

# absolute india

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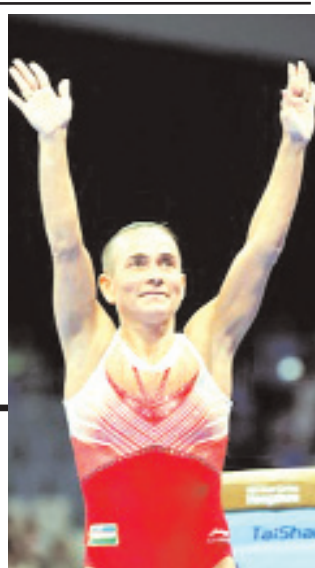
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34 injured during massive students' protest against killing of 2 students by armed men

## MANIPUR BURNING SAGA CONTINUES

The Manipur government has handed over the murder case of two young students to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), while the security forces have also initiated a search operation to nab the perpetrators, officials said here on Tuesday. An official from the Chief Minister's Secretariat said that it has come to the notice of the state government that photos of the victims, identified as Phijam Hemjit (20) and Hijam Linthoingambi (17), who have been missing since July, have surfaced on social media. The official said that the state police, in collaboration with the central security agencies, are actively investigating the case to determine the circumstances surrounding their disappearance and to identify the perpetrators.

Imphal | Agencies

At least 34 students, including girls, were injured after hundreds of students took to the streets in Imphal on Tuesday to protest against the killing of two young students by unidentified armed assailants.

The police said that 34 students were injured after the agitating students clashed with the security forces, who prevented them from marching towards Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's bungalow.

The security forces used tear gas shells and smoke bombs to disperse the agitating students. The injured students have admitted to various hospitals for treatment.

Hundreds of students from various schools gathered on the streets on Tuesday after photographs of the bodies of two missing students went viral on social media.

Seven-year-old girl student Hijam Linthoingambi and 20-year-old Phijam Hemjit had gone missing on July 6 during the height of ethnic violence in Manipur. Their families suspected that they had been killed



by armed assailants. An official from the Chief Minister's Secretariat said that the Manipur government has handed over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), while the security forces have also initiated a search operation to nab the perpetrators.

The official said that the state police, in collaboration with the central security agencies, are investigating the case to determine the circumstances surrounding their disappearance and to identify the perpetrators.

"In response to this distressing situation, the government assures the public that a swift and decisive action will be taken against all those involved in the kidnapping and killing of Phijam Hemjit and Hijam Linthoingambi. The government is committed to ensure justice for the victims and will impose severe punishment on any perpetrator found responsible for this heinous crime," an official statement said. It added that the state government encourages the public to exercise restraint and to let the authorities handle the investigation.

According to Inspector General of Manipur Police (Operations), I.K. Muivava, at least 175

people have been killed, 1,108 injured and 32 remain unaccounted for since the ethnic violence erupted in the state on May 3.

### INTERNET BAN REIMPOSED FOR 5 DAYS

Imphal: Four days after the lifting of internet ban in strife-torn Manipur, the state government on Tuesday once again suspended internet services for five days till October 1 following the massive students' agitation on Tuesday.

Joint Secretary (Home) Mayengbam Veto Singh said in a notification that in view of the prevailing law and order situation in Manipur, the state government views very seriously with utmost sensitivity the reported spread of disinformation, rumours and other types of violent activities through various social media platform such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. on electronic equipment like tablet, computer, mobile phone etc, along with sending of bulk SMS facilitating mobilisation of mobs of agitators and demonstrators, which may cause loss of life and/or damage to public/private property or aggravates the law and order situation in the state. "The state government has decided to suspend/curb mobile internet data services, internet/data services through VPN in the territorial jurisdiction of the state of Manipur for five days with immediate effect till 7.45 p.m. of October 1," it said. The notification said that any person found guilty of violating the order will be liable for legal action.



### Delhi jewellery shop heist: Burglars flee with ornaments worth over Rs 20 cr

Team Absolute | New Delhi

There was dust all around in a jewellery shop in south Delhi when it was opened on Tuesday - with the shocked owners finding a hole in the wall of the strongroom and jewellery worth around Rs 20-25 crore stolen.

Owner Sanjay Jain of Umrao Jewellers in Bhogal of the Jangpura area said that the shop remains closed on every Monday and he suspected that thieves had managed to make their way from the terrace.

Police suspect that the incident occurred between Sunday night and Monday early morning. A well-thought-out scheme unfolded during this extensive heist, involving the deliberate disconnection of CCTV cameras

and the creation of an entry point into the heavily fortified strongroom (locker).

"It is suspected that the burglars gained access through the building's terrace, descending from the top floor to reach the ground floor where the strongroom was securely positioned.

"Subsequently, they drilled a hole through the strongroom's wall, granting them access to the precious ornaments stored within. In addition to these stolen items, the culprits also made away with the jewellery that was on display within the showroom," said a police official.

Meanwhile, the police teams are diligently reviewing any available CCTV footage recorded prior to the thieves' interference with the cameras to aid in their investigation.

### Maha Congress: PM's 'urban Naxals' jibe at Oppn came out of 'despair'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Congress on Tuesday termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments targeting the party of being in cahoots with 'urban Naxals' as 'childish, ridiculous, unbecoming of his position, and arising out of despair'.

In a strong rejoinder, state Congress President Nana Patole claimed that earlier the PM had labelled Dalits as 'Naxals' and farmers protesting outside Delhi as 'terrorists' and 'Khalistani separatists'.

"The PM has left no stone unturned to attack the

Congress... If the 800 million farmers of the country who voted for Modi are Naxals, is he also one of them? The PM should think and exercise restraint before making such comments," Patole said.

Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar also slammed Modi's comments and said he should not have uttered them.

Patole urged Modi to take care while making 'impulsive' and 'irresponsible' statements since he is 'the PM representing the 1.4 billion people of India and not a spokesperson for the BJP or the RSS'.

### GOVT SHUTS SCHOOLS TILL SEP 29

Imphal: After the massive students' agitation on Tuesday in protest against the killing of two young students by unidentified assailants, the Manipur government has closed all schools in the state till September 29, officials said. A notification issued by the state Education Department said that in view of the prevailing law and order situation, all government, aided and private schools across the state will remain closed till September 29. The police said the students were injured after they clashed with the security forces, who prevented them from marching towards Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's bungalow. The security forces used tear gas shells and smoke bombs to disperse the agitating students. The injured students have been admitted to various hospitals for treatment.

### Byju's to cut 4,000-5,000 jobs in business restructuring exercise

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Edu-tech major Byju's is going to lay off 4,000-5,000 employees in a "business restructuring exercise" in the coming weeks, the media reported on Tuesday.

According to TechCrunch, Byju's will go through the restructuring exercise "to pare down costs amid a broad restructuring of its business following a delayed IPO and pressure from lenders". The restructuring



exercise is being undertaken under the leadership of new CEO Arjun Mohan, according to the report. "We are in the final stages of a business restructuring exercise to simplify operating structures, reduce the cost base and better cash flow management,"

a company spokesperson said in a statement. "Byju's new India CEO, Arjun Mohan, will be completing this process in the next few weeks and will steer a revamped and sustainable operation ahead," the spokesperson added.

The edtech major last week elevated Mohan as the CEO of its India operations, as it mulls to sell some of its subsidiaries to repay its outstanding \$1.2 billion Term Loan B (TLB) amid "difficult business restructuring".

### BAJWA CLAIMS 32 AAP MLAS IN TOUCH WITH CONGRESS IN PUNJAB

Chandigarh: In a sign of rift in INDIA bloc, Punjab's Leader of Opposition and Congress legislator Partap Singh Bajwa has made a claim that 32 AAP MLAs are in touch with them.

In response, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday slammed Bajwa, by saying, "I know Congress thwarted your ambition to become Chief Minister." Bajwa claimed that the Congress has 18 seats in Punjab and with the support of the 32 AAP MLAs his party could overthrow the ruling government. Chief Minister Mann responded to Bajwa's claims with a post on X (formerly Twitter) by referring to Bajwa as a "BJP-affiliated leader". Mann asked him to "talk to the high command". "Partap Bajwa (BJP), you are talking about breaking the elected government of the people of Punjab. I know Congress killed your desire to become Chief Minister. I am a representative of three crore people of Punjab and not a trident of a chair. If you dare, talk to the high command," Mann reacted.

### 'BJP's decision to field heavyweights in MP is last bet of false hope'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A day after the BJP released its second list of 39 candidates and fielded seven sitting MPs, including three union ministers, for upcoming assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Congress took swipe saying the ruling party said that BJP has played its last bet of false hope.

Former chief minister Digvijaya Singh and the state unit chief Kamal Nath launched attacked BJP saying the ruling side is facing internal rift.

Digvijaya Singh, who on Tuesday participated in



Congress' ongoing Jan Akrosh Yatra in Orcha, told media persons, "BJP's move to field three union ministers and some MPs in the upcoming assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh points that the ruling party is worried about its prospects."

Singh said that the people of

the state have decided to dislodge the BJP government which was formed by purchasing (MLAs). "People are very angry and they will vote for forming a majority Congress government in Madhya Pradesh this time," he said. "The BJP is feeling scared about (its chances) in the upcoming elections," he said when asked about the ruling party giving tickets to three union ministers and four other MPs.

Meanwhile, Kamal Nath said that the saffron party has accepted defeat in MP and played its "last bet of false hope".

### India on path to achieve emission targets well before 2030: IFC report

The report titled "Blended Finance for Climate Investments in India", which was released on Tuesday, noted that India is the only G20 nation which is in line with 2 degrees warming compared to its fair share contribution to climate action.

The IFC report also said that at the end of April 2021, India had taken its commitments to green finance one step further when the RBI became the member of Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

This, it said, will go a long way in strengthening the financial sector's response to climate change and developing a much stronger and more coherent, coordinated and credible policy framework to support green investment.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has significantly developed its climate actions, enabling it towards a path, which will help achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) well before 2030, a report by International Finance Corporation (IFC) has said.

NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals. They embody efforts by each country to reduce their national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The report said that the RBI included the small renewable energy sector under its priority sector lending scheme in 2015 itself.

"Since the first issuance of green bonds that year, India has developed the

second largest green bonds market among emerging economies with cumulative issuances worth more than \$10 billion by private companies and public sector entities," it noted.

At the Paris "One Planet Summit" in December 2017, eight central banks and supervisors had established the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

The network's purpose is to help strengthening the global response required to meet the goals of the Paris agreement and to enhance the role of the financial system to manage risks and to mobilise capital for green and low-carbon investments in the broader context of environmentally sustainable development. Meanwhile, talking about the most recent measures, the IFC report stated that the Indian government had

proposed to issue sovereign green bonds in 2022-23 for mobilising finance for green infrastructure projects. As on February 2023, 50 per cent of the total target of about \$2 billion of green financing has been raised in the first tranche, it stated.

The report also highlighted the Pancharmit commitments announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to meet India's COP26 ambitions.

It pointed out that as of February 2023, renewable energy sources contributed to 41 per cent of India's total installed capacity and the country stands fourth globally in terms of total renewable energy installed capacity.

India is committed to meet 50 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030, the IFC report said.

### Over 90,000 US visas for Indian students, third year in a row

Team Absolute | New Delhi

For the third year in a row, Indian students have got the maximum US visas -- over 90,000 this summer, the US Embassy in India said on Tuesday.

The US Embassy in India in a post on X, formerly Twitter said, "The U.S. Mission in India is pleased to announce that we issued a record number - over 90,000 - of student visas this summer in June, July, and August."

"This summer almost one in four student visas worldwide was issued right here in India. Congratulations and best wishes to all the students who have chosen the United



States to make their higher education goals a reality. That's a wrap. With teamwork and innovation, we ensured that all qualified applicants reached their programs on time," the US Embassy said. According to officials, last year, over 82,000 US visas were issued for the Indian students.





# IN MULTIPOLAR WORLD, RISING INDIA WILL BE 'VISHWA MITRA, A POWER FOR GLOBAL GOOD: JAISHANKAR

Arul Louis | UN / New Delhi

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday declared India a "Vishwa Mitra", a friend of the world, that will be a bridge-builder, but will also challenge the power structure and give voice to South as it claims its due.

"When we aspired to be a leading power, this is not for self-aggrandisement, but to take on greater responsibility and make more contributions," he said at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly.

"All nations pursue the national interests (but) we, in India, have never seen that as being in contradiction with global good," he said.

Outlining India's role, he said: "From the era of non-alignment, we have now evolved to that of Vishwa Mitra, a friend to the world.

"This is reflected in our ability to engage with a broad range of nations and when necessary, harmonise interests."

The New Delhi G20 Summit presided over by India "affirms that diplomacy and dialogue are the only effective solutions. The international order is diverse. And we must cater for divergences, if not differences. The days when a few nations set the agenda and expected others to fall in line are over", he said. "Our vision of 'One World, One Family, One Future' sought to focus on the key concerns of the many, not just the narrow interests of a few," he said. The outcomes of the New Delhi G20 Summit that brought development and restructuring the



global financial order to the fore "will surely resonate a few years ahead", he asserted.

Of his nation's future, Jaishankar said: "As a civilisational polity that embraces modernity, we bring both tradition and technology equally confidently to the table. It is this fusion that today defines India that is Bharat. India has entered the 'Amrit Kaal', a quarter century, where greater progress and transformation awaits us."

"The world saw a glimpse of what is to come when our Chandrayaan 3 landed on the moon," he said.

Jaishankar challenged the existing global power structure as a multipolar world emerges: "The days when a few nations set the agenda and expected others to fall in line are over.

"It is still a few nations who shape the agenda and seek to define the rules. This cannot go on indefinitely, nor will it go unchallenged. A fair, equitable and democratic order will surely emerge once we all put our minds to it." He said that the way out of this is to find common grounds as was demonstrated at the G20 Summit, where India forged a consensus. "In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it was to bridge divides, dismantle barriers and sow seeds of collaboration that nourish a world where unity prevails over discord and where shared destiny eclipses isolation," Jaishankar said.

"Finding common ground is an imperative to listen to others and to respect the viewpoints," he said. "This is not weakness, it is the basics of cooperation. Only then, can collective efforts on global issues be successful."

India's foreign policy's evolution from nonalignment to Vishwa Mitra, he said "is reflected in our ability to engage with a broad range of nations and when necessary, harmonise interests".

He cited the examples of the BRICS, where India stands alongside Russia and China, and the multi-national arrangements with the US at the centre. The Vishwa Mitra policy "is visible in the rapid growth of the Quad, a mechanism today so relevant to the Indo-Pacific (of India, the US, Japan and Australia)".

# Delhi to get Mohalla Buses for last-mile connectivity

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The national capital is set get 'Mohalla Buses' as the Kejriwal government is gearing up to complete necessary preparations for their operation to enhance last-mile connectivity, sources in the Delhi government said.

According to information, the routes are currently being finalised, and the procurement process for small electric buses is also nearing completion.

The Delhi government had announced in the budget the purchase of 2080 neighborhood buses (small buses with a length of 9 meters) to operate in different residential areas of Delhi. Out of these, a deal is expected to be made this week with bus manufacturers to purchase 1040 buses. If this agreement is reached, the delivery of these buses will commence within the next



three months.

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot has stated that often there are complaints about the last-mile connectivity in city's public transport system, leading to increased use of private vehicles. To address this issue, a comprehensive plan for last-mile connectivity was developed, and the Mohalla Bus Scheme was planned to be launched in the current fiscal year.

Under this scheme, pollu-

tion-free nine-meter electric buses will be operated with a budget allocation of Rs 3500 crores.

These Mohalla Buses will accept fare payments through the Common Mobility Card.

Over the course of three years, 2080 Mohalla buses will be introduced, strengthening last-mile connectivity.

The maintenance of these buses is estimated to cost Rs 28,556 crores over the next 12 years.

# Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury seeks action after Khalistani elements insult PM's cutout, burn Indian flag in Canada

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Tuesday condemned the protests by Khalistani elements in Canada during which Prime Minister Narendra Modi's poster and cutouts were kicked by shoes and the Indian national flag was burnt.

The Congress leader demanded necessary action against the anti-India terrorists.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, Chowdhury wrote: "Without mincing any word, I do strongly condemn the heinous act of Khalistani elements in Canada who even dared kicking a cardboard figure of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and burnt down Indian flag. Indian government should take all necessary measures against



those anti-India terrorists."

His remarks came after Khalistani separatists held protests outside Indian diplomatic missions in Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver.

In Toronto, demonstrators burnt the Indian flag and hit with shoes a cardboard depicting Indian Prime Minister Modi.

Diplomatic relations

between Canada and India have nosedived in last few weeks over the murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently announced that intelligence agencies were investigating "credible allegations" linking Indian agents to the death of Nijjar.

# Coal scam case: Delhi HC suspends 4-yr jail term of ex-RS MP Vijay Darda, son till pendency of appeals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday suspended the four-year sentence of former Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Darda, his son Devender Darda, and JLD Yavatmal Energy Pvt Ltd's Director Manoj Kumar Jayaswal, who were handed a four-year jail term on July 26 for their involvement in irregularities in the allocation of a coal block in Chhattisgarh.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma had granted Dardas and Jayaswal interim bail on July 28 till September 26, and had issued notice on the pleas moved by Dardas and Jayaswal against the trial court order convicting and sentencing them in the case.

The court had also sought Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)'s response.

On Tuesday, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma allowed the pleas and suspended the sentence till the pendency of their appeals challenging their



conviction and jail term in the case.

The court also directed them not to leave the country without prior permission of the court. They were also directed not to directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to witnesses in the case.

"It is directed that the sentence imposed on the appellant shall remain suspended during the pendency of the present appeal, subject to his furnishing a personal bond in the sum of Rs 1 lakh with two sureties of the like amount..." the high court

said.

For the convicts, advocate Vijay Aggarwal submitted that they were never arrested and were on bail during the trial and have never misused the liberty of bail. He further informed the judge that the fine imposed by the trial court had already been deposited by the convicts. Hence, the court was urged to suspend the sentence imposed on them during the pendency of the appeals.

On the other hand, advocate Tarannum Cheema, appearing for CBI, opposed the pleas for suspension of sentence.

The high court has now listed the appeals for consideration on February 14, 2024. The accused were held guilty under Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code, and sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

# AIADMK CADRE JUBILANT AFTER PARTY LEAVES BJP-LED ALLIANCE

Chennai | Agencies

After AIADMK broke its ties with the BJP-led NDA, the party cadres and middle level leaders are jubilant at the party's decision to leave the alliance.

K. Selvaraj, an ardent supporter of AIADMK from Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu told reporter that it was high time for the party to shelve its relationship with the BJP.

"AIADMK is a Dravidian political party and snapping ties with a political outfit that does not have anything common with us is good. We will now get a lot of support from all classes in Tamil Nadu," he said.

He said that AIADMK is a cadre base political party and has presence across Tamil Nadu and with proven electoral credentials while the BJP is a non-entirety in the state.

On Monday, soon after AIADMK Deputy Coordinator K.P. Munusamy announced the snapping of ties in front of the party state committee



office, the workers celebrated and also burst fire to express their happiness.

AIADMK may now also get the support from the Muslim community, Dalits and OBCs.

R. Swaminathan, social activist and Gandhian leader from Madurai while talking to IANS said: "It is a political move by AIADMK. They party now can get the benefit of anti-incumbency in Tamil Nadu as well as

in the Centre. It's an advantage to AIADMK." AIADMK sources told reporter that from state office bearers to district level secretaries not a single leader opposed the resolution moved for snapping of ties with the BJP on Monday. A District Secretary of AIADMK told reporter that at the grass root level they party had got a clear feedback that they now have an advantageous position following snapping of ties with the BJP.

"Our cadre is jubilant," he told reporter. "After insults were showered on the Dravidian pride -- C.N. Annadurai and our beloved leader J. Jayalalitha -- there is no point in continuing with BJP alliance," he said.

Sources said that several political party leaders have expressed their support to AIADMK following the decision taken by the party state leadership. On Monday, during a high level meeting AIADMK announced to snap all the ties with the saffron outfit in Tamil Nadu.

# Worms found in Mid-Day Meal in three Goa schools

Panaji | Agencies

Officials of the Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration on Tuesday collected food samples, after three schools in Priol, South Goa complained of worms in the Mid-Day Meal's 'Soya Chunks Pulao'.

Director of Education Shailesh Zingade told IANS that after the complaints were received, Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration officials were summoned to take samples.

"They have collected the food samples and a report is awaited," he said, adding the supplier has been told to stop supply till the issue is cleared.

Sources said the education department will take action against the Self-Help Group supplying the Mid-Day Meal, if it is found faulty.

Another official said that the three schools have complained to them about the incident. "Today 'Soya Chunks Pulao' was supplied to these schools, when students tried to eat it,



they found worms in chunks," the officer said. The Mid-Day Meal is given to school students from class I to class VIII. This benefits around 1.60 lakh students of 1,400 aided and government schools of the coastal state.

There are 100-odd Self Help Groups engaged in preparing Mid-Day Meals in Goa, and around seven parent teacher associations that cook for their schools with help from the government.

# BHU scientists claim Ayurvedic cure for rheumatism

Varanasi (UP) | Agencies

Scientists at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) claim to have found an Ayurvedic cure for rheumatism.

Research conducted on patients of rheumatism at the department of Physiotherapy of faculty of Ayurveda, BHU found that Ayurvedic medicine 'Amritadi Churna' is effective for treatment of this disease.

The research was conducted by Dr Khushboo Aggarwal under the guidance of Prof Rajendra Prasad and Prof Jyoti Shankar Tripathi of the department.

Prof Prasad said rheumatism, which is colloquially called arthritis, has symptoms like unbearable pain, swelling and fever in many joints of the body. If timely treatment is not done, fingers and other organs become permanently crooked. Many times, the patients become depressed due to the inferiority complex.

"Allopathic medicines are beneficial in this ailment, but permanent solutions are often not available. Also, if taken for a long time, these medicines can cause harm to liver, kidney, and intestine," he said. Prof Prasad said the main components of Amritadi Churna include Giloy, Gokshura, Sonth, Gorakhmundi



and Varun.

According to him, the research was done on 60 rheumatism patients, divided into three groups of 20 each.

The patients of the first group were given only Amritadi powder and the second group given Sattavajaya therapy along with Amritadi powder which is very beneficial for mental depression. The patients of the third group were given an allopathic medicine. All patients were given therapy for three months. He said it was concluded that the patients in the first group got the most benefits in curing the disease. Amritadi Churna is very beneficial for those suffering from chronic arthritis for permanent cure or to control its symptoms without any side effects, he said, adding that the research work is being published in journal 'Annals of Ayurvedic Medicine.'

# Fresh spell of heavy rainfall likely over East India from Sep 29: IMD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department on Tuesday said that conditions are becoming favourable for further withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon from some more parts of northwest and adjoining western India during next 2-3 days while a fresh spell of heavy rainfall is likely over East India from Friday.

In its bulletin, the IMD said that in East India, the weather forecast indicates the likelihood of light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, with isolated instances of heavy rainfall expected over Andaman & Nicobar Islands till Saturday.

"Additionally, Odisha can anticipate similar conditions on Friday and Saturday, while Jharkhand may experience them on Saturday. Furthermore, isolated episodes of



very heavy rainfall are anticipated over the Andaman & Nicobar Islands till Saturday," said the weather forecast agency.

In South India, the weather outlook suggests light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, with isolated heavy rainfall likely over

Tamil Nadu throughout the period till Saturday. "Coastal Andhra Pradesh can expect similar conditions on Tuesday and Saturday, while Coastal Karnataka and Kerala are likely to experience these conditions till Saturday. Interior Karnataka is forecasted to have these conditions on

Friday and Saturday," said the IMD.

In West India, the weather forecast indicates light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, along with thunderstorms and lightning. There are isolated expectations of heavy rainfall over Konkan & Goa and Madhya Maharashtra till Friday.

"Marathwada is also expected to experience similar conditions on Tuesday. Furthermore, there is a forecast of isolated instances of very heavy rainfall over Konkan and Goa on Thursday," said the weather agency.

It further predicted that in Central India, the weather outlook suggests light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning.

There is an expectation of isolated heavy rainfall over Chhattisgarh on Thursday. For the rest of the country, no significant weather conditions are anticipated during this period.





## IN 'PARTING SPEECH STYLE', CM SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN THANKS BUREAUCRATS FOR CO-OPERATION, RECALLS 4TH TERM OATH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who on Tuesday chaired a cabinet meeting which approved various proposals, including a fifth pay commission for the state police, set off speculation with his remarks on the occasion, which sounded like a parting speech.

In his remarks, he recalled the day he took the oath of the fourth term.

Chouhan thanked bureaucrats, especially Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains for their co-operation and efforts in implementing various public schemes.

"I remember that I took oath as Chief Minister on March 24, 2020 when the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic was at its peak. Perhaps that was the first time a single man cabinet meeting was held at that time, but we managed to control the situation with the help of officials."

During the meeting, he gave a brief introduction of public schemes introduced and the development works taken place under his leadership.

Emphasising on 'Ladli Behna Yojana' - a cash scheme for women, which he launched three months back, Chouhan said: "The idea of the scheme came into my mind on



February 28 and the scheme was launched on March 5. On March 20 forms were released and we could release the first installment on June 10. It shows the efforts of the officials." Beside these, he said that his government successfully organised a mega event - 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' (Tribal Pride Day - organised on November 15, 2021). "The concept of CM Rise School

itself is an historic step which paves the way for growth of Madhya Pradesh. We successfully brought out the state from the BIMARU tag."

Soon after, buzz started in the state political circles that his speech during the cabinet meeting was very much like a "parting speech".

This came amid speculations that the BJP's central leadership has taken full control over Madhya Pradesh

election and the longest-serving CM has been sidelined.

The opposition Congress also took a swipe at the BJP, especially after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Monday visit to Bhopal, where in his speech, he neither mentioned Chouhan's name nor his schemes.

A few hours later, the BJP announced its decision to field three Union Ministers - Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel, and Fagga Singh Kulaste - as candidates in the coming Assembly elections, as well as national General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya.

With this, the BJP kept the door open for various Chief Minister probabilities if it retains power. The BJP's move to field some of its biggest names in a state poll also seems to underline it is working towards strengthening seats in which it believes it is weak and susceptible to opposition attacks. So far the BJP has named 79 candidates but there are 151 seats still up for grabs.

The Congress led by Kamal Nath had won the 2018 elections, however, 22 of its MLAs, loyal to Jyotiraditya Scindia, had shifted into the BJP and Kamal Nath's government was toppled in March 2020. Subsequently, Chouhan had then taken oath as CM fourth time on March 24.

## Rahul Gandhi to address 1st public rally in poll-bound MP on Sep 30

▶ FORMER AICC PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS MP RAHUL GANDHI WILL BE ADDRESSING THE FIRST PUBLIC RALLY IN POLL-BOUND MADHYA PRADESH ON SEPTEMBER 30.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) informed that Rahul Gandhi will be addressing a poll rally in Kalapipal constituency in Shajapur district.

MPCC general secretary Rajiv Singh said, "Rahul Gandhi will be addressing his first poll rally in Madhya Pradesh in Kalapipal. In 2018, people of Madhya Pradesh had given full support to him and the Congress had formed the government

after 15 years."

Rajiv Singh further said Rahul Gandhi will be addressing some more public rallies in MP, and dates and places will be decided after the poll dates are announced.

The Congress bagged two out of three assembly seats in Shajapur district, including Kalapipal in 2018. Importantly, Congress

general secretary Priyanka Gandhi is unofficially leading the party's campaign in Madhya Pradesh and she has sounded the poll bugles from Jabalpur in July.

Priyanka Gandhi has so far addressed three public rallies in MP. While, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge has so far addressed one public rally in Sagar.

## Congress sets narrative within four walls and by four people: Scindia

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday hit out at the Congress here, saying that the grand-old party plans its strategies within four walls.

The minister took a swipe at the Congress alleging that a bunch of leaders decide the narratives, while the BJP plans its strategies observing the sentiments of the people on ground. "Congress makes its narrative inside four walls with their four people on their four questions. Narrative is not formed behind closed doors, narrative is not formed among few people," Scindia said without the talking name of any Congress leader.

He made this remark a day



after the BJP released the second list of 39 candidates for the Assembly election. BJP has fielded three Union Ministers and national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya. Four out of 39 candidates in the second list are considered Scindia loyalists -- Imarti Devi (Dabra),

Raghu Singh Kasana (Morena), Harendra Singh Bunti (Raghogarh) and Srikant Pathak (Mairhar).

Scindia started his political career from Congress as Lok Sabha MP from Guna in 2001 after his father and former Union Minister Madhavrao Scindia died. He lost the last Lok Sabha election from Guna in 2019, which upset him a lot and he shifted to the BJP in March 2020. Scindia, who was in the race for chief minister's post after the Congress formed the government in Madhya Pradesh after a gap of 15 years, however, joined the BJP along with 22 of his loyalist MLAs and the Kamal Nath government was toppled within 15 months.

## In 18 years BJP brought MP to the brink of ruin, fear of Cong haunts it: Surjewala

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

After the BJP released its second list of 39 candidates for Madhya Pradesh, the Congress took a swipe at it, saying that in 18 years it has brought the state to the brink of ruin and the people as well as the central leadership of the saffron party know this and is the reason why Prime Minister Narendra Modi distanced himself from the works of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

It also said that it was clear how the fear of Congress was haunting the BJP. In a post on X in Hindi, Congress Madhya Pradesh in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "The truth of BJP's second list in Madhya Pradesh - will go down and will also take you along. In 18 years, the BJP govern-

ment has brought Madhya Pradesh to the brink of ruin. The people of the state as well as the central leadership of BJP know this. That is why 15 days ago Amit Shah and yesterday Modi ji distanced themselves from the name and work of Shivraj ji."

"On the other hand, (Jyotiraditya) Scindia ji was also disappointed with the Lok Sabha defeat and the continuous defeat of local bodies in his area. Both the leaders just thought and made up their mind to eliminate all their rivals. Shivraj and Maharaj (Scindia) told the central leadership that the rudder of the sinking boat of power in Madhya Pradesh now needs Narendra Tomar, Prahlad Patel, Fagga Singh Kulaste, Kailash Vijayvargiya and Rakesh Singh," Surjewala said. "But in reality, the intention of Shivraj and Maharaj is

that 'we will go down and take you along', this is clear. Kailash Vijayvargiya also said in an interview that the central leadership surprised us by giving us the ticket. After the announcement of these tickets, Maharaj and Shivraj are saying, "There will be no bamboo and no flute". That means, our power is going away, but along with us, the political existence of these leaders will also end," he said. "It is clear how the fear of Congress haunts the BJP. See the fear of the personality of (Congress president Mallikarjun) Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Kamal Nath ji, see the anger of the brave people of Madhya Pradesh. A Chief Minister, three Union Ministers including seven MPs, a National General Secretary, but still power will not be saved. Raise your hand, First Madhya Pradesh,



then the whole country. Congress is coming," he added.

His remarks came after the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had sprung a surprise by fielding three Union ministers along with four other sitting MPs, including Narendra Singh Tomar, for the upcoming Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh.

## BJP denies ticket to Sidhi MLA whose supporter urinated on tribal man's face



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The BJP has fielded two-time sitting MP Riti Pathak from the Sidhi Assembly constituency, replacing veteran leader four-time sitting MLA Kedarnath Shukla.

Shukla has probably paid the price for a shameful incident that took place in Sidhi a couple of months back, which sparked a nation-wide outrage after a video of one of his supporters, Pravesh Shukla, urinating on a tribal man named Dashmat

Rawat's face went viral on social media. The incident had not just given the opposition Congress fodder to corner the BJP on the issue of atrocities against tribals, it had also forced Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to go into a damage control mode in

view of the upcoming Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh.

By replacing Shukla by Pathak in Sidhi, the BJP seems to have tried to bring down the resentment among the tribal people in the region that grew strong after the pee-gate incident. CM Chouhan had then called Dashmat Rawat to his residence in Bhopal and even washed his feet. Chouhan had also apologised to him for the inhuman act of the BJP worker. The house of Pravesh Shukla, who has been booked under National Security Act (NSA), was demolished in full public view soon after the shocking video surfaced on social media. Interestingly, another twist unfolded on Monday after former BJP district president of Sidhi -- Rajesh Mishra -- resigned from the party's membership.

Highly-placed sources told reporter that Mishra had played a crucial role in making the pee-gate video viral on social media.

## CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan plants Peepal, Gulmohar and Samia Cassia saplings



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Gulmohar and Samia Cassia in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Govindpura MLA Krishna Gaur planted

saplings on his birthday. Along with CM Chouhan, State Vice President of All India Rajak Mahasangh, Kamal Rajak and Sarvshri Ashok Rajak, Deepak Rajak, Dr. Gopal Singh Rajak and Brijesh Malviya planted saplings. Child Divyansh Soni

planted saplings on his birthday along with his family members Ashok Soni and Lakshya Soni. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Rishi Yadav, DP Singh Kirar, Ram Lakhon Gurjar and Brijendra Singh Parmar also participated in the plantation.

## Enhanced facilities for Pregnant women at AIIMS, Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In connection with Extended Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (E-PMSMA) for High Risk Pregnancy a programme was organized in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at AIIMS Bhopal. A dedicated on-site counter for Phlebotomy services (blood sample collection) for pregnant women in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology OPD area, and the facility for special seating arrangement for pregnant women was inaugurated by Executive Director, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh. The new on-site counter for blood sampling of pregnant women for various laboratory tests in the OPD area of the Obstetrics & Gynaecology will facilitate



easy accessibility and availability of the services. With an increase in the footfall in Antenatal clinic and increasing deliveries, the enhanced and special seating arrangement made in the Obstetrics & Gynaecology OPD area will also increase the comfort of the pregnant women during their waiting time at the Antenatal Clinic at AIIMS Bhopal.

## Various schemes for welfare of media representatives

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The monthly honorarium 'Samman Nidhi' given to senior and elderly journalists of Madhya Pradesh will be increased from Rs 10 thousand to Rs 20 thousand. On the death of a journalist who has received Samman Nidhi, his wife/husband will be given a lump sum amount of Rs 8 lakh. The provision of financial assistance for common diseases for the treatment of journalists themselves or their dependents, will be increased from Rs 20 thousand to Rs 40 thousand and for serious diseases from Rs 50 thousand to Rs 1 lakh. The condition regarding income tax has also been removed. The Cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Mantralaya today approved the implementation of the announcements made by the Chief Minister in this regard. It may be noted that keeping in mind the overall



welfare and interests of journalists and media representatives working in print media, electronic media, social and digital media, which act as the fourth pillar of democracy, Chief Minister Chouhan had made several announcements during the "Patrika Samagam" on September 7, 2023. The Cabinet approved the new scheme 'Housing Loan and Education Loan Interest Subsidy Scheme 2023 for Accredited Journalists' by revising the interest subsidy scheme on housing loan to accredited journalists in Madhya Pradesh, which was earlier implemented in Madhya Pradesh. In the new scheme,

the maximum loan amount limit has been increased from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 30 lakh. Apart from this, it has also been decided that the state government will bear 5 percent interest subsidy for 5 years on the interest payable on the loan taken from the bank for the education of sons/daughters of journalists recognized under the scheme. The Cabinet also decided that under the "Health and Accident Group Insurance Scheme for Madhya Pradesh Communication Representatives", the premium amount will be taken from journalists this year also as per the weighted premium rate for the year 2022-23. The amount of premium increased by the insurance company will be paid by the state government. According to the new provision in this scheme, the state government will bear the entire insurance premium of journalists above 65 years of age and their spouses.

## CM bestows contract letter to the 10,000th beneficiary of Seekho-Kamao Yojana

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented contract letters to the 10,000th beneficiary of Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana, Ajita Rathore and 10,001st beneficiary Sushri Akanksha Chauhan before the Cabinet meeting and wished them all the best for their bright future. The cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Chouhan started with the rendition of Vande-Mataram. Ajita Rathore, a beneficiary of Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana is a MCA from LNCT University, Bhopal, and has got an opportunity to join Extra Net Technology Pvt. Ltd. as a software developer in Bhopal under the scheme.



So far, more than 9 lakh youth have registered on the portal of the scheme under the Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana, which shows the inclination of the youth towards learning. Under the scheme, establishments are generating contracts daily and youth are enthusiastically going to get industry-oriented training in the establishments.





EDITOR'S SPECS

KEJRIWAL TO ANNOUNCE WINTER ACTION PLAN

The Delhi Government on Tuesday said that it was tightening its grip on air pollution by intensifying its efforts towards implementing a comprehensive plan to combat pollution in the winter months. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will announce the Winter Action Plan on September 29. Providing further information, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, "We are preparing a Winter Action Plan to curb winter pollution in Delhi on the basis of reports given by departments concerned. In the meeting, officers from the Department of Environment, DPCC, Development Department, Delhi Cantonment Board, CPWD, DDA, Delhi Police, DTC, Revenue Department, DSIIDC, Education Department, DMRC, PWD, Transport Department, NHAI, Delhi Jal Board, DUSIB and NDMC were present. All departments were instructed to submit detailed action plans under the Winter Action Plan to the Department of Environment by September 25. Rai said, "In that meeting, all the departments were given a unique goal, to be included in the Winter Action Plan." He added that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal would present this Winter Action Plan in front of Delhiites on September 29. All the government departments will act in unison in the implementation of the Winter Action Plan to curb the rise of pollution in ensuing winters. "Last year, we worked together with all the agencies involved in the construction business in Delhi to keep a grip on pollution. Today, I am appealing to them to follow the norms related to dust pollution. "Action would be taken against all those agencies that violate the law. After Arvind Kejriwal announces the Winter Action Plan on September 29 we will start implementing it on the ground," Rai stated. He added that separate action plans would be made for 13 hotspots to reduce pollution. This time special monitoring would be done on hotspots to reduce pollution.

Rajasthan's listed heritage forts are drivers of state's tourism economy

Archana Sharma

Enclosed within the defensive walls stand six majestic forts in Rajasthan which are luring tourists from across the world bespeaking the story of eclectic architecture and bearing testimony to the power of the Rajput princely states that flourished in the region from the 8th to the 18th centuries. These pristine yet majestic forts stand straight with pride in Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Jhalawar, Jaipur and Jaisalmer, and have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage sites. These sites are defined as the cultural and/or natural sites considered to be of 'Outstanding Universal Value' and have been inscribed on the World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee. These places or buildings are thought to have special importance for everyone.

These forts bespeak the story of

rich cultural legacy and heritage of Rajput rule in Rajputana state and have now emerged as the epicentre of culture and heritage, boosting the economy for the state. Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, Sanjeev Sanyal, said, "The sites of Haldighati, Chittorgarh and Kumbhalgarh in Rajasthan have great stories of resistance to foreign domination. The heritage hotels need to revive bardic traditions and re-tell the stories of our past. The stories of local communities should be re-packaged in a modern way and we must re-tell India's narrative for the 21st century." "Storytelling and narrative building is an important part of running the economy. Instead of imbibing someone else's narrative, the need is to tell our own story," he added. Sanyal shared his thoughts in his recent presentation on 'Thinking of Heritage as Economic



and Cultural Capital' in Alwar. Former CEO, Niti Aayog, Amitabh Kant said, "India is positioned at the forefront of global economic growth, poised to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027. The primary engine driving this growth within the local economy is tourism. "Tourism is also key to achieving equitable growth. Tourism today has moved beyond elitism and lavish 5-star accommodation and instead focuses on providing unique experiences. Heritage properties are pivotal in this paradigm shift, as they redefine the concept of luxury and create unique and memorable experiences for visitors." Kant further emphasised the importance of revitalising a place's cultural heritage by breathing life into its roots. "Traditional art forms, cuisines, architecture, and more should be actively promoted as distinctive products. The government, in this regard, should play the role of a catalyst, facilitating these efforts and ensuring the provision of last-mile connectivity. However, the responsibility for the operation and management of these ventures should rest with private partners." President of IHHA, Randhir Vikram Singh Mandawa, opines that with a singular strive to promote heritage tourism in India, tapping into heritage potential is important and hence their association "focuses on unleashing the heritage potential for domestic tourism. Sustainable preservation is one of the important aspirations for the future of heritage

tourism, he added. Enclosed within these forts are major urban centres, palaces, trading centres and other buildings including temples that often predate the fortifications within which developed an elaborate courtly culture that supported learning, music and the arts. Many of these urban centres enclosed in the fortifications have survived, as have many of the sites' temples and other sacred buildings. The USP of these forts is the fact that they use the natural defences offered by the landscape -- hills, deserts, rivers, and dense forests. They also feature extensive water harvesting structures, largely still in use today. In fact, these forts speak the story of rich heritage and cultural legacy of our country. Neerama Hotels Founder Aman Nath said that the heritage custodians should actively work against the prevailing trends to safeguard these ancient forts and palaces.

Unique mangroves, fish-eating tigers: Why Sunderban is on the list

In 1987, when the Sunderbans National Park in West Bengal received the status of natural UNESCO World Heritage Site, many were unaware of the technical reasons behind this pride of Bengal getting the prestigious accreditation.

Experts like Dr Raja Raut explained that one of the reasons for Sunderbans National Park being put on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list was because of its outstanding contribution to ecological and biological processes so necessary for the development of the marine ecosystem, terrestrial habitat and for the survival of different communities of plants and animals there. Another reason for the tag was that the Sunderbans National Park meets the criteria under the "in-situ conservation of biological diversity", which in layman's language means the conservation of a species in its natural habitat and the maintenance and recovery of a viable population of species in their original place. This pattern of "in-situ conservation of biological diversity" also includes threatened and endangered species, explained Raut.

In the opinion of experts, meeting these two criteria was the prime reason for Sunderbans National Park being put on the UNESCO's prestigious list.

They rubbished the argument that lobbying plays an important role in bagging such accreditations.

According to them, lobbying might play a minor role in this count, but no amount of influencing can get a region the tag if the site does not fulfil the basic criteria, especially in the natu-



ral category. According to experts, Sunderban is unique because not only does it contain the world's largest mangrove forests it also has a range of forests and waterways scattered over the coastal belts of South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas. "While being the largest halophytic mangrove forest in the world is definitely a criteria we also have to keep in mind that it is one of the most productive natural ecosystems. It has a range of forests and waterways that support a huge diversity of fauna that includes threatened and endangered species," an expert pointed out. In addition to that, the mangrove forest supports the largest population of Royal Bengal tigers unique for its capability of thriving in an amphibious environment and surviving suitably in both land and water, he added. "The Royal Bengal Tigers are unique due to their capa-

bilities of swimming long-distances and survive on a varied diet of fish, water-monitor lizards and even crabs. They have these capabilities as they adapted to their abode in the mangrove forestation," the expert said. Another point that makes the Sunderban so precious is the fact that this mangrove forestation acts as a shelterbelt for the people of the region and protects them from severe climatic conditions. Apart from that, the rich natural resources of the Sunderban are the economic backbone of millions of people, whose primary source of livelihood is wood and honey collection, subsistence fishing and shrimp farming. The park is also immensely important to the local residents, the West Bengal government, the tourism sector and other stakeholders due to its huge revenue potential. However, this lure of the Sunderbans National Park has resulted in the mushrooming of real estate developments in the area, often illegally, by a section of dubious real estate developers. The illegal constructions often encroach upon and damage the mangrove forests, which are the backbone of the region. Many a times the courts have had to intervene and order the demolition of such illegal constructions there, which has resulted in unnecessary controversies and negative publicity for the reserve.

international

PRO-KHALISTANI PROTESTS HELD OUTSIDE INDIAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN CANADA

Toronto | Agencies

Several Khalistani supporters rallied outside Indian diplomatic missions in the Canadian cities of Vancouver, Ottawa and Toronto following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation of India's involvement in the murder of radical Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Nijjar, a designated terrorist in India, was gunned down outside a Sikh temple in Surrey on June 18 this year with Khalistanis across Canada holding Indian diplomats responsible for his death. In downtown Vancouver, around 75 people gathered outside the Consul General of India on Monday chanting pro-Khalistani slogans, where demonstration was staged atop a large flag of India placed on the wet ground, the CBC news outlet reported. Vancouver police closed the 300 block of Howe Street in anticipation of the event -- called by Khalistani outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) -- which came amid a heavy police presence. Meera Bains, a Sikh-Canadian journalist posted a video of the protest on X, which showed a poster of Prime



Minister Narendra Modi garlanded with slippers.

She wrote: "Protest in front of the Indian consulate underway on Howe Street in Vancouver. So far a few dozen people but very organised with flags, signs, loud speakers, and PM Modi image on cardboard."

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, leader of SFJ, which was banned by India in 2019, was also present during the protests in Vancouver, and said that they are here "to shut down every Indian Consulate in the world today because the Indian back face has come to the front face".

While announcing the protests a week ago, Pannun had said that they would also be calling for the expulsion of High Commissioner Sanjay Verma.

Pannun, whose properties in Punjab

were recently confiscated by the Indian government, had recently released a video with a view to divide Hindu and Sikh communities in Canada, asking all Hindus of Indian-origin to go back to their mother country. In Toronto and Ottawa, around 70 people demonstrated in front of the Indian High Commission, calling India to cooperate with the Canadian government in the investigation of Nijjar's murder. Tensions flared between India and Canada following Trudeau's allegations that India was behind the killing of Nijjar -- a designated terrorist in India. India rejected the allegations, calling them "absurd and motivated". Beginning this year, Khalistanis across the US, the UK, Australia and Canada have been calling referendums, vandalising Hindu temples and Indian missions and installations with spiteful anti-India graffiti.

Following Nijjar's death in June, the Sikh radicals have unleashed a poster war across Canada, blaming Indian diplomats and High Commissioner Verma for the killing.

orderly manner, jointly build the Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network, work together to ensure the safety of the cooperation projects and company personnel of the two countries, and contribute to Nepal's realization of its development agenda including graduating from the least developed country status at an early date," reads the statement. Both sides also agreed to open more border points, utilisation of highways in China to help turn Nepal from a land-locked country to a land-linked country, accelerate the feasibility study of the Tokha-Chhare Tunnel project, expedite the implementation of the second phase of the Kathmandu Ring Road project, connecting with Pokhara from different Chinese cities, will finalise the text of China-Nepal Electric Power Cooperation Plan and going to launch the construction of the Jilong/Keyrungrasuwagadhi-Chilime 220 KV Cross-Border Power Transmission line at an early date. The two sides agreed to undertake a joint inspection of the China-Nepal boundary.



Friendship for Development and Prosperity, the point included in the statement during President Xi's state visit to Nepal in 2019. The two sides agreed that Dahal's visit is of great significance to advancing the China-Nepal Strategic Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Ever-lasting Friendship for Development and Prosperity. The joint statement also touched upon China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) where it is mentioned that both sides will pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and deepen and expand mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields. "They also agreed to finalise the text on the BRI Implementation Plan at an early date. They expressed readiness to deepen and solidify Belt and Road cooperation. They agreed to strengthen connectivity in such areas as ports, roads, railways, airways, and grids in an

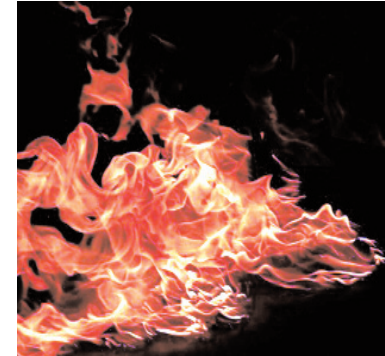
Fuel depot blast in Nagorno-Karabakh kills 20, injures over 290

Yerevan | Agencies

At least 20 people were killed and more than 290 others injured in a fuel depot explosion in the conflict-hit Nagorno-Karabakh region which was seized by Azerbaijan last week, officials said on Tuesday.

Seven victims died in hospital, and 13 unidentified bodies were taken to the coroner's office, Xinhua news quoted Armenia's state-run Armenpress as saying in a report on Tuesday, citing local healthcare authorities.

Dozens of the wounded are in critical condition and some are still missing, the report said.



A team of medics are en route from Armenia's capital Yerevan to the region by helicopter to help the victims of Monday's explosion in the main city of Stepanakert, it added.

The cause of the blast remains unknown. The tragic incident occurred as the Armenian government said that 13,350 refugees have crossed into the country from the disputed region -- home to a majority of some 120,000 ethnic Armenians -- since the seizure.

The Armenian government in Yerevan has announced plans to move those made homeless by the fighting.

6.6-magnitude quake hits Philippines

Manila | Agencies

An offshore earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 rocked the Davao Occidental province in the southern Philippines on Tuesday, authorities said, adding that there was no threat of a tsunami. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the quake, which occurred at 9.39 a.m., struck at a depth of 122 km, about 434 km southeast of Balut Island in Sarangani town, reports Xinhua news agency.

The institute said the tectonic quake will trigger aftershocks but will not cause damage. There will be no tsunami



threat to the Philippines, it added. The archipelagic Philippines has frequent

seismic activities due to its location along the Pacific "Ring of Fire".

Nepal says it's against Taiwan's 'independence'

Kathmandu | Agencies

Echoing China's stance, Nepal on Tuesday said that it was against the "independence" of Taiwan.

The Nepali side reiterated its firm commitment to the One-China principle, according to the 13-page long joint statement issued during the official visit of Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal to China, recognising the Beijing government as the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, the Nepali side is against "Taiwan independence".

Dahal, who reached China on September 23 from New York, is currently in in the Asian giant and held talks with the Chinese President on the sidelines of 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou. On Monday, Dahal met his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang, and witnessed the signing of different 12 agreements related to different areas of cooperation. The statement further added that Nepal and China acknowledged the Strategic Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Ever-lasting

Heavy rain in Guatemala kills 32

Guatemala City | Agencies

Heavy rain amid the ongoing monsoon season in Guatemala has claimed the lives of 32 people and left 16 others missing, the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (Conred) said. There was damage to 30 schools, 242 roads and 31 bridges, and some 472 homes were at risk of destruction, Xinhua news agency quoted the Conred as saying. Meanwhile, 5,689 people were left homeless, 10,303 evacuated and 587 sheltered due to heavy rains. "In the last 24 hours, the Conred system has registered six incidents associated with rain around the country," the agency wrote on X (formerly known as Twitter). Early Monday, the Naranjo River in Guatemala City flooded, leaving at least three people dead and 15 missing.







GST SWOOP ON PANKAJA MUNDE'S SICK SUGAR FACTORY FOR RS 19-CR DUES; NO CENTRAL AID FOR UNIT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a bolt to the sulking Bharatiya Janata Party leader Pankaja Munde, the GST Department swooped on a sugar factory controlled by her and seized certain assets to recover Rs 19-crore worth of GST dues, official sources said.

A GST team earlier sent a notice to the Vaidyanath Cooperative Sugar Factory in Beed -- which has been shut down due to financial problems for past several months -- and after it was ignored, the GST sleuths visited the factory on Monday for an inspection.

Interestingly, the developments took place two days after the Mumbai trip of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah (Saturday) and a day before the BJP President toured Maharashtra (Tuesday) shocking the supporters of Munde, who is the party's national secretary.

Taking umbrage at the actions, and potential attachment of the factory premises, Munde said that there was no misappropriation and her factory



was passing through financial distress for several years.

She claimed that several sugar factories had sought aid from the Centre's Cooperative Department, but her factory was kept out of it, and the latest action was allegedly on

orders from 'above'. Munde, the daughter of former Union minister late Gopinath Munde, said that the figures in the GST notices pertained to the interest and the recovery process had started some months ago for which they were cooperating with

the GST authorities.

"The factory has been in losses since 2011, there was a loan of Rs 250 crore of which Rs 52 crore was paid off... Our properties are mortgaged and we had sought the government's help, but this is the only sugar factory which did not get aid," Munde said.

In a veiled attack, she wondered "for how long to tolerate all this", and said if the Centre had extended the aid, such a situation would not have arisen.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP, Supriya Sule, sympathised with Munde's plight and said that this shows "how the party (BJP) is unfair to old loyalists", and also how the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi government had helped the Beed factory when it was in power.

Munde has been relegated to the fringes after she lost the 2019 Assembly elections with her colleagues, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and Vinod Tawade on the ascend, with questions being asked on her future political moves and strategy.

26/11 case

Mumbai court to take up fresh charge sheet against terror accused Rana

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Five months after a US court ordered the extradition of Pakistani-Canadian businessman Tahawwur Hussain Rana to India for his connections in the Mumbai 26/11 terror attacks, the city police have filed a charge sheet based on fresh evidence unearthed against him.

The over 400-page charge sheet, the fourth in the 15-year-old case till date, was submitted to a special court which is likely to take it up on Tuesday after completing the verification.

Based on new evidence like documents and statements, the Mumbai Police have added the charges of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act Sec. 39A pertaining to help given to a terror outfit against Rana, who is currently in a US jail. In May, Judge Jacqueline



Chooljian from the US District Court of California had paved the way for extraditing Rana to India, but he had challenged the order in June. Last month, a US District Judge, Central District of California, Judge Dale S. Fischer had denied a writ of habeas corpus filed by Rana, making him closer to extradition to India, even as the Mumbai Police's latest charge sheet in the case was lodged before the special court. Rana along with his childhood friend, Pakistan-

American David Coleman Headley -- currently lodged in a Chicago jail -- faces several charges for their role in the November 26, 2008 Mumbai terror attacks which killed 175 persons, including nine Pakistani terrorists, who attacked multiple locations in south Mumbai for some 60 hours.

The sole gunman nabbed alive, Ajmal Kasab, was given a trial, found guilty and then hanged in the Yerawada Central Jail, Pune in November 2012.

Maha Assembly Speaker schedules hearing on disqualification petitions against CM Shinde and his camp for Oct 13

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after the Supreme Court came down heavily on Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar over the four-month delay in deciding the disqualification petitions filed against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his camp, the Speaker on Monday heard both factions of the Shiv Sena on the procedural part and scheduled the official hearing for October 13.

Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction had knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court after the Speaker dragged his feet in deciding on disqualification of lawmakers who aligned with the Shinde group.

On September 18, a bench led by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud remarked that the Speaker has to abide by the dignity of the apex court and directed him to hear the pleas within a period of one week. A Constitution Bench judgment in May had directed that the Maharashtra Speaker "must decide disqualification petitions in a reasonable time" against Shiv Sena



MLAs, including Shinde, who were accused of anti-party activities. On July 4, a petition was moved by Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sunil Prabhu in the Supreme Court alleging that the Speaker is delaying in deciding the disqualification pleas to permit "the illegal continuance of Eknath Shinde as Chief Minister, against whom the disqualification petitions are pending".

DREAM11 CHALLENGES RS 25,000 CRORE GST NOTICE IN BOMBAY HC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sportha Technologies Pvt Ltd, which operates the online gaming portal Dream11, has filed a petition in the Bombay High Court challenging a pre-show cause notice issued to it by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) alleging evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) amounting to the tune of a staggering Rs 25,000 crore.

The plea, filed on Monday, is expected to come up for hearing shortly, as the GST pre-show cause notice -- billed as the highest ever indirect tax claim from any entity -- stumped legal and corporate circles across the country.

Dream11, led by Harsh Jain, is a leading fantasy gaming sector player both in terms of valuation and user base, as per the Moneycontrol.com.

The company's recent valuation crossed \$8 billion and it claims to



have a user-base of several crores of individuals. Last year, Dream11 posted a net profit of Rs 142 crore from an operating revenue of over Rs 3,840 crore, according to Moneycontrol.com. Besides Dream11, the DGGI is

understood to have slapped several such pre-show cause notices targeting leading online real money gaming companies for purported GST dues amounting to over Rs 55,000 crore, and the total GST demand may be almost double to around Rs 100,000

crore. Among the entities which have been slapped pre-show cause notices (served before the show-cause notice) are Gameskraft, PlayGames24x7, My11Circle, RummyCircle, etc. for huge but varying amounts of GST claims.

Diamantaire Nirav Modi's solar power plant up for auction to salvage PNB dues

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

The Debt Recovery Tribunal-I here has put up a solar power plant belonging to a group entity of the absconder diamantaire Nirav D. Modi to try and recover a tiny portion of the whopping dues of over Rs 2,348-crore.

The solar power plant, with a capacity of 5.247MW is situated at Khandale village in Karjat Taluka of Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district, and along with the plant and machinery, the solar plant is valued at Rs 12.40-crore.

The auction ordered by the DRT-I Recovery Officer Ajeet Tripathi on September 21 makes no mention of the revenues assessed on the property, whether it has any encumbrances or faces any claims, or any other details.

Besides, also going under the hammer for at least the third time is Nirav D. Modi's posh flat in the fashionable Pedder Road area of south Mumbai.

The flat is on the second floor of

Grosvenor Building, and proposed to be auctioned off as a fully furnished residence along with two parking lots, all collectively valued at Rs 11.70-crore.

In addition, the DRT-I plans to auction off two large land-parcels belonging to Nirav D. Modi and his group company, Firestone Trading Pvt. Ltd.

The plots are situated at different locations in Khandale Village, Karjat Taluka of Ahmednagar district, and one of the properties also houses the (aforementioned) solar power plant on it, which is being auctioned off separately. As far as encumbrances are concerned, both these land parcels are currently mortgaged with the Union Bank of India, presumably in lieu of the loans it had extended to the diamantaire and his group companies. The online auction shall be held on October 25 between 2-4 p.m. only, for all the listed assets, as per the DRT-I's notification, and these properties shall be auctioned off on 'as is where it is' and 'as is what is' basis.

The Certificate Debtors named are: Nirav D. Modi of Grosvenor House; Bentley Properties Pvt. Ltd, MAK Business Enterprises Pvt. Ltd, ANM Enterprises Pvt. Ltd, NDM Enterprises Pvt Ltd, Neeshal Trading Pvt Ltd -- all having a common registered address as: 15 Nagindas Mansion, 57/61 Jagannath Shankarsheth Road, Opera House, Mumbai - 400004.

The other entities figuring in the list are: Firestone Trading Pvt. Ltd, Paundra Enterprises Pvt Ltd, and Radashir Jewellery Co. Ltd - all with a single registered address as: AE-4050, A Tower, East Wing, G Block, Bharat Diamond Bourse, BKC, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400051.

Billed as the biggest banking fraud in recent Indian history, the PNB first admitted to the Rs 14,400-crore plus scam in January 2018, after which probe agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) launched their investigations.

The prime accused were the



'mama-bhanja' duo -- Mehul C. Choksi and his nephew Nirav D. Modi -- plus their family members, business associates and entities, bank officials and others.

BJP president Nadda prays at Lalbaugcha Raja in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bharatiya Janata Party President J. P. Nadda visited the famed Lalbaugcha Raja for a darshan of the imposing Lord Ganesh idol there on his trip to Mumbai and Pune for the ongoing Ganeshotsav festival, here on Tuesday.

Accompanied by state Party President Chandrashekhar Bawankule, city chief Ashish Shelar, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and others, Nadda went to the Lalbaug, Parel area, performed aarti and offered prayers to the 'Raja', amidst tight security.

"I had the opportunity to take the darshan of Mumbai's beloved 'Lalbaugcha Raja' and I have prayed for peace and prosperity for all the countrymen," said Nadda later.

He also visited the Lord Ganesh idol at Keshavji Naik Chawl in south Mumbai, which is Mumbai's oldest at 131 years and was inspired in 1893 by the freedom fighter, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Nadda also took darshan at the homes of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Fadnavis, Shelar and will go around some Ganeshotsav mandals in Pune, including the Dagdusheth Halwai mandal, as the state's cultural capital is also another



major hub of the 10-day long state's biggest public festival.

BMC-CISF organise 'Amrit Kalash' yatra in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hundreds of citizens joined the 'Amrit Kalash padyatra' organised by the Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Central Industrial Security Force, under the Centre's 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign to mark 75 years of Independence, here on Tuesday.

The yatra was taken out from Chembur's Diamond Garden to the BMC M (W) Division and scores of people deposited soil in the 'kalash' (urn), raising nationalist slogans en route.

This urn shall later be sent to New Delhi for a national programme on 'Amrit Kalash' to be held next month, along with 7,500 such urns from all over India.

BMC's Commissioner IS Chahal said that the civic body was implementing the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign till October 27 in the city. Today's public event saw top BMC and CISF officials and scores of students from civic-run schools participating enthusiastically, marching in a parade to the beat of a band and then joining the gathering to take the pledge of 'Panchprana', along with the citizens present there.

On September 1, Union Home Minister



Amit Shah launched the nationwide 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' in New Delhi with similar processions being held all over India.

From September till October end, people from the remotest hamlets, villages, blocks, districts, towns, cities will collect soil/grain in the urns that will be taken to New Delhi for a mega-event scheduled late next month.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will place the soil collected from around the country at the Amrit Vatika as homage to the country's brave heroes and martyrs to symbolise the country's unity in diversity as it progresses towards the centenary of Independence on August 15, 2047.

"Unfettered Power": Bombay High Court on Centre's amended IT rules

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday said the recently amended Information Technology (IT) Rules against fake news on social media give "unfettered power" to a government authority in the absence of "guidelines and guardrails".

The Union government, on the other hand, assured the court that the Rules were not meant to curb free speech or humour and satire targeting the government, and do not bar anyone from criticising even the Prime Minister.

A division bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale was hearing petitions filed by stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, the Editors Guild of India, and Association of Indian Magazines against the Rules, terming them arbitrary and unconstitutional and claiming that they would have a chilling effect on the fundamental rights of citizens.

The court on Tuesday also sought to know what necessitated the amendment and provision for a separate Fact Checking Unit (FCU) when the Press Information Bureau (PIB) is already doing fact-checking on social media.

"You (government) have a PIB which has its presence on social media. Why then was this



amendment required and (the need) for an FCU to be set up? I think this amendment wants to do something more," Justice Patel said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Union government, said the PIB was "teethless" (sic) and he would argue on this point on Wednesday.

The objective was not to curb free speech, opinion, criticism or satire against the government or even the Prime Minister but to create a balancing mechanism to tackle a medium that was "uncontrollable and uncontrolled", he said.

"The IT Rules are not related to curbing free speech at all. The government is not trying to pro-

scribe and prohibit any expression of opinion, criticism, or comparative analysis...in fact we welcome them, encourage them and learn from them," Mehta said.

The Rules have nothing to do with humour or satire, whether it is to the liking of the government or a political party, as far as the content does not cross the line of what is considered obscene or vulgar, the solicitor general said. "The government is not going after free speech, opinions, humour, or satire. That is not in the realm of the IT Rules. The Rules only put in place a system. A balancing mechanism is provided," he added.

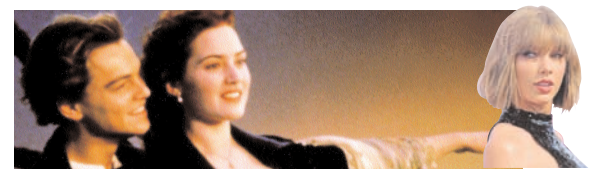
The bench, however, remarked that the Rules are "overbroad" and without any guidelines.

The court noted that there must be some guidelines in place for the Rules. "Without guidelines and guardrails this is an unfettered power. The funnelling of power to determine what is true to a government authority..." Justice Patel said.

The court further noted that while the government was saying that the Rules apply only to fake news, the Rules, on the face of it, say information and not facts.

The court also said that the IT Act was "confusing" regarding the meaning of the word 'information'. The hearing will continue on Wednesday.





# Sam Levinson says he tried several times to help Angus Cloud get sober

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Sam Levinson, who created the show 'Euphoria' starring Angus Cloud and Zendaya, has said that he tried several times to get the late Angus get clean and sober.

Cloud, who died back in July, was revealed to have accidentally overdosed on from a lethal mix of methamphetamine, fentanyl, cocaine and benzodiazepines.

The 25-year-old actor had already been suffering from addiction problems and this was only worsened by his father's passing which sent Angus Cloud heavily into depression, making him rely more on anti-depressants.

In a new interview, the creator of the drama series opened up about Cloud's struggles with addiction during production and his own struggles to help the actor get clean and sober. Those efforts included multiple interventions and rehab stints.

Levinson, who had said that he began to see that something was off with the actor, told 'People' magazine, "I looked him in the eye and I knew that he wasn't doing well," Levinson said.

"At the same time I've been in these situations before where you're trying to get someone clean. And I just said to him, 'I love working with you and we've got this amazing season planned and stuff, but I need you to be sober because I got to be able to rely on you.'" The actor entered a 30 day in-patient rehab which was followed by three months of outpatient treatment. HBO footed the rehab bill. He came back to the show and went to rehab again when they were five episodes into the season.



# Britney Spears performs dangerous dance with butcher knives

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop star Britney Spears has long displayed her fascination with knives, because apart from her many Instagram reels, she has even used them live to make things theatrical. Recently, the pop star took to social media and performed a dangerous dance with two butcher knives.

The 42-year old was holding the razor-sharp big blades with the caption, "I started playing in the kitchen with knives today" while she rubbed and even clapped the blades together while dancing, TMZ reported.

The whole thing was extremely dangerous and can even be labeled a dance of death because as evident in the video, Spears clearly isn't trained to hold or play with knives. Wielding knives requires special training, something which she does not have.

But that did not stop her from juggling those knives around and dancing fiercely, even stumbling and actually almost ramming them in her.

Spears, after her 13-year-conservatorship period was over, had suffered from a lot of stress, anxiety, fatigue and depression, causing her caregivers to keep certain objects away from her one of which was knives due to her back then 'suicidal tendencies'.

TMZ sources have also said that Britney saw knives as a form of protection, due to fears that she would be re-institutionalised. Spears keeps knives all around her house in every corner, including in her bedroom and bathroom, with one source noting that she "was paranoid someone was going to get her, and she needed the knives as protection."

Now, as the singer is divorcing her husband Sam Asghari as well as distancing herself from her family, the new video is alarming.

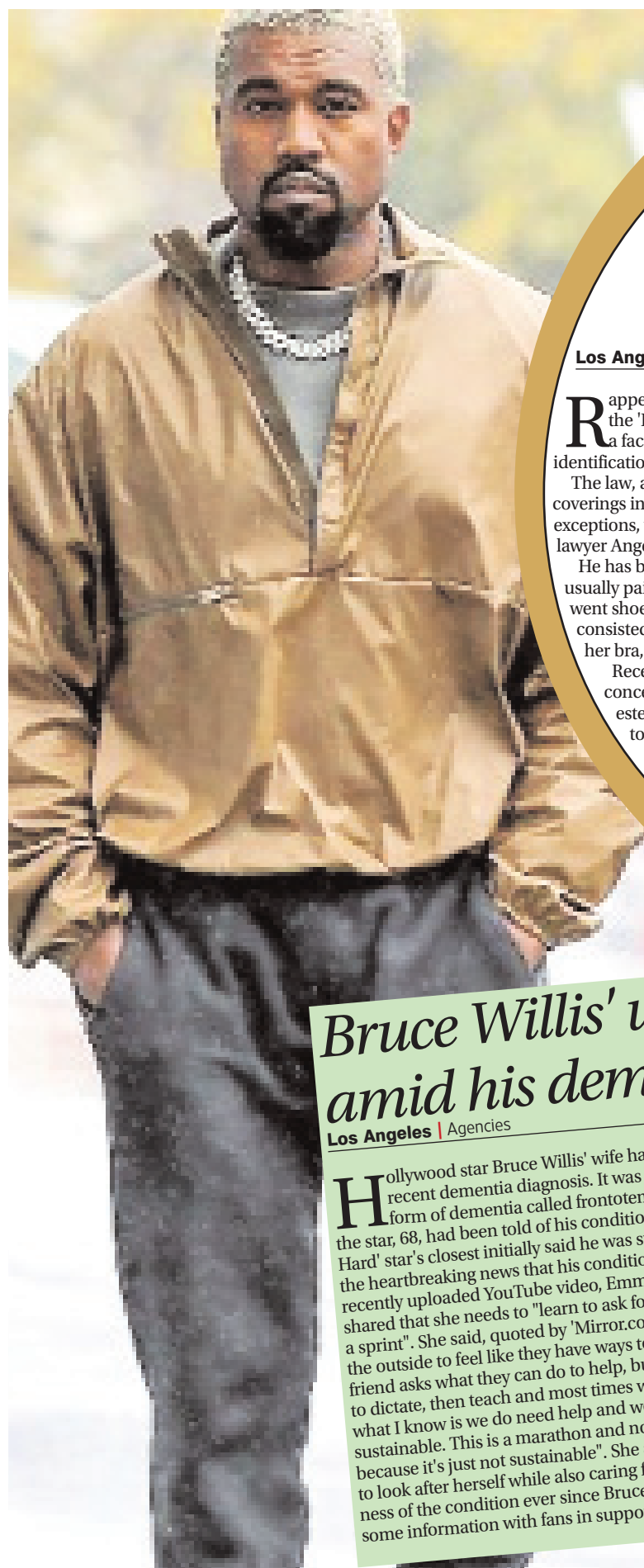


Kate Moss loves 'moonbathing' to absorb lunar energy

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Kate Moss has revealed that part of her new lifestyle involves "moonbathing," in which she lies under the night sky to absorb lunar energy. Kate said she has also experimented with waking at 4 A.M., and grows her own vegetables after moving out of London to west Oxfordshire, where she added her day starts with transcendental meditation, reports aceshowbiz.com. She told the Sunday Times about using crystals throughout her day and how she "charges" them before us, "I put all my crystals on a tray and put them outside in a garden, just cleaning the crystal, charging the crystals." She also confessed she still smokes "occasionally."

The former hard-living supermodel, who will celebrate her 50th birthday in January, joked she refuses to acknowledge her age and has held onto the vice despite I've heard that when you stop, you can really tell (by your skin). But I haven't recently reinventing herself as a wellness guru. She said, "I still smoke occasionally. I've heard that when you stop, you can really tell (by your skin). But I haven't stopped... yet." Kate recently launched her new Cosmo wellness brand and said she also goes wild swimming in her new home - "in a secret place, in the middle of lots of fields" where only villagers are allowed. She said about being in "denial" about her upcoming 50th birthday on January 16, "I'm not turning 50. No. I'm not thinking about it. I do not feel 50." Kate also said "no comment" when asked whether she has undergone any "tweakments" such as filler or Botox to prevent the appearance of aging. She, however, hinted she hadn't had any work done, she said, "Au naturel. Next." Kate said she now cuts off any partying she does indulge in at midnight on nights out - but admitted she sometimes still gets "Fomo."



# Kanye West violates Italian anti-terror laws with his fashion choice

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Kanye West may be facing legal trouble due to his fashion choice. According to the 'Daily Mail', West designer broke Italian anti-terror and public order laws for wearing a face mask in public. The laws prohibit wearing items that "hampers an individual's identification" and are punishable by a fine of up to 2000 Euros, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The law, article 533, was introduced in 1977 to combat domestic terrorism, and restricts face coverings in public unless for religious reasons with prior authorization. "Obviously there are exceptions, wearing a scarf or balaclava over your face during the winter would be tolerated," lawyer Angelo Russo told the news outlet.

He has been opting to wear face covering throughout his European getaway with Bianca. He usually paired his black face mask with an all-black top and pants as well as black socks as he went shoeless. His wife, meanwhile, has been making headlines for her sultry outfit which consisted of a sheer bodysuit. As if that wasn't enough, the Australian architect ditched her bra, allowing her nipples to be visible for everyone.

Recently, it was said that Bianca is distancing herself from her friends despite their concerns. "A few of her friends were finally able to reach her, but she wasn't interested in talking, nor was she interested in anyone's concerns for her," a source told the Daily Mail on Tuesday, September 19. "She's shut everyone out."

The insider also claimed that the 28-year-old "told one of her former friends to 'f\*ck off' when they tried to ask if she was OK."

The insider continued, "She is saying that her friends are just jealous of her stardom."

The source went on to say that Bianca is enjoying the world's attention to her.

# Bruce Willis' wife 'needs help' amid his dementia diagnosis

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Bruce Willis' wife has admitted that she "needs help" amid the actor's recent dementia diagnosis. It was revealed last year that Bruce had been diagnosed with a form of dementia called frontotemporal dementia (known as FTD). His family confirmed the star, 68, had been told of his condition in the spring of 2022, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. The 'Die Hard' star's closest initially said he was suffering from language disorder aphasia before they had the heartbreaking news that his condition had progressed to frontotemporal dementia. In her recently uploaded YouTube video, Emma told her subscribers about her journey with Bruce and shared that she needs to "learn to ask for help" before explaining that "this is a marathon and not a sprint". She said, quoted by 'Mirror.co.uk', "I would like for people looking at this journey from the outside to feel like they have ways to effectively step in. Usually, what tends to happen is the friend asks what they can do to help, but that just puts another added task on a caregiver to have to dictate, then teach and most times we just don't have the bandwidth for it". She added, "But what I know is we do need help and we do need to learn to ask for it because if we don't it is not sustainable. This is a marathon and not a sprint. You do need to call in the help and the support because it's just not sustainable". She also admitted she sometimes feels guilty when taking time to look after herself while also caring for the star. The 45-year-old model has been raising awareness of the condition ever since Bruce was diagnosed and she's now taken to Instagram to share some information with fans in support of World FTD Awareness Week.



# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kate Beckinsale





## Asian Games

# Historic gold in Team Dressage; silver and bronze in sailing keep India going

**B Shrikant** | Hangzhou

The equestrian team of Anush Agarwalla, Hriday Chheda, Sudipti Hajela and Divyakriti Singh made history by winning the country's first-ever gold medal in Team Dressage and the first since 1982 as athletes from little-known and difficult to follow sports hogged the limelight and propelled India ahead on Day 3 of Asian Games medal hunt at Hangzhou on Tuesday. It was the same team that the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) did not want to send to Hangzhou initially. The Indian team comprising Sudipti (up on Chinski), Divyakriti (Adrenalin Firod), Hriday (Chemxpro Emerald) and Anush (on Etro) scored 209.206 percentage points to finish ahead of hosts China, who scored 204.882. Hong Kong China won the bronze medal with a score of 204.852.



## BOXERS CONTINUE TO SHINE

The boxers had a good day as Narendar (92+kg) defeated Eichoro Uullu Oomatbek of Kyrgyzstan while World Youth Champion Sachin defeated Asri Udin of Indonesia 5-0 in the men's 57kg, Round of 16 match. It was a mixed day at the tennis courts too as top singles players Sumit Nagal and Ankita Raina reached the quarterfinals but the day ended in disappointment for Ramkumar Ramanathan and Rutuja Bhosale as they lost their respective men's and women's singles matches.

Rutuja and Karman Kaur Thandi went down to fifth seed Eudice Wong Chong and Hong Yi Wong of Hong Kong China 6-4, 6-1. Ankita Raina and Pratharna Thombare, too crashed out, the third seeds losing to Thailand's Anchisa Chanta and Punnin Kowapitukted 5-7, 2-6 in another third-round encounter in women's doubles.

In mixed doubles, India's Ankita Raina and Yuki Bhambri defeated Pakistan's Aqeel Khan and Sarah Ibrahim Khan 6-0, 6-0 in a second-round match.

## NEHA, EABAD SAIL INTO HISTORY BOOKS

The 17-year-old Neha Thakur and 25-year-old Eabad Ali also made history in sports as they won the first-ever medals for India in the Asian Games in their respective disciplines.

Neha, the daughter of a farmer from Amaltaj village in Dewas district of landlocked Madhya Pradesh, opened India's account in the sailing competitions held at a sea resort nearly 100km away from Hangzhou, with a silver medal in the Girls' Dinghy -- ILCA4 at the Ningbo Xiangshan Sailing Centre in Ningbo on Tuesday. Eabad Ali then made the day more memorable for India as he brought in the bronze medal in the Men's Windsurfer RS:X - RS event -- the country's first-ever medal in windsurfing. The two medals on Tuesday, which will be added to India's tally on Wednesday when the sailing programme comes to an end, seem to have set alight the Yachting Association of India's hopes for a rich haul in the Hangzhou Asian Games as YAI is expecting at least three more medals on the final day of competitions on Wednesday. Though medals from equestrian and sailing kept India's hunt for medals going in Hangzhou, there were a lot of setbacks for the country on Tuesday as India missed the medals in three categories.

## JUDOKA TULIKA MISSES BRONZE

Commonwealth Games medallist judoka Tulika Mann too missed out on a medal in the women's +78 kg, losing the bronze medal match to Adiyasuren Amarsaikhan of Mongolia by Ippon Golden Score in the judo venue at the Xiaoshan Linpu Gymnasium on Tuesday. Tulika had lost to eventual bronze medallist Wakaba Tomita in the semifinals but came through the repechage round by beating Jia Wen Tsai of Chinese Taipei before bowing out to the Mongolian in the bronze medal match (two bronze medals are given in judo). Tulika Mann was the only Indian judoka to get into medal contention as the other three -- Garima Choudhary, Indubala Devi and Avtar Singh bowed out in the preliminary rounds. On the field, the men's hockey team thrashed Singapore 16-1 while the women's squash team defeated Pakistan quite easily. There was no such luck for the men's volleyball team as it lost in straight games to arch-rivals Pakistan and finished sixth.

## HEARTBREAK FOR RAMITA, DIVYANSH

None was as heartbreaking as the defeat suffered by top shooters Ramita Jindal and Divyansh Singh Panwar as they succumbed to nerves and failed to close out victory in the bronze medal match in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team competition, losing to a Korean pair that came back from 0-8 down to catch up with the Indians at 15-15 and then eventually won the match 20-18 to claim the bronze medal. "There was no pressure. I have played many finals earlier and this was nothing different. It's just not our day," said Panwar after the disappointing end to their medal quest. Panwar had earlier won the gold medal as part of the Men's 10m Air Rifle Team while Ramita had claimed a silver in the women's 10m Air Rifle Team competition and bronze in the individual event. If she had won the bronze medal, she would have the bronze medal on Tuesday, and she would have become one of the few Indian shooters to win three medals in a single edition of the Asian Games. However, Indian shooters got themselves into a position from where they could challenge for a few medals in the women's 25m pistol and the two shotgun competitions, men's and women's skeet, in team and individual. Indians were in striking distance in all three competitions at the end of the first phase of these competitions on Tuesday and will return on Wednesday to hopefully wrap up the medals.

## HORSE AND RIDERS UNITE FOR VICTORY

This is India's second-ever medal in the Dressage Team event in the Asian Games after the bronze won by the team of Jitendarjit Singh Ahluwalia, Ghulam Mohammed Khan and Raghubir Singh when the sport made its debut in the 1982 edition held in New Delhi. Before Hangzhou, India had won 3 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze medals in the Asian Games equestrian competitions. In 2018, India won two silver medals in equestrian, both coming in Eventing with Fouaad Mirza finishing second in the Individual competition and then partnering Rakesh Kumar, Ashish Malik and Jitender Singh to silver in the Team event. That record is likely to be broken as India is expecting more medals in the next few days. All four have qualified for the Dressage Individual competition and the two best riders will be considered for medals. The riders stole the show with their stunning performance in an incredible sport and difficult discipline in which both the rider and horse have to show tremendous coordination to complete a pre-determined set of movements in the three paces: walk, trot and canter, and show a smooth transition from one to another. While the dressage team bagged India's third gold medal in the 19th Asian Games, India also bagged two medals in sailing, an equally difficult and technical sport that may not capture the eyeballs of routine spectators.

## Tvesa seeks back-to-back wins ahead of 14th Leg of WPGT

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

Tvesa Malik who seems to be getting into her rhythm just at the right time, will aim for back-to-back wins as she tees up at the 14th Leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Delhi Golf Club. "It is nice to contend again after a lean patch and I am hoping I can carry this form into Hero Women's Indian Open," she said. Tvesa, who has finished in Top-2 of the last three events on the Tour, is looking at reversing her fortunes in time for the Women's Indian Open next month. After winning the 11th Leg in July, the Tour had its break and Tvesa came back to finish runner-up in the 12th Leg and last week won the 13th Leg by a whopping eight shots



despite a double bogey finish. Tvesa and Neha Tripathi have won twice each in the last four events and will be looking to keep the run going. Neha won the 10th and 12th Legs and was one of the three players tied for second last week at the DLF Golf and Country Club, which will be the venue for the Women's Indian Open.

## Australian pacer Starc eyes for the comeback, Maxwell too likely to return

**Team Absolute** | Rajkot

Star pacer Mitchell Starc eyes comeback to the Australian side, saying his recovery is well "on track".

The fast bowler has been out of cricketing action since the Ashes in July and was also ruled out of the South Africa tour with groin soreness that had lingered following the Ashes.

Speaking in the press conference ahead of the final and third ODI, Starc hinted at his comeback and said, "Obviously, the priority is the World Cup so if that means we have to be mindful of tomorrow that's one thing, but we'll see how today goes, see how I pull up in the morning."

"The goal is to play tomorrow, but what that



looks like depends on how today goes, the priority being the World Cup and not compromising that."

Spencer Johnson (hamstring) and Nathan Ellis (groin) will be out for Australia, though. The pace team has returned home to start recovery in preparation for the domestic season. Johnson made his ODI debut in the second match, although Ellis didn't play any match. The World Cup roster does not include either bowler. Glenn Maxwell, too, is likely to return to action after he took part in the nets session on Tuesday. Maxwell last played making a first-class appearance for Warwickshire in July. He was set to play in the T20I series in South Africa but was soon ruled out after the practice session, as he experienced soreness in the broken leg.

## Martinez earns point for group leaders Racing Club

**Buenos Aires** | Agencies

Colombian forward Roger Martinez struck late to earn Group B leaders Racing Club a 1-1 draw at Godoy Cruz in Argentina's Primera Division. Tadeo Allende gave Godoy Cruz the lead early in the second half with a composed finish after combining with Lucas Arce, reports Xinhua. But the hosts were dealt a blow in the 75th minute when Thomas Galdames was shown a straight red card for a rash challenge on Juan Nardoni. Martinez put the visitors on level terms in the first minute of stoppage time as he received Gabriel Rojas' pass and fired an unstoppable shot into the bottom right corner. The result means Racing maintain a two-point lead over second-placed Belgrano while Godoy Cruz are sixth in the 14-team group. In other Argentina Primera Division fixtures



on Monday, Platense won 1-0 at home to Union Santa Fe, Sarmiento were held to a goalless home draw by Belgrano and Colon prevailed 3-1 at home to Argentinos Juniors.

**Spokane (USA)** | Agencies

Indian shuttlers produced a dominating 5-0 victory against Cook Islands in the mixed team event to kickstart the country's campaign on winning note at the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships with a 5-0 win in Group D tie.

The mixed doubles pair of Sathwik Reddy Kanapuram and Vaishnavi Khadkekar provided India a winning

start on Monday when they outperformed Kaiyin Mataio and Tereapii Akavi with a resounding 21-6, 21-8 victory.

Their exceptional coordination and strategic play gave opponents absolutely no chance throughout the match. Ayush Shetty and Tara Shah further extended India's lead with dominant showings in their respective singles matches.

In the boys' singles match, Ayush displayed his



skills to register an impressive 21-6, 21-3 win over Daniel Akavi whereas Tara showcased her class and just took 14 minutes to beat Te Pa O Te Rangitupa 21-3, 21-6 in the girls' singles match. Later, the pair of Nicholas and Tushar defeated Emanuela Mataio and Kaiyin Mataio comfortably with a scoreline of 21-9, 21-5 in the boys' doubles match. On the other hand, the girls' doubles duo of Radhika Sharma and Tanvi

Sharma demonstrated excellent teamwork to clinch a 21-4, 21-7 against Tereapii Akavi and Vaitea Crocombe-ama. The Indian team has received a walkover against the Dominican Republic and will next face Brazil, later today, and Germany in their final Group D match on Wednesday.

BAI has sent a 16-member squad for the prestigious tournament which will conclude on October 8.

## Ageless Chusovitina legend wows audiences at Hangzhou Asiad

**Hangzhou** | Agencies

Every time Oksana Chusovitina competes in a gymnastics event, she captures the spotlight. The Hangzhou Asian Games proved no exception. When the 48-year-old Uzbek gymnast participated in the Asiad women's gymnastics qualification at Huanglong Gymnasium on Monday, thousands of spectators chanted for "Qiu Ma," which translates to "Mother Chusovitina." A throng of journalists waited in the mixed zone, hoping for an interview opportunity, reports Xinhua. After completing her vault, Chusovitina blew a kiss to the audience and formed a "heart" gesture with her hands.

Chusovitina has a storied history at the Asian Games, having won eight medals, including two golds in 2002. This year, she's targeting a medal in the vault. "I will increase the difficulty in the final," she shared.

Chusovitina's Olympic journey began in 1992, representing the Unified Team of the former Soviet Union. She later stood for Uzbekistan, transitioned to German citizen-



ship in 2006, and reclaimed her Uzbek citizenship in 2013. When Chusovitina's son was diagnosed with leukemia in 2002, she adopted German citizenship to compete at global events for a higher income and better medical treatment. Her heartfelt sentiment, "I dare not grow old until you are well," has resonated with many.

**Hangzhou** | Agencies

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored four goals including a hat-trick as the Indian men's team thrashed Singapore 16-1 to pick up their second consecutive win in men's hockey competition at the 19th Asian Games here on Tuesday.

The drag-flicker converted penalty corners in the 39th, 40th and 42nd minutes to complete his hat-trick after opening his account with a goal in the 24th minute of the Pool A encounter at the GSP Hockey Stadium here. In the match, Indian Men's Hockey Team forward Abhishek, who was named in the starting XI, also completed his 50 International Caps.

Mandeep Singh (12', 30', 51') also scored a hat-trick

while Abhishek (51', 52'), and Varun Kumar (55', 55') scored a brace each. Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (16'), Gurjant Singh (22'), Vivek Sagar Prasad (23'), Manpreet Singh (37'), and Shamsher Singh (38'), scored a goal each for India, who led 6-0 at half-time. Zaki Zulkarnain (53') scored the lone consolation for Singapore. In a testing first quarter, India could not penetrate the Singapore defence but failed to find the opening goal. Attacking from left to right to start the match, skipper Harmanpreet made long passes inside the striking circle to test Singapore's defence. India's quick movements with the ball troubled the opposition, but Singapore defended in numbers to keep India at bay. Singapore goalkeeper



Gugan Sandran made a crucial save after Harmanpreet Singh struck a powerful hit on target from a penalty corner. Mandeep Singh (12') finally broke the deadlock after picking a pass from Gurjant Singh and pushing the ball into the nets to make

it 1-0 for India at the end of the first quarter. India doubled their lead straight into the second quarter, with Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (16') striking the ball into the nets, after receiving a sublime pass from Sukhjeet Singh.

The floodgates opened in the second quarter as India hammered three quick goals in three minutes. First, it was Gurjant Singh (22') who tapped the ball into the net after receiving a pass from Mandeep Singh. A minute later, Vivek Sagar Prasad (23') also deflected it into the nets with a soft touch, and then Harmanpreet Singh (24') opened up his goals tally, scoring from a Penalty Corner to make it 5-0. A fantastic variation in the Penalty Corner allowed Mandeep Singh (30') to get his second

goal of the match late in the quarter, and India went into halftime with a 6-0 lead.

India continued to put pressure at the start of the third quarter, playing deep in Singapore's half. Singapore mounted a dangerous attack of their own but were stopped in their tracks by Jarnanpreet Singh. Manpreet Singh (37') made the most of another variation in the Penalty Corner rout, as he deflected the ball into the nets to make it 7-0 for India. A minute later, Shamsher Singh (38') made a powerful strike to extend India's lead to 8-0. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (39', 40', 42') showcased his supreme form with the flicks as he converted three consecutive Penalty Corners to make it 11-0 for India to end the third quarter.





## Waheeda Rehman to be feted with Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran actress and dancer Waheeda Rehman, who is known for films like 'Guide', 'Pyaasa', 'Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam', 'Delhi-6', 'Kaagaz Ke Phool' and several others, is being honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for her immense contribution to Indian cinema. The actress has played countless memorable characters on the celluloid and is known to be the pillar of Indian cinema with a career spanning almost

seven decades. Anurag Thakur, the Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, made the announcement on Tuesday as he took to his X (formerly called Twitter).

He shared a long note announcing the honour for the veteran actress as he listed her achievements.

Starting with Telugu and Tamil films in 1955 before switching over to Hindi cinema the following year, she did the usual roles expected of Hindi film actresses but also went on to play a prostitute, a gangster's moll, a nautanki actress, a woman who walks out of a marriage without regrets, et al - but with such innate grace that she has always been a byword for refined sensibility. Born in fairly comfortable circumstances - her father was a Deputy Commissioner - on February 3, 1939 in what was Chingalpet town of the Madras Presidency, Waheeda Rehman was the youngest of four sisters. As a child, she learnt Bharat Natyam in school, and wanted to be a doctor, but following her father's untimely demise in 1951 and the state of the family finances, she was constrained to look at a screen career. She did just 90-odd films, with the most recent appearance being in 'Skater Girl' (2021), but her oeuvre reads like a honour roll of Hindi cinema - 'Pyaasa' (1957), 'Solva Saal' (1958), 'Kaagaz Ke Phool' (1959), 'Chaudhvin Ka Chand' (1960), 'Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam', 'Mujhe Jeene Do', 'Bees Saal Baad' (all 1962), 'Guide', (1965), 'Teesri Kasam' (1966), 'Khamoshi' (1969), 'Reshma aur Shera' (1971), 'Kabhi Kabhie' (1976), 'Trishul' (1978), 'Namkeen' (1982), 'Namak Halal' (1982), 'Chandni' (1989) and 'Lamhe' (1991), to say the least. She also has to her credit Satyajit Ray's 'Abhijan' (1962). In her roles, she not only became one of the few to act with the 'Big Three' of Indian films - Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand (as well as his younger brother Vijay 'Goldie' Anand), but also with Guru Dutt, Rajendra Kumar, Sunil Dutt, Manoj Kumar, Dharmendra, Rajesh Khanna, and Amitabh Bachchan - with whom within the course of a decade, she played his romantic partner and then his mother! Songs like 'Kahin pe nigahen kahin pe nishana', 'Hai apna dil to awara', 'Ham apki ankhon mein', 'Aaj phir jeena ke tamanna hai', 'Kahin deep jale kahin dil', 'Paan khayen saiyam hamaro', 'Rangeela re', among others, are testament to her rhythm and emoting capabilities.

## Palak Purswani opens up on her debut intimate scene in series

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Known for her stint in 'Big Boss OTT' season 2, actress and model Palak Purswani, who recently appeared in 'Fuh Se Fantasy Season 2', has shared unique insights into the show, revealing how the intimate scenes posed a challenge for her.

'Fuh Se Fantasy 2' adeptly explores the complexities of modern relationships, illuminating the difficulties that come with them. It seamlessly weaves in the appeal of irresistible fantasies with the elevated expectations that frequently accompany matters of the heart. Talking about the same, Palak said: "The intimate scene towards the end posed quite a challenge for me. However, our director, Shradha, really worked her magic. She created such a comfortable atmosphere that it honestly made the performance feel effortless."

"What's remarkable is that it was all about women power - our director, the DOP, our entire crew, all females. This unique environment put me at ease, even though it was my very first time, after an eight-year career journey, doing an intimate scene," she shared.

Palak added: "I'm truly grateful to my co-actors and our director for their continuous support and for ensuring that I never felt awkward." Following the success of its first season, which took audiences on romantic and fantasy escapades, the latest installment of the show features a star-studded cast including Milind Soman, Divya Agarwal, Arijit Taneja, Nyrra M Banerjee, Smaran Sahu, Poulomi Das, Anuj Sachdeva, Sahil and Kanika Mann. This season unfolds in an anthology format, each episode presenting a separate story that delves into the myriad facets of love, passion, and fulfilment.



## I always had a funny bone in me: Aishwarya Sharma

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Aishwarya Sharma's versatility and hidden talents have been revealed on 'Khatron Ke Khiladi' season 13, and she has now opened up on her art of mimicry.

Aishwarya, who used to mimic her good friend Archana Gautam, raised the bar by mimicking not just Archana, but even the host Rohit Shetty, and previous contestant Divyanka Tripathi in the latest episode.

A whirlpool of talent the actor also is a trained dancer and singer as well. Aishwarya's mimicry has always been praised and appreciated.

The host Rohit Shetty has been frequently ask-

ing Aishwarya to show her other side of talent.

Talking about the same, Aishwarya said: "I have always had a funny bone in me.

I love doing comedy and I love doing mimicry. The good part is that I don't force myself, it comes naturally to me."

The latest episode of Aishwarya mimicking Divyanka has been applauded by netizens on social media.

Meanwhile, the Moroccan model Soundos Moufakir, has got eliminated recently from the stunt based reality show.

The competition in 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13' is getting intense with every episode as the khiladis are outperforming themselves.



## Vidyut Jammwal, Nora Fatehi flaunt their 'Crakk' side in Baku

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actors Vidyut Jammwal and Nora Fatehi are currently shooting in Baku for their upcoming film 'Crakk - Jeetega Toh Jiyega' and they surely are having a whale of a time, going by their social media posts.

Vidyut took to Instagram, where he shared a boomerang, in which he is seen hilariously photo-bombing Nora.

In the clip, Nora is seen pouting at the camera while the action star is seen walking behind her and then smiling as he looks into the camera lens.

"The man at the back with watchful eyes is Rockstar Nora's

Bodyguard / Armour "Michel Naidu," he captioned the clip.

Nora, an avid user of social media, took to Instagram, where she posted the same boomerang and tagged herself and Vidyut as "Crakk."

"No one can tell us we ain't Crakk @mevidyutjammwal," she captioned the clip.

'Crakk - Jeetega Toh Jiyega' is an adrenaline rushing extreme sports film, directed by Aditya Dutt, is based on two brothers who are set to perform daring stunts mixed with extreme sports to win.

It is written by Sarim Momin and Rehan Khan. It also stars Arjun Rampal.



## SRK-starrer 'Jawan' creates a tizzy as it rakes in Rs 1000 cr worldwide

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's latest release 'Jawan' has finally crossed the Rs 1,000-crore benchmark worldwide in just 19 days of its release.

The film, on September 25, surpassed SRK's another 2023 blockbuster 'Pathaan' at the box-office collection in India.

On September 25, Red Chillies Production took to Instagram, where they uploaded a clip featuring Shah Rukh Khan in his film's dual avatar.

It had "Rs 1004.92 cr worldwide GBOC," written on it. For the caption, it read: "History in the making ft. Jawan! Have you watched it yet? Go book your tickets now! Watch #Jawan in cinemas - in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu."

Trade analyst Taran Adarsh on Tuesday took to Twitter, where he mentioned that 'Jawan' is all set to surpass the collections of 'Gadar 2' and 'Pathaan'.

Adarsh wrote: "#Jawan is all set to surpass #Gadar2 and #Pathaan in the coming days... (Week 3) Fri 7.10 cr, Sat 11.50 cr, Sun 13.90 cr, Mon 4.90 cr. Total: Rs 510.84 cr. #Hindi. #India biz. #Boxoffice #Jawan [#Tamil + #Telugu; Week 3] Fri 51 lacs, Sat 75 lacs, Sun 1.05 cr, Mon 55 lacs. Total: Rs 57.81 cr. #Boxoffice"

'Jawan', an action thriller, also features Sanya Malhotra, Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi and Deepika Padukone.

Directed by Atlee, 'Jawan', tells the story of a father and his son with a spotlight on social and political issues. The film also has Sanjay Dutt in a cameo appearance.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Seerat Kapoor