the Nuh violence, has been accused of obstructing the work of the government, snatching weapons, and misbehaving with the police.

Ahead of the Brajmandal Yatra in Nuh, Bittu Bajrang had allegedly put out provocative videos on social media which fueled communal clashes in Nuh.

DELHI COURT ALLOWS JACQUELINE TO FLY ABROAD SANS PRIOR PERMISSION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court has modified the bail conditions for Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, who is one of the accused in the Rs 200 crore money laundering case in which jailed 'conman' Sukesh Chandrasekhar is the prime accused.

The court has allowed her to leave the country without prior permission, as long as she informs the court and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) three days prior to her departure.

The decision was made by Special Judge Shailendra Malik, who recognised that Jacqueline's professional commitments necessitate frequent overseas travel.

The judge noted that Jacqueline has never misused her bail conditions and that the initial requirement for prior permission could hinder her career opportunities.

The court noted that Jacqueline, a Sri Lankan citizen residing in India since 2009, has consistently paid income tax and has not violated any bail conditions.

The modification comes in response to Jacqueline's application



stating that seeking court approval for travel often leads to financial losses and reputational implications due

to the time-consuming processes. Jacqueline has claimed that being an actor of international acclaim, she

frequently engages in film shooting, appears at events, participates in various award functions etc., which are indispensable for her professional occupations and livelihood.

In certain situations, it becomes time-consuming for the accused to take the court's approval for going abroad, which is mandatory under the terms of bail.

It was further claimed that due to that reason, she has faced certain situations wherein organisers, producers and other film industry professionals, on account of the time-consuming process of seeking court approval for leaving India, opted to engage other individuals, resulting in potential financial losses and reputational implications to her.

In July, the court had commenced hearing on the charges against Jacqueline, whom the court had granted pre-arrest bail on November 15, 2022.

The ED had recently filed its second supplementary charge sheet naming her as an accused in the case. Jacqueline and another Bollywood personality, Nora Fatehi, have recorded their statements as witnesses in the case.

Woman dragged on bonnet of car in Raj, video goes viral



Jaipur | Agencies

A purported video has gone viral on social media in which a car driver in Rajasthan is seen dragging a woman on the bonnet of the car for about 500 metre.

Many people could be seen running behind the car to save the woman, but the driver did not stop his vehicle. The alleged incident took place near the main bus stand of Hanumangarh on Wednesday afternoon, the police said.

After scanning several CCTV footage, the number of the car became clear, which is registered in the name of someone from Rawla, the police said.

The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed around the bus stand. The police are looking for the woman and the car driver.

Meanwhile, former Union minister and BJP leader Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore on Wednesday shared the video on his X, formerly Twitter, handle.

RAHUL GANDHI TO LEAVE FOR 2 DAY VISIT TO LADAKH TODAY

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be on a two day visit to Ladakh, party sources said on Wednesday.

According to party sources, Rahul Gandhi will be on a two day visit to Ladakh on Thursday and Friday.

Earlier Rahul Gandhi had visited Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar and Jammu twice, but he could not visit Ladakh.

The party source, however, did not reveal any other plans.

He had then visited Jammu and Srinagar during his Bharat Jodo Yatra earlier in January this year.

He once again visited Jammu and Kashmir on a personal visit in February this year and visited Gulmarg Skiing resort.

K'taka govt to distribute eggs, bananas to govt school students from August 18

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Minister for Education Madhu Bangarappa on Wednesday said that the government will distribute eggs and bananas twice in a week to the students studying in government schools in the state.

Talking to reporters, Minister Madhu Bangarappa said, the scheme of distribution of eggs and bananas to students will commence from Aug 18 and it is going to be inaugurated in Mandya district first.

"Earlier, it was planned to extend the scheme till 8th standard. Now, a decision has been taken to extend the scheme up to 10th standard. The scheme is being implemented to ensure providing nutritious food to the students," he explained.

He said that the eggs and bananas will be given along with the mid-day meal.

Earlier, the Karnataka government's decision had triggered a controversy in the state. The decision had angered a section of the soci-



ety who demanded that eggs shouldn't be distributed in school premises as it encourages discrimination among school going children.

Another section supporting the egg supplement to school children claimed that this project shouldn't stop as protein supplement is badly needed by the students. They maintained children who have better access to better nutrition have better educational outcomes.

The BJP-JD (S) coalition government headed by H.D. Kumaraswamy had rolled back its project of distrib-

ing eggs to school children in 2007 succumbing to pressure from religious groups. However, the previous BJP government implemented the scheme.

Then Education Minister B. C. Nagesh stated that the project has been implemented amid people opposing and vouching for it.

"There is no substitution for egg as such. There is soya bean, but children won't eat it. The project has been implemented with an intention to address malnutrition among children," he had stated.

President Murmu approves Assam delimitation proposal

Guwahati | Agencies

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said that the President of India has approved the delimitation proposal of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to redraw boundaries of the assembly and parliamentary constituencies of Assam.

"Today the Honorable President has approved the Delimitation Notification issued by the Election Commission of India for Assam. A significant milestone has been achieved in the history of Assam. Jai Maa Bharati Jai Aai Asom," Sarma wrote on X.

Based on the 2001 census figure, all of the State's assembly and parliamentary constituencies were redefined by the ECI and the final proposal for delimitation was published last week.

The poll body said that 19 Assembly and 2 Lok Sabha seats have been set aside for Scheduled Tribes (STs), while



Scheduled Castes (SCs) have been given 1 Lok Sabha and 9 assembly seats.

As per the final order, SC Assembly seats have increased from 8 to 9, and ST assembly seats have gone up from 16 to 19. Moreover, the seats in Bodoland area also increased by the poll body in the delimitation proposal.

ECI also claimed that during the public hearing, they have received more than 1,200 suggestions and the final order took into account at least 45% of the proposals and objections that the panel had received.

IMD predicts increase in rainfall in eastern India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday said that there will be an increase in rainfall in eastern India from Wednesday, and the adjoining central Indian region from Thursday while subdued rainfall activity is likely to continue over rest parts of the country during the next 4-5 days.

The weather forecast agency, in its bulletin on Wednesday, said that in eastern India, there is a forecast of light to moderate scattered to fairly widespread rainfall. "Heavy rainfall is expected in isolated areas over Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Wednesday and Thursday, Odisha till Saturday, Jharkhand from Wednesday to Friday, and West Bengal and Sikkim on Wednesday and Thursday," said the



IMD. There is also a possibility of 'very heavy rainfall' in Odisha on Thursday and Friday. Northeastern region is likely to experience light to moderate rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and isolated heavy rainfall.

"This weather pattern is likely to prevail in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur,

Mizoram and Tripura till August 20," the IMD predicted.

It further said that central India is expected to experience light to moderate rainfall and thunderstorms, along with isolated heavy rainfall.

Chhattisgarh could experience this weather from Thursday to August 20, while Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha may see it from Friday to August 20.

Besides, isolated heavy rainfall is likely in Uttarakhand from Friday to Sunday. South India is likely to get light to moderate scattered to fairly widespread rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning. "Coastal Andhra Pradesh can expect isolated heavy rainfall on Friday and Saturday, and Telangana on Saturday. On the other hand, Tamil Nadu is anticipated to experience hot and humid weather on Wednesday and Thursday," the IMD said.

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DEMAND NOTICE
 (under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s.13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.
 Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility provided by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as **Non-Performing Assets** in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

Sl. No.	Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice/ as on Date
1.	SANJAY RAJAK, Plot No. 125 (East Part), Palak City Colony, Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India- 453441.	08.08.2023	11.08.2023 Old notice dated 20.05.2021 withdrawn. This publication to be treated as effective notice.	Rs. 21,57,007.56/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Seven and Fifty Six Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.08.2023.
2.	SADHNA RAJAK Plot No. 125 (East Part), Palak City Colony, Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India- 453441.			
3.	SANJAY RAJAK 63, New Telikheda, Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-453441.			
4.	SADHNA RAJAK C/O PATRAANI STYLE PVT. LTD. 13- Kanchan Bagh South, Tykogan, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452001.			
5.	SANJAY RAJAK 45/2, Goushala Dharmaka, Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-453441.			
6.	SADHNA RAJAK 45/2, Goushala Dharmaka, Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-453441. Loan Account No. LNINDOHL-08180010869 & LNINDOHL-08180010870			

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of East Part Of Residential Plot No. 125, Total Area 798.75 Sq. Ft., Situated In Palak City Colony, Gram: Telikheda, Kasba Mhowgan, Subhashchandra Ward No. 12, P.H.No. 4/1, Tehsil: Mhow, District: Indore, Madhya Pradesh-453441, And Bounded As:- East: Colony Road West: Remaining Part Of Plot No. 125 & Plot No. 122, 123, 124 North: Plot No. 126 South: Colony Road

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s)together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto failing which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at our risk as to the cost and consequences.

Please note that as per section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 17.08.2023
 Place: INDORE

Sd/- Authorised Officer
 (Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN GOVT COMES UP WITH 25-POINT RESOLUTIONS FOR 2030, MAKES BIG PROMISES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With bare few months left for the state Assembly elections, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made several lucrative promises on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day on Tuesday. The Chief Minister promised to ensure economic growth, connectivity improvement, employment in the public sector, urbanisation and a lot more by 2030. Chouhan led the BJP government has set over 25 points resolutions to achieve the targets to ensure and to fulfil the promises made to the people of the state till Independence Day in 2030.

Addressing the people of the state at Lal Pared Ground in Bhopal, Chouhan said his government would make all possible efforts to expand the size of Madhya Pradesh's economy to Rs 45 lakh crore by 2030. Besides making more than 6,000 well-equipped "CM Rise" schools operational by 2030, efforts would be



made to bring more than one crore people of Madhya Pradesh above the poverty line, he added. The Chief Minister asserted that there will be at least one government college in each development block so that students can get the facility of higher education near their homes. The list of Shivraj government's

resolutions for 2030 also includes providing employment opportunities for five lakh youths in the field of IT and 5-G network services in the state. "We will double the per capita income of the state. It will be taken up to Rs 2.8 lakh from the current Rs 1.4 lakh. To increase the total agricultural production of the state to the

level of 10 crore metric tonnes, full irrigation facilities will be made available in every corner of every farmer's field. Irrigation potential will be increased to 65 lakh hectares," the resolutions added. It also promised to expand the road network of one lakh km and to ensure that every district headquarters are connected by four-lane roads besides connecting all urban bodies with two-lane roads. "At least 30-bedded fully equipped hospital facilities will be available at every development block headquarters. There will be at least one government college in each development block so that students can get the facility of higher education near their homes," it said.

Further to encourage 'Make in Madhya Pradesh', the state government promised growth in the state's exports up to Rs 1 lakh crore and a new greenfield airport. The resolutions also said that an industrial corridor will also be built between the state's capital city Bhopal and the economic city Indore.

Digvijaya Singh softens stance on Bajrang Dal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Wednesday apparently softened his stance on the Bajrang Dal, saying the grand-old party will not ban the right-wing outfit if voted to power in Madhya Pradesh.

During a press conference at Congress headquarters in Bhopal, Digvijaya said, "We will not ban Bajrang Dal if voted to power in Madhya Pradesh as there can be some good people also, but we will not spare anyone involved in riots or violence." In May, he had stated that if voted to power in Madhya Pradesh, his party will file a case of treason against BJP and Bajrang Dal functionaries, alleging that "they spy for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)."



Meanwhile, responding on whether the Congress would release the list of candidates for 66 assembly seats he had been assigned to review the poll preparations, he said, "the selection of candidates would be done by party's state election committee after consulting with the national election committee." The former chief minister had been assigned a mammoth task to strengthen the party's position in 66 assembly seats that the Congress has lost in more than three elections in the state.

For that, he had met Congress leaders and workers of the Berasia in Bhopal on February 17, soon after the end of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. He had visited Budhni, constituency of chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Rehti, constituency of PWD Minister Gaur, constituency of Minister for Urban Administration Bhupendra Singh, Badnawar, constituency of Minister for Industrial Policy Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon, Govindpura seat of former chief minister Babulal Gaur, now represented by his daughter-in-law and BJP MLA Krishna Gaur, Harsud seat of Forest Minister Vijay Shah, Sanchi of Health Minister Prabhuram Choudhary and Shivpuri, represented by Minister for Youth Welfare Yashodhara Raju Scindia.

Kamal Nath, Digvijaya Singh use 'Hindutva' for political agenda, claims Shivraj

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday hit out at senior Congress leaders and former chief ministers Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath alleging that the duo use "Hindutva" to suit their political agendas.

Talking to media persons, Chouhan said the Congress leaders have nothing to do with hinduism, nationalism and socialism and they make statements that fit their political arithmetic at that particular time.

He made this remark while responding to Digvijaya Singh's statement regarding the "Hindu rashtra".

Responding to that, Chouhan said, "They (Digvijaya and Kamal Nath) have nothing to do with people, they are just busy in cutting crops of votes and making the statements according-



ly." Notably, during a visit to Karnataka on Tuesday, Digvijaya Singh had said that "those who talk about Hindu rashtra, they should resign from their posts first." After attending the Independence Day programme, Singh has accused the central BJP leadership of conspiring to topple the Congress government in Karnataka. "The BJP always takes the

lead in violating the Constitution and now it is planning to topple the Karnataka government which is in power with a full majority," Singh claimed.

Talking to media persons in Karnataka, Singh said the Congress works in accordance with the Constitution and unites the country, but the BJP works to "divide the country on the basis of religion".

Over Rs 1.1 cr paid to 403 'dead' beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh, reveals CAG report

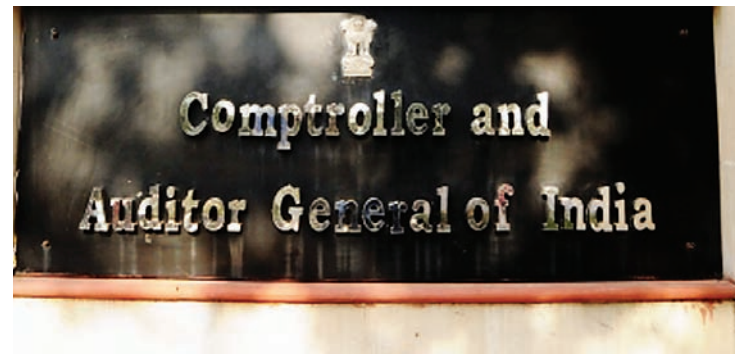
Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in its report on Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) for the period September 2018 to March 2022 has revealed that over Rs 1.1 crore was paid to about 403 patients in Madhya Pradesh who were declared 'dead' in the database.

As per the report available, Madhya Pradesh comes second after Kerala, where Rs 2.60 crore was paid to 966 patients, who were declared dead but continued to avail treatment under the scheme.

The report further revealed that a total 8,081 patients were shown to be hospitalised simultaneously at multiple hospitals in different parts of Madhya Pradesh.

It also noted that in four states -- Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu -- excess payment totalling Rs 57.53 crore were



made to the Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCPs).

"In Madhya Pradesh, 25 hospitals submitted claims twice in respect of 81 patients (162 claims) for various surgical procedures during the same length of stay. The state health authority (SHA) paid the full amount for both claims as against the prescribed rate of 50 per cent payment on second claim, which resulted in over-payment of Rs 29.61 lakh to EHCPs. The

SHA also made a double payment of Rs 3.27 lakh to 13 hospitals which submitted claims twice in respect of 35 patients for caesarean delivery during the same length of stay," the report said.

The Congress on Monday hit out at Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led state government, saying every day "new corruption of the BJP was coming to the fore". Former Chief Minister and state

Congress chief Kamal Nath said, "Shivraj government has done corruption with people alive. They have not spared even the god and dead persons, which is horrific and shameful for entire Madhya Pradesh."

He further said the CAG report has also mentioned about 8,081 cases of 4,590 patients, who simultaneously availed treatment at multiple hospitals, and flagged the involvement of 213 hospitals in it.

"The BJP government has lodged false cases against the Congress leaders, including me and Priyanka Gandhi following the expose on 50 per cent commission regime. Now, the CAG report on the Ayushman Bharat scheme, has clearly established that the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government is the most corrupt government in the world. Will the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government would also lodge a criminal case against the CAG in the wake of the latest report?" Kamal Nath said.

Chief Minister Chouhan plants saplings with students-teachers and Social workers



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Neem, Belpatra and Jamun along with environment-loving citizens and representatives of social organisations in Smart Garden as part of regular plantation.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, social worker Dr. Sandeepa Malhotra,

Anamika and Deepa planted saplings. Along with the teachers of Global School of Excellence Lalita, Ruchi Jain, Priyadarshana, Anshika, Nayana, Shweta, Ishita, many students also participated in planting saplings. Vipendra Pratap Singh, Vaibhavya and Manu planted saplings on their birthday. Social workers Ajay Patel, Golu Patel and Shankarlal Sharma also participated in plantation.

Active police is the basis of a strong society in a democratic system: Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel participated in the felicitation ceremony of Madhya Pradesh Police and Home Guard officers-employees and brave citizens who were decorated with President's and Jeevan Raksha Medals for gallantry, distinguished and meritorious services organised at the Raj Bhavan.

Governor Patel said that active police in a democratic system is the basis of a strong society. The police have to adapt to the changing times. He extended best wishes and congratulations to all the medal recipients and their families. Governor Patel said that by winning the medal, the image of Madhya Pradesh Police's activism and sensitivity will become stronger, which will inspire other officers and employees of the police force. He said that service and help of the common man should be the top priority for the police. Governor Patel said that there should be such envi-



ronment in the society in which mutual trust between the police and the citizens remains strong. The policy of zero tolerance towards crimes against Divyang, senior citizens, women and children should be implemented with full sincerity and intensity. He expressed happiness over the effective efforts of advanced technology towards modernization and skill upgradation of police. Patel hailed the good work

and initiatives being taken at the government level for police welfare, helping the victims with Dial 100 vehicle, setting up of women's police stations in all the districts and 950 women's energy desks. He congratulated Madhya Pradesh Police for the effective action taken in the direction of Naxal eradication and the unprecedented successes achieved in the recent years. Governor Patel said that

along with maintaining law and order, the police should further strengthen their public-friendly and sensitive image. Police should come forward and fulfill the responsibility of social welfare, providing justice to the victims and protecting the common people from anti-social elements. On this occasion, Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena gave brief information about the achievements of 64 police-home guard officers and employees and 2 brave citizens, who received Gallantry, Distinguished and Meritorious Service Medal and Jeevan Raksha Medal by the President. Principal Secretary to Governor DP Ahuja, Director General of Police Jail Arvind Kumar, Director General of Police Home Guard Rajesh Chawla, medal recipient officers-employees, brave citizens and their families were present in the ceremony. The vote of thanks was proposed by Additional Director General of Police Sajid Farid Shapoo.

Speaker & minister fall ill during I-Day speeches



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker and a state minister on Tuesday briefly fell ill during the Independence Day celebrations.

Speaker Girish Gautam felt dizzy while he was getting ready for his speech in his home district Rewa. Gautam's condition was noticed by the security personnel and officials of the district administration present on the stage.

However, his condition was reported better soon after. Narendra Mishra, who is Girish Gautam's secretary, talking to reporter said, "His

throat dried up due to hectic schedule and long speech, so he sat on a chair to take a glass of water. His condition is good and after that incident, he addressed the gathering at a government school in Devaltab.

He is fine now." State health minister Dr. Prabhuram Chowdhary fell on ground after hoisting Tricolour in Raisen district. He was taking salute when all of sudden he fell on the ground. Administrative officials sent Dr. Prabhuram Chowdhary in an ambulance to the district hospital. The programme kept going on at the Home Guard Parade Ground.

CM Chouhan to transfer funds with a single click for purchase of cycles on August 17

Bhoomi puja of Mahatma Gandhi CM Rise School building costing Rs 81 crores. About 4.5 lakh students to benefit from the scheme this year

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will perform bhoomi-pujan of the CM Rise Government Mahatma Gandhi Higher Secondary School building to be built at a cost of Rs 81 crore 12 lakh at BHEL (Barkheda) in Bhopal on August 17. Chief Minister Chouhan will also transfer the amount for purchasing cycles with a single click to the bank account of the students. This amount will be transferred to about 4

lakh 50 thousand students of the state this year for purchase of cycles for the students under the free cycle distribution scheme. For this purpose, KYC of the bank accounts of the beneficiary students has been done.

Principal Secretary School Education Rashmi Arun Shami informed that the cycle distribution scheme is operational since year 2004-05. In this scheme, students, studying in Class 6th and 9th in government schools and go to government school in another village/city

due to lack of government higher secondary /high school in their school are being given the benefit of free cycles. This year, funds for purchase of cycles will be transferred to the accounts of about 4 lakh 50 thousand students.

Minister of State for School Education (Independent Charge) and General Administration Inder Singh Parmar, MLA Krishna Gaur and departmental officers, parents and students will be present in the programme.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266
Branch Office- G Corporation Tech Park, Kasaravadi, Ghodbunder Road, Thane -400607 (MH)

DEMAND NOTICE
(under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
(under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE BORROWERS AS MENTIONED BELOW THAT SINCE THEY HAVE DEFAULTED IN REPAYMENT OF THE CREDIT FACILITY AVAILABLE BY THEM FROM ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (ABHFL), THEIR LOAN ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS **Non-Performing Assets** in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules).

Sl. No.	Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice as on Date
1	1. RANI NAKWAL Western Part Of Plot No 01, Anil Shri Nagar Dewas, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh- 455001. 2. MANOHAR NAKWAL Western Part Of Plot No 01, Anil Shri Nagar Dewas, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh- 455001. 3. RANI NAKWAL 195, Bajrang Nagar, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh-455001. 4. MANOHAR NAKWAL 195, Bajrang Nagar, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh-455001. 5. RANI NAKWAL, C/O K.M.CH.S.A Karyalaya Niuhya, Chikshiya & Shwstah Adhakai, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh-455001. 6. MANOHAR NAKWAL, Mekan No. 305, Ward N 05, Gal Darwaja Barotha, Barotha, Dewas, M.P. 455001. 7. RANI NAKWAL, Mekan No. 305, Ward N 05, Gal Darwaja Barotha, Barotha, Dewas, M.P. 455001. Loan Account No. LNINDHDL-01180091903 and LNINDHDL-01180092224	08.08.2023	09.08.2023	Rs. 15,35,507.92/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred Seven and Ninety Two Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 09.08.2023.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of Western Part Of Plot No 01, Admeasuring 58.08 Sq. Mtr. I.E. 624.94 Sq. Ft., Ward No. 9, No. 301, Situated In 'Anil Shri Nagar', Dewas, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, India - 455001, And Bounded As: North: Colony Road South: Other Land East: Remaining Part Of Plot No. 1 West: Colony Road.

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s)together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereon failing which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at our risk as to the cost and consequences.

Please note that as per section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall incur the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL, together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 17.08.2023
Place: INDORE

Sd/- Authorised Officer
(Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)



EDITOR'S SPECS

Bharat Jodo Yatra 2.0: will it be impactful

After the first leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi is gearing up for the second phase. In Bharat Jodo Yatra-II, Rahul Gandhi will be travelling through the states from the western to the eastern regions. The 'padyatra', spanning from Gujarat to Meghalaya, is being touted by the Congress as a preparation for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP asserts that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra is an attempt to politically mature himself and considers it an unsuccessful endeavour. The party said that the Yatra is unlikely to have any significant impact. BJP Lok Sabha MP from Bankura (West Bengal) Subhash Sarkar, remarked that the opposition's actions have nothing to do with the welfare and development of the country's citizens. The Congress is only concerned about protesting. He questioned the effectiveness of someone who can deliver flying kisses while leaving Parliament -- what substantial actions can they possibly undertake? Hence, the Bharat Jodo Yatra holds no significance and is unlikely to make any impact. The BJP's Lok Sabha MP, Sunita Duggal, also raised questions about Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, claiming that he is attempting to mature himself politically, and is trying unsuccessfully. Taking a dig at the commencement of the second phase of the journey from Gujarat, she pointed out that in Gujarat, the BJP has been winning elections consistently. Whether it was during Narendra Modi's tenure as Chief Minister or after he became the Prime Minister, the BJP has continuously secured victories. Duggal said that the nation's trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi persisted in 2014, in 2019, and will continue in 2024. She confidently proclaimed that in 2024, the BJP-led NDA coalition will once again form the government.

MODI'S SPEECH STRIKES ENTHUSIASM TO BUILD A DEVELOPED NATION

Lalit Garg

This year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in the Independence Day celebrations has been a meaningful presentation of the new resolutions of New India covering a vast and auspicious history in the context of the period of Amritkal. Even though those who bask in the political interest are looking at it by linking it with the Lok Sabha elections of the year 2024, whereas this address is a call to make India a world guru and an economic superpower of the world by outlining the future direction of India.

It is the light of peace, the highway of prosperity, the trust of light and the resolve to become a superpower. But it is true that Modi sought blessings for the 2024 General Elections, and expressed confidence that he would deliver the same speech from the Red Fort next year as well. The Prime Minister not only enumerated the achievements of his reign, but also outlined the country's progress for the next five years. Describing the achievement of bringing the country's economy from the tenth to the fifth position in 10 years, he also assured to make the country the third largest economy in the world in the next five years. Surely, among the speeches made so far from the ramparts of the Red Fort, it was the most inspiring, resolute and one that wrote the story of a new India - a strong India. There is a call for everyone to wake up, be determined and have a strong spirit to make the nectar of freedom, for the great journey of India moving towards the light by breaking the darkness.

The opposition is free to criticize and may term the Prime Minister's speech as an election speech. But the Independence Day address is such an address to the nation which analyses from where to where we have reached. Be it space or sea,



land or sky, country or world, today India's flag is flying everywhere, every countryman is proud of being an Indian seeing the progress India has made, so the credit should be given to Modi. It is not an exaggeration, its discussion is not political, it is an expression of India's cultural, economic and political prosperity. Every Indian has been inspired and impressed by Modi's speech because for the first time he presented the whole country as a family and instead of sisters and brothers and friends, he addressed the countrymen as family members and in his 90-minute speech; he used this word 26 times.

Not only do yourself a favour, you also have to do charity. Live not only for yourself but also for others. It is our responsibility as well as the debt which we have to repay to our society and our motherland. Parshuram had said the same thing while giving Sudarshan Chakra to Lord Krishna that Vasudev Krishna, you have eaten a lot of butter (Makhan), performed a lot of pastimes, played a lot of flute, now do that for which you have come on earth. Modi also said something similar while awakening enthusi-

asm and determination among the people of the country, which not only reveals the expectations of life, but also reveals the truths of life layer by layer.

India has been considering the world as a family since the past, that's why it proclaimed the mantra of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Carrying forward the tradition of the past, Modi introduced the feeling of considering the world as his family during the Corona period, and also selected Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam as the motto of the G-20 group. We the people of India can fulfill the wish of world welfare only when the first nation is imbued with the spirit of welfare. For this, those who are the successors of the past and responsible for the future will have to show strong morale and leadership, rising above position, party prestige and prejudice. This feeling will make a strong, capable and harmonious nation and will increase the prestige of India in the world, by this India will become a world guru.

The most important thing about this time's address and Independence Day celebration with many features and eccentricities was that workers, nurses, workers

from many areas across the country and Sarpanches of vibrant villages of border areas were invited to make the new parliament. This was a unique and inspiring dimension giving the prestige of labour and the identity of labour. The Prime Minister has made the working class realize that their contribution to India's strong democracy and progress is as important as that of others. The Prime Minister has started the tradition of giving proper respect to the people of India by giving Padma Samman to the talents related to the land.

In his address, the Prime Minister not only inspired the people of the country, but also assured that despite many challenges, India is moving in the right direction and the dream of a developed nation is about to come true. The Prime Minister has announced the launch of Rs 15,000 crore Vishwakarma Yojana for the workers, be it hair cutters, clothes washers or other small businesses. Such a scheme for such classes will start on Vishwakarma Jayanti. Realizing the basic mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', Modi is trying to change the country's destiny and picture.

Referring to the reduction in terrorist incidents in the country, curbing corruption, and the government's work with honesty and transparency, the Prime Minister said that his government has spent maximum money for the welfare of the poor and has brought 13.5 crore people below the poverty line. Definitely poverty is going away from India. He made the countrymen realize that when the country becomes economically strong, not only do the coffers get filled, but the strength of the country also increases. He also called upon the countrymen to fight against nepotism, corruption and appeasement as they take away the rights of the poor, backward, tribals and Dalits. On the Manipur violence, he said that the centre and

the state government are working together to solve the Manipur problem and the problems will be solved peacefully. Today the mother power of the country is creating new dimensions of success.

We have to fight for tomorrow. We have to give up the habit of looking towards the world, we have to rise above political narrow-mindedness, those who have faith in India, are proud of their culture, their intelligence and wisdom, they are aware of their power somewhere deep inside, they know that India is today Has taken a step towards freedom from the mentality of following behind. We get many illusions at every turn of thinking. Sometimes near and sometimes far away, they keep searching for the truth. What always impresses the most in this confusion is the speed with which we move with the times. We have to live each and every moment of life - for ourselves, for others, this resolution will be a resolution of good use, not of misuse. It is only from here that the vision of Neer-Kshir begins. It is from here that the first step from darkness to light arises.

The theme of this year's Independence Day also remained the same as 'Nation First, Always First'. We got a complete glimpse of this in the address of the timeless leadership Modi which was the roadmap to realize the goal of 2047 developed India. When Modi called upon the youth and said, 'Listen to the challenge, Sina Taan, Jag Mein Badhao Desh Ka Naam' - it was a declaration of the potential of India's youth to the world. Reform, Perform and Transform have now become a part of the work culture of the country. Due to these, policy stability, better coordination and ease of doing business have improved. Due to this, India has been distinguished as a self-confident nation.

international

US soldier who crossed into N.Korea expressed wish to seek refuge: Pyongyang

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea on Wednesday said a U. soldier who crossed the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into the country last month admitted that he "illegally intruded" due to "inhuman maltreatment and racial discrimination within the US Army", claiming that he has expressed a willingness to seek refuge there or in a third country.

It marked the North's first public confirmation of the status of Pvt. Travis King, who crossed the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) into the North during a tour to the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the DMZ on July 18, reports Yonhap News Agency. "Travis King confessed that he had decided to come over to the DPRK as he harbored ill feeling against inhuman maltreatment and racial discrimination within the US Army," the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a report. DPRK stands for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "He also expressed his willingness to seek refuge in the DPRK or a third country, saying that he



was disillusioned at the unequal American society," it added.

The KCNA said its soldiers took custody of King after he "deliberately intruded" into the North's side of the JSA and that an investigation by a "relevant organ" is ongoing.

Meanwhile, the US Department of Defense said the alleged comments by King cannot be "verified" and that it is focused on bringing him back home. "We cannot verify these alleged comments," a Pentagon spokesperson told Yonhap News Agency.

"The department's priority is to bring Pvt. King home, and we are working through all available channels to achieve that outcome."

US officials have previously said King "willfully" crossed the MDL "without authorisation" and that the North has not made any substantive response to its inquiries over his status. The US-led UN Command, which oversees activities in the DMZ, earlier said it is working with its North Korean counterparts to resolve the incident but has declined to provide details.

King had faced legal trouble after being stationed in South Korea. He was detained in a South Korean prison workshop from May 24 to July 10 after failing to pay a fine for damaging a police patrol car last year. On October 8, 2022 South Korean police apprehended King for suspected violence at a nightclub in western Seoul.

He reportedly did not cooperate with police officers demanding his personal information and kicked the door of their vehicle. King was set to return to the US on July 17, where he could have faced additional disciplinary action, but he did not board his flight at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, and took part in the JSA tour the next day. The incident came as tensions have run high due to North Korea's continued weapons tests, including a Hwasong-18 intercontinental ballistic missile launch last month. Direct diplomatic talks between the US and the North have been stalled since their working-level nuclear talks in Sweden in October 2019 in the wake of the bilateral no-deal summit in Hanoi in February of that year.

Tourist plane carrying three crashes in France

Paris | Agencies

A tourist plane with three people on board has crashed in France's western department of Loire-Atlantique, local media reported.

The plane reportedly disappeared around Tuesday noon between Nantes and La Baule, Department of Loire-Atlantique, Xinhua news agency reported, citing France Bleu. Firefighters have found debris from the plane 3 to 4 meters deep in the sea. But rescue operation was suspended Tuesday evening due to unfavourable weather conditions, local authorities said. So far, there's no official announcement about the retrieval of victims. The Bureau of Enquiry and Analysis for Civil Aviation Safety (BEA) in France has already announced to open an investigation to the accident.

Russia to strengthen defence ties with countries in Asia-Pacific region

Moscow | Agencies

Moscow will continue to boost military cooperation with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has said.

Pointing to the "increase in Western states' military presence in Asia, Africa and Latin America with the US continuing to improve its military bases", Shoigu said at the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security that "we will continue to strengthen military cooperation with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region ... with which we have historically established particularly privileged relations".

The Russian defence minister noted that the emergence of a multipolar world order, mechanisms for boosting cooperation between defence agencies, and the role of these agencies in assessing security threats have regularly been discussed within the framework of the security conference, Xinhua news agency reported.



"The West, fearing a breakdown of the unipolar world and an open confrontation with a militarily strong adversary, is provoking local conflicts around the world," he said.

He said that Western policies were "aimed at weakening competitors to gain full control over existing resources and prevent any consolidation among those that try to oppose this process".

The 11th Moscow Conference on International Security has brought together experts, defence officials, and diplomats from around the world to discuss regional and global security issues.

Canadian army airlifts hundreds to safety from wildfires

Ottawa | Agencies

The Canadian army has airlifted hundreds of people to safety amid raging wildfires in the country's Northwest Territories, the media reported.

Canada is currently witnessing its worst wildfire season on record, with nearly 1,100 active fires across the country as of Tuesday, the BBC reported. A total of 13.2m hectares of land have burned so far -- roughly the size of Greece.

As a result of the raging wildfires, the Canadian government has deployed its military to the Northwest Territories to help fight the fires and coordinate evacuations. On Monday night, Yellowknife -- the territorial capital -- has declared a local state of emergency due to the "imminent threat" of wildfires. The declaration allows the



city to take pre-emptive steps to respond and to prepare residents to leave at a moment's notice.

The Northwest Territories witnessed its hottest temperature on record this July, reaching 37.4 degrees Celsius in the community of Fort Good Hope.

Wildfires are also burning in British Columbia, where several heat warnings are in effect this week due to record-high temperatures.

TRUMP INDICTED BY FULTON COUNTY GRAND JURY IN GEORGIA ON 41 COUNTS OF FELONY

TN Ashok | Washington

Former US President Donald Trump woke up this morning to a rude shock hitting his campaign trail for 2024 presidential polls, as the Fulton County jury in Georgia dealt him a severe blow with 41 counts of felony, thus indicting him in the efforts to overturn the 2020 election verdict, charging him under the RICO act.

Trump had already been indicted by a federal jury here some days ago on four major counts of conspiracy to undermine the election process and suppress the voters' rights as part of a conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election verdict to let him stay in White House and keep Joe Biden out.

The Georgia grand jury has indicted former President Donald Trump, charging him with felony, racketeering and numerous conspiracy charges as part of a sweeping investigation into the efforts by him and his allies to overturn the 2020 election



verdict. The 41-count indictment also names

lawyers Rudy Giuliani, John Eastman, Kenneth Chesebro, Jenna Ellis and Ray Smith and several other people associated with Trump at that time in 2021, NBC reported.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis had enlisted a special jury last year that heard testimonies from as many as 75 witnesses. Among the best known moments in Trump's pressure campaign against Georgia officials was a call in which he asked Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find" the votes he needed to beat Joe Biden.

DA Fani Willis said she wanted to take Trump to trial within the next six months, but other cases in the same jurisdiction that involved violations of the state's racketeering law have taken much longer to go to trial.

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has reacted to last night's indictment with a brief statement early this morning. "The most basic principles of a strong democracy are accountability

and respect for the Constitution and rule of law. You either have it, or you don't."

Trump's phone call to Raffensperger, a Republican, on January 2, 2021, to "find" the votes needed to overturn Joe Biden's victory in the battleground state is primary among the events listed in the new indictment. The former President stood by his stance saying the phone call was "perfect".

Jenna Ellis, among the group of Trump lawyers charged with violating Georgia's RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization) Act, accused Democrats and Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis of "criminalising the practice of law" the morning after Trump's fourth indictment.

"The Democrats and the Fulton County DA are criminalising the practice of law," she said in a tweet on X.

"I am resolved to trust the Lord and I will simply continue to honor, praise, and serve Him. I deeply appreciate all of my friends who have reached out offering encouragement and support."



ENERGY PRIME CULPRIT FOR EMISSIONS IN THANE, PIMPRI-CHINCHWAD AND NAGPUR, SAYS NIUA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Energy is among the prime polluters and responsible for emissions and green-house gas effects in Maharashtra's three 'smart cities' - Thane, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Nagpur - as per a new study by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), under the centre's Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

The report: "State of Cities: Towards Low Carbon and Resilient Pathways" is published jointly by the NIUA with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), South Asia, for 15 'smart cities', including 3 from Maharashtra.

It discusses in detail the future challenges and pathways in terms of climate resilience, which includes mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHG). GHG in the Earth's atmosphere traps heat and contributes to the greenhouse effect, leading to global warming, said experts of Asar Social Impact Advisors.

As per the NIUA report, Thane has GHG emissions of 2.29 million tCO₂e (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent), uses 13.06 million GigaJoule (GJ) energy and consumes 1,677 million kWh electricity annually.

When it comes to consumption in Thane city, residential buildings consume the highest energy (47 per cent), and are also the highest GHG contributors (43 per cent).

In terms of the amount of energy consumed by the local Government, its GHG emissions profile puts transport as the highest energy guzzler (36.9 per cent), but the highest emis-



sions contributor (47.8 per cent) is public sector buildings.

The report's projections for Thane till 2025-26 are increased average minimum temperature, and average rainfall for the district.

Similarly, Pimpri-Chinchwad (Pune district) has GHG emissions of 3.18 million tCO₂e (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent), uses 21.9 million GigaJoule energy and consumes 2,641 million kWh electricity annually. Here too, transport consumes the highest energy (43 per cent), and industry is the highest GHG contributor (45 per cent).

In terms of the amount of energy consumed by the local Government, its GHG emissions profile puts water supply as the highest energy guzzler (39 per cent), and the highest emissions contributor (54 per cent) in Pimpri-Chinchwad.

The report says Nagpur has GHG emissions of 3.03 million tCO₂e (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent), uses 19.04 million GigaJoule

(Gj) energy and consumes 1,822 million kWh electricity annually.

Referring to consumption in Nagpur city, residential buildings consume the highest energy (43 per cent), and are also the highest GHG contributors (38 per cent).

As far as the amount of energy consumed by the local Government goes, its GHG emissions profile puts water supply as the highest energy guzzler (55 per cent) and emissions contributor (57 per cent).

The report's projections for Nagpur till 2025-26 are increased temperature and short duration high intensity rainfall.

A first of its kind, the report not only underscores the urgent need for resilient climate action but also highlights the crucial role they play in attracting investments for low carbon transitions.

"It serves as a guidebook for Indian cities, enabling them to navigate the complexities of sustainable urban development and make informed

decisions that will shape a greener, more resilient future. Through the report, we aim to create a harmonious balance between economic progress, environmental stewardship, and social inclusivity, ultimately shaping a sustainable and prosperous future for all," said NIUA Director Hitesh Vaidya.

The report has listed several action points for consumer-related services transportation, water and waste management, energy efficiency, and others which, if implemented, can slash emissions in Thane (22 per cent) and Nagpur (20 per cent) by 2025-2026.

ICLEI's Executive Director Emani Kumar has urged the need for a holistic waste management plan, sustainable transport system, pedestrian-friendly walkways, disaster management, pollution control and health, etc. as some of the solutions.

The report comes at a crucial juncture as cities bear the brunt of climate risks, with nearly 68 per cent of the global population expected to reside in urban areas by 2050.

Rising temperatures, droughts, wildfires, and rising sea levels threaten city infrastructure, livelihoods, and economies, fossil fuel dependency worsens greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating the climate crisis.

Challenges like urban heat islands, water scarcity, food insecurity, air pollution, and health concerns further burden city dwellers, and to tackle these, empowering cities with policies, funds, and inclusive governance is essential. Cities must take center stage, driving climate resilience and action.

I.N.D.I.A meet: Mumbai conclave will give new direction to country, says Congress

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming Aug 31-Sep 1 National Opposition parties' conclave will provide a 'new direction to the country' on how to uproot the Bharatiya Janata Party government in the country, Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole said on Wednesday.

Emerging after a Congress Core Committee meeting, Patole said that the aim is to dislodge the BJP governments at the Centre and in the state and bring back the Congress and allies to power.

"Maharashtra is a state attuned to the Congress ideology... There is an expectation that if the Congress and its allies fight the upcoming Lok Sabha elections unitedly, they can together win 40-45 seats (out of total 48). We are preparing for that. Our target is the BJP and the Congress will contest against them with all the parties that join us," declared Patole.

He pointed out that all the likeminded parties are concerned with burning issues like soaring inflation, massive unemployment, farmers problems and increasing suicides, businesses shutting down or not functional, etc confronting the state and the nation.

Patole said 218 youths have committed suicide only in Pune and the situation was equally grim in other parts of the state, but "the BJP's tendency is to cling to power at all costs, even if people die."

Patole also referred to the ongoing political row over Maha Vikas Aghadi ally, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar's meeting with his nephew and breakaway NCP leader Ajit Pawar, now Deputy CM.

"There is no confusion about this in the



MVA-Congress, but only among the people... Sharad Pawar has made it clear that he will remain with the MVA. Our senior leaders are keeping an eye on the developments and the top leadership will take it up during the I.N.D.I.A. meeting," said Patole.

The Congress Core Committee was attended by two Central representatives of President Mallikarjun Kharge, ex-CM's Sushilkumar Shinde, Ashok Chavan, Manikrao Thakre, M. Arif Naseem Khan, Basavaraj Patil, Kunal Patil Milind Deora, Satej Patil, Devanand Pawar, Atul Londhe, Pramod More and others.

The upcoming National Opposition meeting, which saw 26 parties in July in Bengaluru, is likely to witness some more parties joining the alliance at the Mumbai conclave, a party source indicated.

Mob thrashes Muslim man seen with Hindu girl at Bandra Terminus

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a shocker for cosmopolitan Mumbai, a Muslim man was beaten up by a so-called 'moral police' mob for allegedly being seen and talking with a Hindu girl at the Bandra Terminus station here, recently.

Videos of the incident went viral on social media on Tuesday, evoking sharp reactions with the Samajwadi Party (SP)'s MLA Rais Khan and All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) National Spokesperson Waris Pathan demanding strict action in the matter.

In the undated video, the



unidentified man, sporting a full-sleeved red T-shirt and grey trousers is seen being abused, slapped, punched, kicked and pushed around even as the unidentified girl was heard objecting and pleading with the unidenti-

fied mobsters to stop and let them go. Sporting a 'burqa, she implored the mob "don't beat him" even as they drag him out of the Bandra Terminus with his collar and hair, ranting slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram'.

Other voices in the video claimed that the girl was just 16, while some others have contended on social media that she had allegedly eloped from Rajasthan with the man who may have nefarious motives.

Some of the people in the violent mob claimed they had 'rescued' a minor Hindu girl from the clutches of the man and others raised slogans of 'stop love-jihad', etc.

On 77th I-Day, Tricolour hoisted on 75 Indian forts

Team Absolute | Pune

In a unique initiative to conserve forts and environment, besides paying tributes to the legendary Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the Indian Army Southern Command in coordination with the Akhil Maharashtra Giryarohan Mahasangh (AMGM) hoisted the National Tricolour on 75 forts including 47 in Maharashtra to mark the 77th Independence Day on August 15.

Over 650 army jawans and some 500 fort lovers and adventurers of Giripremi, a mountaineering club from Pune joined the initiative, said veteran mountaineer and AMGM President Umesh Zirpe.

The AMGM was involved with coordination and helping the South Command to execute the even smoothly at all the selected forts



across India. At all the forts - 47 in Maharashtra plus one each in Telangana (Warangal Fort), Karnataka (Rajhansgad Fort) and Goa (Chapora Fort) - the state's mountaineers trekked up carrying the National Flag and then hoisting it

over the top on Tuesday. "This was the first time that such a grandiose ceremony of I-Day celebrations was executed by the mountaineers. A lot of groundwork had gone into it and was carried out with precision," said Zirpe.

Giripremi's Founder President Ushaprabha Page, President Jayant Tulpule, Zirpe, along with other senior mountaineers keenly participated in the event. Zirpe explained that the Sahyadri range forts are not just a pile of volcanic eruption, but its soil and the rock and the fortresses with bastions have epic historical anecdotes to reveal.

All the mountaineers and fort lovers assembled early in the morning at the foot of the forts and warmly greeted Indian Army teams, he added. Then everyone trekked to the top of the forts, explained the history and geography of the forts to the Indian Army, and in between 9-11 a.m. on August 15, unfurled India's Tricolour on all the 50 forts, and the remaining 25 in other states under the jurisdiction of the Southern Command, said Zirpe.

"I'm Senior most...": Sharad Pawar says no offer to join PM's Cabinet

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As strain builds within the Maharashtra opposition alliance over a meeting between Sharad Pawar and his nephew Ajit Pawar, the veteran politician has trashed claims that he has been offered a Union Minister post in exchange of deserting the INDIA bloc and tying up with the BJP.

The meeting took place at a Pune businessman's residence on Saturday, over a month after Ajit Pawar and eight other NCP leaders joined the Eknath Shinde-led government backed by the BJP. Since then, both factions are in tussle to control the NCP.

The meeting sparked speculation



that Ajit Pawar may be trying to convince Sharad Pawar, a key face of

opposition's INDIA bloc, to shift his allegiance. Pawar later said some "well-wishers" were trying to convince him to tie up with the BJP, but added that he had no such plan.

Asked about Chavan's remark, Pawar said today, "I have no idea what the former CM said. There was no such discussion. I am not denying that meeting happened, but as the head of the family, I speak to all family members. These are just rumors but there's no reality in any of these things being said."

"I am the seniormost person in the party, who will give me an offer," the veteran asked.

Earlier too, Pawar had stressed that Ajit Pawar is his nephew and it is natural for them to meet.

Bihar man bashes girlfriend in Mumbai, nabbed from Guj

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police have arrested a Bihar man, who was on the run after he brutally assaulted his girlfriend when she resisted his attempt to rape her, officials said here.

The accused, identified as 26-year-old Deepak Malakar said to be a film casting director and editor, had assaulted the 18-year-old college girl at Versova on August 11.

After committing the crime, he switched off his mobile and then fled from Mumbai.

Following a complaint, the police tracked his movements and finally zeroed in on him when he made an ATM transaction in Surat during the weekend.

A police team went to Surat, nabbed him on Monday and brought him to Mumbai where he has confessed to the assault on the girl, and has been charged with attempt to murder and other charges. He was produced before a Magistrate's Court and remanded to police



custody till Friday. Left to die, the victim, who dreamt of pursuing a film career, was admitted to the ICU of a local hospital and is now gradually recovering from her facial and head injuries, including the skull fractures. Malakar and the girl came in contact via Facebook last year and a couple of months ago he even met her parents with a marriage proposal. He parents agreed and permitted him to live in their one-bedroom apartment though the girl made it clear that she would first complete her education and then break into Bollywood before getting married.

2 arrested in Mumbai for Pakistan Independence day status on Instagram

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two teenage college students from Colaba were arrested by Mumbai Police for posting an image of Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations as their status on Instagram.

Police said the arrests were prohibitory in nature and the duo were released after a warning.

According to the Police, a businessman from Colaba approached Colaba police on Monday and lodged a complaint that a few boys from Colaba were using Pakistan's Independence Day celebration as their status on Instagram and stated that this may lead to communal tension.

Based on the complaint,



Colaba police's anti-terrorism squad (ATS) late Monday night tracked down the boys and brought them to the police station and placed them under prohibitory arrest under CrPC 151 (3).

Police checked their mobiles and found that these boys had indeed used Pakistan's Independence Day as their story status on Instagram. Police took a screenshot of their mobile

phones and seized them. "From their conduct, manner of speaking and behaviour, it seems that they were doing this with the intention of disturbing the law and order in the country on August 15," a senior official said. Pakistan which came into existence after a bitter partition from India in 1947 marks August 14 as its day of independence from the Britishers.

Mumbai man finds Rat in chicken curry, hotel gives "Vague Answers"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A chicken curry dinner on Sunday turned out to be a horrifying experience for a customer at a Mumbai restaurant. He discovered that the meat that tasted a little strange was actually a dead rat.

The manager and chef of the restaurant have been charged, the police said on Wednesday.

Anurag Singh and his friend Amin went to an eatery at Bandra for Punjabi food on Sunday night. They ordered two dishes, one mutton and one chicken-based curry.

When the food arrived, Singh began to eat the chicken curry.



But when he chewed into a piece of the meat, he suspected it was not chicken. On closer inspection, he realised that it was a dead rat.

The two men, queasy and outraged, confronted the hotel manager, who "gave vague answers", Singh alleged in his complaint to the police.

He also complained that he felt sick soon after and had to visit a doctor.

The police have registered a case against the hotel's chef, manager and the chicken supplier.

They have been charged with offences like adulteration of food and endangering the life or personal safety of others, the police said.



Jessica Chastain is keen on a sequel to 2011 film 'The Help'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar-winning actress Jessica Chastain has expressed interest in a sequel to 2011 movie 'The Help', to further explore the relationship between her character Celia and Octavia Spencer's Minny.

The Oscar-nominated movie faced a backlash for its white savior narrative and oversimplification of harsh truths, with some of the actors expressing regret for their involvement.

As per Deadline, the 'Dark Phoenix' and 'George & Tammy' star told EW that of all the various characters she has played, one that she thinks about "all the time" and wishes she could play again is her character of Celia Foote from 'The Help'.

She said: "You know who I think about all the time, and I just wish I could play her (again)? Celia Foote. I just want to do something, Celia and Minny, and see what happened. You know they ended up living together and raising the baby together, they were best friends. How amazing would that film be? I loved her, and I got to be a bit silly."

"A lot of my characters I feel like I got to experience a lot," Chastain added. "Celia, it was such a deep dive for me. I really threw on that character, and I didn't really get to mine that much material because I was a supporting part of that story. That's a character I wish I could revisit."

The 2011 film by Tate Taylor was based on the book by Kathryn Stockett about an aspiring young white journalist who writes a book from the point of view of two Black maids and the racism they experience working for white families. In the film, Celia befriends her maid Minny as they both care for each other amid tumultuous marriages.



Adele helps couple announce their baby's gender on-stage

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Adele couldn't help but get caught up in the emotional moment when she helped two of her fans announce the gender of their baby onstage in Las Vegas recently.

While attending a concert as part of her Weekends with Adele residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, fans Chris Dare and his wife Shantelle Lord held up a sign that read: 'Adele will you do our gender reveal?', reports People magazine.

The New York couple was later called to the front of the stage where Adele read the sex of the baby out loud for the audience to hear. "No one's really allowed signs in here. I'm just obsessed that you got one in," Adele told the couple in a video Dare posted to Instagram and TikTok.

Before the gender reveal, Lord told the 35-year-old 'Love in the Dark' singer that while she is 18 weeks pregnant, she and her husband have had the sealed envelope revealing their baby's sex in their possession since the 12-week mark. However, the couple waited to open the envelope in hopes Adele would announce it to them.

As per People, as Adele sat on the edge of the stage, she carefully opened the envelope and told the crowd, "Shantelle and Chris are having a baby - boy!"

After the announcement, Adele hugged Lord and Dare and offered well wishes. "That was amazing," she said as she teared up and apologized to the crowd for her sobbing. "I'm so happy for you! I'm so happy for you! That's so emotional, oh my God."

Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling to reunite for 'Ocean's Eleven' prequel donning new avatars

Los Angeles | Agencies

After their amazing chemistry in Greta Gerwig's \$1 billion 'Barbie', Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling are gearing up to reunite on screen for an 'Ocean's Eleven' prequel movie. While it may indeed be hard to imagine Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling as anything but Barbie and Ken right now, each escaping from Barbieland, the two will don completely new avatars after their feel-good fantasy comedy.

According to Collider, director Jay Roach has a very vivid vision for his currently untitled 'Ocean's Eleven' prequel. He is in fact inspired by Alfred Hitchcock's psychological thriller films, and will go old school with its filmmaking techniques as it will be set in Monte Carlo in 1962.

Next to nothing has been revealed about the film, though Jay Roach has said that he aims to capture the same on-screen presence of Margot and Ryan which they showcased in 'Barbie', except this time it will be darker, more grounded and a lot more cynical.

Talking to Collider about this, Jay Roach said: "Originally, there were some questions about whether it would be weird to have (Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling) together again after 'Barbie'."

"But I think there's just some pairings you want to see over and over again. It's such a powerful, powerful duo, you know? And it's the suspense of will they come together; will they trust each other enough to team up? That's romantic," he added.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Sandra Bullock was spotted in public for the first time since the death of her boyfriend Bryan Randall, who passed away on August 5, 2023, after battling ALS.

As reported by The Mirror, the 59-year-old drove around Beverly Hills with a dog sitting in her lap, just hours after NFL star Michael Oher filed a lawsuit against Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy for lying about legally adopting him and using his story for their own personal profit in the hit film 'The Blind Side', for which Bullock earned a Best Actress Academy Award for in 2010.

Sandra and Bryan met in 2015 when he was working as a photographer for her child's birthday party and had been in a long-term relationship ever since. The A-list star said that Bryan was a "saint" and the "love of her life" just two years ago amid his secret health battle.

While grief still hangs heavy on the actress' head as it is still incredibly fresh, Bullock has received a lot of support from her friends and family after Bryan's passing, the impact of which left her devastated.

According to Heat Magazine, Sandra's naturally devastated and in mourning right now, but she's staying strong and counting herself lucky to have such a solid support system. Her sisters and other relatives have been there for her throughout this ordeal, plus she has her LA friends checking up all the time to see if she's okay.

Sandra Bullock spotted in public for first time since boyfriend's death

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Justine Skye

ED SHEERAN, TAYLOR SWIFT HAVE NOT RE-RECORDED 'END GAME' YET

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Shape of You' singer Ed Sheeran still has not got the call from Taylor Swift to record a new take on 'End Game', the song they recorded together for Swift's 2017 album 'Reputation'.

During a stop on Andy Cohen's 'Deep & Shallow Podcast' on Sirius XM, the host asked Sheeran, 32, if he and Swift, 33, recorded a new version of 'End Game' yet. "No, I haven't. No. No. But 1989 (Taylor's Version) is the next one coming out. That's the next one," the 'Eyes Closed' singer told Cohen, reports People magazine.

The topic came up after Cohen asked

Sheeran if he was checking out Swift's Eras Tour and Beyonce's Renaissance Tour, which are coincidentally going on at the same time as Sheeran's Subtract Tour.

"I think what's nice about everyone's show is everyone's show is so individual to them," Sheeran explained. "And everyone's got a different show, so, uh, so yeah. I mean, but we're all playing. I would love to go and see Taylor's show, but we're all playing on the same dates every single weekend. I think there's a chance next year when she's in the U.K."

As per People, Swift's Eras Tour reaches Sheeran's native U.K. in June 2024, with stops planned for Edinburgh, Liverpool, Cardiff, and London.

'OPPENHEIMER' ACTOR CILLIAN MURPHY SAYS HE'D HAVE LIKED TO STAR IN 'INTERSTELLAR'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Cillian Murphy has been one of Christopher Nolan's longest collaborators, having acted in several projects of his such as 'The Dark Knight' trilogy, 'Inception', 'Dunkirk' and most recently, 'Oppenheimer'. The actor, however, has stated that one of Nolan's best films which he would have liked to star in is 'Interstellar', which he calls a very emotional film.

As reported by Variety the actor stated: "I adore 'Interstellar' just because I find it so emotional. I remember seeing it in the cinema when I had little kids. It just had a big impact on me. It broke my heart. I love watching his films when I'm not in them because you don't have to freak out about the size of your ears, or whatever." However, Murphy also stressed that Nolan had cast the "right people" for his 2014 space-time-sci-fi epic, so there's no hard feelings that he missed out on it. The epic stars Matthew McConaughey as an ex-NASA pilot who is recruited on a mission to locate a new planet outside of the solar system that can support human life. Some of the biggest roles in the film include Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Bill Irwin, Ellen Burstyn with Matt Damon and Michael Caine having supporting roles in the film. The actor was also asked by The Independent what film he'd like to do aside from 'Oppenheimer' which could be a double featurette. To this, Murphy also said 'Interstellar' or 'Dunkirk'.





FIFA Women's World Cup

ENGLAND BEAT HOST AUSTRALIA 3-1 TO REACH FINAL

Sydney | Agencies

England went closer to their maiden FIFA Women's World Cup title as they moved into the final for the first time after beating host Australia 3-1 in the semifinal, here on Wednesday.

The home side eliminated France via a thrilling penalty shoot-out in the last 8, booking their first semifinal appearance at the Women's World Cup, after they bowed out at the quarterfinal stage in three of their previous campaigns.

England had reached the semifinal for the third consecutive edition but never made into the final before. The Lionesses overcame Colombia during the last match and were seeking the spot in a second successive major tournament final, after lifting the EURO crown in 2022, Xinhua reported.

England had lost to Australia 2-0 in a friendly match back in April, their only defeat since Sarina Wiegman took the coaching spot. With Lauren James still suspended, England continued the 3-4-1-2 formation while Australia's trump card Sam Kerr



marked her first start in this tournament. England was more aggressive in the opening stage, while Kerr was under constant watch and the only highlight of the Chelsea star in the first half was a solo run smothered by Mary Earps, but it was ruled offside.

Georgia Stanway tested Australia's goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold in the 9th minute, before Alessia Russo hit the side netting.

The Lionesses unlocked their defence in the 36th minute through delicate teamwork when Russo gathered the ball from the by-line and pulled back for Ella Toone to smash in a first-time rocket.

The second half started in Australia's favour, but it was England who created the real chances as Lauren Hemp's strike out of the box was punched away while Millie

Bright's header in the resulting corner was wide of the post.

Australia got back on level terms through a counterattack in the 63rd minute as Kerr played heroics by charging forward before unleashing a blockbuster that went beyond an outstretched Earps.

The Matildas rode the momentum by stringing together a run of play, but England restored the lead in the 71st minute when Ellie Carpenter's poor clearance allowed Hemp to steal the ball and slotted it home.

Kerr squandered a golden opportunity in the 83rd minute as her header went over the bar, moments before Cortnee Vine forced a one-handed save out of Earps.

England punished the co-hosts in the 86th minute through a combination between the two strikers as Hemp's through ball sent Russo clear to beat Arnold one-on-one.

In a desperate bid for a miracle, Australia tossed caution to the wind in the final stages but was still toothless to turn the game around.

England will take on Spain, who eliminated Sweden 2-1 on Tuesday, in the tournament's final on Sunday.

132nd Durand Cup

FC Goa beat Downtown Heroes 3-0, qualify for knockouts

Guwahati | Agencies

FC Goa cemented their spot in the knockout stages of the 132nd Durand Cup following their 3-0 win over Downtown Heroes FC in their final group stage game at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, here on Wednesday.

Goals by Muhammed Nemil, Carlos Martinez and Devendra Murgaokar helped the Men in Orange wrap up their Durand Cup group stage campaign with an impressive win.

Following Wednesday's win, the Men in Orange have completed their Durand Cup group stage campaign with seven points from three matches and find themselves at the top of the Group D standings. Second-placed NorthEast United have four points from two matches, and will have an opportunity to seal a quarter-final berth with the Gaurs, provided they beat Downtown Heroes in their final game on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, FC Goa coach Gouramangi Singh made as many as six changes to the playing XI that started in



the recent drawn encounter against NorthEast United. Goalkeeper Hritik Tiwari replaced Dheeraj Singh between the sticks, while new signing Jay Gupta made his debut in defence alongside Odeji Onaibia.

The opening goal of the match came in the 19th minute, and it was a moment of sheer brilliance from Muhammed Nemil that set the tone for the Gaurs' dominance. Martinez orchestrated the play, deftly laying the ball off for Nemil with a cheeky backheel flick, and the 21-year-old, with a burst of pace and precision, advanced towards the goal and unleashed a thunderous strike from over 30 yards out. The ball rocketed into the top corner of the net, rendering the

Downtown Heroes goalkeeper helpless.

FC Goa continued to press forward, showcasing their attacking intent and fluid passing. Their efforts were rewarded once again in the 42nd minute, this time with Carlos Martinez making his mark on the scoresheet. Nemil, the architect of the first goal, turned provider this time as he displayed commendable vision and skill to play a perfectly weighted pass out wide to Udanta Singh. The latter then swiftly maneuvered down the flank and delivered a precision cross into the heart of the six-yard box for Martinez to meet it with a decisive header from close range, thereby registering his second goal since signing for the Gaurs.

Rishabh Pant plays cricket first time since car crash, video sends fans into frenzy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

There was a wave of celebration among cricket fans as India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant was seen batting in a club game in Bengaluru, for the first time since his car accident.

In a video circulating on social media platform X, Pant can be seen confidently advancing down the pitch to strike the ball beyond the boundaries, accompanied by enthusiastic cheers from the spectators.

The 25-year-old, who has been recuperating at the NCA in Bengaluru, attended an Independence Day program organised by the JSW foundation where he delivered a speech as well.

"I feel once you keep growing older, you stop loving the game. One of the reasons is



that there is a lot of pressure; you want to excel in life and do this and that. "But enjoyment nahi miss karna hein life mein, (Don't miss enjoyment in life)," Pant said in a video shared by Sangita Jindal, chairperson of JSW Foundation.

In December last year,

Pant miraculously survived when his Mercedes car hit a divider and caught fire on the Delhi-Dehradun highway while on the way to his hometown Roorkee.

He also underwent ligament surgery earlier this year after suffering multiple injuries in a car crash.

Stokes reverses ODI retirement ahead of World Cup, named in England squad for New Zealand series

London | Agencies

England on Wednesday received a huge boost ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 as their Test captain Ben Stokes reversed his decision to retire from 50-over format and will return to ODI setup in the upcoming four-match series against New Zealand.

England selector Luke Wright confirmed that the 15 players named for New Zealand ODIs are also part of the provisional squad for the World Cup, where their campaign will get underway against New Zealand, in a rematch of the epic 2019 final at Lord's.

Last month, Stokes revealed that he has no plans to reverse his decision to retire from one-day cricket and play at this year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and will



take a break from cricket to sort out his chronic knee problem that hampered his all-round role during the Ashes.

Given the issues with his knee, Stokes' role with the ball will be limited and he will play as a specialist batter.

Meanwhile, the squad for the four-match ODI series against New Zealand does not include young batter Harry Brook and star quick Jofra Archer. That means that Brook misses out on a maiden World Cup appearance.

Notably, Archer delivered the crucial super over in England's 2019 world cup win. However, he has faced a continuous struggle with injuries for nearly the entirety of the period since that triumph. Wright revealed that Archer would be included in England's World Cup plans as a travelling reserve.

Cincinnati Masters

ALCARAZ BEAT THOMPSON FOR 50TH WIN OF SEASON; DJOKOVIC LOSES IN DOUBLES

Cincinnati (US) | Agencies

Carlos Alcaraz has captured his 50th match win of the year in personal-best time after defeating Jordan Thompson 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 in the second round of the Cincinnati Masters, an ATP 1000 event.

Alcaraz awaits a third-round showdown with the winner of Frenchman Ugo Humbert and American Tommy Paul, who upset the reigning US Open champion last week in Toronto.

The Spaniard, who improved to 12-0 in his opening-round matches this year, reached the 50-wins milestone in his 12th tournament of the year on Tuesday night. Last season his 50th match win came in the semi-finals of the US Open, his 14th tournament of the season.

The 20-year-old, who improved to 50-5 on the year, is looking for his seventh title of 2023 to add to crowns won in Buenos Aires, Indian Wells, Barcelona, Madrid, Queen's and Wimbledon. Alcaraz must reach the



final this week to be guaranteed of continuing his run atop the ATP

Rankings for the 34th week on Monday. Anything less than a run to

the final leaves open several scenarios under which Serbian great Novak Djokovic could reclaim top spot. On the other hand, Djokovic made his first appearance in the USA in nearly two years as he played doubles with fellow Serb Nikola Cacic but suffered a 4-6, 2-6 loss British-Kiwi pairing Jamie Murray and Michael Venus. This was the Serb's first competitive match after his Wimbledon final loss against world no. 1 Carlos Alcaraz. Moreover, the ATP 1000 event is Djokovic's only tournament before the final Grand Slam of the year, the US Open, starts on August 28 at Flushing Meadows in New York. The 23-time grand slam champion is set to open singles play on Wednesday night against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. Djokovic has not played in North America since losing in the 2021 US Open final as he has been unable to enter the USA due to vaccine protocols that require international travelers to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Jerusalem | Agencies

Israeli champions Maccabi Haifa advanced to the UEFA Champions League playoffs after securing a 3-1 home win over Slovak champions Slovan Bratislava in the second-leg match of the third qualifying round.

Haifa, who also prevailed in the first leg in Bratislava, will face Swiss champions Young Boys Bern in the playoffs, following a home-away format, reports Xinhua.

Around 30,000 fans at the Sammy Ofer Stadium in the northern city of Haifa witnessed a strong start by the visitors. Haifa goalkeeper Itamar Nitzan was forced into action by headers from Sharani Zuberu and Alexander Cavric on four and eight minutes respec-



tively. However, Haifa took the lead on the scoreboard after a precise pass from Surinamese captain Tjaronn Chery and a close-range header by Haitian striker Frantzdy Pierrot in the 29th minute. Chery's shot nearly doubled the score in the 42nd minute but was saved by goalkeeper Milan Borjan. Nonetheless, the home cap-

tain set up the second goal for striker Dia Saba just before halftime.

Slovan registered their lone goal in the 85th minute, with Croatian midfielder Marko Tolcic netting from close range following a Nino Marcellis pass.

Haifa's substitute striker Din David tallied the final goal in the 93rd minute after a third assist by Chery.

Messi leads Inter Miami to Leagues Cup final

Washington | Agencies

Lionel Messi continued his prolific scoring form with a superb first-half strike as Inter Miami reached the Leagues Cup final with a 4-1 away win over Philadelphia Union.

Venezuelan striker Josef Martinez gave the hosts the lead in the third minute at Subaru Park when he ran onto Sergii Kryvtsov's pass and slotted a cool finish past goalkeeper Andre Blake, reports Xinhua. Martinez then turned provider as he found Messi in space, allowing the Argentine



World Cup winner to stream forward before rifling a low 30-yard drive into the far corner. Messi's former Barcelona teammate Jordi Alba made it 3-0 on the stroke of halftime when he pounced on Robert Taylor's through ball and dribbled into the area before finishing with a lofted shot over

the lunging Blake.

Alejandro Bedoya reduced the deficit by firing home from close range after goalkeeper Drake Callender failed to deal with a corner.

But Miami put the result beyond doubt through substitute David Ruiz, who combined with Deandre Yedlin before angling a close-range finish past Blake.

Inter Miami will meet either Monterrey or Nashville in the final on Saturday.

Messi has now scored nine times in six matches since joining the Florida outfit on a free transfer last month.

ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings: Shubman Gill attains career best 25th spot

Dubai | Agencies

India batter Shubman Gill reached his career best 25th position in the latest ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings, released on Wednesday, following a half-century in the fourth match of the recently concluded series against West Indies in Lauderhill last week.

The 23-year-old Gill has moved up 43 places after scores of 77 and nine in the last two T20Is of the five-match series that the West Indies won 3-2.

His previous best in the format was 30th position, attained in February, after he registered India's highest score in T20Is, an unbeaten 126 against New Zealand in Ahmedabad.

Gill's opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal, with whom he added 165 runs in the fourth match, has also made rapid progress in the latest week-

ly update, to reach 88th position for his player of the match; effort of 84 not out off 51 deliveries.

Meanwhile, West Indies opener Bandon King's 85 not out off 55 balls has lifted him five places to a career-best 13th position while Kyle Mayers (up two places to 45th) and Shimron Hetmyer (up 16 places to 85th) have also moved up.

In the rankings for bowlers, West Indies' left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein is up three places to 11th and Jason Holder is up two places to 25th after they bagged two wickets each in the final match while Romario Shepherd's match-winning four-wicket haul has lifted him 20 slots to 63rd position.

India's left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has progressed 23 places to 28th position after grabbing two wickets in the fourth match.





Youth the biggest asset of our nation: Kartik Aaryan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan, who received a lot of positive response for his work in the film 'Satyaprem Ki Katha', is celebrating the 76th Independence Day on Tuesday and has said that the youth being the biggest asset of India has the potential to move the mountains and can help India become stronger.

The actor extended his best wishes to everyone on the joyful occasion as he said: "Wishing a very Happy Independence Day to every proud Indian. I'm really proud to be a citizen of the youngest nation of the world."

Emphasising on the importance of youth, he said: "Our nation keeps moving forward with the bright young minds acing in every sphere and making the country proud - assuring us the future is brighter! The young minds of India have big dreams and a knack for hard work to make it come true... given the right opportunities and encouragement, we all can literally move mountains and remain unstoppable! We are the best."

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actor is busy with his next films 'Chandu Champion' directed by superstar director Kabir Khan.

Preity Zinta: 'I never went to acting school, but I got things right on set'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Preity G Zinta has opened up on the roles that she has portrayed on the screen, saying that though she never went to an acting school or a workshop, she just wanted to get things right on set.

Preity recently celebrated the 20 years of the cult science fiction film 'Koi...Mil Gaya', starring Hrithik Roshan in the lead. She has done numerous roles in movies like 'Dil Se', 'Sangharsh', 'Kya Kehna', 'Salaam Namaste', etc.

The roles she had portrayed were often deemed culturally defiant, along with her unconventional screen persona. Was this a conscious decision?

Preity told reporter: "There was a definitive understanding for me, even though I never

went to an acting school or a workshop, I just wanted to get things right on set, to be honest. Script wise, whichever director gave me a script that made sense to me and the character aligned with my beliefs, I gave it my all. Even doing songs is very very difficult, you have to do them well."

"I have always wanted to do different roles, something that challenged me or showed women in a positive light, different and progressive manner as opposed to just as an object of desire," she said.

The 48-year-old actress further said: "I also had a very strict family back home, so I did not take up any work that would get me in any trouble at home. It was a mix of everything. When I started out I just wanted to do the right thing and things that appealed to me as a person."



Team Absolute | Mumbai

FFI INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR INDIA'S OFFICIAL ENTRY TO 96TH OSCARS



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Film Federation of India (FFI) -- the country's apex body of all film associations -- has invited applications from Indian films which could go as the official entry to the 96th Academy Awards this year, an official said here on Tuesday.

FFI President Ravi Kottarakara said that the entries are open for 25 days -- from August 15 to September 10 -- for this year's Oscars nominations.

"India is on the cusp of another amazing year in the films and entertainment space and our movies are making a mark at various international platforms, including the Oscars. Last year, films like 'RRR' and 'The Elephant Whisperers' brought glory to India at the Academy Awards," Kottarakara said. Soon, he said the FFI will nominate a chairman of the jury for the Oscars entry along with other big names from the creative field who will be part of the jury. The jury will conduct a closed viewing of all the films that would apply for this year's Oscars nomination between September 15 and September 25 in Chennai, and decide the country's final entry which will be announced on September 26.



Kay Kay Menon laments absence of 'good cinema on the silver screen'

Actor Kay Kay Menon, who is known for his fabulous acting and impressive roles, feel that there is a lack of good cinema on the big screen and because of OTT audiences have been able to see good content. The actor, who has been entertaining us for decades, now will soon be seen in the film 'Love All' through which the game Badminton will be shown for the first time on the big screen. The actor shared about the film, his love for sports and much more. Talking about his film, he said, "If you love cinema, I feel our film is for you. There is a lack of good cinema on the silver screen. Because of many OTT channels, audiences are able to watch good content now. It is for the first time that badminton as a sport is showcased in a film. Badminton is the star of our film. This film is a must for the kids and I feel adults will also learn a lot from it."

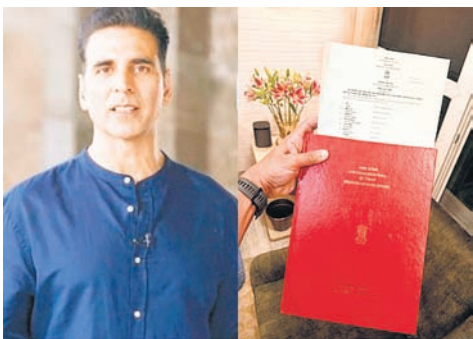
Sharing about the importance of sports in the lives of the children, he said, "I feel kids should be given open grounds. The outdoors is a must for their life. Else it becomes problematic. Today kids are busy with their electronic devices and it feels bad that they are not loving to play outdoors. I am happy that the government has made sports education compulsory in schools today. Sports teaches us how to balance life. It teaches us how to accept win and lose in the game of life." The actor further said, "I have always been playing some sports in my life and I feel till the time I die, I will continue to play sports for sure."

'Love All' is a sports drama that focuses on the importance of sports in the lives of children. The film is directed by Sudhanshu Sharma and features Kay Kay Menon, Swastika Mukherjee, Shriswara and Robin Das. The film is all set to hit the cinemas on August 25.

AKSHAY KUMAR AFTER GETTING INDIAN CITIZENSHIP: 'DIL AUR CITIZENSHIP DONO HINDUSTANI'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

On the occasion of Independence Day, Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar announced that he has got his Indian citizenship. Taking to social media, Akshay shared a photo of his hand holding the official documents of Indian citizenship. The picture shows a red coloured folder with 'Government of India Ministry of Home Affairs, Certificate of Citizenship' printed on it.



He also gives a sneak-peek into the certificate which shows his name as - Akshay Hariom Bhatia, his father's and mother's names. It also has his wife and actress Twinkle Khanna's name on it. The place of birth is mentioned Delhi, and the previous nationality is Canadian.

The certificate read: "This is to certify that the person whose particulars are given below has been registered as a citizen of India under the provision of section 5(1) (g) of the Citizenship Act, 1955."

Akshay captioned the post as: "Dil aur citizenship, dono Hindustani. Happy Independence Day! Jai Hind!"

During or after the 2011 Canadian federal election, the Conservative government there granted Canadian citizenship to Akshay. The actor had received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. In a 2010 interview with the Economist, he claimed he had 'dual citizenship'. In December 2019, he had stated that he has applied for an Indian passport and plans to give up his Canadian citizenship.



'Gadar 2' heads towards Rs 300-cr mark; 'Jailer' gives it a run for money

Team Absolute | New Delhi

'Gadar 2' continues its winning run in the box office, accumulating a gross earning of Rs 270.20 crore (net: Rs 228.98 crore) since its release on August 11. And if you add up its worldwide collections, it is within nudging distance of Rs 300 crore (it's sitting pretty at Rs 298.20 crore). The blockbuster made it highest day-wise net

earning (Rs 55.4 crore) on August 15.

Very close on its heels (in India) is the Rajinikanth-starrer Tamil hit movie 'Jailer', its net collection (that is, minus GST, which is 18 per cent on movies) being Rs 210.65 crore since its August 10 release.

Buoyed by Thalaiva's huge overseas fan following, the film's worldwide earnings have been pegged by the trade media at Rs

392.20 crore, significantly more than those of 'Gadar 2'.

In comparison, the worldwide collection of the critically acclaimed 'OMG 2', although it has been the best for an Akshay Kumar-led film in the last two years, has yet to touch Rs 100 crore -- it's still hanging at Rs 99.30 crore with its India gross collection hovering around Rs 85.3 crore (net: 72.27 crore).



Instagram Pic of the Day
Urvashi Rautela