



# absolute india

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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** > 02  
PM Modi's stance on Chinese incursion heart-breaking: Rahul ...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
Elon Musk shares picture of Amber Heard, cosplaying as Mercy from ...



**SPORTS** > 07  
India may try out new combinations in meeting with ...

## WHY ONLY 6 YRS BAN ON CONVICTS FROM CONTESTING MP/MLA ELECTIONS: AMICUS CURIAE'S REPORT

# SEEKS TERMININATION

▶ HANSARIA WAS APPOINTED AMICUS CURIAE (FRIEND OF THE COURT) IN A PIL SEEKING A LIFETIME BAN ON CONVICTED POLITICIANS FROM CONTESTING ELECTIONS AND DEMANDING EXPEDITIOUS TRIAL OF CRIMINAL CASES LODGED AGAINST MPS/MLAS.

▶ UNDER THE PRESENT LAW, IN ALL CASES WHERE A SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON POLITICIANS, DISQUALIFICATION FROM CONTESTING ELECTION CONTINUES ONLY FOR A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS SINCE THEIR RELEASE.

▶ THE REPORT SAID THAT THIS MAKES A PERSON ELIGIBLE TO CONTEST ELECTION AFTER SIX YEARS OF THE RELEASE EVEN IF HE WAS CONVICTED FOR HEINOUS OFFENCES LIKE RAPE OR FOR DEALING WITH DRUGS OR BEING INVOLVED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES OR HAVING INDULGED IN CORRUPTION.



"The provisions of sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of section 8 (of the Representation of the People Act, 1951), to the extent, they provide that 'shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release' are manifestly arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution."

Vijay Hansaria, Amicus curiae

years after their release, post completion of sentence, fails to meet the object of decriminalisation of politics. He suggested that the issue of constitutional validity of Section 8 of the RP Act, in so far as disqualification to contest election is confined "for a period of six years since his release", may be considered independently of the issue of expeditious disposal of cases by the Special Court for MP/MLA cases. In another part of his report, Hansaria submitted that the Special Court for MP/MLA cases may be directed to furnish monthly reports of pendency and disposal of cases to the High Courts and reasons for delay of cases pending for more than five years. He further suggested that the High Courts may create an independent icon, button or tab on

their website with regard to pending cases against MPs/MLAs providing details like pendency of cases, order sheet of the High Courts and order sheet of all cases of the Special Court for MP/MLA cases, district wise. The apex court has been passing a slew of directions time-to-time on the petition filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay seeking expeditious trial of

### BILKIS BANO CASE: SC TO EXAMINE ABOUT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN REMISSION TO CONVICTS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday said that it will be required to examine if remission applications of convicts in the Bilkis Bano case were given any preferential treatment by the Gujarat government.

A bench comprising Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan remarked that there are some convicts who are "more privileged" as usually cases are filed against denial of early release.

The bench was considering the batch of pleas filed against the Gujarat government's decision allowing early release of convicts in the case of gang rape of Bilkis and murder of her family members committed during the 2002 post-Godhra riots.

During the hearing, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for a convict, put forth that the seriousness of crime cannot be a factor for challenging the early release as grant of remission is meant for rehabilitation and reformation of offenders.

The matter is likely to continue on September 20.

cases against MPs/MLAs, and speedy investigation by the CBI and other agencies.

## 'Won't Legitimise Hate Narrative'

### INDIA decides to stay away from news shows of 14 news anchors

▶ IN THE NOTE, THE MEDIA GROUP OF INDIA SAID: "PERSUANT TO THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INDIA COORDINATION COMMITTEE IN ITS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 13, THE INDIA PARTIES WILL NOT SEND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SHOWS AND EVENTS OF ANCHORS: ADITI TYAGI, AMAN CHOPRA, AMISH DEVGAN, ANAND NARSIMHAN, ARNAB GOSWAMI, ASHOK SHRIVASTAV, CHITRA TRIPATHI, GAURAV SAWANT, NAVIKA KUMAR, PRACHI PARASHAR, RUBIKA LIAQUAT, SHIV AROOR, SUDHIR CHAUDHARY AND SUSHANT SINHA."



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day after the first meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc's coordination committee, the sub group of media on Thursday announced to not participate in the news shows of 14 anchors. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara shared a note of the INDIA bloc media group decision on his 'X' handle and said, "The following decision was taken by the INDIA media committee in a virtual meet-

ing held this afternoon." On Wednesday, while addressing the media after the first meeting of coordination committee at the residence of NCP Chief Sharad Pawar, Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said, "The coordination committee authorised the sub group of media to decide upon the names of the anchors on whose shows none of the INDIA parties will send their representatives." The INDIA bloc also announced 19 member working group for media with Congress' Jairam Ramesh, RJD's Manoj Jha, Shiv Sena's Arvind Sawant, NCP's Jitendra Ahwad, AAP's Chaddha, JD-U's Rajiv Ranjan and Manish Kumar, CPM's Pranjal, Samajwadi

Party's Ashish Yadav and Rajeev Nigam, JMM's Supriyo Bhattacharya and Alok Kumar, CPI's Dr. Bhalchandran Kango, NC's Tanvir Sadiq, Prashant Kannoija, AIFB's Naren Chatterjee, CPI-ML's Sucheta De, PDP's Mohit Bhan as its members on September 1 during the third meeting of INDIA in Maharashtra's Mumbai. The BJP lost no time in retaliating. "The history of Congress has many instances of bullying the media and silencing those with differing views," posted party chief JP Nadda, alleging that every member of the Nehru-Gandhi family, starting with India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, had tried to control and silence the media.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amicus curiae and senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, in a report filed before the Supreme Court, has submitted that limiting disqualification of lawmakers from contesting elections to a period of six

## Himanta Sarma's wife to file Rs 10 crore defamation against Congress MP

Guwahati | Agencies

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said he was willing to accept any punishment, including retirement from public life, if there is any evidence that his wife has received or claimed any amount from the government of India.

"I want to emphasise again that neither my wife, nor the company she is associated with, has received or claimed any amount from the government of India. If anyone can provide evidence, I am willing to accept any punishment including retirement from public life," the chief minister posted on 'X' in reply to a post by the Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi.

Gaurav Gogoi and Himanta Sarma have been locked in a war of words on



X, formerly twitter, since Wednesday when the Congress leader posted a reply by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, who had responded to a question in the Lok Sabha by Assam BJP MP Pallab Lochan Das on March 22, 2023. "Is Hon'ble Chief Minister

complaining to Union Minister Piyush Goyal? He is saying Goyal has only approved the grant to the wife of Sarma but has not released the funds. How many more BJP politicians have used the PMKSY scheme to enrich their families?", Gaurav Gogoi said.

## Come October 1, steep hike in toll at 5 Mumbai entry points

Mumbai | Agencies

The toll rates at the five entry points in Mumbai will be hiked, between 12.50-18.75 per cent for different categories of vehicles, from October 1, officials said on Thursday.

The five Mumbai Entry Points (MEPs) are: Dahisar on the Western Express Highway, Mulund on the Eastern Express Highway, Mulund Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Vashi, and Airoli. Under the new toll regime, light motor vehicles or cars will shell out Rs 5 extra one-way, mini-buses will pay Rs 10 more, trucks and buses Rs 150 and multi-axle vehicles shall be levied Rs 190.

The toll at the 5 MEPs started in September 2002, was extended in 2010, and will continue for at least another three years, except at Vashi.

The proposed increase from October 1 comes three years after the last hike was implemented in 2020.

## Petrol pumps in Rajasthan remain 'closed' for 2nd consecutive day

Jaipur | Agencies

The petrol pump dealers across Rajasthan held a symbolic strike for the second consecutive day on Thursday by keeping the fuel stations closed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., demanding reduction in the VAT on petrol and diesel.

Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum pumps remained closed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Rajasthan on Wednesday, and were closed again on Thursday from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. in the evening.

According to Vineet Ganeshgarhia, Treasurer of Hanumangarh Petroleum Dealers Association, the government has been incurring a revenue loss of Rs 28 lakh



in a day due to the pumps being closed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the district.

More than 130 petrol pumps in the district are closed due to this strike.

On Thursday, long before 6 p.m., some drivers parked their vehicles at

the petrol pump. Some two-wheeler owners were seen taking their vehicle to the petrol pump on foot. Although many drivers had filled their vehicles with petrol and diesel before 10 a.m. on Thursday, those who

came later were not given any fuel. Due to the strike, many people had to face a lot of trouble.

The petrol pump operators have announced to close the pumps indefinitely from Friday and go on strike.

## India records 58 new Covid cases

New Delhi: As many as 58 people have tested positive for Covid-19 in India during the last 24 hours, the Health Ministry said on Thursday.

With the addition of new cases, the total caseload rose to 4,49,97,975, as per the latest update by the Ministry.

According to the Ministry, one more succumbed to the virus, taking the death toll to 5,32,029.

On the other hand, 63 people have recovered from the disease, pushing the tally to 4,44,65,415. Active cases stands at 531. As per the Ministry, more than 220.67 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered so far.

## Controversy over 'Sanatan Dharma' becoming a poll issue in MP

■ The subject of 'Sanatan Dharma' in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh has already been resonating as some state-based spiritual leaders like Bagheshwar Dham head Dhirendra Krishna Shastri and Pandit Pradeep Mishra and others have been advocating for the same during their religious discourses.

■ To counter the BJP's narrative, Kamal Nath has not only visited the ashrams of Dhirendra Shastri and Pradeep Mishra, but also organised their kathas (discourses) in his home district Chhindwara in the last one month. However, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, home minister Narottam Mishra and state BJP chief V. D. Sharma have continued to train their guns at Kamal Nath on the 'Sanatan Dharma' controversy.

■ Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Bina on Thursday also targeted the Opposition bloc INDIA aggressively, saying the 'ghamandia' alliance has been formed to destroy 'Sanatan Dharma'.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A controversy over 'Sanatan Dharma' that erupted in the southern part of the country with DMK leader and Tamil Nadu chief minister M.K. Satlin's son Udhananidhi Stalin's controversial remark has apparently taken a larger political shape in Madhya Pradesh where assembly elections are just a couple of months away.

The BJP led MP government that was struggling to counter high anti-incumbency after nearly two decades of its rule amid charges of corruption and poor governance, seems to have found an opportunity to corner the opposition Congress led by former chief minister Kamal Nath. Ever since the controversy over 'Sanatan



Dharma' escalated, the MP BJP leaders have been hitting out at the Congress consistently over this particular issue, while the state Congress leadership, which has been gearing up for the elections with the strate-



gy of not falling into a 'communal trap', has maintained a silence. That it is going to be a poll issue in Madhya Pradesh became more clearer after Jagadguru Rambhadracharya during his religious dis-



## Army chief salutes supreme sacrifice of Army officers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande and all ranks of Indian Army have saluted the supreme sacrifice of Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Aashish Dhonchak and Dy SP Humayun Muzamil Bhat of Jammu and Kashmir Police, who laid down their lives while fighting the terrorists in Anantnag, and expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

A colonel, and major of the Indian Army and a Deputy Superintendent of Police were killed as an encounter raged between terrorists and security forces at Kokernag in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district

on Wednesday, officials said. The firefight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area. After security forces cordoned off the area, terrorists hiding started firing, drawing retaliation by the security forces.

The Army salutes the valour and sacrifice of Col Manpreet Singh, SM and Maj Aashish Dhonchak, SM of 19 RR Bn who laid down their lives in the line of duty and leading from the front in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, on Sep 13, while fighting terrorists in Operation Garol, Anantnag, the Indian Army said.



# PM Modi's stance on Chinese incursion heart-breaking: Rahul in 'Motorcycle Diaries'

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi  
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday shared his recent visit to Ladakh through his 'Motorcycle Diaries' saying that it broke his heart to see a sense of betrayal by PM Modi when he lied about China not occupying our land. He said that Ladakh is one of India's crown jewels and world's most important strategic locations. He said that he will do everything he can to amplify the democratic voice of Ladakh. Sharing the video of his journey titled 'Motorcycle Diaries': Listening to Ladakh, on YouTube, Rahul Gandhi said: "My father once told me that Pangong Tso Lake is one of the most beautiful places on Earth. I've always yearned to go to Ladakh, to witness the majestic views, listen to the people, understand their problems, and share their happiness." The Congress leader said, "As I continued on my Bharat Jodo Yatra, I thought to myself, what better way to visit Ladakh than on a motorcycle! And so began this epic journey." "Flanked by my fellow bike riders, I experienced one of the most exhilarating journeys of my life on my KTM390. The 1000+ kilometers we rode were filled with pure adrenaline and camaraderie. I saw great potential in these youngsters, to think outside the box and not be afraid to push the boundaries." He recalled the experience of his visit to Ladakh and said that, "Every village and town we passed by, from Leh to Kargil, we were embraced by the incredible Ladakhi people." "They are humble, empathetic, and resilient.



Their wisdom about Ladakh is unmatched, and any plan for the future development of the region must be based on their inputs. Without hesitation I can say, the most beautiful part about Ladakh is its people." He also recalled his meeting with people and said: "It was inspiring to revel in the spirit of patriotism with our ex-servicemen, on-duty army and police personnel, the BRO officers and workers whom I met during this journey. They are the brave

sons of our Bharat Mata." "Ladakh is one of India's crown jewels, and one of the world's most important strategic locations. It broke my heart to see a sense of betrayal in the eyes of the people of Ladakh. They felt betrayed by the Prime Minister when he lied about China not occupying our land. They felt betrayed by the BJP government when it failed to fulfil any of the promises it made to them. A government must empower all its people, and Ladakh needs good governance." "I will do everything I can to amplify the democratic voice of Ladakh. Bharat Mata Ki Jai," he said. Rahul Gandhi visited Ladakh for over eight days from August 17 to 25 and visited Leh, Pangong Tso Lake area, Kargil and many other parts of Ladakh. Earlier, also the Congress leader had surprised the people with his visits as on August 1 he visited Azadpur Mandi in Delhi, one of Asia's biggest wholesale vegetable and fruit market. In July, he had visited the farm fields in Haryana's Sonapat and sowed the paddy samplings and even invited the women farmers at his residence over lunch. He had taken a truck ride from Haryana's Murthal to Ambala in May to understand the problems faced by the truck drivers. He had met the gig workers in Karnataka's Bengaluru and also drove on scooter with a delivery partner. He had visited the Delhi University's PG Men's hostel for lunch with students, also visited Mukherjee Nagar area of Delhi to interact with UPSC aspirants and also traveled to Jama Masjid and Bengali Market area in April this year.

# As Nipah strikes Kerala, RGCB rolls out a mobile virology laboratory

**Team Absolute** | Thiruvananthapuram  
The Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) in Kerala on Thursday rolled out a fully-equipped mobile virology testing laboratory, strengthening the efforts to contain the Nipah virus infection reported from parts of the state's Kozhikode district. Health, Woman and Child Development Minister Veena George flagged off the Mobile Virology Lab in front of the Kerala Assembly complex here. Lauding the RGCB for stepping in to significantly help the Nipah containment efforts by rolling out such a critical facility, she said more samples can be tested with the mobile lab reaching in Kozhikode later in the day. "Biosafety Level 2 (BSL) plus Level 3 practices can be done in the lab where two machines will be working simultaneously. At any given point of time, each machine can handle around 96 samples and a total of 192 samples can be tested in the two machines," George said. She also informed that a mobile lab from National Institute of Biosciences (NIB), Pune, has already reached Kozhikode. RGCB Director Prof Chandrabhas Narayana said the services of a group of six experts have been made available in the mobile unit, which can give results within six hours after testing the

samples. "The mobile lab will be deployed right at the containment zone. Any small number of samples can also be tested to provide prompt



results to the public," he said. Narayana also said like a BSL 3 facility, the mobile lab has a double airtight system and features onboard decontamination and biological waste processing capabilities. It can perform testing for bacteria, fungi, and other pathogenic organisms, as well as assess food quality. The unit is developed by the Laboratory Medicine and Molecular Diagnostics (LMMD) division of the RGCB. It is equipped with cutting-edge machinery and operated by highly experienced staff with expertise in molecular diagnostics. It can be powered directly from standard domestic outlets and function seamlessly using its onboard diesel generator.

# Delhi fashionista accuses Mumbai businessman friend of rape, assault



**Team Absolute** | Mumbai  
A fashionista from Delhi has alleged that a businessman friend raped and assaulted her when she stayed at his home during her recent trip to Mumbai, police said here on Thursday. The 28-year-old victim lodged a complaint with the suburban Khar Police Station last night against her friend, who is now reported to be

absconding. She claimed in her plaint that when she was on her maiden visit to Mumbai, she had lived at the businessman friend's home when he allegedly harassed, assaulted and raped her. The police have filed a complaint invoking various sections of the IPC and launched a hunt to trace the accused.

# Ticket scandal: K'taka BJP distances itself from arrested female Hindutva activist

**Team Absolute** | Bengaluru  
The Karnataka unit of the BJP has distanced itself from Hindutva activist Chaitra Kundapura, who has been arrested for allegedly duping an industrialist of Rs 5 crore after promising him a BJP ticket to contest the Assembly elections held earlier this year. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai reacting to the development stated in Mangaluru on Thursday that there is no connection between the BJP and the arrest of Kundapura, a female Hindutva activist. "There is no connection with the Chaitra Kundapura case. There should be a comprehensive investigation into the case. Whoever is involved, let them be punished. Not only the religious seer, whoever is involved, they should be arrested," Bommai stated. "We have considered the matter of receiving the money promised for the ticket to contest elections. It is very clear



that there is no connection of this case with the BJP. Those who are guilty will take big names. Let the investigation begin and the truth come out," Bommai stated. Meanwhile, Home Minister G. Parameashwara reacting to the development stated in Bengaluru on Thursday

that, the allegation of Hindu activists being targeted and cases being lodged against them is not true. "There is no connection with the arrest of Kundapura and the allegations of cases being lodged against Hindutva activists," he said.



# NCSN militant killed, another flees after encounter with Assam Rifles in Arunachal

**Team Absolute** | Itanagar  
A hardcore NCSN militant was gunned down in a fierce encounter between the extremists and Assam Rifles troopers in Miao district of Arunachal Pradesh, defence officials said on Thursday. A defence source told reporter that the Assam Rifles had launched a massive operation against the NCSN extremists on Wednesday and at one point

of time, the guerillas attacked the security forces leading to the heavy gun battle. Though one NCSN militant managed to escape, the operation was still in progress, the source said. A pistol and some ammunition were recovered from the forested areas. Identity of the NCSN group involved in the encounter was not yet known. Further details of the shootout are awaited.

# Punjab to give impetus to industrialisation in border districts: Mann

**Team Absolute** | Amritsar  
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday announced to give impetus to industrialisation in border districts of the state. Interacting with industrialists during the maiden Sarkar Sannatkar Milni programme, Mann, who was accompanying his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal, said the government is committed to ensure the holistic development of the industry in the border region. He said the process of border identification will be streamlined soon by incorporating the necessary changes. Mann said this would help giving major fillip to the industry in the state, especially in the border region. Mann said during the run-up for the elections they had promised certain guarantees to the industrialists. Now after 18 months of formation of the government they were here to list the achievements in various sectors. Mann said no stone would be left unturned for facilitating the industry. The Chief Minister said the government would ensure judicious use of canal water for the industrial units on the lines of water being provided to the



farmers for agriculture purposes. This would facilitate the industry in its smooth working and facilitation. The Chief Minister announced to set up a dedicated force to facilitate the tourists coming in district on every day.

# Two arrested from UP for murder of minor girl, dumping her body in Delhi

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi  
Delhi Police has arrested two men from Banda in Uttar Pradesh for killing a minor girl and dumping her body in the national Capital, an official said on Thursday. The accused were identified as Sushil Sharma and Neeraj, both residents of district Banda. The incident unfolded on September 4 when the police received information about an unidentified female body near the bio-diversity park in Tughlakabad. "A police team rushed to the scene and discovered the lifeless body of a girl, estimated to be around 13-14 years old, bearing signs of strangulation on her neck," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast), Rajesh Deo.



An extensive investigation followed, involving the examination of numerous CCTV cameras and vehicles near the crime scene. Eventually, the police zeroed in on a Tata Ace vehicle, the movements of which were traced through various CCTV footage from Anand Mai Marg, Pul Pahlad Pur, and up to the Faridabad border. "The vehicle's owner

was identified as Sonu Sharma, a resident of Pul Pahlad Pur," said the DCP. During questioning, Sonu Sharma revealed that his driver, Sushil, had been using the vehicle for parcel deliveries in Delhi. "On September 2, Sushil had returned from his hometown in District Banda, accompanied by an unidentified person. On the evening of September 3, Sushil requested the vehicle keys from Sonu to rest in it overnight. When asked about their whereabouts, Sushil mentioned that he and his friend had traveled to their native village on September 6," said the DCP. Through technical surveillance, the police traced Sushil's mobile number and apprehended him on Monday.

# Delhi court posts defamation case against Gehlot for next hearing on Sep 19

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi  
Delhi court on Thursday posted the next hearing of a defamation case filed by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat against Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for September 19. The case pertains to alleged "misleading statements" made by Gehlot in connection with the Sanjivani Credit Cooperative Society scam in Rajasthan. Both Gehlot and Shekhawat appeared virtually before the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Harjeet Singh Jaspal of the Rouse Avenue Court on Thursday. During arguments, the counsels for both Shekhawat and Gehlot placed on record various judgements made by the apex court, as the court took



on record the fresh 'vakalatnama' filed on behalf of the complainant. Earlier, the court had directed the police to investigate Shekhawat's complaint. Jaspal had said that the investigation should be such that the three main questions -- whether complainant Shekhawat was addressed as "an accused" in the Sanjivani scam by the accused Gehlot, whether Gehlot stated that the allegations against Shekhawat stand proved in the Sanjivani scam, and

whether Shekhawat or his family members have been arrayed as "accused" in the investigation of the scam -- are answered. Shekhawat had filed the defamation case against Gehlot in March this year, stating that an investigation was initiated into the Sanjivani case but his name was not mentioned anywhere, and demanded the prosecution of Gehlot for criminal defamation under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

# AAP'S 'U-Turn Waali Sarkar' and the Punjab Panchayat Puzzle

**Team Absolute** | Rubal Bansal  
In an unexpected turn of events, Punjab's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) finds itself embroiled in a political storm. Recent developments surrounding the dissolution of Panchayats across the state, followed by the suspension of two senior officers, have prompted questions about AAP's intentions and actions. A Puzzling Decision In a surprising manoeuvre that caught many off guard, the AAP-led Punjab government opted to dissolve the state's Panchayats, citing administrative grounds. While governments possess the authority to enact administrative changes, the timing and lack of transparency in

this decision raised eyebrows. Panchayats play a pivotal role in rural governance, and their dissolution without a compelling rationale has left Punjab residents disheartened. In a significant setback to the AAP government, the High Court nullified the dissolution of Panchayats, underscoring the importance of due process and adherence to democratic norms. Suspension of Senior Officials In a surprising twist, the AAP government suspended two senior officers, namely, Principal Secretary of Rural Development, Dharendra Kumar Tiwari, and Panchayat Department Director Gurpreet Singh Khaira, fol-



lowing the High Court's ruling. This action raised questions about the government's motives, as it appeared to shift blame for its hurried and poorly considered decision onto these officers. Leaked Notice Complicating matters further, a leaked notice surfaced, bearing the signatures of both Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister, Laljit Singh Bhullar. This leak added another layer of scrutiny to the AAP government's actions. Senior Congress leaders described the AAP's reversal as "a victory of democracy" and commended every Panchayat member. He proclaimed, "This is a rebuke to the AAP government." Akali Dal president Sukhbir Badal demanded the immediate resignation of CM Mann and Panchayat Raj Minister Laljit Bhullar, holding them responsible for the untimely dissolution of Panchayats. State BJP president Sunil Jakhar urged Mann to apologize for this "grave mistake" and characterized it as a "democratic

and anti-institutional move. Conclusion The Aam Aadmi Party came to power with a promise of transparency, accountability, and people centric governance. However, the recent dissolution of Panchayats in Punjab, its subsequent withdrawal, and the suspension of senior officers have cast a shadow over these ideals. It is imperative that the government prioritizes the welfare of the people and adheres to democratic norms rather than pursuing actions that appear to be politically motivated. Upholding the principles of transparency and accountability is essential for any party that claims to represent the common man.



## OPPN BLOC INDIA WANTS TO DESTROY 'SANATAN DHARMA': PM MODI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Hitting out at the Opposition bloc INDIA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said "Opposition ghamandia alliance" wants to "destroy" Sanatana Dharma. Addressing a rally in Sagar district of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Prime Minister Modi said, "They have already started attacking Sanatan Dharma openly which will gradually increase in the coming days. We, the followers of Sanatan Dharm, need to be careful." He said that all "Sanatanis" (those follows Sanatan Dharma) across the country and the people who love Bharat will have to be alert. "This arrogant alliance has come with a resolution to



end the Sanatan rituals and traditions. The Sanatan which Gandhiji believed throughout his life, the

Sanatan which inspired him to launch a movement against untouchability. The people of this arrogant alliance want to end that eternal tradition," the Prime Minister said. Prime Minister Modi is in Bina to lay the foundation stone for a petrochemical refinery unit worth Rs 50,000 crore. To propagate the concept of "Sanatan Dharma", Prime Minister Modi highlighted the contribution of Sant Ravidas, Rani Ahilya Bai, Rani Laxmi Bai and Swami Vivekananda. "This ghamandia alliance has no leader. It is a self-centered Indi-alliance that thrives on politics of division, while, the BJP's vision is to serve for the people of the country," Modi said.

## MP GOVT TO PROVIDE LPG CYLINDER AT RS 450 UNDER UJJWALA AND LADLI BEHNA SCHEMES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The LPG gas connection holders registered under the Ujjwala Yojana and Ladli Behna Yojana in the poll-bound Madhya Pradesh will be entitled to get a cylinder for Rs 450. The BJP-ruled state government will bear the remaining cost of the gas cylinder starting September 1. The outstanding amount for the gas cylinder will be credited to the accounts of Ladli Behna. An order has been issued by the state government on Wednesday. It stated that the eligible consumers will receive a subsidy on each refill every month. "Eligible consumers will need to purchase refills from the oil company at the market rate. Any reduction in the subsidy provided by the government of India and the market rate determined by the state government will be



transferred to the bank accounts of eligible consumers," the order read. In case of amendments in the market rate for domestic LPG refills, the state subsidy will also be adjusted accordingly, it stated. The government further stated that consumers who already have a gas connection will be registered under Ladli Behna Yojana portal. "They may also be beneficiaries under Ujjwala Yojana. The registration process will take place at all centers designated

for Ladli Bahana Yojana," it said. For registration, gas connection consumer number and LPG connection ID will be required. The registration ID for Ladli Bahana Yojana will be generated under this scheme based on the data received from all oil companies for the identification of beneficiaries. Information about registered beneficiaries will be displayed on the portal from September 25, 2023, and will be periodically updated. Registered beneficiaries can

check this information on the portal from September 25, using their gas consumer number/gas connection ID and Ladli Behna ID. Notably, providing cooking gas at subsidised rate came just before the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh. Providing an LPG cylinder at Rs 500 is the one of the five poll promises of the Congress. However, the ruling side led by CM Chouhan announced the same after the Centre reduced the prices of LPG cylinders by Rs 200. Responding to the BJP government's decision, state Congress president Kamal Nath said, "Shivrajji, you have accepted that by charging more than one thousand rupees for an LPG cylinder, the BJP government had looted the hard-earned money of the people. Congress has promised to reduce the price of LPG to Rs 500."

## Farmers' tractor rally against economic corridor in Indore

Team Absolute | Indore

Farmers are taking out a tractor rally from Rau to Collectorate in Indore on Thursday to protest against the Economic Corridor and other demands. Apart from regional MLA Jitu Patwari, the rally is being led by National President of Youth Congress Srinivas Bivi and State President Vikrant Bhuria. Patwari himself is with the farmers driving a tractor. From Rau one had to come to IT Park via Ring Road via Rajendra Nagar, Rajiv Gandhi Square. Meanwhile, there is news that the police stopped the rally at Reti Mandi intersection in front of IPS College. A situation of controversy had also arisen here. However, following the instructions of the police, the rally ended at the intersection itself. Now the memorandum is being submitted.



Two ambulances also got stuck in the jam due to tractors. Many students had exams at 3.30 pm whose vehicles got stuck. They ran to college but were late. The administration had warned not to come towards the

Collectorate. The farmers' protest is regarding the acquisition of 3200 acres for the Indore-Pithampur Economy Corridor being developed. Farmers from 16 villages have gathered for this.

## I run this government like a family to ensure happiness of the citizens : CM Chouhan

Scheme will commence to install transformers in farms on subsidy. Sub station will be established in Nimota for adequate power supply. CM performs bhoomi-pujan of construction works worth more than Rs. 6 crores in Nimota

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that I run this government like a family. I work around the clock to ensure happiness in people's lives. The Chief Minister was addressing a Jan Samvad and benefit distribution programme at Nimota village in Bhairunda janpad of Sehore district. He performed bhoomi-pujan of various construction works worth Rs 6 crore 30 lakh 31 thousand in Nimota village and distributed benefits to various beneficiaries. Chouhan said that today everyone is benefitted from schemes like free ration, Mukhyamantri Awas and Ayushman Card. The Chief Minister said that you all are my family. It is my duty to remove your troubles, always ensure a smile on your faces and never let tears in your eyes. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana is not only a symbol of the welfare for women but also ensure their respect in the society and family. He said that this is a scheme to make women self-reliant. This scheme has brought

smiles on the faces of the women. Earlier, an amount of Rs 1000 each was being provided to the women under the scheme, now Rs 1250 are being deposited in the account and gradually this amount will be increased to Rs 3000 per month. Families of Ladli Bahna and Ujjwala Yojana will now get LPG gas cylinder for Rs 450. Forms for LPG gas cylinders will be filled like the camps set-up for filling up of Ladli Bahna forms in all Panchayats. Chief Minister Chouhan said that I am working day and night to ensure that no eligible person is deprived of the benefits of any scheme of the government. Those who do not have land, will be given pattas and permanent houses under Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana. Farmers are given Rs 6000 by the Central Government under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana, now by adding the amount of Rs 6000 given by the State Government under the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana, the farmers are getting an amount of Rs 12000. Chouhan said that all the nephews and nieces should study diligently. He said that an amount of Rs 4500 is being given to the children of class 6 and class 9 going to other village schools to buy a bicycle. Students who have scored more than 75 percent in class 12th have been given Rs 25,000 for a laptop. From next year, children scoring 60 percent marks will also be given Rs 25,000. Also, the chil-

dren who have topped in their schools this year, one son and one daughter have been given scooters. From next year, two sons and two daughters will be given scooters. The government will also pay the fees for IIT, medical and other higher education of meritorious students. Chief Minister said that the previous government had stopped many public welfare schemes, which we have resumed. Many schemes including Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana, Mukhyamantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana have been re-started. Now the elderly are being taken on pilgrimage not only by train but also by air. The state government is working to supply water to every farmer's field through pipelines, due to which farmers are able to irrigate their fields in sufficient quantity. A network of roads has been laid in every village of the state. Panchayat and Sarpanch themselves will get two roads for farm roads constructed in every Panchayat in the name of remote roads. Chief Minister Chouhan said that to ensure adequate power system in the area, a substation will be established in Nimota. Mangal Bhawans will be built in every village, so that village programmes can be organised conveniently in the village itself. The subsidy scheme for installing transformers in fields will be started this month. MP Ramakant Bhargava also addressed the programme. Local public representatives were present.

## RETINA Day ONE Pro Night: A Spectacular Blend of Fashion and Music



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The much-anticipated RETINA Day 1 Pro Night kicked off with a dazzling fashion show competition that left the audience spellbound. Held at AIIMS, the event was a resounding success, captivating attendees from start to finish. The fashion show competition featured stunning designs and talents from various colleges and universities. The models graced the runway with elegance, showcasing creativity and style. After fierce competition, it was the AIIMS MBBS team that clinched the top spot, walking away with the coveted first prize. Following the fashion extravaganza, the night transitioned into a high-energy DJ session headlined by none other than DJ Aman. The pulsating beats and electrifying tunes had the crowd on their feet, dancing the night away. The Sunburn Carnival added to the carnival-like atmosphere, with vibrant decorations and immersive experiences. DJ Aman's mastery behind the turntables kept the energy levels soaring, creating an unforgettable night for everyone in attendance. Attendees from diverse backgrounds came together on the dance floor, forging unforgettable memories. The RETINA Day 1 Pro Night proved to be a celebration of both fashion and music, leaving everyone eagerly anticipating what the rest of the event has in store. Stay tuned for more exciting events throughout the RETINA festival!

## CONGRESS CHANGED ITS STRATEGY REGARDING CANDIDATE SELECTION

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress has decided not to release the list of candidates for the assembly elections at present. Congress has changed its strategy regarding declaring the names of candidates. Many reasons are emerging behind this. Some other reasons are being cited including the special session of Parliament and ED-IT raids. In Bhopal, Congress state in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala along with screening committee chairman Jitendra Singh, members Ajay Kumar Lallu and Saptagiri Ulaka along with all the district presidents of the state, district in-charges and block Congress committee presidents and senior Congress leaders met for 4 days. Had discussed till. After this, a screening committee meeting was held in Delhi on Tuesday, in which it was believed that candidates could be declared first on the lost seats. However, the screening committee meeting also took place on Wednesday.

In this, one-to-one discussions were held with the leaders, but Congress did not release the list of candidates. Congress fears that if it declares candidates on the lost seats, then action can be taken against the candidates through the administration and various investigating agencies. And pressure can be created on them. In such a situation, if the candidates get entangled in this, the elections may be affected, hence Congress is waiting for the implementation of the code of conduct. On Tuesday, a meeting of Lok Sabha Observers was held at the bungalow of former CM Kamal Nath. After the meeting, former CM Digvijay Singh had publicly said in a discussion with the media that at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the Central Government is preparing to harass the leaders of the opposition parties, especially the Congress. IT offices are being opened at various places and officers are being posted.

## CM CHOUHAN PLANTS BADAM SAPLING AT BINA REFINERY HELIPAD

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Badam (almond) sapling at the petrochemical complex upon reaching Bina Refinery Helipad. At the time of plantation, CM Chouhan affectionately met the nephews and nieces present at the spot and inquired about their well-being. All the nephews and nieces present with Chief Minister Chouhan also planted saplings. Public Service Management and Co-operative Minister and District Incharge Dr Arvind Singh Bhadoria, Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh also planted saplings. Public representatives and officials were present on this occasion.



## CHIEF MINISTER LADLI BAHNA AWAS YOJANA LAUNCHED

More than 4 lakh 75 thousand beneficiaries to get benefits. Guidelines for selecting beneficiaries have been issued. Applications to be accepted from September 17th to October 5th

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The families deprived of getting housing benefits under various housing schemes will now be get housing facility under the Chief Minister Ladli Bahna Housing Scheme. More than 4 lakh 75 thousand beneficiaries will get benefit from this scheme. The state government has issued guidelines for selecting beneficiaries. Applications from beneficiaries will be accepted from September 17th to October 5th, 2023. As many as 3,78,662 families registered on the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) portal and whose applications were rejected on the Government of India's MIS portal will get benefit from the Ladli Bahna Awas Yojana. As many as 97,000 families who remained deprived of the benefit on account of not being registered on MIS portal will also get benefit from the scheme. The families not included in the social, economic, and caste census of 2011 and the Awas Plus list and not covered under any central or state housing scheme will also



be eligible. Eligibility criteria for families include not having a pucca house, residing in kachha houses with less than two rooms, not owning a motorized four-wheeler, having a monthly income of less than Rs. 12,000, not having any income tax-paying member in the family, owning less than 2.5 acres of irrigated land or less than 5 acres of non-irrigated agricultural land.

### 0Applications at gram panchayats

The applications for the Chief Minister Ladli Bahna Awas Yojana will be made available at gram panchayats by Janpad panchayats. Eligible beneficiaries will fill the application forms with all required information and submit them to the gram panchayat. The applications will be verified by the Secretary/Gram Rozgar Sahayak, and a receipt will be issued to the applicants. Applicants must submit complete IDs, Aadhaar numbers, bank account numbers, job cards (if available), and Ladli Bahna registration numbers (only for Ladli Bahna scheme beneficiaries) with their applications.

### Registration at the Janpad panchayat

The list of all applications received in gram panchayats will be sent daily to Janpad panchayats in an Excel sheet. Janpad panchayats will register eligible beneficiaries on the pmayg.nic.in portal under the "Chief Minister Ladli Bahna Awas Yojana." Within one week of receiving the applications, the CEO of the Janpad panchayat will send the district panchayat a list of applications received in the panchayat. The Chief Executive Officer of the district panchayat will then verify the list and, upon approval by the state government, take action on approving housing for the eligible beneficiaries.



EDITOR'S SPECS

## 306 MPs have criminal cases against them

At least 306 MPs out of the 763 MPs have criminal cases registered and 194 sitting MPs have declared serious criminal cases against them, a report revealed on Tuesday. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) in its report said that it has analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 763 sitting MPs out of 776 seats of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha across the nation and the data has been extracted from affidavits filed by the MPs prior to contesting their last elections and subsequent bye-elections. On Criminal background, the report said: "Out of the 763 sitting MPs analysed, 306 (40 per cent) sitting MPs have declared criminal cases against themselves. The report further highlighted that one (100 per cent) out of one MP from Lakshadweep; 23 (73 per cent) out of 29 MPs from Kerala; 41 (73 per cent) out of 56 MPs from Bihar; 37 (57 per cent) out of 65 MPs from Maharashtra; 13 (54 per cent) out of 24 MPs from Telangana and 5 (50 per cent) out of 10 MPs from Delhi have declared criminal cases against themselves in their self-sworn affidavits. It also said that the state with highest percentage of sitting MPs with serious criminal cases, one (100 per cent) out of one MP from Lakshadweep; 28 (50 per cent) out of 56 MPs from Bihar; 9 (38 per cent) out of 24 MPs from Telangana; 10 (34 per cent) out of 29 MPs from Kerala; 22 (34 per cent) out of 65 MPs from Maharashtra and 37 (34 per cent) out of 108 MPs from Uttar Pradesh have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their self-sworn affidavits. The report highlighted that BJP has the maximum number of MPs with criminal cases against them."

# OVER OR UNDER? AGRA METRO PROJECT CAUGHT IN A DILEMMA

Brij Khandelwal

Even as hundreds of workers of the UP Metro Rail Corporation are working day and night to ensure the completion of the prestigious 29.6 km long two-phased Taj City Metro project much before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, citizens of Agra are on a warpath demanding change in the original plan of the track.

An official said that trials on the priority sector -- Fatehabad Road -- have already begun, the tunneling work from Shah Jahan Garden to Jama Masjid is in full swing, and a survey for the over-ground, elevated track on MG Road has been completed.

In the midst of this, shop keepers, emporium owners, hoteliers, educational institutions and other interest groups have now joined hands to demand that the stretch from Pratap Pura crossing to Bhagwan Talkies crossing on the MG Road, roughly a 6 km stretch, should have an underground track.

They are opposing over the ground track, as they fear there would be large-scale disruption of traffic and commercial activities, and the elevated track would create also visual pollution.

Shishir Bhagat, who is leading the protesters at the Yamuna Arti Sthal, said that lakhs of people would be put to avoidable



inconvenience, disrupting their daily routine besides causing loss of time.

"MG Road is the lifeline of the city. All major hospitals, educational institutions and government offices are located on this road. The road is not wide enough and sees traffic jams almost

daily. Once digging starts and obstructions are put for raising foundations for pillars, there would be massive chaos," Bhagat told correspondent.

Another protester, Sachin Goyal, said, "We have met ministers in Delhi and officials in Lucknow to put forth our point of view. A review is most likely to be carried out soon."

The protesters said they would not allow life to be paralysed because of the Metro project.

"An underground Metro line is not only feasible, but desirable in the city though it may lead to escalation of costs. But the long-term benefits are more and should not be overlooked," said Rajiv Gupta of Lok Swar, an NGO.

The work on the MG Road stretch is about to begin, coinciding with the start of the tourist season from September 27 (World Tourism Day). Civil Society President Anil Sharma said, "Representatives of the struggle committee and the Metro officials should meet and sort out the problems. Traffic movement on this vital stretch of the city has to remain smooth and seamless. For this, encroachments should be removed and the road be widened to allow free movement."

# Indian study shows new drug combination promising for liver cancer patients

A novel combination of drugs has shown to be a breakthrough in liver cancer treatment with a significant number of patients showing promising results in terms of overall and disease free survival, and even complete resolution of tumour in certain cases when detected early and with timely treatment, say Indian researchers. The drug combination Immunotherapy Atezolizumab-Bevacizumab uses the immune system of the body and kills the cancer cells, said doctors at the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG), Hyderabad.

Their study, published in the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hepatology, showed that the combination is safe and effective in unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (uHCC) in real-world settings.

With the right selection of patients,

atezolizumab-bevacizumab can achieve a good response in terms of survival period and disappearance of tumour (resolution of tumour).

"Immunotherapy such as atezolizumab and bevacizumab can provide a decent survival chance for patients presenting at an advanced stage of liver cancer. It is an excellent therapy for patients with advanced liver cancer," said lead author Dr. Anand Kulkarni, Senior Consultant from the Department of Hepatology & Liver Transplantation at AIG.

"With the conventional line of treatment, it is difficult to achieve complete resolution of the tumour. However, with atezolizumab and bevacizumab, we noted that approximately 10-13 per cent of patients achieved complete resolution of tumour, and up to a quarter achieved partial resolution. These drugs must



be given under supervision every 3 weeks and are not suitable for all patients, especially patients with jaundice," he added.

As part of the study, 67 patients, aged between 29-82 years, with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma received the Atezolizumab-Bevacizumab combination. The study involved 59 patients from AIG Hospital, Hyderabad and eight patients from Mahatma Gandhi Medical College, Jaipur.

About 86 per cent participants

were males. The study was conducted across the two centres from November 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022.

Researchers highlighted that 12.9 per cent of patients achieved complete resolution of tumour, and 25.8 per cent achieved partial resolution or shrinking of tumours. Overall, the disease did not progress in 66.12 per cent of the patients studied. In patients with good liver function, overall survival was 21 months. Most patients with liver cancer present at an advanced stage making treatment a challenge. However, if they have a good liver function and are treated with Atezolizumab-Bevacizumab combination, it can improve the chances of survival. The study also

local radiation therapy and Atezolizumab-Bevacizumab combination had better response rates.

This shows that Atezolizumab and Bevacizumab combination can be highly effective in patients who have undergone local radiation therapy.

The study also discovered the rising incidence of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) as an emerging cause of liver cancer.

Globally, liver cancer is the fourth most common cause of cancer-related death worldwide and in India it is the eight most common cause of cancer related death. The reason for this is a sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy dietary habits, and an increasing incidence of diabetes.

## international

# Sikh student 'kicked, punched, pepper-sprayed' in Canada

Toronto | Agencies

The Canadian police are investigating an incident in which a 17-year-old Sikh student was "kicked, punched and pepper-sprayed" after an "altercation" on a public transit bus in British Columbia province.

The incident happened at the intersection of Rutland Road South and Robson Road East in Kelowna shortly before 4 pm on Monday, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said on Wednesday.

Officers determined a 17-year-old Sikh student was either beer or pepper sprayed by another teenage male after exiting a public transit bus on his way home," a statement from Kelowna RCMP read.

It added that before the assault, there was "an altercation" aboard a bus, which resulted in those involved being kicked off.



Calling an investigation into the incident, the World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSOC) identified the Sikh as a Grade 11 student, who was attacked while riding a transit bus from Rutland Secondary School.

"Monday's attack on a Sikh high school student in Kelowna is shocking and unacceptable," said Guntaas Kaur, WSO vice president for British Columbia (BC).

Giving details of the incident, a

release issued by the WSOC said: "two individuals approached the student and first barred his entry onto the bus and then, once allowing him to board, began to threaten him with a lighter and (began to) photograph and record him from a close distance with their phones".

"When the Sikh student turned away, the attackers' phone fell from their hands and they began to kick and punch the Sikh student in front of the bus driver," the WSOC statement read.

It further said that the bus driver did not intervene, and, in fact, ordered the Sikh student and his attackers off the bus at the Rutland and Robson stop.

After getting kicked off the bus, the two continued to attack the student, including pepper spraying him, until intervention by the passers-by.

While the student wasn't named, WSOC said it was the second attack on a Sikh student this year in Kelowna.

# India calls for action after video shows US cop joking about Indian student's death

New York | Agencies

India said it has "strongly" taken up the case of its national Jaahnavi Kandula with authorities in the US, following the release of a bodycam video in which a cop is heard joking and laughing about the Indian student's death by a police patrol car this year.

In the brief clip, Seattle Police Officers' Guild Vice President Daniel Auderer is seen driving and can be heard saying, "she had limited value", in a call with the guild's president, Mike Solan, The Seattle Times reported this week. The Consulate General of India in San Francisco on Wednesday termed the incident as "deeply troubling".

"We have taken up the matter strongly with local authorities in Seattle & Washington State as well as senior officials in Washington D.C. for a thorough investigation & action against those involved in this tragic case," the consulate said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

"The Consulate & Embassy will con-



tinued to closely follow up on this matter with all concerned authorities," it added.

Kandula, a 23-year-old student of Northeastern University campus in South Lake Union, was walking near Dexter Avenue North and Thomas Street when she was hit by a Seattle Police vehicle driven by Kevin Dave on January 23. Auderer, who was assigned to check whether Dave was under any influence, inadvertently left his body camera on, in

which he was heard laughing and saying that Kandula's life had "limited value" and the city should "just write a check".

"Eleven thousand dollars. She was 26 anyway," Auderer said, adding Dave was "going 50 (miles an hour)", stating how "that's not out of control" for a trained driver. A police investigation released in June found that Dave was actually travelling at 74 miles an hour in a 25 mile an hour zone while responding to a different call when Kandula was hit and thrown more than 100 feet. The SPD said in a statement released on Monday that the video of Auderer's call "was identified in the routine course of business by a department employee", and was escalated to Chief Adrian Diaz. Following the chain of command, the employee then escalated it to the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) for a review, the statement added. Stating that it released the video "in the interest of transparency", the SPD said it will not comment further on the video until the OPA completes its investigation.

# 40 killed in South Darfur airstrikes

Khartoum | Agencies

At least 40 civilians were killed in Nyala, the capital city of southwestern Sudan's South Darfur State, in airstrikes that targeted a market and civilian neighbourhoods, according to witnesses and medical sources.

"Warplanes launched intensive strikes targeting residential areas, including the Al-Sad Al-Ali, Al-Riyadh, and Texas neighbourhoods" on Wednesday, a witness told Xinhua news agency.

"An air strike also targeted the popular Al-Malaja market in Nyala," the witness added.

The Al-Wohda health centre in Nyala received "a large number" of trauma patients, some of whom were already dead when rushed there while some others died after arrival, a medical officer told Xinhua.



He said the number of fatalities could further increase.

Also on Wednesday, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) issued a statement accusing the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) of targeting civilians in air raids in the state capital.

The RSF further said that the search is still continuing

for bodies under the rubble.

A comment could not be obtained yet from the office of the SAF spokesman.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly clashes between the SAF and RSF in Khartoum and other areas since April 15, resulting in at least 3,000 deaths and more than 6,000 injuries, according to the Health Ministry.



# 5 killed, 25 injured in Gaza border blast

Gaza | Agencies

At least five Palestinians were killed in a blast at the Israel-Gaza border, the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza said.

The explosion that took place during a mass demonstration of the Palestinians injured 25 others, it added on Wednesday.

Before the blast, there was a clash between dozens of Palestinian protestors and

Israeli soldiers along the border fence, during which Israeli soldiers fired live bullets and tear gas bombs, Palestinian security sources and eyewitnesses said.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said Israeli soldiers used dispersal measures after the Palestinians hurled explosive devices and grenades at the barrier, according to The Times of Israel.

Investigation is underway to find the cause of the explosion, but the IDF claimed an explosive device was placed by the Palestinian "rioters" during the demonstration in an attempt to hurt Israelis, Xinhua news agency reported. Meanwhile, the Israeli Army denied the possibility that Israeli gunfire caused the explosion, saying that the device exploded on its own during an attempt to throw it.

# Death toll from Libya's floods rises to 5,500



Tripoli | Agencies

The death toll from devastating floods that struck eastern Libya has risen to 5,500, with another 7,000 injured, a local official said.

Osama Ali, the spokesman for the Tripoli-based emergency services, said on Wednesday that no final death toll could be determined yet because bodies are still being recovered from the affected areas.

He added that about 10,000 people have been reported missing and that 30,000 people have been displaced by the floods, adding the flood-hit regions face a severe shortage of basic supplies, Xinhua news agency reported.

On Sunday, a Mediterranean storm made landfall in eastern Libya, triggering floods and causing extensive damage to infrastructure along its path.



Maharashtra speaker begins hearing disqualification petitions of Shiv Sena factions

Team Absolute | Mumbai Maharashtra assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar on Thursday began hearing the disqualification petitions filed against each other by two rival Shiv Sena factions led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray. The hearing began around 10.30 am at the Vidhan Bhavan - the state legislature complex in south Mumbai - and continued till around 2 pm. A total of 34 petitions are being heard. Both factions are being represented by their respective lawyers. Talking to reporters, Anil Sakhre, the lawyer of the Shinde-led Shiv Sena, said his team did not receive relevant documents from the opposite side. Ravindra Waikar, an MLA from the Uddhav Thackeray faction, told media persons that Shinde group's claim (of not getting documents) was part of its delaying tactic. "It is for the speaker to provide all relevant documents to both sides," he said. He said the Thackeray faction wanted all the petitions



to be clubbed and heard. Waikar said the Supreme Court has held the whip issued by Sunil Prabhu, belonging to the Thackeray faction, as valid. In July, speaker Narwekar had issued notices to 40 MLAs of the Shinde-led Sena and 14 of the Thackeray faction, seeking their replies on disqualification petitions against them. The notices were issued against a total of 54 MLAs, including CM Shinde and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aadiya Thackeray. But notice was not issued against Sena (UBT) MLA Rutuja Latke who was elected after the Shiv Sena split last year. Prabhu had, in his capacity as chief whip of the undivided Shiv Sena, had filed the disqualification petitions against Shinde and other 15 MLAs last year after they rebelled and joined hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to form a new government in June 2022. On May 11, the Supreme Court ruled that Eknath Shinde will continue to be the chief minister of Maharashtra. It also said that it cannot reinstate the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition government headed by Uddhav Thackeray as the latter chose to resign without facing a floor test in the wake of Shinde's rebellion.

Sugar stocks rise on Maharashtra output concerns

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai Sugar stocks, such as those of Dalmia Bharat Sugar, Balrampur Chini Mills, Triveni Engineering, Dwarikesh Sugar, and Shree Renuka rose on Thursday as a result of authorities reducing their projection for Maharashtra's output in crop year 2023-2024 by 14%, making it the lowest in four years, a market research analyst said. Moreover one-third of India's sugar production is produced by Maharashtra, which will produce just 9 million metric tonnes of sugar in the season that starts on October 1 in 2023/24, down from 10.5 million tonnes in 2022-23. This can cause sugar prices to increase on both the domestic and international



markets and fueled optimism in sugar stocks, Vaibhav Vidwani, Research Analyst, Bonanza Portfolio, said. Most of the sectoral indices were in green at the closing, with Nifty PSU Bank, Nifty Metal leading the way with gains of 1.64 and 1.49 per cent, respectively. UPL, Hindalco, Mahindra and Mahindra, ONGC, Divis Lab were among the top gainers on the Nifty whereas Asian Paints, HDFC Life, Coal India, Britannia and LTIMindtree were among the loser.

14-yr-old rams SUV into senior citizen, zooms off

Team Absolute | Mumbai In a shocker, a 14-year-old boy took his parents' SUV for a joyride but ended up hitting a senior citizen and an auto-rickshaw before panicking and speeding off from the spot in Chandivali area of Powai. An undated CCTV grab of the incident, posted by the Chandivali Citizens Welfare Association and tagging the Mumbai Police, has gone viral and shows the horrifying sequence of events. The SUV is seen slowly driven by the boy out of the gate of a building in Nahar Amrit Shakti Road and then turning left without slowing down even as other vehicles



were speeding from the same direction. The senior citizen, apparently on a morning constitutional, walked past a stationary auto rickshaw and the SUV came out on the road narrowly missing hitting a white car and a scooter. Taking a sharp left, the SUV bangs into the auto rickshaw and then knocks

down the elderly gent, swerves right again and then speeds off, even as other pedestrians rush there. The CCWA said that the senior citizen, apparently seriously injured, was treated in a nearby hospital and then advised complete bed rest for three months. The police later swung into action against the boy's family, and fined the parents Rs 5,000, and warned against such incidents in future. "This is a major safety concern for pedestrians when parents hand over their cars to kids," said CCWA.

Mumbai: A private plane crashed while trying to land amid heavy rain at Mumbai airport on Thursday

Team Absolute | Mumbai There were eight people - six passengers and two crew - on board. Three people were hospitalised, emergency services said. The extent of their injuries is unknown. No casualties have been reported. A Denmark national and seven Indians, including a woman, along with the pilot and co-pilot were on board the ill-fated private business jet which crashed around 5 p.m. at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport. The runway has now been cleared of debris and normal operations have resumed - post safety checks and clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation - an airport statement said. The incident took place near Runway 27, which was slippery because of the rain. Visibility was reportedly around 700 metres at the time. The runway was closed briefly, during which Vistara Airlines said five of its flights

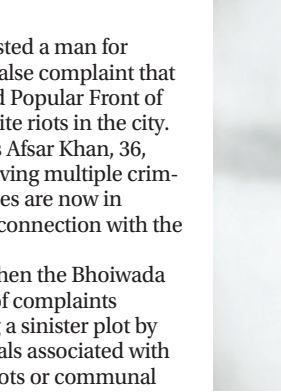


skid along the ground for a bit. Other visuals from the Mumbai airport showed murky grey skies and the wreckage of the plane on the far side of the runway. Initial visuals showed the wreckage still on fire. The blaze was put out by emergency services. According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the plane was a Learjet 45 - a nine-seater super-light business jet produced by a division of Canada-based Bombardier Aviation - registered to VSR Ventures, which is believed to be a Bengaluru-based real estate development firm. VT-DBL, the non-scheduled charter Learjet business aircraft, skidded off the runway and crashed while landing. According to preliminary information, the disaster has been attributed to a spell of heavy rains and low visibility at the time of the incident. The plane was inbound from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

were diverted and others "are likely to be impacted". The diverted flights are UK622 (from Varanasi) and UK124 (from Bangkok) and UK933 (from Delhi), UK518 (from Kochi), and UK865 (from Dehradun). The first two have been diverted to Hyderabad and the three latter flights have been sent to Goa's Mopa Airport. Disturbing CCTV footage of the crash appears to show the plane striking the ground with considerable force and the aircraft body seems to

Mumbai man arrested for filing false complaints about PFI's 'riots plan'

Team Absolute | Mumbai Mumbai Police have arrested a man for allegedly submitting a false complaint that members of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) were planning to incite riots in the city. The accused was identified as Afsar Khan, 36, also known as MD Afsar, and having multiple criminal cases against him. Authorities are now in search of his brother, Akhtar, in connection with the case. The investigation unfolded when the Bhoiwada police station received a series of complaints through postal services, alleging a sinister plot by approximately 19 to 20 individuals associated with the banned PFI to orchestrate riots or communal



violence within Mumbai. The gravity of these allegations prompted action. The Anti-Terrorism Squad unit aligned with the Bhoiwada police station initiated a comprehensive inquiry and determined that all the letters had been dispatched through the Chembur post office. During their probe, they arrested a juvenile who had been employed to deliver the complaints and he revealed Afsar Khan's identity. Simultaneously, the Mumbai Crime Branch, conducting its own parallel investigation, utilised technical surveillance to track and arrest Afsar Khan. He now faces charges under Sections 505 (spreading harmful rumors) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

ED seizes assets in money laundering probe against Max Flex Imaging & System Ltd

ED seizes assets in money laundering probe against Max Flex Imaging & System Ltd

Team Absolute | Mumbai The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said that it recently conducted searches at various premises in Mumbai in connection with a money laundering probe against Max Flex Imaging and System. Ltd., managed and controlled by Hitesh R. Jobalia and Nimesh N. Shah. The ED stated that this action resulted in the seizure of stocks of Flex, Vinyl, and other items worth Rs 12 crore, Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs) amounting to Rs 1.25 crore, Demat accounts with a balance of Rs 6.30 crore, foreign currency, cash, gold jewellery and silver bars totalling Rs 20.11 crore. The ED initiated a PMLA

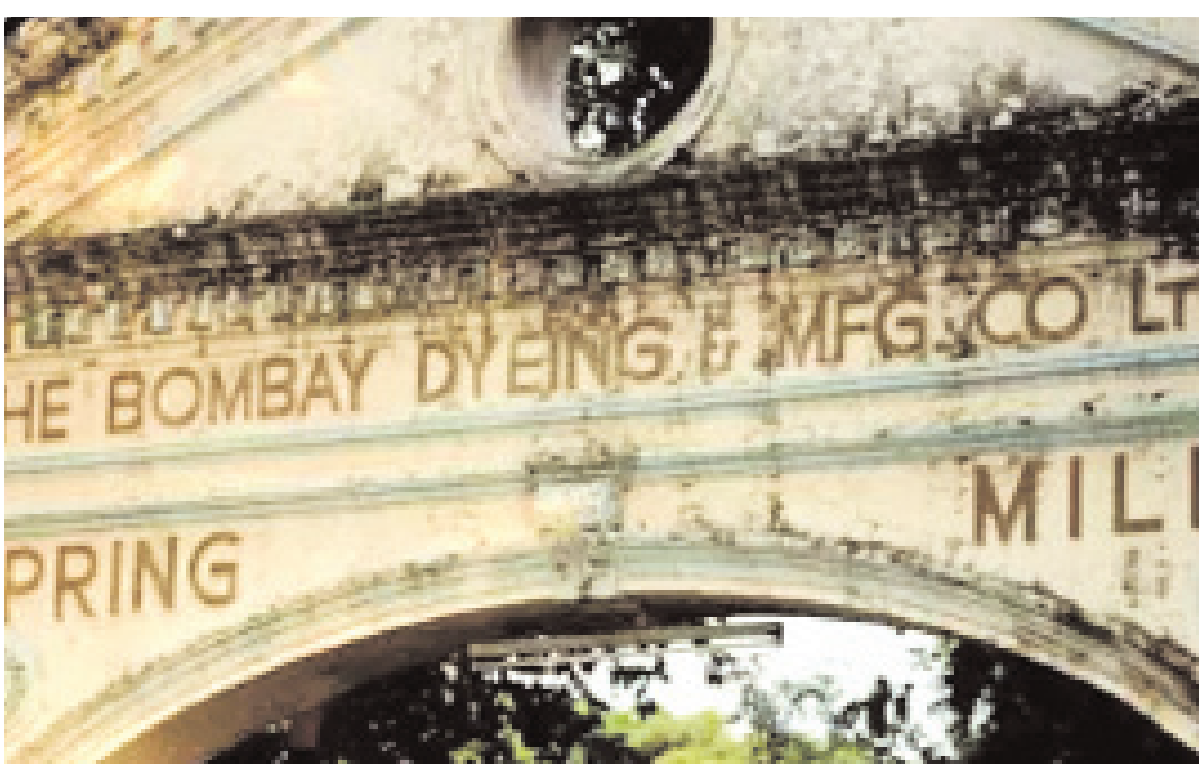


(Prevention of Money Laundering Act) investigation based on an FIR registered by the BS & FB CBI, Mumbai, under various sections of

the IPC (Indian Penal Code) and the PC Act, alleging a wrongful loss of Rs 464.41 crore to a Consortium group of SBI (the lead bank) and eight

other consortium member banks. The ED's investigation revealed that Max Flex & Imaging Systems Ltd. and other accused persons entered into a criminal conspiracy to cheat the Consortium group of State Bank of India and eight members by fraudulently obtaining loans by submitting inflated stock statements and balance sheets of the said company. "The promoters of the company diverted and utilized the funds received from banks to purchase various properties and diverted the same to various firms/companies incorporated in the names of the employees, former employees, relatives of the said company, and its directors," the official said.

BOMBAY DYEING TO SELL 22-ACRES WORLI LAND TO GOISU REALTY FOR RS 5,200CR



Team Absolute | Mumbai In one of the biggest realty deals, the Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (BDMC) said it has approved a proposal to sell off its prime property in Worli, measuring around 22 acres, to Goisu Realty Pvt. Ltd in two phases for around Rs 5,200-crore, to pay off debts and fund future projects, here on Wednesday. BDMC Chairman Nusli Wadi said that on completion of the transaction, the company will notch a pre-

tax profit of more than Rs 4,300-crore, report a strong positive net worth, wipe off all its borrowings thus saving interest costs and releasing the charge on encumbered assets, pay dividend in future, and have a strong treasury balance to fund upcoming realty projects. The BDMC Board had charted a strategy in March 2022 to change the company's trajectory envisaging focus on realty business for future growth and profitability, accelerating sale of flats in Dadar areas, monetizing

its land bank, deleveraging the company by retiring its borrowings and improving credit ratings, develop the company's unutilised land parcels and explore joint development opportunities. "We are happy that BDMC was able to generate a net revenue of about Rs 1,050 crores between April 2022 and June 2023, through sale of the flats in Island City Centre by focussed execution, leading to a reduction in our borrowings by about Rs 900 Crs in the same period," said Wadia. The com-

pany also approved the development of its vacant land parcels having a potential to create around 3.50 million sq.ft. of residential-commercial properties to generate around Rs 15,000-crore revenue over the next few years. The development will be planned judiciously in phases to manage its cash flows efficiently and also evaluate other joint development and partnership opportunities to create a steady pipeline of future revenue and profits, said the company.

'A Pearl White Indian wedding' Parineeti and Raghav's big day invite goes viral

Team Absolute | Mumbai The wedding card of Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha, who are all set to tie the knot in Lake City Udaipur this month, has gone viral on social media. A picture of the wedding card has gone viral on social media. The wedding date reads September 24 on the card, which is white in color. "Divine Promises: A pearl white Indian wedding... Leela Palace Jaimala: 3:30 p.m. Pheras: 4:00 p.m. Vidai: 6:30 p.m.," read the card. The card has beautiful sketches of the landscape of Udaipur. The wedding festivities will start from September 23 with Parineeti's Chhokra ceremony at 10 a.m. at Maharaja suite.



A 'Fresco Afternoon' will be held on the terrace near the ballroom on September 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. On September 24, Raghav's 'Sehrabandi' will take place in Taj Lake Palace at 1 p.m. Then 'Baraat' - The

Royal Procession will move from Taj Lake Palace at 2 p.m. The reception gala, which has a theme of 'A night of Amore' will happen in Leela Palace Courtyard, at 8:30 p.m. During this period, many big personalities from

politics and Bollywood will come to Udaipur. Several film personalities, including Parineeti's sister Priyanka Chopra and her husband Nick Jonas, and leaders from Delhi and other states are expected to attend the event.

"Household work's burden should be borne equally by husband, wife": High Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai In modern society, the burden of household responsibilities should be borne equally by husband and wife, the Bombay High Court has said. A division bench of Justices Nitin Sambre and Sharmila Deshmukh made the observation on September 6 while dismissing an appeal filed by a 35-year-old man seeking the dissolution of his 13-year-old marriage. He could not establish his claim of 'cruelty' against his estranged wife, the judges held. The man had challenged a March 2018 order of a family court dismissing his plea seeking divorce. The couple had got married in 2010.

The man contended in the plea that his wife was always on the phone with her mother and did not do household work. The woman claimed that she was forced to do all the household work after returning from office, and faced abuse when she contacted her family. She also claimed that her estranged husband had physically abused her on several occasions. The bench, in its order, noted that both the man and woman were employed, and expecting the wife to do all the household work reflects a regressive mindset. "In modern society the burden of household responsibilities have to be borne by both husband and wife equally. The primitive mindset

expecting the woman of the house to solely shoulder the household responsibilities needs to undergo a positive change," the HC said. The marital relationship must not lead to the wife in this case getting isolated from her parents and she cannot be expected to sever the ties with her parents, the court noted. "Being in contact with one's parents cannot by any stretch of imagination be construed as inflicting mental agony on the other party. In our view, putting restrictions on the respondent to curtail her contact with her parents, has in fact, subjected the wife to mental cruelty apart from physical cruelty," the bench said.

The man contended in the plea that his wife was always on the phone with her mother and did not do household work. The woman claimed that she was forced to do all the household work after returning from office, and faced abuse when she contacted her family. She also claimed that her estranged husband had physically abused her on several occasions. The bench, in its order, noted that both the man and woman were employed, and expecting the wife to do all the household work reflects a regressive mindset. "In modern society the burden of household responsibilities have to be borne by both husband and wife equally. The primitive mindset





# NICKI MINAJ SUFFERS WARDROBE MALFUNCTION AT MTV VMAS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Nicki Minaj stunned the audience as she took to the MTV VMAs stage in a pink wedding dress. The bold outfit was a bubble-gum pink, presumably as a nod to her 'Barbie' nickname, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. However, it wasn't smooth-sailing for the beloved rapper as she suffered a wardrobe malfunction.

The Hip-Hop starlet looked sensational in the lacy, pink lingerie-style frock, which featured a silk corset-style bodice, showing off her incredible curves. The flowing skirt was completely sheer and nipped Nicki in at the waist before jutting out just above her knees in a fishtail-style.

Nicki's silky pink knickers were completely on show in the netted skirt. She paired the look with a long veil, which had pretty pink applique around the hem.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', she went all out in the makeup-stakes, framing her striking peepers with a heavy kohl eyeliner and adding a slick of Barbie-pink gloss to her plump pout.

But Nicki revealed that it didn't get swimmingly for her in outfit stakes as she shared she'd suffered a wardrobe malfunction. Speaking to the camera, she said: "I just realised that one of my motherf\*\*\*\*g shoes weren't buckled properly," before the camera zoomed in at her feet.

Nicki also revealed that MTV had been concerned of what she may say on the stage when she took to her hosting duties. However, she shared that she attempted to alleviate their fears.

It's the second year in a row that Nicki has taken to the hosting helm of the awards bash.



## Elon Musk shares picture of Amber Heard, cosplaying as Mercy from 'Overwatch'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Elon Musk, the CEO of X (formerly Twitter), car company Tesla and the private space agency Space X, has posted on X a picture of his ex-girlfriend actress Amber Heard cosplaying as Mercy, a character from the popular multiplayer-shooter game 'Overwatch'.

The Tesla billionaire, 52, had dated the 'Aquaman' actress, 37 back in 2015, where she did a cosplay of Mercy, after Musk had told her that she reminded him of the 'Overwatch' character.

This trivia was part of his new biography titled 'Elon Musk,' Daily Mail reported. The biography: 'He told her that she reminded him of Mercy, his favorite character in the video game Overwatch.'

'So she spent two months designing and commissioning a head-to-toe costume so she could role-play for him.'

Responding to a tweet about the incident in the book, Musk confirmed: 'She did dress up as Mercy. It was awesome.'

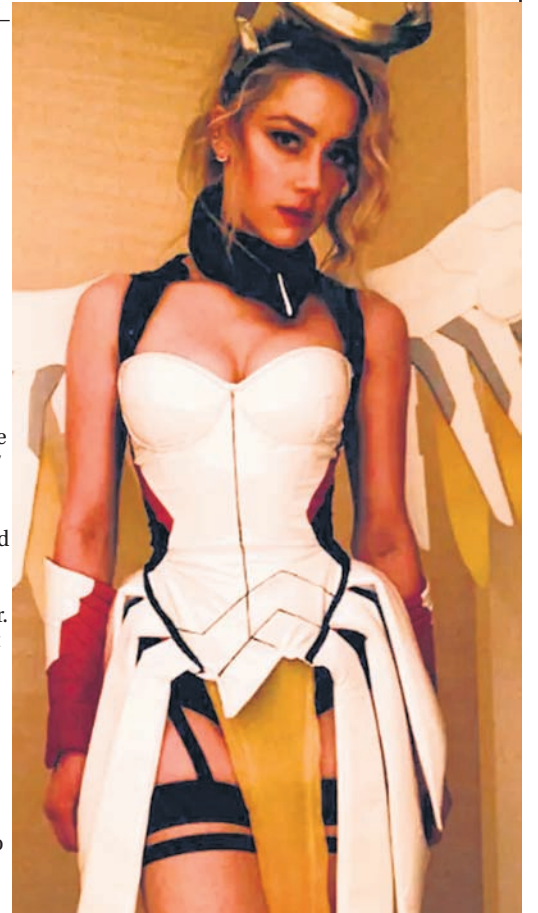
Mercy is known for her blonde hair, busty build, and a mechanical angel suit, complete with a halo and a pair of angel mechanical wings. One of the most iconic characters from the game, Mercy is a healer in the game and is part of the support unit, providing healing assistance to the attacking characters such as Reaper or Hanzo.

To transform into the video character, Heard donned the character's iconic white-blocked bodysuit and gold halo headpiece. She also attached a pair of plastic wings to her bag, to properly look the part.

This comes after it was revealed that Elon Musk's family despised Heard because they thought she was 'toxic' and a 'nightmare.'

Musk's brother Kimbal and most of the entrepreneur's friends hated the actress 'with a passion' because she brought so much drama into his life during their year-long relationship.

According to Musk's senior staff also did not have a good opinion of Heard, where they said that, 'she was like the Joker in Batman who thrives on destabilising everything.'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop star Justin Bieber is celebrating his wedding anniversary with model Hailey Bieber. Celebrating five years of marriage, Justin Bieber penned an emotional note to his wife, saying that she has "captivated" his heart.

Taking to Instagram, the 'Stay' singer wrote: "To the most precious, my beloved. 5 years. You have captivated my heart. I know from the depths of my soul down to my bones that this journey with you will only exceed our wildest expectations. So let's keep dreaming big, baby."

"Cheers to forever and ever. I love you with every fiber of my being. HAPPY 5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY," he added.

In his post, the singer shared two pictures of himself with his wife, the first one where the two are passionately engaged in a kiss, and the second showed Hailey sitting down in front of a cake with two candles and flowers.

Justin can be seen standing beside her with one arm embracing her as they both smiled, with the model adorning a glittering diamond necklace with the letter "B," hinting at their last name and symbolising their marriage.

Hailey also celebrated the milestone with an Instagram post of her own. She shared a picture of herself beside Justin, who was holding her gently and giving her a kiss on the neck and wrote: "5 years! I love you," the model wrote in a caption with some of the same images shared by her husband.

*Justin Bieber pens heartfelt note on 5th wedding anniversary for Hailey*



# Cardi B, Offset's steamy video leaves fans in shock

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rappers Cardi B and Offset have left their fans stunned as they simulated having sex in the toilet at MTV VMAs.

The pair looked as smitten as ever as they packed on the PDA at the music industry event, reports Mirror.co.uk.

After walking the red carpet, the husband and wife headed to the bathroom together to make the steamy footage. Cardi, 30, took to Instagram to share a video of her frisky husband grinding against her from behind in the venue's bathroom.

Cardi joined in the fun by making sensuous noises as she filmed them grinning into the mirror. WAP singer Cardi looked as glam as ever as she wore a sparkly blue sequined dress after her performance of her new single 'Bongos' with Megan Thee Stallion.

Going for the full effect, the rapper began making sexual noises and comments as the two posed in the sink mirrors of the toilets.

As per Mirror.co.uk, in the background someone can be heard asking to borrow Cardi's phone charger when she replied in a sexual tone: "Yeah, come get



it." But her friend quickly replied: "I am not coming in there!"

Her friend then came out of the cubicle looking awkward as she saw the pair and Cardi started laughing. However, fans were left horrified by the video, with one writing: "This is embarrassing," and another saying: "They look more like adult movie actors than singers." A third person comment-

ed: "This is wild," along with a laughing face emoji. Another added: "Just embarrassing, isn't it?" Yet another wrote: "This two be wilding," as a fan said: "This couple are crazy."

The video came after affair rumours emerged recently. Offset had accused his wife of cheating on him as he shared a post on Instagram.

## Kanye West gets sued again, 'forced staff to sleep on floor in makeshift bed'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Kanye West is being sued over alleged labour violations. The labour violations include having employees sleep in "makeshift conditions" in an unfinished Malibu house.

According to documents, "(His employee) was sleeping in makeshift conditions, finding empty spaces on the ground and using his coat as a makeshift bedding. These sleeping arrangements were near open insulation. (He) did not have access to a proper bed or comfortable sleeping environment", reports Mirror.co.uk.

Tony Saxon, the plaintiff in the civil litigation against Kanye, claims that he started his employment with the rapper around September 2021 as "a full-time security and a live-in caretaker". However, Tony also claims that Kanye "utilised him for construction-related tasks."

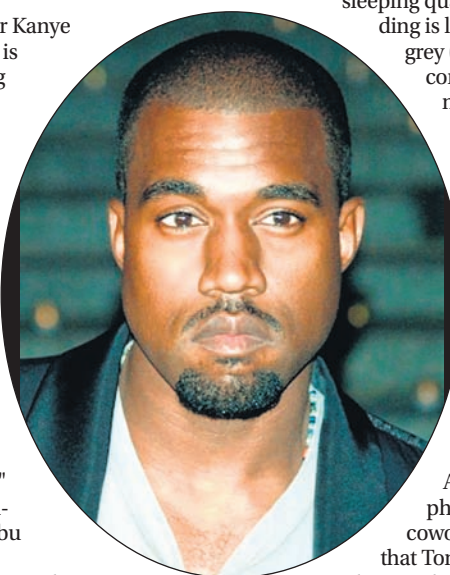
In photos, obtained by Mirror.co.uk, thin blankets and

pads are laid out on the ground as sleeping quarters. The bedding is laid on top of grey (seemingly concrete slabs) next to floor-to-ceiling windows. His food and water is laid out in the open next to the bed. Plus, his personal items are left out without proper storage. Additionally, a photo of a coworker reveals that Tony was not alone in this alleged treatment.

As per Mirror.co.uk, the unnamed coworker is seen laying on a bed on top of similar flooring. However, he does not have blankets and uses some material to rest his head in lieu of a pillow.

His bedding is set up next to a tall ladder which looms over him and surrounding the setup is other work materials. The man sleeps fully clothed, appearing to be wearing dark jeans, a camo jacket, and trainers.

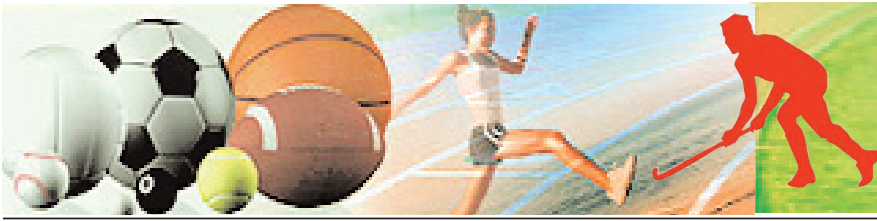
In addition to egregious working conditions, Tony is alleging retaliation for refusing to comply with dangerous demands from Kanye.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Anitta



## Asia Cup

# Sri Lanka overcome Pakistan by 2 wickets to reach final

Colombo | Agencies

**C**harith Asalanka struck a brilliant unbeaten 49 after Kusal Mendis (91) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (48) laid the foundation with a century stand and guided defending champions Sri Lanka to a two-wicket victory against Pakistan in a thrilling final Super 4 match and into the final of the Asia Cup. Sri Lanka made it to the final for the 11th time in the Asia Cup and will meet India in the final. This is their second final in a row.



### Brief scores

Pakistan 252/7 in 42 overs (DLS) (Mohammad Rizwan 86, Abdullah Shafique 52; Matheesa Pathirana 3-65, Maheesh Theekshana 1-42) lost to Sri Lanka 252/8 in 42 overs (Kusal Mendis 91, Sadeera Samarawickrama 48, Charith Asalanka 49 not out; Iftikhar Ahmed 3-50, Shaheen Shah Afridi 2-52) by two wickets.

Sri Lanka needed seven runs off the last six deliveries but Zaman Khan did well to keep it down to six off 2 before Asalanka came good, his nerves of steel as Sri Lanka reached 252/8 in 42 overs.

Earlier, Pakistan rode on a superb rearguard 108-run partnership between Mohammad Rizwan and Iftikhar Ahmed, the highest for the sixth wicket in the Asia Cup, after the early fall of wickets to post 252/7 in 42 overs in a rain-delayed match.

But Sri Lanka survived some anxious moments in the last two overs to scrap through to the final. And it was Kusal Mendis that held the Sri Lanka innings together that set them up for victory. But by the time he was out, Mendis had already guided Sri Lanka to a strong position.

# Central Cordoba, Gimnasia hold out in Argentina's top flight

Buenos Aires | Agencies

**C**entral Cordoba rose to fourth in Group B of Argentina's Primera Division with a 1-0 away victory over Sarmiento. Midfielder Brian Farioli gave his side the lead just after the half hour by combining with Cristian Ocampos before firing a long-range effort into the bottom left corner, reports Xinhua. The visitors had just 40 per cent of possession and completed almost 200 fewer passes than their rivals but survived to secure their second win in four games. Meanwhile, Gimnasia registered their first win of the new season as they came from behind to overcome Velez Sarsfield 2-1 at home.



Brian Romero put the visitors ahead in the 41st minute before Cristian

Tarragona and Matias Abaldo scored in quick succession for Gimnasia.

# Golf: Neha stretches lead to two shots in 12th Leg of WPT

Gurgaon | Agencies

**N**eha Tripathi played superbly on the back nine for a 4-under 32 as she carded a 5-under 67 and extended her one-shot overnight lead to two in the 12th Leg of Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Golden Greens Golf & Resorts Ltd. As Neha moved to nine-under 135 with rounds of 68 and 67, she was being chased by Riya Yadav, who after a good first round added an even better 5-under 67 for a total of 7-under 137. Asmitha Sathish (71-70) and Gaurika Bishnoi (69-72) were tied third at 3-under 141, while Ridhima Dilawari had a late double bogey in her 70 and was sole fifth at 2-under 142. Neha, whose off-season work paid off in the earlier part of the year, has been working hard again during the recent break and her game showed a lot of sharpness with all-around improvement. Riya had two birdies and a bogey on the front nine and four birdies and no bogeys on the return journey. Riya, who had a hole-in-one on the eighth hole in her first round, had her solitary bogey of the day on the same hole in the second round. Asmitha had three birdies and a bogey in her second round, while Gaurika had three birdies against three bogeys and a double in her first 15 holes. She was 2-over for the day but then found birdies on the 16th and the 18th to salvage a par round. Agrima Manral (74-69) made a five-



shot improvement from her first round and moved to Tied-sixth alongside Jasmine Shekar (72-71) at 1-under 143. Tvesa Malik had a better day with seven birdies but also gave away five bogeys in her round of 70 after a first round 75, as she was Tied-eighth with Khushi Khanijau (74-71) and Durga Nittur (74-71). Seher Atwal, who shot 79 on the first day had a massive eight shot improvement with a 71 and she was T-18 at 6-over 150. The Hero Order of Merit leader, Sneha Singh (78-75) was T-22. Neha, who won her 10th leg before the break in the Tour schedule, birdied the second and fifth holes for a tidy start before suffering her lone bogey on the Par-3 eighth. On the back four birdies on 10th, 12th, 15th and 16th ensured a good day's work a good two-shot cushion.

# Sekar Patchai and Monica Pugazharasu defend crowns in national surfing event

Rameswaram | Agencies

**S**urfers from Tamil Nadu ruled the roost as Sekar Patchai and Monica Pugazharasu successfully defended their titles in the Technical Men's and Women's categories respectively on Day 1 of the Palkbay Stand-Up Paddle (SUP) Challenge 2023. Sekar and Monica's efforts helped the hosts Tamil Nadu sweep all four titles available on the day. Competing at the Pirappanvalasi Beach here, Sekar recorded a timing of 13:22.30 mins in the 2km race while Manikandan M. of Tamil Nadu finished second with 13:32.07 mins. Santhosan S. of Tamil Nadu with a timing of 14:07.01 mins to complete a clean sweep in the event for the hosts. Monica Pugazharasu successfully finished ahead of her competitors with a timing of 22:39.24. Vijayalakshmi Irulappan of Tamil Nadu finished a distant second with a



timing of 27:56.04 mins while Karnataka's Sinchana D Gowda completed the race in 29:50.90 mins to secure third place. "The water was flat but at the same time conditions were deceptive as there were gusts of wind blowing

across. The winds were steady with a slight change in direction making the conditions challenging for sprint and technical races," said Nawaz Jabbar, Race Director of the Palkbay SUP Challenge. Local lad Naveen Anandi won the

# India may try out new combinations in meeting with Bangladesh ahead of title clash

Colombo | Agencies

**H**aving already qualified for the Asia Cup final, a confident India could try out new combinations and give game time to players on the bench when they face an already out-of-contention Bangladesh in the Super Four match of the competition here at the R. Premadasa Stadium, in Colombo, on Friday.

With the Men's ODI World Cup now less than 30 days away, India and Bangladesh will be keen to see how the players who haven't got to play would fare in various situations that could happen in Friday's match.

From an Indian perspective, the Asia Cup has seen the majority of the players click well. Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli have scored big runs. Ishan Kishan has shown that he can be a flexible batter by making runs in the middle-order.

K.L. Rahul and Jasprit Bumrah have been very excellent in their displays with bat and gloves and ball after recovering from injuries. Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja, along with Hardik Pandya's all-round prowess, have been great with the ball, ensuring that India tick many boxes ahead of the mega event at home.

What India would ideally want is how Shreyas Iyer fares with the bat and while fielding, after being ruled out of action before the Super Four match against Pakistan due to back spasms. But in the practice session on Thursday, Shreyas did his batting practice, though the team think-tank would be wary of rushing him into action.

Players like Mohammed Shami, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma and Prasidh Krishna can fancy some game time so that India can test their readiness in case they are needed in a dire



### Squads

situation. Someone like Axar Patel can be expected to put up a better bowling show in a year where his numbers in that aspect haven't been great.

From a Bangladesh point of view, they will be playing without wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim, who has been granted extended leave to be at home following the birth of his second child. It has been a tournament where Bangladesh have been majorly unable to field a full-strength eleven due to injuries and illness.

Tamim Iqbal and Ebadot Hossain were ruled out due to back and knee injuries, while Litton Das missed the league stage due to viral fever. Then, Najmul Hossain Shanto, who made 89 and 104 in consecutive matches, was ruled out after suffering a hamstring injury.

With no Mushfiqur, Litton could keep wickets as Bangladesh would aim for a strong batting show, which has eluded them on many occasions in the competition, against a formidable Indian bowling line-up. India's batters would keep

**India:** Rohit Sharma (captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav and Prasidh Krishna.  
**Bangladesh:** Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Anamul Haque Bijoy, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Towhid Hridoy, Afif Hossain Dhrubo, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Tazim Hasan, Naim Sheikh, Shaimim Hossain, Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Tanzim Hasan Sakib.

an eye out for facing the left-arm spin of captain Shakib Al Hasan and all-round-er Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who was their chief tormentor in a stunning all-round display during last year's bilateral series in Dhaka.

## Tour of Spain

# Kuss clings onto red jersey as Roglic wins 17th stage

Madrid | Agencies

**S**epp Kuss (Jumbo Visma) kept the overall leader's red jersey by just eight seconds over his team-mate Jonas Vingegaard, while Primoz Roglic won the 17th stage of the Tour of Spain cycle race.

Although Kuss finished 19 seconds behind Roglic and Vingegaard, he was able to cling onto the leader's jersey on the day he celebrated his 29th birthday, reports Xinhua.

As expected, the climb up the mythical Altu de L'Angliru produced tension and drama as the riders struggled up the steepest climb in the race. Although Kuss looked as if he would surrender the lead to his team-mate, he was able to find the strength to remain in touch with Vingegaard and Roglic in the last two kilometers.

With his chances of repeating last year's overall triumph gone, Remco Evenepoel (Soudal Quick Step) set his sights on winning the jersey as the best climber and launched a solo attack early in the stage to hoover up the points on the two first category climbs that came before the Algliru in the short, but demanding 124-kilometer stage.

The Bahrain Victorious team led the chase working for Mikel Landa, who finished fourth on the day, finally catching



the Belgian six kilometers from the top of the brutal Angliru climb, which contains gradient of over 20 per cents, slowing the race to almost walking pace.

Riders kept falling off the back until there were just six in the lead group, with three Bahrain Victorious riders and the Jumbo Visma trio of Sepp Kuss, Jonas Vingegaard and Primoz Roglic, with the three-riding clear with two kilometers left

to ride. It was Kuss' turn to lose ground as his two team-mates inched ahead into the mist, with Roglic crossing the finish line just ahead of Vingegaard. Kuss beat Landa in the sprint for third to take the last time bonus, which could be decisive as the race gets ever tighter.

Kuss leads Vingegaard by eight seconds, with Roglic third overall, a minute and eight seconds behind.

# US retain lead, China stay second in FIBA women's world rankings



**Mies, Switzerland:** The top five teams remained unchanged and the United States continue to lead the latest FIBA women's world rankings released.

The US leads with 834.6 points while China, who won the 2023 FIBA Women's Asia Cup, remains stable in second place on 687.1 points. Australia, Spain and Canada are the next three teams, reports Xinhua.

Belgium moves up to sixth place after winning the 2023 FIBA Women's EuroBasket, pushing France down to seventh.

Brazil, who beat a young US side in the final of the 2023 FIBA Women's AmeriCup, soar to eighth position, ahead of Japan and Serbia, who round out the top ten.

New African champion Nigeria jumps up to 11th on 528.9 points.

# ASIAN GAMES: SAURAV GHOSAL SEEDED 2ND IN SQUASH DRAW, INDIA TOP SEED IN MEN'S TEAM EVENT

Hangzhou | Agencies

**I**ndia's Saurav Ghosal has been seeded second in the men's singles squash competition at the Asian Games in Hangzhou while the team spearheaded by the India No.1 has been given the top billing for the men's team competition.

Ghosal earned the bronze medal in the Asian Games in 2018 in Indonesia. During the 2014 Asian Games, the 37-year-old Ghosal had finished second.

The competitions in Hangzhou start on September 26 while the final will be played on October 5. In the 26-player men's singles competition,



Malaysian Eain Yow Ng is the top seed.

Placed in the bottom half of the draw, Ghosal received a bye in the first round, and with take on Kuwait's Ammar Al-Tamimi in the second round. He is likely to face Japanese 5/8 seeded Ryunosuke Tsukue in the

quarterfinals and Tsz Kwan Lau of Hong Kong, China, in the semifinals.

Ghosal, who is the first Indian man to enter the top of world rankings, also won a historic bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games last year.

In women's singles, placed in the top half of the draw, India's fifth-seeded Tanvi Khanna and eighth-seeded Joshna Chinappa, who won an individual bronze in 2018 and two silver medals in the team events in 2014 and 2018 editions, will be eyeing to reach the latter stages of the event.

The 20-player field is led by Japanese player Satomi Watanabe, ranked as the No.1 seed.



## Alia Bhatt's off-day schedule: 'Relax' and 'chill' in a pool



Team Absolute | Mumbai

One of the most loved actresses in Bollywood, Alia Bhatt is an avid social media user, who shares vibrant glimpses of her life with her humongous fanbase. On Thursday, the diva took to Instagram and shared a Reel wherein giving a glimpse of her day off.

In the video we can see Alia relaxing in a pool, wearing a red monokini. First we see her keeping her head down, and closed eyes, with the cap-

tion: "My schedule on my day off..." Then, we see her floating in the pool, with a title flashing in the video: "That's it. That's my schedule." She captioned the video "DND", and gave the music of 'Theme From A Summer Place' by Percy Faith.

Actor Arjun Kapoor took to the comments section and wrote: "Need this sched & this hotel in my life". The Reel has garnered one million views in 20 minutes.

Alia's fans also dropped quirky and funny comments as some appreciated the actress.

They wrote: "Water baby;" "Who is looking after the baby??"

Another said: "The way your career is going doesn't make it look like you take any of these days off."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Alia was recently seen as Rani Chatterjee in romantic comedy drama 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani', alongside Ranveer Singh. She was also seen in American spy action thriller 'Heart of Stone'. The film also stars Gal Gadot.

Alia married actor Ranbir Kapoor in April 2022, and the couple have a baby daughter named Raha.



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The Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna-starrer film 'Chhava' is all set to roll the cameras and starts its principal photography next month.

The film is a period drama, and will see Vicky essaying the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the eldest son of the Maratha empire's founder and the great warrior king, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

While the film will be primarily focused on Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj's sacrifice, and his strategies for the warfare, it will also explore a love angle between Chhatrapati Sambhaji



## Rashmika, Vicky-starrer movie to go on floors in Oct

Maharaj and his wife, Yesubai Bhosale (essayed by Rashmika).

A source told reporter: "The film after witnessing a delay, is all set to start its production in the month of October. Rashmika was always the first choice for the part and was locked after her look test."

'Chhava' will mark the second collaboration between Vicky and director Laxman Utekar after their super successful 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke'.

The film is being produced under the banner of Maddock Films, and will be their first historical project. While Vicky Kaushal, has 'The Great Indian Family' on the horizon, Rashmika was last seen in 'Mission Majnu' with Sidharth Malhotra.

## Allu Arjun heaps praise on SRK for 'Jawan'; SRK lauds 'Pushpa'

Team Absolute | Mumbai



The Shah Rukh Khan-starrer vigilante-action-thriller film 'Jawan' has been performing exceptionally well in the theatres, both critically and commercially. Joining in the choir of praises is Telugu superstar Allu Arjun, who also congratulated the whole team on the success of 'Jawan'. In particular, he highlighted SRK, Vijay Sethupathi, Nayanthara, Deepika Padukone and Nayanthara as well as composer Anirudh. Taking to his X (formerly Twitter), the 'Pushpa' star wrote: "Biggg Congratulations to the whole team of #JAWAN for this mammoth blockbuster." "Warm regards to the entire cast, technicians, crew & producers of #JAWAN." Highlighting SRK and Vijay Sethupathi he added: "@iamsrk garu's Massiest avatar ever, charming the whole of India & beyond with his swag. Truly happy for you sir, we prayed this for you." "@VijaySethuOfll garu is so terrific in his role as always."

SRK, who was greatly honoured by Allu Arjun's congratulatory message, quickly responded on his X account, writing: "Thank u so much my man. So kind of you for the love and prayers. And when it comes to swag and 'The Fire' himself praises me...wow...it has made my day!!! Feeling Jawan twice all over now!!!"

SRK added: "I must admit I must have learnt something from you as I had seen 'Pushpa' thrice in three days!!! Big hug to u and will come and give u one personally as soon as possible. Keep swagging!!! Love u."

## I HAVE COMMITTED TO MYSELF TO KEEP TRYING THINGS THAT EXCITE ME:

## Mrunal Thakur

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Actress Mrunal Thakur, who is known for 'Sita Ramam', 'Ghost Stories', 'Toofaan', 'Dhamaka', 'Jersey' and others, has completed 5 years in the film industry. On this occasion, the actress shared how imperative it is for actors to constantly reinvent themselves and explore more in showbiz to stay relevant.

Mrunal believes that the art of acting is a continuous journey, and she's enthusiastic about embracing new challenges and opportunities.

Talking about the same, the actress said: "I have so much more to explore. There are numerous languages of cinema to be a part of, and so many genres that excite me. I'm ready to experiment and immerse myself in the diversity that the world of films offers. As an actor, if you don't have the appetite to accept new challenges and find ways to reinvent the wheel, and be open to different kinds of work, you will become irrelevant too far, too soon."

The actress is one of the rare talents to make a successful transition from television to cinema, joining the league of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, Ronit Roy and the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput. She further mentioned: "I have gone from doing television, to indie films, to commercial to south, have worked in 3 languages now and I have committed to myself to keep trying things that excite me. This hunger is what has helped me to be where I'm today."

In recent times, Mrunal Thakur has been on a signing spree. One of her latest projects includes the Telugu film 'Hi Nanna' which has generated significant buzz among audiences. Currently, the actress is in the midst of filming for 'VD13' a highly anticipated project alongside Vijay Devakonda, further solidifying her presence in the South Indian film industry.

## Vicky Kaushal reminisces stunt scene in 'URI': 'I injured myself, developed tennis elbow'

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Taking a trip down the memory lane, actor Vicky Kaushal recalled about the shooting for his acclaimed film 'Uri: The Surgical Strike', and shared what all went behind the performance of the stunts in the military action movie.

The upcoming episode of 'India's Got Talent' season 10 will celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with Vicky and Manushi Chhillar, who will grace the stage of the show to promote their upcoming movie 'The Great Indian Family'. Spreading the festive cheer with much galore, the contestants will put forth some awe-inspiring performances with their unique talent. Known for their extraordinary feats of agility and strength, Abujhmad Malkhamb group from Chhattisgarh will impress everyone with a jaw-dropping act on 'Challa (Main Lad Jaana)'. The song 'Challa (Main Lad Jaana)' from the

2019 movie 'Uri', is sung by Romy, Vivek Hariharan, and Shashwat Sachdev.

The movie stars Vicky, along with Yami Gautam, Mohit Raina, Kirti Kulhari and Paresh Rawal in pivotal roles.

The flick is a dramatised account of the true event of India's retaliation to the 2016 Uri attack. The power-packed act of the Abujhmad Malkhamb reminds Vicky about his days of shooting for the film, which tells the story of Major Vihaan Shergill (Vicky Kaushal) of the Para (Special Forces), who played a leading role in the events.

"In 'URI', in the sequence where we were rappelling from the chopper with ropes, we underwent four months of military training before we could perform those stunts ourselves with safety harnesses. Even after so much training and ensuring safety measures, when I had to perform that stunt for the fourth time, I injured myself and developed a tennis elbow," shared Vicky.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Suzanna Mukherjee