

absolute india

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SC QUESTIONS MANIPUR POLICE FOR BOOKING MEMBERS OF EDITORS GUILD OF INDIA, EXTENDS PROTECTION FOR 2 WEEKS

UNLAWFUL AND BIASED

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the Manipur Police for booking the President and three editors of the Editors Guild of India (EGI) for allegedly releasing a "biased and factually inaccurate" report on the ethnic strife in the northeastern state.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

During the hearing, a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, and comprising J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, questioned the criminal prosecution of journalists under Section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups) of the IPC for making an incorrect statement in the report.

"Making a false statement in an article is not an offence under Section 153A. It may be incorrect. Will you prosecute journalists for 153A?" orally observed the bench.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Manipur government, requested the top court to restrain itself from entering into the merits of the case while hearing the writ petition instituted under Article 32 of the Constitution.

Further, he urged in anticipation that if the apex court proposes to order transfer of the petitioners' plea to the Delhi High Court, the same should not be construed as a reflection on the Manipur HC.

The Supreme Court extended its order granting interim protection for another two weeks and asked Manipur Police and the complainant to file their response in the meantime setting out how the offence of promoting enmity between different ethnic groups and other charges were made out against the accused journalists for releasing the report.

Meanwhile, Four officers, including



Meitei body against Assam Rifles, Kuki militants

Imphal: Meitei community apex body, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) on Friday again urged Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to replace Assam Rifles in Manipur by any other central force and take action against the Kuki militants. A COCOMI delegation, led by Group Captain B.N. Sharma (ret'd) met the Defence Minister and told him that Meitei insurgent outfits have been already banned by the Union Home Ministry before 2000, so necessary legal actions have been taken against them, but, no actions have been taken against the Kuki militant outfits under the pretext of Suspension of Operations (SoO) and Kuki militants are firing from hills and farmers are being killed. The COCOMI delegation claimed that the protest of Meiteis were dealt with baton charges, rubber bullets, tear gas, and even live bullets being fired, but, the protest by Kukis were not dealt with similar way leading to a sense of biased treatment and caused anxiety and fear among the Meitei community. The leaders requested the Defence Minister that the Assam Rifles (AR) and Army should deal with both communities equally since the army comes under the Defence Minister and AR officers are from the army.

three from the Indian Police Service (IPS) and one Inspector, have been designated by the Delhi Police to assist the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the investiga-

tion of FIRs pertaining to the Manipur violence. The three IPS officers are Shweta Chauhan, Esha Pandey, Harendra Kumar Singh, and the Inspector is Parveen Kumar.

Four months of Manipur violence: 175 killed, 1108 injured & 32 missing

Imphal: At least 175 people were killed, 1108 others injured and 32 were missing in Manipur since ethnic violence broke out in the state four months ago, Inspector General of Police (Operations) I.K. Muivaa said here on Friday.

The official said that 4,786 houses were set on fire and 386 religious structures were destroyed or vandalised.

IGP Muivaa said that of the 386 religious structures destroyed or vandalised, 254 are churches and 132 temples.

"Of the weapons that have been 'lost', 1359 firearms and 15,050 various types of ammunition were recovered, the IGP told the media.

Various reports, political parties claimed that during the ethnic riots, which broke out on May 3, over 4,000 different types of sophisticated arms and lakhs of different kinds of ammunition were looted from the police stations and police outposts by the mobs, attackers and militants.

Reassuring the people of Manipur, the IPS officer said that the police, central forces and the civil administration are trying round the clock to bring normalcy.

11-day gains spree of Sensex longest streak since Oct 2007



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sensex rose for the 11th straight day, its longest streak of gains since October 2007, said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities.

While Sensex climbed 320 points to close at 67,838, Nifty also scaled fresh life highs on Friday, rising for the third consecutive session to close at 20,192, up 89.3 points.

Volumes on the NSE continued to be on the lower side. The broad market indices rose less than the Nifty even as the advance decline ratio fell but remained above par at 1.26:1. Global equities rose on Friday after better-than-expected Chinese economic data added to expectations that tightening campaigns by the world's biggest central

banks were close to over. The Arm IPO optimism and China's further stimulus measures boosted market sentiments, Jasani said. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said the market is inching towards a new direction with renewed buying in auto and IT stocks in expectation of strong festive demand and a strong deal wins. Better-than-expected economic data from China and stimulus hopes further added optimism in global markets.

The European Central Bank (ECB) hinted at a potential pause in rates due to receding inflation, while investors are now focused on central bank meetings next week, with the US Fed, Bank of England and Bank of Japan set to announce their rate decisions, Nair said.

Auto, IT stocks lead Nifty's surge to all-time high levels

Mumbai: Most of the sectoral indices were in green at close on Friday, with Nifty Auto, Nifty IT leading the way with gains of 1.58 per cent and 0.53 per cent, respectively, said Vaibhav Vidwani, Research Analyst at Bonanza Portfolio.

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Friday's semi-annual rebalancing by the FTSE brought about a huge amount of trading as they added 26.10 million shares of HDFC Bank and several other companies, Vidwani said. Bajaj Auto, Bharti Airtel, Mahindra and Mahindra, Hero MotoCorp, Grasim were among the top gainers, while all Nifty 50 stocks were in green on Friday.

NUH VIOLENCE: CONGRESS MLA MAMMAN KHAN SENT TO 2-DAY POLICE REMAND

Gurugram | Agencies

Congress MLA Mamman Khan was, on Friday, produced before a court in Nuh which sent him to two-day police remand, police said.

Khan faces charges of instigating communal clashes in Haryana's Nuh during a procession of Hindu groups on July 31 that killed six people.

The Congress MLA was arrested by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Haryana Police late Thursday night after his bail application before the Punjab and Haryana High Court was rejected.

According to sources, the



Haryana government had informed the high court on Thursday that, "In FIR No.149 dated August 1, 2023, registered under Sections 148, 149, 153-A, 379-A, 436, 506 of IPC, 1860 at Police Station Nagina, District Nuh, Haryana, there are 52 accused persons out of which 42 persons have been arrested".

"One Taufiq, who is also an accused in the FIR was arrested on August 9, named Mamman Khan as one of the accused in the case," it had said.

Meanwhile, the SP went on to say that "the police found Khan's involvement in Badkali Chowk violence in Nuh on July 31.

"Khan was in touch with several people over the phone. Some YouTube channels are also under the scanner for spreading misinformation and instigating the riots in Nuh," he added.

In connection with the violence, the police have registered 60 FIRs and arrested 330 people, the SP noted.

Maha CM 'gifts' toll-free travel to Konkan-bound devotees for Ganeshotsav

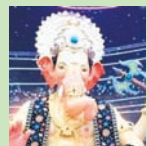
Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday announced a waiver of road toll tax to devotees travelling to the coastal Konkan region for the ensuing Ganeshotsav festival.

The toll tax will be waived from September 16 till October 1, and shall be applicable on toll posts on the Mumbai-Goa National Highway, Mumbai-Bengaluru National Highway and other government roads going to the Konkan.

Shinde has also directed the PWD officials to provide the toll exemptions and make other arrangements for the comfortable travel of lakhs of devotees who will through the districts of Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg for the 10-day festival.

For the purpose, the vehicle owners would have to submit an exemption pass with full details to the Traffic Police, RTO, etc, which will provide stickers to avail the toll exemption even for the return journey.

In another important move, the CM has directed that henceforth the Ganeshotsav mandals (associations) will need to obtain the permission for organising the celebrations only once in every five years.



Speculation grows that China's Defence Minister is placed under investigation

Hong Kong | Agencies

China's Foreign Ministry on Friday skirted questions on the whereabouts of the country's Defence Minister, amid mounting speculation that the recently promoted general has been placed under investigation, a media report said.

Li Shangfu, who was appointed Defence Minister in March, has been absent from public view for more than two weeks, fuelling rumors about his fate after a series of unexplained personnel shakeups roiled the upper ranks of China's ruling Communist Party this summer, CNN reported.

The Financial Times reported late on Thursday that the US



government believes Li has been placed under investigation, citing American officials.

The Wall Street Journal also reported Li was taken away last

week by authorities for questioning, citing a person close to decision making in Beijing. Neither of the reports cited a reason for the investigation.

Asked about Li's situation at a regular news briefing on Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "I'm not aware of the situation," CNN reported.

Questions over Li's whereabouts follow the unexplained disappearance of Qin Gang, who was dramatically ousted as China's Foreign Minister in late July after vanishing from public view for a month.

Qin, who was the Foreign Minister only for seven months, has retained the position of state Councillor -- a senior role in China's Cabinet which Li also holds, CNN reported.

NIA busts ISIS J'khand terror module, arrests one from MP after searches in 6 states

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out searches at nine locations in a multi-state crackdown in connection with the ISIS J'khand module case and arrested a person named Rahul Sen aka Omar from Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam for his alleged role in the conspiracy to spread terror in the region.

An NIA spokesperson said that the case relates to the ISIS module that was exposed with the arrest of an Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) student named Faizan in July this year. Faizan had come in contact with radicalised individuals connected to the ISIS during his stay near the AMU campus.

The official said that searches were conducted at the premises of suspects at nine locations across six states as part of Thursday's crackdown, during which Sen aka Omar aka Omar Bahadur was arrested and a host of incriminating materials, including electronic devices (laptops, pen drives, mobile phones), one knife, a veil and several ISIS related documents were seized.

The NIA carried out searches in Bihar's Siwan district, Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur, Azamgarh and Maharajganj districts, Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh, Ludhiana in Punjab, South Goa, Yadgir in Karnataka and Mumbai.

Heroes of Anantnag cremated with military honours

Amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Matram', mortal remains of third-generation soldier Col Manpreet Singh and his colleague Major Aashish Dhonchak, who made the supreme sacrifice while protecting the nation from the terrorists in Anantnag, were cremated with full military honours at their hometowns in Punjab and Haryana, respectively.

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Matram', mortal remains of third-generation soldier Col Manpreet Singh and his colleague Major Aashish Dhonchak, who made the supreme sacrifice while protecting the nation from the terrorists in Anantnag, were cremated with full military honours at their hometowns in Punjab and Haryana, respectively.

As India saluted the brave hearts, visuals from Col Manpreet Singh's village Mullanpur Garibass in Mohali in Punjab and Major Dhonachal in Haryana's Panipat touched everyone's heart. With folded hands and tearful eyes, Col Manpreet



Singh's wife, Jagmeet Kaur, bid him a final goodbye. His six-year-old son, Kabir Singh, dressed in army fatigue saluted his father, who was a chartered accountant by profession and rose by ranks with his hard work. Col Manpreet Singh had a rare distinction to become an officer in father's

battalion. His family, comprising mother, wife Jagmeet Grewal and two children -- a daughter and a son, resides near New Chandigarh in Mohali district. The mortal remains of Major Dhonchak were consigned to the flames at his native village in Panipat amidst thousands of mourners

joined the grieving family.

Planning to visit the family on his birthday on October 23, Major Dhonchak joined the Army in 2013 and was the lone brother of three sisters and the youngest among the siblings.

He's survived by his wife Jyoti and three-year-old daughter Vamika.

DAC approves proposals worth Rs 45,000 crore for armed forces

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Friday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for nine capital acquisition proposals of approx Rs 45,000 crore, the Defence Ministry said.

The AoN for procurement of 12 Su-30 MKI aircraft with associated equipment from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) was also accorded, official added.

According to the Defence Ministry, to enhance protection, mobility, attack capability and increased survivability of mechanised forces, the DAC accorded AoN for procurement of Light Armoured Multipurpose Vehicles (LAMV) and Integrated Surveillance and Targeting System (ISAT-S).

It also cleared AoN for procurement of High Mobility Vehicle (HMV) and Gun Towing Vehicles for swift mobilisation and deployment of artillery guns and radars.



The DAC also approved procurement of Next Generation Survey Vessels for the Indian Navy which will greatly enhance its capabilities in performing hydrographic operations, a ministry official added.

The DAC also accorded AoN for proposals of the Indian Air Force which included avionics upgradation of Dornier aircraft to improve the accuracy and reliability for operations. The procurement of Dhruvastra Short Range Air-to-Surface Missile as a potent indigenous precision-guided weapon for indigenously-built ALH Mk-IV helicopters has been cleared.



Weak El Nino conditions prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region: IMD

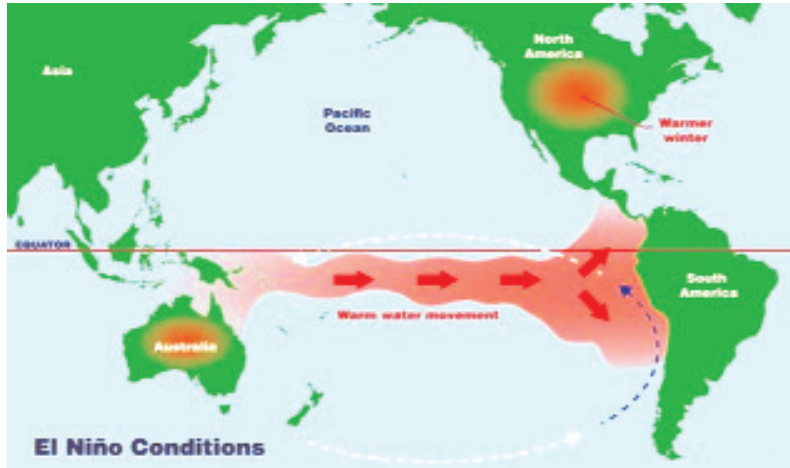
Team Absolute | New Delhi
Weak El Nino conditions are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region currently but expected to intensify and continue, the India Meteorological Department said on Friday.

"The latest forecast of Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecasting System (MMCFS) model and other global model forecasts indicate that the El Nino conditions are likely to further intensify and continue up to early next year.

"Besides the ENSO conditions in the Pacific Ocean, other factors such as Indian Ocean Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) also exert some influence on the Indian monsoon," the IMD official.

The weather forecast agency further indicated that currently, there are borderline positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions prevailing, and the latest forecasts from MMCFS and other global models suggest that these positive IOD conditions are likely to strengthen in the coming months.

"Most models indicate that the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is presently in phase 2 with an amplitude of less than 1. It is expected to continue in phase 2 during the coming week and then transition to phase 3 from September 24, with the amplitude remaining less than 1," said the official.



"Consequently, the MJO is favourable for increasing convective activity over the Arabian Sea during the first week and over the Bay of Bengal (BoB) throughout the entire forecast period," the official added.

On Thursday, a US government forecaster had indicated that there is a greater than 95 per cent likelihood of the El Nino weather pattern persisting during the Northern Hemisphere winter from January to March 2024, which may result in more severe weather conditions. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) in the US reported that in August,

sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean were notably above normal, with a strengthening trend observed in the central and east-central Pacific regions. El Nino, characterised by elevated ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific, has the potential to trigger a range of extreme weather events, including wildfires, tropical cyclones, and prolonged droughts. This naturally occurring phenomenon is already causing disasters worldwide, with particular concerns for emerging markets vulnerable to fluctuations in food and energy prices.

15 plus leaders from BJP, JD-S join Congress in Karnataka

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

More than 15 prominent leaders and former corporators from BJP and JD-S joined Congress in Bengaluru on Friday in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The function was held at the Bharat Jodo Auditorium at the party office here. Former Deputy Mayor L. Srinivas, Prasad Babu, and former taluk panchayat member Anjinappa were among the main leaders.

Shivakumar gave them Congress flags and welcomed them to the party. After pulling in BJP and JD-S leaders from Yeshwantpur and R R Nagar constituencies in Bengaluru, this is the third major operation carried out by the Congress. Srinivas, after joining the Congress, said that he worked for the BJP for 33 years. "BJP and JD-S leaders from admanabhanagar constituency who worked as a big force behind capturing power in Bengaluru city corporation



are now with Congress.

The BJP leaders have not treated them well and now they are knocking our doors," Shivakumar said. He has openly stated that they would take steps to strengthen the party. He is working towards achieving victory in the forthcoming

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) elections and Lok Sabha elections. Sources state that Shivakumar had assured the high command of winning more than 20 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka. He is talking to more

than 20 MLAs from BJP and JD (S) and trying to pull them into the Congress. Defending the move, Shivakumar had questioned whether the BJP was right in toppling elected governments in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, and Madhya Pradesh.

Woman in Sri Lanka touts herself as Prabhakaran's daughter, locals refute claim

Team Absolute | Chennai

A woman, dressed in a white shirt and dark trousers, is seen interacting with people of predominantly Tamil areas of Sri Lanka, claimed herself to be Dwaraka, daughter of slain LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, as per a video going viral of social media.

The woman is speaking to locals and identifying herself as the daughter of Prabhakaran. Some local Tamil people, however, identified her as Udayakala, a Tamil refugee who has landed in Tamil Nadu in 2014 along with her husband, K. Dhayabharaj and three children as illegal refugees in a ferry. However, the local police had then arrested them with Dhayabharaj being lodged in Tiruchi special camp while Udayakala and her children were lodged in

Mandapam refugee camp.

Udayakala, along with her family, including children, had went on an indefinite strike asking the authorities to unite them and Dayabagaraj was shifted to Mandapam camp along with them. However, the family later left for Sri Lanka. Talking to IANS, Periyakaruppan, a Tamil businessman in Kandy, said that the woman has been telling people that she was Prabhakaran's daughter Dwaraka. He said that she had even floated a political party, Sarva Makkal Jananayaga Katchi and claiming herself to be Dwaraka.

However the businessman said that Dwaraka was killed during the war and that the woman in the video was faking herself as Dwaraka and resembled Udayakala.

Three-year exemption to industry from shifting out of residential areas in Ludhiana: Mann



Team Absolute | Ludhiana

Granting three years' exemption to the industry from shifting out of residential areas here, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday announced complete overhaul of industrial focal points and industrial zones across the state to encourage industrial activity.

Addressing a gathering of industrialists here, the Chief Minister said the focal points and industrial zones are in a dilapidated condition, which is hampering the development of industries.

He said this will be soon overcome by

ensuring comprehensive development of the focal points and industrial areas. Mann said a detailed blueprint has been prepared to facilitate the industrialists and give a facelift to the focal points.

The Chief Minister also announced plans to provide power meters and other basic amenities to the people residing in the colonies. He said the labour class and others living in these colonies will be given these meters and other facilities so that they can live comfortably.

Mann said access to basic civic amenities is the right of every individual and the government will ensure it by all means.

The Chief Minister also said the government has given a major relief to the industrialists aspiring to construct any building. "If any industrialist aspires to construct a building by excavating a basement, he has to apply it on the Invest Punjab portal," he said.

Mann said the permission for this will be given within 72 hours and even if it is not approved within this period, it will be deemed approved.

The Chief Minister also announced three years' exemption to the industry in Ludhiana for shifting from residential areas. He said the government will constitute a committee for deciding the status of such areas in the coming times.

Mann said the government is committed to provide a congenial atmosphere to the industry.

Bhim Army may soon join INDIA bloc



Team Absolute | Lucknow

The Bhim Army could be a new entrant to the opposition bloc INDIA.

The Rashtriya Lok Dal is making efforts to bring Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Azad on board and get the advantage of Dalit votes for the opposition since he wields considerable influence in the region.

RLD national general secretary (organisation) Trilok Tyagi said the party certainly has "good relations" with Azad. However, he refrained from commenting

on when and how the Bhim Army chief would join the opposition bloc, but said the number of constituents of INDIA "have increased" over a period of time and "would certainly increase further" in the coming days.

RLD sources said that Azad can help the opposition to firm up its footprints among Dalit voters, amid the electoral decline of BSP chief Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh.

Azad, who hails from Ghadhkhali village of Saharanpur district, has always invoked Dalit icon B R Ambedkar and BSP founder Kanshi Ram in his bid to fortify his standing among Dalits.

Sources said if the plan gets finalised, then Azad would become part of the SP-RLD-Congress alliance in UP.

Azad is said to be preparing to contest LS polls from Nagina, a reserved seat in Bijnor, which has a high concentration of Dalits and Muslims. He is also scheduled to hold a public meeting in Nagina on October 9, sources said.

Nagina is currently represented by BSP's Girish Chandra who won the seat in 2019 by defeating BJP's Yashwant Singh by over 1.6 lakh votes. The BSP was then backed by SP as part of an alliance.

This was not the case in 2014 when Singh won the seat by defeating SP's Yashvir Singh. Chandra had then come third then.

Rajasthan Petrol pump operators postpone strike

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Petrol pump operators in Rajasthan have postponed the strike which began on Friday after holding talks with government representatives who asked them to give a window of 10 days to look into their demands.

A committee has been formed in this regard. In Rajasthan, the Petroleum Dealers Association had organised a symbolic strike on Wednesday and Thursday demanding reduction in VAT. It was warned that if the



demands were not met, there would be an indefinite strike from Friday.

Following no response from the government on

Thursday evening, an indefinite strike was announced from 6 a.m. on Friday.

After this, petrol pumps were closed in 47 districts of

the state since morning.

Later, a meeting of state minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas was scheduled with the delegation and an agreement was reached after talks. However, many pumps from Alwar, Kota, Jaisalmer, Chittorgarh and Jodhpur cities opted out of the strike due to various reasons. At the same time, 60 company-run pumps were also functioning in the state. Earlier, a symbolic strike of 8 hours each was held on Wednesday and Thursday.

DNLA CADRE DIES IN POLICE FIRING IN ASSAM'S DIMA HASAO, TWO OTHERS INJURED

Team Absolute | Guwahati

A cadre of Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA), which is in ceasefire agreement with the government died, after police opened fire following an altercation in Maibong area in Assam's Dima Hasao district, officials said on Friday. Two other DNLA cadres suffered bullet wounds and they are being treated at a hospital. The doctors said that they are out of danger.

The incident happened around 2 a.m. on Friday outside the designated camp of the DNLA cadres in Maibong. The deceased has been identified as Ali Dimasa. "While a police team was on patrol duty at night, the commander of DNLA cadres at the camp got involved



in an altercation with the police outside their camp. He was roaming in a drunken state late at night and the police asked him to go back to the camp. But he started to quarrel with the police officers," Superintendent of Police, Dima Hasao, Mayank Jha told reporter. According to the police, soon after that, many cadres from the camp reached the spot and tried to launch an attack on the police team. "The police team fired in air

to disperse the crowd; however, unfortunately a bullet hit three cadres of the DNLA. One cadre died due to bullet injuries. The other two were admitted at the hospital," Jha said. Meanwhile, former MLA from Dima Hasao district, Samarjit Haflongbar said that the police violated the ceasefire agreement and opened fire at unarmed DNLA cadres. "We urge the government to initiate a proper inquiry in the matter and take action against those who were behind the incident. We condemn the incident with the strongest words," Haflongbar said. Meanwhile, the SP said that an impartial inquiry will take place if anybody found guilty, he will get proper punishment.

BJP leaders accused of thrashing trader for refusing to pay money for Suwendu Adhikari's meeting

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Two local BJP leaders at Fulia in West Bengal's Nadia district has been accused of harassing and beating up a local trader who reportedly refused to pay Rs 1 lakh for meeting the expenses of a public rally of leader of opposition in the state Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, there. The local Trinamool Congress leadership has accused BJP leaders Pradip Sarkar and Sudip Sarkar of thrashing businessman Sujay Joyardar, after the latter refused to pay Rs 1 lakh for a public rally to be attended by Adhikari this week. The Trinamool also accused the leader of opposition of directly instigating the attack against the local businessman. "@BJP4Bengal is now resorting to extortion tactics to fulfil its political desires. In



Nadia, under the patronage of LoP @SuwenduWB, a local businessman was mercilessly beaten up for refusing to donate money for Mr. Adhikari's public meeting. We condemn this heinous incident, and we will ensure justice for the victim," read a

post on Trinamool's official X (formerly Twitter) handle. However, the local BJP leadership has rubbished the allegations, claiming that if any of their leaders were involved in any such activity, the police would have taken action against them.

Bengal govt fined Rs 50L by Calcutta HC for delay in probe handover to CBI

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Calcutta High Court's single judge bench of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay on Friday slammed the West Bengal government and imposed a financial penalty of Rs 50 lakh for not complying with an earlier order of handing over probe papers related to alleged money laundering by a cooperative society in West Bengal's Alipurduar district to the CBI.

Justice Gangopadhyay directed the state government to submit the penalty amount to the office of the Registrar General of Calcutta High Court within the next two weeks.

It also directed the Criminal Investigation



Department (CID) to submit all the documents and papers related to the probe to the CBI by September 18. He

also cautioned that if his order is not implemented this time he will summon the state chief secretary to the

court. "CID had been enquiring about the matter for quite some time. But it is yet not aware of who all are behind

the irregularities. But I know who did that. You are having fun over the money of the poor people. Those who used to roam about in bicycles before are now affording four-wheelers," said Justice Gangopadhyay. On August 25 this year, the Calcutta High Court's Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench ordered a CBI probe over the allegations of money laundering by a cash-lending cooperative society in Alipurduar. The order was based on a petition filed by one Kalpana Das Sarkar at the circuit bench, alleging that the cooperative society first collected huge amounts of deposits from the market from investors and then distributed the money as loans to those associated with it.



MVA slams Maha gov't's splurge on 'lavish' Cabinet meet in Aurangabad

Team Absolute | Mumbai The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi has attacked the ruling MahaYuti government for "shameless" splurging of taxpayers' money to organise a luxurious state cabinet meeting in Aurangabad on Saturday.

Maharashtra unit Congress president Nana Patole slammed the 'EDA' regime of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CMs Vandevra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar for the lavish show when farmers in the state are suffering and Marathas are agitating for quota. Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Leader of Opposition (Council) Ambadas Danve has posed direct questions to the government on the status of the projects and promises of Rs 49,000 crore announced at the previous cabinet meeting held in Aurangabad in 2016, when Fadnavis was the CM.

"Despite the grim situation in the state, particularly Marathwada, the Chief Minister, Deputy CMs, Ministers and officials are being put in lavish five-star



hotels in Aurangabad which was not done before. Spending millions on a cabinet meeting while ordinary citizens struggle with inflation is 'insensitive' and like rubbing salt on their wounds," Patole said.

Danve listed out that several projects announced in the 2016 cabinet meet -- like a memorial of the late Bal Thackeray, land for a textile mill park, plans to expand the Aurangabad Airport, a museum at Ter in Osmanabad, and others -- have yet to take off.

Patole said the MVA would extend support if Saturday's meeting addresses the concerns of the people in Marathwada "but the government is indulging in 'extravaganza' when in the past all

CMs used to stay in the state guest house instead of deluxe hotels".

"Crores of rupees are being spent on the lodging, boarding, travel, fleet of vehicles and other requirements for the entire entourage. The government is only putting up a show, making empty promises to the people of Marathwada and then walking out," Patole said.

Danve referred to other issues like losses of farmers, lack of subsidy and other assistance to the tillers who have lost crops due to the monsoon vagaries while the people continue to suffer.

The state cabinet will converge in Aurangabad on Saturday - on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Marathwada region from the control of the Nizam of Hyderabad on September 17, 1948.

As per local reports, several rooms in deluxe hotels have been booked for the ministers, the officials, the staff and others besides around 300 vehicles and massive police security for the exercise on Saturday.

Customs seizes gold dust valued at Rs 1cr in Mumbai airport

Team Absolute | Mumbai Customs officials at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here have seized 2 kg gold dust valued at Rs 1 crore concealed in inner garments and a diaper, an official said on Thursday. According to an official, the seizure was made after a family was intercepted on the basis of profiling. They arrived at Mumbai

Airport on September 12 from Singapore.

The official said that the gold dust was cleverly concealed in the innerwear and diaper.

"The recovered gold dust was confiscated under the provisions of Section 110 of the Customs Act, and the passengers were subsequently arrested under Section 104 of the Customs Act," the official said.

Woman feared trapped as 4-storey building collapses at Dombivli

Team Absolute | Dombivli At least one woman is feared trapped under debris after a four-storey residential building collapsed in Dombivli on Friday, a civic official said. The civic official told news agency PTI that the building which collapsed was tagged as 'dangerous' by the authorities.

Located at Ayre village in Dombivli East, the building 'Adinarayan Bhuvan' collapsed on Friday evening the official was quoted as saying in the PTI report. The building was reportedly an unauthorised structure and thus was tagged as a danger-

ous structure by the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC). "As per the initial reports, one woman is feared trapped under the debris," he was quoted as saying in the report.

The official said that after being informed of the situation, the fire brigade personnel and members of the local disaster management cell rushed to the spot and launched a relief and rescue operation.

The KDMC chief Bhausaheb Dangde is also said to be at the site to oversee the operation, the official added.

Best interest of child can't only be primary parent's love and care: Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai The term 'best interest of a child' is wide in its connotation and cannot remain only the love and care of the primary caregiver parent, the Bombay High Court has said, adding it is a basic human right of a child to have the care and protection of both parents.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Gauri Godse on Thursday directed a woman to return the custody of her three-and-half-year-old son to her estranged husband living in the United States within 15 days.

The order was passed on a plea filed by the father claiming he and his estranged wife had a settlement wherein their child, who is a US citizen by birth, was to remain in that country with his mother.

The man, in his plea, said despite this arrangement, his estranged wife came to India with the child and refused to return.

The High Court, in its order, said it was in the best interest of the child to return to the US where he was born.

The court said if the woman wishes to accompany her child then she may do so and directed the man to provide residence and monthly maintenance to



her and the child.

"The expression 'best interest of the child', which is always kept to be of paramount consideration, is indeed wide in its connotation, and it cannot remain only the love and care of the primary caregiver i.e. the mother in the case of the child who is only a few years old," the High Court said.

The basis for any decision taken regarding the child is to ensure fulfilment of his basic rights and needs, identity, social well-being and physical, emotional and intellectual development, it added.

"However, while deciding the welfare of the child, it is not the view of one spouse alone which has to be taken into consideration. The courts should decide the issue of custody only on the basis of what is in the best interest of the child," the

judgment said.

The bench also noted that except for the tender age of the child where he needs the care and protection of a mother, there is no other factor in her favour.

"We believe that at this tender age, the child is entitled to have the company of both his parents. Rather, it is his basic human right to have the care and protection of both parents. Thus, the wife is not justified in unreasonably depriving the child of the company of his father," HC said.

The couple got married in Mumbai on March 31, 2010. They moved to the USA on June 16, 2010, and they received their green cards in October 2020, which enabled them to stay in USA permanently. They started living in Texas where the child was born on December 25, 2019.

Mumbai Police prohibit taking photos of floating, half-submerged idols after immersion



Team Absolute | Mumbai On Friday, the Mumbai Police issued an order stating that citizens should not take photographs of floating or half-submerged idols after the immersion days during the 10-day Ganeshotsav festival. The preventive order also stated that citizens shall not publish or circulate such photos.

The 10-day Ganeshotsav festival will begin on September 19 and conclude on September 28 this year.

The Ganpati and Gaur idols will be immersed by the devotees on September 20th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 28th.

Some of the half dissolved/idols drift ashore during high tide or float in the lake water after the immersion day. "People take photographs of such idols lying ashore or being taken by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) workers for reimmersion and publish/circulate such photographs which may likely out-

rage religious feelings may result into disturbance of public peace and tranquility," the order stated.

"Immediate measures are necessary to prohibit taking, publishing, and circulating such photographs after immersion," the order further stated.

According to the preventive order, clicking such photos is prohibited under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 (Act No. II of 1973).

ISCM launched "Supply Chain Champions"

THE FIRST EVER RESEARCH BACKED, DATA DRIVEN RANKING OF INDIA'S TOP 20 SUPPLY CHAINS.



Team Absolute | Mumbai For the first time in India, The Institute of Supply Chain Management has launched a ranking of the top supply chains in India. ISCM tracked the supply chain performance for over 300 listed companies in 22 sectors for both quantitative measures of excellence and strategic intent across profitability, performance, value cre-

ation, Sustainability, Governance, and DEI.

The ISCM Supply Chain Ranking methodology identifies companies that exemplify higher levels of supply chain performance, and a superior level of value addition during the 2012-2021 period.

ISCM developed an India centric model for ranking supply chains in India, based on quantitative

data and qualitative factors using data from annual reports. The methodology is data driven, measures supply chain maturity, intensity and democratization, and incorporates peer group comparison.

The Supply chain ranking is an objective measure of the supply chain excellence across firms. For the first time, Indian companies will have an objective way to:

- ▶ Recognize the best performing supply chains in the country
- ▶ Benchmarking themselves against the best in class supply chains in their sector and the country.
- ▶ Create a realistic definition of supply chain excellence and understand how supply chain strategies contribute to value creation
- ▶ Set goals for their supply chains based on the best practices.

ISCM initially identified 1000 listed firms across 22 sectors, based on their revenue and profits. From these 1000 firms ISCM identified the top 10 companies in each sector.



IMD forecasts widespread rainfall in Vidarbha region; issues Red alert for Amravati

Team Absolute | Mumbai The India Meteorological Department has issued a nowcast warning for several districts of Maharashtra's Vidarbha region. The warning issued on Friday forecasts widespread rainfall in the region over the next 24 hours before it lulls. The weather agency said that "light to moderate rainfall is very likely" in the region.

Among the 11 districts of the Vidarbha region, Amravati has been issued a Red alert while an Orange alert was issued to Nagpur and Wardha districts.

Meanwhile, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Washim, Gadchiroli, Gondia, Chandrapur and Bhandara districts have been given a Yellow alert.

The weather agency has forecasted thunderstorms and lightning accompanied by heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in Amravati.

They urged residents in the district to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions for their safety. A wide range of hazards linked to weather follow thunderstorms, including heavy rainfall and strong winds. It is imperative for the resi-

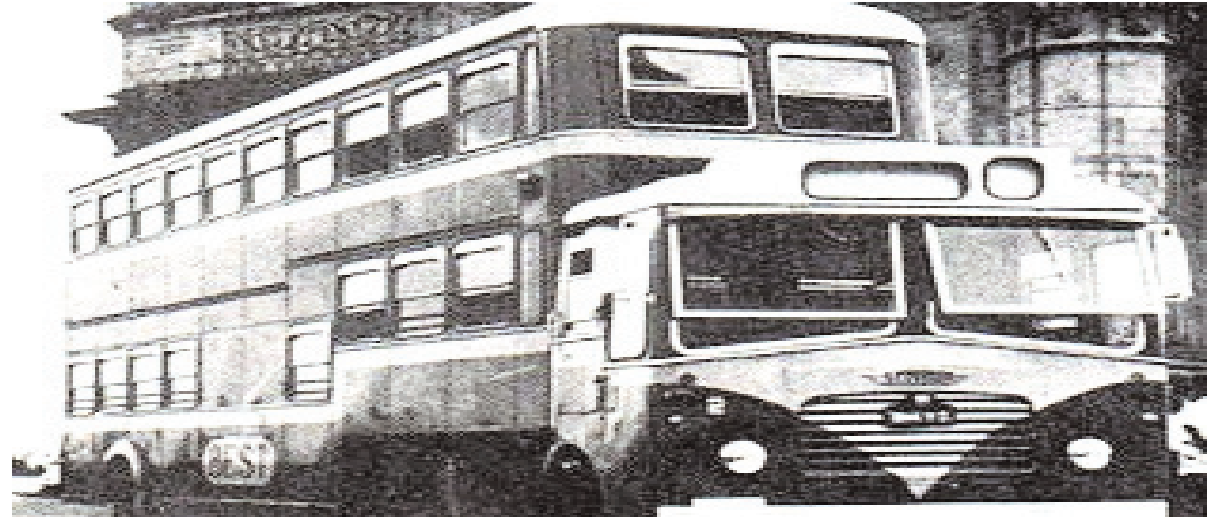
dents to stay indoors and avoid potential lightning strikes and other dangers. Thunderstorms and heavy rainfall could lead to localised flooding thus the weather agency has warned residents in low-lying areas to be prepared for probable waterlogging.

The IMD also advised people to stay away from weak walls and structures. It further advised them to remain indoors and avoid water bodies and asked the public to suspend agrarian activities temporarily. The IMD, currently, has forecast moderate to heavy rainfall in

Mumbai and its suburbs on Friday.

The weather agency said in the next 24 to 48 hours, the city and suburban areas are expected to witness potentially heavy rain and cloudy skies. A weather expert, elucidating on it, said that the low pressure from the Bay of Bengal will be reviving rainfall and in Mumbai, the frequency of the rain will increase from September 16 with intermittent showers continuing from Sunday through Tuesday. The rain will intensify again from Thursday, September 21 after a short break, the expert said.

After 86 years, Mumbai's famed non-AC double-decker buses to fade into oblivion



Quaid Najmi | Mumbai After 86 years of lording several routes in Mumbai, the iconic non-air-conditioned double-decker BEST buses will officially 'retire' from the service of the commuters Friday night, officials said.

The last of the five such buses plying on certain routes in south Mumbai will go into oblivion, followed by a handful of open-deck double-decker tourist buses which will be retired on October 5.

However, the BEST has introduced 16 air-conditioned, electric double-decker buses -- first unveiled by Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari in 2022 -- with closed doors on a few routes and 18 more will be joining the fleet in phases over the next few months.

Of the 18, around 10 will be deployed south Mumbai and the rest will serve in the suburbs, with plans to acquire and add more such

buses in the fleet.

Currently, a little over 3,000 BEST single-decker buses criss-cross Mumbai, parts of Navi Mumbai, Thane, Raigad for the benefit of over three-million daily commuters and are considered "the reliable, all-weather life-line of Mumbai".

The first of the non-AC double-deckers was introduced on Mumbai roads way back in 1937, eleven years after the BEST bus services were launched in the city in July 1926.

Visible from a long distance, these buses -- some with a vestibule where the driver's cabin was separate from the rest of the vehicle -- were popular for the large and spacious commuter 'boarding deck'.

A tiny curving staircase led to the upper deck, the most popular especially for a long ride, and a small hop on a raised level to travel on the lower deck with two side seats and rest facing the

front, preferred by those making a short trip.

On certain crowded routes, there would be nearly a dozen commuters jostling for space on the 'boarding deck', waiting to get off at their stop, before another flood of commuters would board it, but in case of a sudden brake, there would be a pile-up of people right there!

Teenagers or kids would rush to the upper-deck, and virtually indulge in fisticuffs for the two front row seats which offered an uninterrupted view of the Mumbai sights and scenes ahead, and of course, a strong cool breeze to soothe tempers in any weather, though in monsoon, the windows had to be slid down.

Many regular commuters would actually time their journeys to match the double-decker services, and on rare occasions when a regular bus arrived, they used to be greeted with mute curses and whispered profanities.

At one point, there were more than 240 double-deckers zooming across the city which gradually came to 122 in 2010 and just 48 by 2019, and now only five remain and shall drive into nostalgia this night.

The latest decision is in accordance with the decision to phase out all buses which are 15 years old and replace them with a new fleet for environmental, safety, operational and commercial reasons.

Incidentally, the non-AC open-deck double-decker buses were introduced in January 1997 with Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, for tourism, especially night tours, and proved very popular. Double-decker buses, stylish, colourful and built in different models, are popular around the world as a quick and efficient form of mass transportation system and are even plying on long distances in some countries.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Kolkata port proposes luxury resort at 320-yr-old Barood Ghar

The port of Kolkata proposes to turn the 320-year-old Barood Ghar or Magazine located about 25 km downstream of the city into a luxury resort. The old structures that remain there will not be touched though to maintain the site's heritage value. As per records, the British set up this Magazine at a place called Moyapur on the banks of River Hooghly. Ships entering the port of Kolkata at that time and even those sailing upriver further north were not permitted to carry any gunpowder. The handover would be duly acknowledged and documented to ensure that the ships could take back the barrels on their way out towards the sea. The second site for which an EoI has been floated is a 3.11 acre plot between Diamond Harbour and Falta in the district of South 24-Parganas. This place is known as Noorpur and the plot also has a river frontage. SMP, Kolkata, has planned to set up an upscale hotel there under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Its proximity to Diamond Harbour -- a tourist attraction -- will make it an ideal location for such a property. The location, barely 48 km southwest of Kolkata, will attract tourists -- both domestic and foreign. It is also along the route to the Sagar Island where lakhs of pilgrims flock every year for a holy dip. The Kapil Muni temple on the island and the beaches are an attraction throughout the year though. Raman also offered 5 acres of prime riverfront land at Budge Budge -- 15 km from Kolkata -- for development of a recreational centre comprising a hotel, mall, cineplex, restaurants, cafes, convention centres and banquets. This would cater to the bustling townships that have come up at Budge Budge and Maheshtala.

BJP AMPLIFIES RSS AGENDA OF BUILDING A POLITICAL NARRATIVE AROUND 'BHARAT'

Santosh Kumar Pathak

In the Amrit Kal of Independence, the Narendra Modi government has embarked on a mission to free the nation and its citizens from the mindset of slavery and every symbol associated with it. The government has also started preparations to remove the name 'India' from the country's Constitution. As this news emerges, a new controversy has erupted in the country's politics.

The entire opposition, including the Congress, has started questioning the government's intentions, alleging that the government is afraid of their alliance's name 'I.N.D.I.A.' and also accusing it of wanting to change the Constitution.

In response to the allegations by the opposition parties, the government and the BJP have launched a sharp counterattack. Several ministers, BJP leaders, and even some chief ministers have questioned why the opposition is so bothered by the name 'Bharat'? In the midst of the India vs. Bharat controversy, the government has taken a significant step by starting to use 'Bharat' in official invitations and official foreign trips, where 'India' was conventionally used.

In a recent invitation letter to the G-20 Summit leaders on September 9, President Droupadi Murmu was addressed as 'President of Bharat'. This change was shared on social media by several ministers, including Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Following that, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Indonesia, his official documents stated 'The Prime Minister of Bharat, Narendra Modi,' which was shared on social media by the BJP's national spokesperson Sambit Patra.

Moreover, during the continuous attacks by the opposition parties, the way Union ministers and BJP leaders aggressively defended India's name, two things became abundantly clear.



Firstly, the government has made it clear that the name 'Bharat' is its priority, and it won't back down on this matter. Secondly, the government has sent a clear political message to the people that the opposition alliance has a problem with this name.

However, as controversies escalated during the foreign ministers' arrival for the G-20 summit, and concerns arose about the failure of major events like the G-20 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally took charge.

On September 6, PM Modi chaired a meeting and advised all his ministers to focus on the G-20 summit and avoid engaging in debates about India vs. Bharat.

The credit for the government's decision to prioritise 'Bharat' as the country's name goes to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat. Just a few days before the govern-

ment's decision became public, Mohan Bhagwat had appealed to the people to use the name 'Bharat' instead of 'India,' stating that the country has been called Bharat for centuries, not India, and therefore, we should use its old name.

The BJP is associated with the RSS ideologically, sometimes the BJP is also called the political wing of the RSS. Therefore, the statement of the RSS chief holds importance for the government. To remove the name 'India' and use only the name 'Bharat' for the country, the government will need to amend Article 1 of the Constitution.

However, for now the government has found a way out. Despite the existing phrase in the Constitution, 'India, that is Bharat,' the government has begun to prioritise the name 'Bharat' in the same way 'India' was conventionally used. This change was initiated with the proposed Constitutional

Amendment Bill, which has sparked political turmoil.

PM Narendra Modi, in his speeches from the Red Fort, has talked about striving collectively for freedom from the mindset of slavery through small symbols. Under this mission, the government is undertaking numerous tasks, such as changing education policies, replacing symbols associated with slavery with names of Indian greats, and removing statues of figures associated with colonial rule. In line with this mission, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on August 11, 2023, introduced three new bills -- the Indian Legal Code Bill 2023, the Indian Citizen Security Act Bill 2023, and the Indian Evidence Act Bill 2023 -- as replacements for the

IPC, CrPC, and the Indian Evidence Act, which were enacted in 1860, 1898, and 1872, respectively.

The government has called a special session of Parliament from September 18 to 22, 2023, during the Amrit Kal lasting for five days.

While the official agenda of this special session has not been announced yet, it is expected to discuss India's successful hosting of the G-20 Summit, India's rising global stature, the historic achievement of Chandrayaan-3, and the mission and roadmap to make India a developed nation by 2047 during the Amrit Kal. During this special session, it is possible that Bharat-related important proposals or bills may be presented by the government to eliminate any connection with slavery and to commemorate this historic period.

international

Poll shows Haley ahead of DeSantis but far behind Trump in her home state

Washington | Agencies

Indian-American Republican presidential aspirant Nikki Haley is behind her former boss Donald Trump by 28 points, but ahead of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis in a new poll of likely 2024 GOP primary voters in her home state, South Carolina.

According to the Monmouth University-Washington Post poll released on Thursday, only 18 per cent of likely GOP primary voters in South Carolina said they plan to vote for their former governor, while 46 per cent said they wanted Trump.

Senator Tim Scott came in third place with 10 per cent support and DeSantis followed at 9 per cent, The USA Today reported.

Scales started tipping in Haley's favour, who had been lagging behind in polls with single digits since February, after last month's maiden Republican primary presidential debate.

In a CNN/SSRS poll released earlier



this month, Haley emerged as the only Republican presidential candidate who could beat President Joe Biden in the 2024 US elections.

Haley recently told CBS News that she, and not Trump, is going to be the party's 2024 presidential nominee.

"I don't think President Trump's going to be the nominee. I think it's going to be me. But I will tell you that any Republican is better than what Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are doing," Haley had told 'Face the Nation' on CBS.

Conducted between September 6 and 11, the poll also revealed what differentiated Trump voters from other South

Carolina GOP voters with close to 81 per cent of Trump voters believing that Joe Biden won the 2020 election through fraud.

Two days before the second GOP primary debate in California on September 27, the former president will bring his campaign back to South Carolina in Summerville.

Republicans who packed into the former South Carolina governor's events in New Hampshire in recent days described her as 'very smart' and a 'natural leader', the Politico reported.

They 'admire' her work at the United Nations. They even think she 'has a good chance' in 2024.

According to Politico, Haley's rise is being blunted by the same force dragging down every candidate running behind Trump: Love him or hate him, many Republicans in New Hampshire say they're hard-pressed to see a scenario in which Trump is not the GOP nominee for the third consecutive cycle.

Kshama Sawant, other Seattle leaders call for action after cop mocks Kandula's death

New York | Agencies

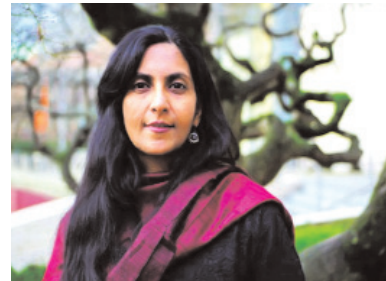
Mumbai-born Kshama Sawant, a prominent Indian-origin Seattle council member, has called for an elected police accountability system after a recent bodycam video of a police officer mocking an Indian student's death by a police patrol vehicle in January sparked massive outrage.

The brief clip shows Seattle Police Officers' Guild Vice President Daniel Auderer saying that 23-year-old Jaahnavi Kandula 'had limited value' in a call with senior Mike Solan.

Sawant has called for an elected police accountability system after the incident.

"Working people need to demand an independent, public investigation into this outrage," she said in a post shared on X (formerly Twitter).

Sawant said that the 'so-called Office of Professional Accountability has singularly failed to hold Seattle Police accountable' in the past, noting that 'cops overseeing cops will never work'.



"We need independently elected community oversight with full powers over the police. But to win this, working people will need to organise independently of the Democratic Party," she wrote.

Sawant said that Auderer has been the subject of 18 investigations since 2014, and is involved in lawsuits costing the city over \$1.7 million, with not one of them having resulted in him being fired, let alone facing legal consequences.

"He is far from an exception in police departments nationwide -- under both Democrats & Republicans -- which use

excessive force with impunity, especially against the poor, those facing mental health challenges, women, and marginalised communities," she said in her post.

Some of the charges against Auderer include, harassing, illegally stopping and roughly arresting two Mexican migrants, sexually harassing an arrestee and beating a mentally ill man to the point of permanent brain damage.

Asking the Seattle Police Department to 'fix the culture', Council member Tammy J. Morales called on Seattle Police Chief Adrian Diaz to take immediate action against Auderer's abhorrent comments.

"After every high-profile incident of police abuse, we're told to wait -- wait for a six-month long investigation or a years-long review process. We're done waiting. I'm calling on Chief Diaz to tell the Council and community, in real terms, how he plans to regain control of his department and fix the culture," Morales said in a statement.

Princess Diana's 'historic' sheep sweater fetches over \$1mn at auction

New York | Agencies

A red sweater featuring a black sheep among rows of white ones worn by the late Princess Diana has fetched more than \$1.1 million at an auction in Sotheby's, New York.

In a tweet on Thursday, the auction house said: "Frenzied bidding pushed Princess Diana's historic black sheep Warm & Wonderful sweater to sell at \$1.1 million today in our inaugural Fashion Icons auction."

According to Sotheby's, Diana wore the sweater in 1981 to a polo match of Prince Charles.

Also that year, a letter from the Buckingham Palace to Warm and Wonderful -- a British luxury knitwear brand -- had 'politely explaining the jumper had been damaged and requested either a repair or replacement'.

"Warm and Wonderful sent her a replacement sweater that she wore in 1983



to another polo match," the auction house said in a description of the item.

Bidding had opened on August 31 and the top bid stayed under \$200,000 until the auction's final minutes.

Sotheby's had estimated the value of the sweater at \$50,000 to \$80,000.

It however, did not disclose the identity of the winning

bidder. A BBC report said the sweater, which was unearthed in an attic in March, commanded a higher price than many other objects tied to the 'People's Princess' that were sold at auctions in recent years.

The sweater's design is often described as symbolic of Diana's place within the royal family.

United Auto Workers begins strike at 3 major US carmakers

Washington | Agencies

Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) on Friday began a simultaneous strike action at all the 'Big Three' US motor industry giants -- General Motors (GM), Ford and Stellantis, effectively halting work at the plants after the companies failed to reach tentative labour deals with the workers.

"Tonight for the first time in our history we will strike all three of the big three at once," the BBC quoted the labour union's president Shawn Fain as saying in a Facebook live transmission late Thursday night.

The strike started at Friday midnight at GM's Wentzville mid-size truck plant, Ford's Bronco plant in Michigan, the Toledo Jeep plant owned by Stellantis. The plants are critical to the production of some of the 'Detroit Three's' most profitable vehicles. Other facilities will continue



to operate, the UAW said but it did not rule out broadening the strikes beyond the initial three targets.

"If we need to go all out, we will... Everything is on the table," Fain added.

The strike comes after labour contracts expired on Thursday night, with the UAW saying that the automobile giants had not put for-

ward acceptable offers.

The UAW had demanded a 40 per cent pay increase for its roughly 140,000 members over four years; a four-day working week; the return of automatic pay increases tied to inflation; and stricter limits on how long workers can be considered 'temporary' staff who do not receive union benefits.

FLIGHTS CANCELLED AT LONDON'S GATWICK AIRPORT DUE TO ATC STAFF SHORTAGE



London | Agencies

Dozens of flights were cancelled, delayed or diverted at London's Gatwick Airport due to a shortage of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC), affecting both arrivals and departures. On Thursday night, the airport confirmed that there were 22 cancellations as of 8 p.m., reports the BBC.

According to FlightRadar24 data, 376 flights into Gatwick on Thursday had been delayed, while 252 planes were delayed from leaving the airport.

In a statement issued late Thursday night, the National Air Traffic Services (Nats) said: "We are working closely with the airport to ensure we can handle flights with as little disruption as possible and we apologise very sincerely to people who have been inconvenienced."

"London Gatwick's senior management understands we are working hard to keep the operation moving. Airlines operating at London Gatwick were aware of the situation when Nats was appointed, but that does not dilute the apology we offer sincerely to them and their passengers who have been inconvenienced by recent disruption." Meanwhile, the Gatwick Airport insisted the "situation is improving" with extra staff in place.



CM CHOUHAN INAUGURATES THE CYLINDER REFILLING SCHEME

Now LPG cylinder will be available for Rs 450 per month. Lakshmi Raikwar of Tikamgarh district becomes the first beneficiary of the scheme. Bhoomi-pujan of Tikamgarh Medical College conducted. Medical college to be built at a cost of Rs 268 crore will produce 100 doctors every year. CM Chouhan virtually addresses Tikamgarh meeting.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Chouhan, giving the good news to Ladli Bahnas said that LPG cylinder will be available for only Rs 450. He launched the cylinder refilling scheme. Lakshmi Raikwar of Bilganya village of Jatara tehsil has become the first beneficiary of the scheme. Union Social Justice Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar and Minister of State for Forests Shri Rahul Singh got the application of Smt. Raikwar for obtaining domestic gas cylinder at Rs 450 completed. Similarly, the second beneficiary of Ujjwala scheme, Smt. Abhilasha Sahu, got the registration process completed. Abhilasha Sahu is a resident of Ward no. 26 of Tikamgarh.

Chief Minister Chouhan addressed the programme organised at SAI Hockey Stadium, Tikamgarh virtually from Omkareshwar and wished the people of Tikamgarh. He could not participate directly in the programme due to incessant rain.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan performed the bhoomi-pujan of the new medical college to be built in Tikamgarh worth Rs 268 crore. It will be



built on 35 acres of land in village Madhuban of Tikamgarh tehsil. There will be provision for 100 MBBS seats. It will be equipped with modern facilities and equipment. Tikamgarh and surrounding districts will also benefit from the opening of the medical college.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that I had a strong desire to reach Tikamgarh and have a direct discussion with you, earlier also a programme had been made but direct discussion with you could not take place. He said that due to continuous rain today he was unable to come to Tikamgarh. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that I will soon come to Tikamgarh and have a direct interaction with you. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan, while congratulating the people of Tikamgarh for the medical college, said that the college will produce 100 doctors every year. The medical college spread over a total area of 66 thousand square meters will be equipped with

modern equipment. Tikamgarh and surrounding districts will also benefit from the opening of the medical college. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that Tikamgarh is famous for its natural beauty and cultural richness. There are many other features here also. The government and the people of Tikamgarh will together develop Tikamgarh into a beautiful city. Chief Minister said that I had promised my Ladli Bahnas to provide gas cylinders for Rs 450 on Rakhi, and had also said that this facility will be continued. Fulfilling that promise, I have implemented the plan for this. Now one cylinder will be available at the rate of Rs 450 per month to Ladli Bahnas and beneficiary sisters of Ujjwala scheme. The sisters will have to buy cylinders from the gas company at the selling rate only. The difference amount will be refunded to the Ladli Bahnas in their bank accounts. The subsidy amount will be deposited by the oil company in the accounts of the beneficiary sisters of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and this subsidy amount will be given to the oil company by the state government. The state government will directly deposit the subsidy amount into the bank accounts of those Ladli Bahnas who are not beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme. Chouhan said that the sisters will have to register on the portal to avail the benefits of the scheme. LPG connection ID and Samagra ID will be required for registration. Registration will be done at all those centres where Ladli Bahna Yojana registration is done.

'WE ALL BELIEVE IN SANATAN DHARMA THAT TEACHES US TO RESPECT OTHERS', SAYS KAMAL NATH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath on Friday said every citizen of India has faith on Sanatan Dharma and "it is not the subject of debate." Addressing mediapersons after addressing a poll rally with former chief minister Digvijaya Singh in Ashok Nagar district, Kamal Nath said: "We all have faith on Sanatan Dharma, but India has diverse culture and religion, and Sanatan Dharma does not teach to disrespect people from other religion." The Congress leader's remark comes just a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that "Opposition bloc INDIA has united to destroy the Sanatan Dharma". "This arrogant (INDIA) alliance has come with a resolution to end the Sanatan rituals and traditions. The



Sanatan which Gandhiji believed throughout his life, the Sanatan which inspired him to launch a movement against untouchability. The people of this arrogant alliance want to end that eternal tradition," the Prime Minister had said in Madhya Pradesh. Meanwhile, Kamal Nath

said that the Congress will decide each of its candidates for the assembly elections on the basis of survey reports and consultation with district party leaders. "Our main priority is Congress workers feedback and all will be done with their consultation. There will be no parachute candidates," Kamal Nath said.

Boy suffers subdural haemorrhage after being hit by teacher in Rewa, gasping for life at Nagpur hospital

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 13-year-old boy suffered a subdural haemorrhage after he was slapped by a teacher at a private school in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district and is battling for life, his family said.

The boy, identified as Anuj Shukla, who was earlier treated at Sanjay Gandhi hospital in Rewa and now has been referred to a private hospital in Nagpur for surgery.

A family member of the boy told reporter that he has been on ventilator at Neoren Hospital in Nagpur for the last four days and surgery is being conducted.

The boy who, who is enrolled with a private school in Rewa, used to attend music classes.

His family alleged that music teacher Rishabh Pandey has hit the boy during the class. They also alleged that despite the MLC report clearly had mentioned



that the boy suffered injuries because of hitting by the teacher, the school management did not take any action against Pandey.

Additional SP, Rewa, Anil Sonkar said that the family has lodged a police complaint on September 11.

The family said the teacher had slapped the boy around

a month back. Sonkar said the parents had observed some swelling on boy's temple but they did not take it seriously and treated it on their own.

But, later, swelling continued and the boy was admitted to the Sanjay Gandhi hospital. During the treatment, doctors found that the boy had suffered serious injury on his temple and it needed surgery.

Subsequently, the boy was referred to the Jabalpur medical college for surgery. Observing the seriousness, the boy has been referred to Nagpur.

"Family has lodged an FIR against the teacher on September 11. During the investigation, it found that music teacher Rishabh Pandey was wearing rudraksh, which has caused injury to the boy. We have booked the teacher under Section 308, 323 of IPC and JJ Act. Further investigation is underway," Sonkar said.

Another letter came on social media indicating corruption

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Corruption cases are continuously coming to light in Madhya Pradesh. Today State Congress Media Department President KK Mishra has made the letter of Ghaziabad resident Ajay Jain viral through Twitter. It is said that Minister Kamal Patel took commission advance from him, but did not give him the work. Later, despite applying pressure, the entire money was not returned.

The content of the letter viral on social media is as follows...

It is a request that I am originally from Ghaziabad and run a publicity firm in Delhi. About two years ago, I came in contact with Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel's assistant Rajesh Patel at his bungalow, about 20 km from the Mandi Board. Went in connection with the publicity work to be done in the mandis of the state at a cost of crores of rupees. Government hoardings were to be installed in the mandis of the state. Through Rajesh I came in contact with lawyer Ayush Vajpayee.

In return for giving me this work, an amount of Rs 2 crore was asked as advance. I gave this amount to him from his house. After giving this



KK Mishra on X
***श्री अजय जैन जिन्हें मैं भी जानता हूँ, उनके द्वारा...
twitter.com

*श्री अजय जैन जिन्हें मैं भी जानता हूँ, उनके द्वारा @CMMadhyapradesh जी के नाम संबोधित पत्र एक गंभीर मामला है.....

यह पत्र प्रामाणिक भ्रष्टाचार का ज्वलंत उदाहरण है!!

amount, I was made to meet Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel two to three times. They also assured me that work order would be given to me soon but when the order was not given for two years, I started asking for the advance amount back. But every time these people used to postpone it by some exaggeration or the other.

An IAS officer posted in the department also told me to take this amount back, people do not work even with money.

I told this to my acquaintance, senior journalist of Bhopal. He is a very good person. He went to Kamal Patel's bungalow the next day and told him about my problem.

The next day, I got a mobile phone asking for Rs 50 lakh from the minister's bungalow. I took fifty lakh rupees from a bungalow employee named Santosh Bhatt.

After this, one crore 55 lakh was returned little by little. Now they are again reluctant to return Rs 45 lakh. Please try to get me the remaining amount back.

Otherwise I will be forced to take some wrong step for which Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel and his associates will be responsible. I have the recording of the mobile conversation and call with his colleagues as evidence.

MP govt plans to translate medical journal 'Lancet' into Hindi: Vishwas Sarang

Team Absolute | Bhopal

English medical journal 'The Lancet' will be translated in Hindi with the help of team of doctors associated with Gandhi Medical College (GMC) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang said on Thursday.

The minister said that the state government is in a process to sign a MoU with the publication.

The minister made the announcement in the presence of the journal's Deputy Publishing Head Fiyona Macklev during a programme organised at GMC on the occasion of Hindi Divas on Thursday.

Sarang said the Madhya Pradesh government has already started an MBBS course in Hindi at GMC as an experiment and the books have been translated into Hindi.

"We are committed to provide all books and research books in Hindi and for that we have decided to provide all other research text books in Hindi for our students. We are in a process to



sign a MoU with the Lancet publication," the minister said.

He said that the process of Hindi translation for text books for 2nd, 3rd and 4th semesters of MBBS courses was in process and it would be completed by September 30.

Notably, the Medical Education Department had last year setup a war room named 'Mandhar' borrowed from the Hindu mythological story of 'amrit manthan' by Lord Shiva and around 100 doctors associated with government medical colleges in the state have been enrolled for translation of MBBS books.

The Mandhar team had translated three text books - biochemistry, anatomy, and medical physiology - from English to Hindi which were released by the Amit Shah on October 16 last year. The MP government has also started the first batch of MBBS course in Hindi medium at its biggest medical institution - Gandhi Medical College this year, and has planned to take it forward in other medical colleges in the next few years.

RETINA DAY 2: A DAY PACKED WITH SPORTS, KNOWLEDGE, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The second day of RETINA, the annual cultural and technical festival, lived up to the hype with an array of events that catered to every interest and passion. From intense sports competitions to intellectually stimulating quizzes and captivating performances, Day 2 had it all.

Sports enthusiasts were treated to a sports extravaganza, with cricket, football, basketball, badminton, volleyball, kabaddi, and table tennis tournaments held on their respective grounds. The competitive spirit was palpable as teams from various colleges battled it out for supremacy. Early in the morning, the General Quiz in LT-1 challenged participants' knowledge across a wide range of topics, while in LT-2, the Monoact competition showcased thespian talents at their best. As the day progressed, LT-2 also became the battleground for a lively debate, where participants engaged in thought-provoking discussions. For gaming aficionados, LT-3 was the



place to be, with e-gaming competitions featuring FIFA and Call of Duty starting at 10 a.m. Gamers displayed their skills and strategic prowess, drawing crowds of spectators.

RETINA Day 2 was a testament to the diverse talents and interests of the participants, offering something for everyone. The enthusiasm and competitive spirit on display made it a memorable day for all involved.

The excitement continues as RETINA unfolds, promising more thrilling events and opportunities for creativity and excellence. Stay tuned for what Day 3 has in store!

MEDIA'S JOB IS TO ALERT EVERY ORGAN OF GOVERNANCE: VICE PRESIDENT DHANKHAR

Vice President confers degrees in the fourth convocation of Makhnalal University. Vice President dedicates the new campus of the university

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that being the fourth pillar of democracy, the work of media is to alert every organ of governance and to provide information to the public with truth, accuracy and impartiality. He said that a free press is the backbone of a democratic nation. Along with freedom, press has to be responsible as well. It is important to give preference to positive news. This gives impetus to the positive changes taking place in the society. Vice President Dhankhar was addressing the fourth convocation of Makhnalal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication here today. He is also the



Visitor (Ex-officio) of the University. He dedicated the new campus of the university located at Bishankhedhi, Bhopal. Public Relations

and Public Health Engineering Minister Rajendra Shukla and Higher Education Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav were specially

present in the programme.

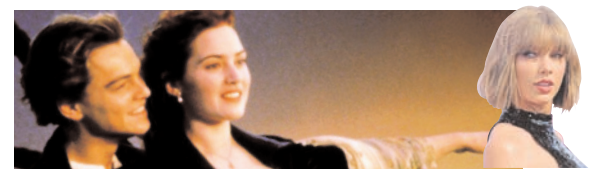
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar wished for a bright future of the university and expressed confidence that this institute will continue its excellent contribution in the world of journalism. The Vice President said that journalism is not a business but a social service. Journalists are the sentinels of democracy. Rise above personal interest and professional benefits and work with a spirit of service. Wishing all the students conferred with degrees a bright future, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar expressed the confidence that all the students will use the knowledge gained for public welfare. He urged everyone to make a strong contribution to India's Vikas Yatra with the determination to build the nation by keeping national interest paramount as per the thinking of national poet, writer and journalist Pandit Makhnalal Chaturvedi.



Along with CM Chouhan, UNICEF India Representative Cynthia McCaffrey plants saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Banyan, Jamun and Kadamba saplings along with UNICEF India representative Cynthia McCaffrey at the Smart City Park Shyamla Hills. UNICEF Madhya Pradesh Chief Margaret Gwada also accompanied. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, State President of Valmiki Samaj Gwalior Ramsevak Valmiki and Rajesh Katore, Anil Valmiki, Raju Pacharol, Rakesh Kumar, Vikram Gharia, Manoj Chaudhary and Ramvaran Valmiki also planted saplings. Prakash Davi, Prakash Chouhan, Jitendra Chouhan, Ashok Chouhan and Vinod Panwar also participated in the plantation.



Sia says she was 'severely depressed' following her divorce

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Sia has revealed that she went through a period of depression following her divorce from Erik Anders Lang after two years of marriage.

"Well, actually, the truth is that I had just been every now and again writing a song here or there for the last six, seven years," said the songwriter while discussing her forthcoming album 'Reasonable Woman', reports People magazine. Sia spoke with Zane Lowe on Apple Music 1 saying, "I got divorced and that really threw me for a loop. That was such a dark time that I was in bed for three years, really, really severely depressed. And so I couldn't really do anything for that period of time."

The 'Reasonable Woman' will mark the Grammy winner's first album release since 2016's 'This Is Acting'. While the album is expected to be released in spring 2024, the singer dropped a single from the album titled 'Gimme Love' on Wednesday.

Speaking about how she was able to get herself to record the new music, Sia said she started by recording "just little bits and pieces here and there".

"And then, finally, it just turned out we had enough songs to make an album, enough good ones," she explained, quoted by People.



Beyonce celebrates 42nd b'day with family in French Polynesia

Los Angeles | Agencies

Los Angeles: Popstar Beyonce, celebrated her birthday with style and in sweet-

ness, as the 42-year-old took a break from her Renaissance World Tour to enjoy a family vacation in French Polynesia.

A source told People magazine that the pop superstar was "enjoying a beautiful family vacation to celebrate her birthday. It was a nice break for Beyonce", the source added, saying: "The tour has been intense. She needed to recharge for a few days."

The Grammy-winning singer went to this family vacation with her husband JAY-Z, 53, along with daughters Blue Ivy, 11, and twins, daughter Rumi and son Sir, 6, in French Polynesia.

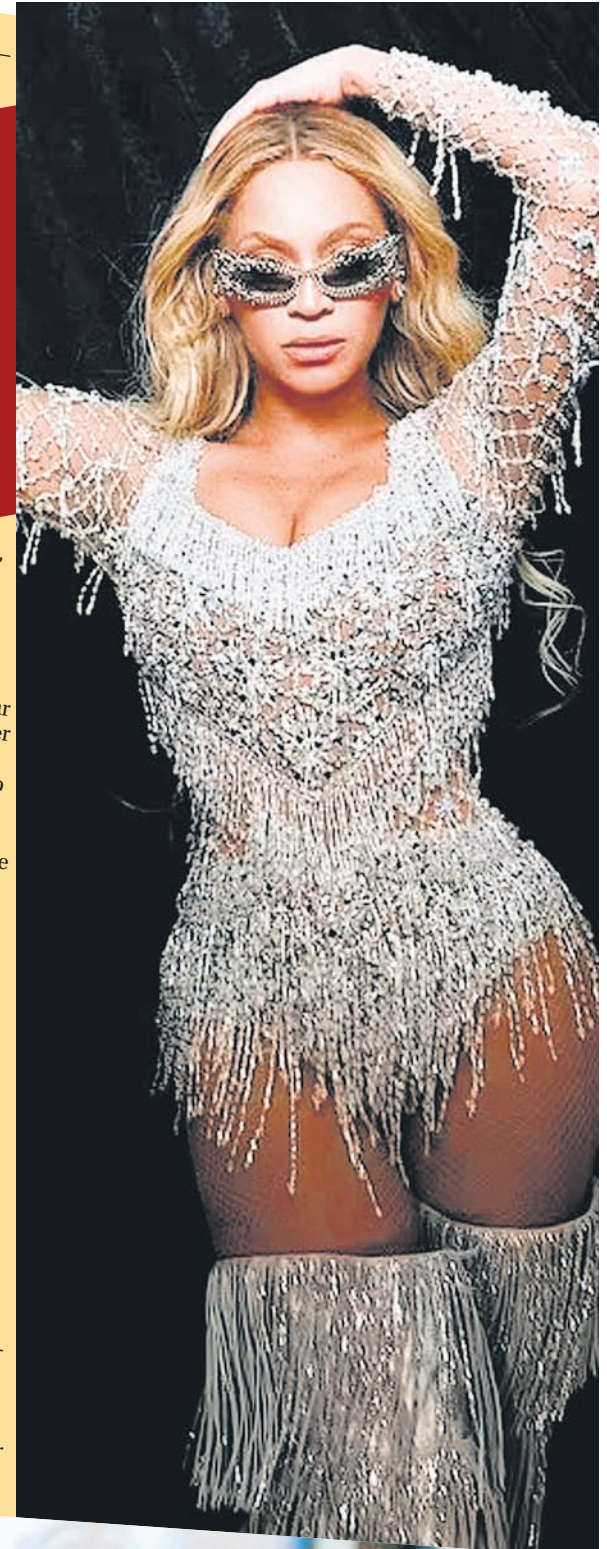
The insider adds that the family "rented several private villas" and spent a great deal of quality time together. People further stated that the "family enjoyed the beach, had family dinners and engaged in several resort activities. Everyone had the best time."

The 'Break My Soul' artist reportedly travelled with her family right after her birthday concert in Los Angeles at SoFi Stadium on September 4, before returning home in time to resume the North American leg of her tour in Vancouver.

Queen Bey's 42nd birthday festivities kicked off on stage during the final of her three Renaissance shows in Los Angeles. At the show, Kendrick Lamar joined the hitmaker to perform their collaboration "AMERICA HAS A PROBLEM (REMIX)" live for the first time, and she was also serenaded by Diana Ross, who stepped out to sing her "Happy Birthday."

In footage captured by fans, the 'Formation' singer looked delighted and emotional to be surprised by the music industry veteran, 79.

"Thank you so much, you are so amazing," the performer told Ross on the stage as they held hands. "This is the legendary Diana Ross! There would be no me without you and thank you so much for all of your sacrifice and your beauty and your grace. Thank you for opening doors for me. Thank you so much."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actor Harry Styles and talk show host James Corden have been accused of breaking a major traffic rule during a recent bike ride through London.

The former One Direction star Harry, 29, enjoyed some down-time back home after touring for two years with Love On Tour, reports Mirror.co.uk. Meanwhile, James, 45, recently moved back to the UK after spending more than eight years living in LA while presenting his hit TV programme, 'The Late Late Show with James Corden'.

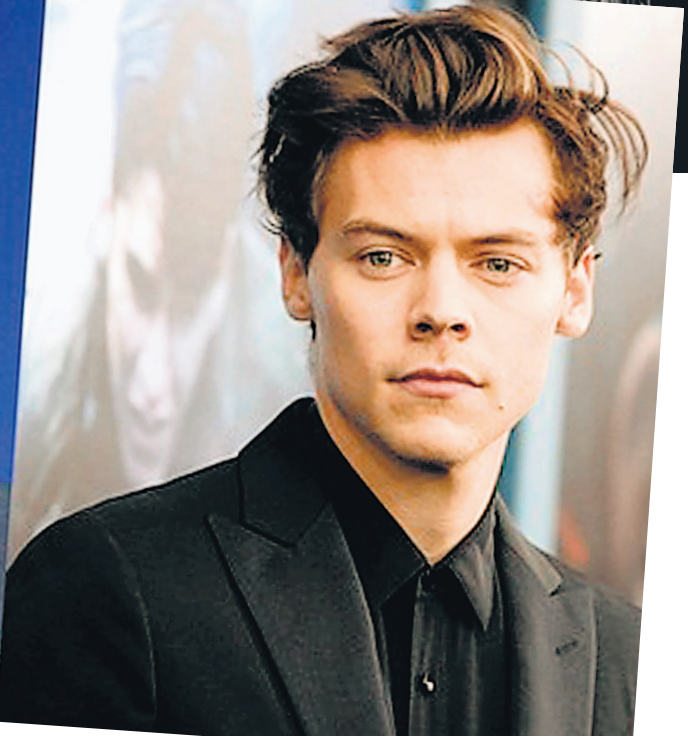
The pair have been friends since Harry's early One Direction days, and in recent weeks, the pair have been spotted out and about in London while they are both taking a break from work.

Most recently, friends Harry and James were spotted cycling Lime bikes through Primrose Hill, North London.

As per Mirror.co.uk, it appears that the famous duo mixed up their basic traffic knowledge as they have been accused of running a red light before putting their arms out to signal a right turn. Harry was then seen turning right while James was left waiting in traffic. The pair were then spotted leaving their bikes in Primrose Hill before heading off on a walk together. The UK Highway code states: "At traffic light junctions and at cycle-only crossings with traffic lights, you MUST NOT cross the stop line when the traffic lights are red." It's not the first time Harry and James have been spotted enjoying the sights and sounds of London in recent weeks. Just last week, the 'As It Was' hitmaker Harry was pictured cooling off the heatwave in the famous North London Hampstead Heath ponds.

The singer-turned-actor showcased his incredible gym-honed figure in a pair of dark green swimming trunks and endless tattoos as fellow sun-soakers were left in disbelief that one of the most famous men in the world was lapping up the good weather at the pond.

Harry Styles, James Corden break major traffic rule on bike ride in London



Jonah Hill steps out on a date with girlfriend Olivia Millar

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jonah Hill and Olivia Millar seemed to be in good spirits as they headed on a romantic dinner date, just months after 'The Wolf of Wall Street' actor's ex-girlfriend accused him of being "emotionally abusive".

Olivia gave birth to their first child together back in June after a year of dating, reports Mirror.co.uk.

The couple have now been spotted smiling as they left a restaurant in Malibu, California, after having a meal with a friend. For the outing, 39-year-old Jonah showed off his weight loss and wore a pink and white striped shirt with the sleeves rolled up to show off his plethora of tattoos.

He left the top two buttons undone and paired the shirt with some green cargo pants. Jonah also wore a brown woven belt and a black wristwatch.

As per Mirror.co.uk, the actor sported a bushy beard and had his hair styled into a buzzcut. Olivia went for a casual look as she wore a brown, beige and black striped jumper.

She carried her belongings around in a black



handbag and styled her hair in loose waves. Their romantic outing comes after Jonah was hit with allegations from his ex-girlfriend and professional surfer, Sarah Brady.

Sharing pictures of herself in a bikini on Instagram, she alleged that Jonah had requested she take the pictures down during her romance. "Reviving a pic I took down by request of a narcissistic misogynist" she captioned the picture.

Sarah then shared screenshots of text messages she claims to have come from Jonah. In one message, Jonah allegedly asked Sarah to remove a video of her surfing because her backside was out.

JASON MAMOIA DONS AQUAMAN COSTUME FOR LAST TIME, IN 'AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM' TRAILER

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jason Mamoia will now don the costume of the iconic sea-based Atlantean superhero for the last time as 'Aquaman and The Lost Kingdom' has finally released its new trailer, marking the final film of the old DCEU (DC Extended Universe).

The film will pick up the threads from 2018's 'Aquaman' and is set after the events of 'Zack Snyder's Justice League', though it predates 'The Flash'. 'Aquaman 2' sees Arthur Curry now ruling over the kingdom of Atlantis as its new king, ruling alongside his wife Mera in the sea kingdom.

The trailer begins with Arthur Curry making jokes and wisecracks about having been unemployed for four years, while talking to his dad at his lighthouse home, before saying that now he finally has a job, and is now a king to over half a billion people including all creatures of the ocean.

But Black Manta has not forgotten his vengeance, and to defeat him, the Atlantean king must team up with his half-brother Orm, who was the villain of the first film and once his mortal enemy.

Black Manta has now gotten hold of the Black Trident, which gives him dark magic and greater strength making him far stronger. He has also gathered other forces with him, to destroy Aquaman completely. The trailer also features an enormous machine called 'Octobot', that comes from the mysterious Lost Kingdom, which is the seventh underwater principality that formed from the sunken remains of Atlantis but had mysteriously vanished, as mentioned in the first 'Aquaman'.

Featuring high power action, comedy, emotional drama and exploring relationships, the movie will see Aquaman face off not just against Black Manta, but also from other dangerous dark creatures of the ocean, cursed by the magic of the Black Trident.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Sophie Habboo



Asia Cup:

Bangladesh edge India by six runs

Colombo | Agencies

On a tough pitch on which very few of his teammates clicked with the bat, opener Shubman Gill stood tall to hit his fifth ODI century, a sparkling 121 off 133 balls. But it went in vain as Bangladesh edged India by six runs in a thrilling Asia Cup Super Four match at the R. Premadasa Stadium here on Friday.

After captain Shakib Al Hasan and Towhid Hridoy hit half-centuries before the lower-order batters stepped up in carrying Bangladesh to 265/8, Tanzim Hasan Sakib took 2/32 on debut before the four-man spin attack relied on turn and bounce from the pitch to apply the choke on India.



Though Gill hit eight fours and five sixes and Axar Patel made a quick 42 off 34 balls at the fag end, it was not enough as India were bowled out for 259 in 49.5 overs, with Mustafizur Rahman taking three wickets as Bangladesh signed off from the competi-

tion on a high. Chasing 266, India were dealt two big blows by Tanzim in the first three overs. On his outswinger, captain Rohit Sharma chipped an early drive straight to cover-point, while Tilak Varma's debut innings

Brief scores:

Bangladesh 265/8 in 50 overs (Shakib Al Hasan 80, Towhid Hridoy 54; Shardul Thakur 3-65, Mohammed Shami 2-32) beat India 259 all out in 49.5 overs (Shubman Gill 121, Axar Patel 42; Mustafizur Rahman 3-50, Tanzim Hasan Sakib 2-32) by six runs.

ended with him shouldering arms for an away-going delivery, only for the ball to come in and hit the stumps.

Gill was proficient in getting on top of the bounce to cut, drive and punch with precision, while K.L. Rahul was deep in the crease to execute his cut shots well. But he was soon stuck at the crease and in a bid to break

free, whipped straight to mid-wicket off Mahedi Hasan.

Gill showed signs of change in gears when he danced down the pitch to slam Shakib for two sixes over the long-on fence, even as Ravindra Jadeja was castled after he completely missed the ball on a cross-bat hoick. Gill eventually got his hundred in 117 balls with a brace through deep mid-wicket and took back-to-back fours off Tanzim, followed by heaving Mahedi for six.

He followed it up by lofting Mahedi down the ground for a four and six respectively in the 48th over. But Rahman turned the game on its head in the next over, as Thakur clipped a full-toss to square leg and Axar holed out to long-off just after hitting a four, enough to ensure a Bangladesh victory.

Jadeja becomes second Indian to take 200 wickets with 2000 runs in ODIs

Colombo | Agencies

India's left-arm spin all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has become the seventh Indian bowler to take 200 wickets in ODIs. Jadeja achieved the feat during India's Super Four match against Bangladesh in the Asia Cup at the R. Premadasa Stadium here on Friday.

Jadeja reached the magical 200-wicket mark in ODIs by trapping Shamim Hossain lbw with turn and bounce during his spell of 1-53 in ten overs. He has also become the only left-arm spinner from India to take 200 wickets in ODIs, with others being Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Ajit Agarkar, Zaheer Khan, Harbhajan Singh and Kapil Dev. Jadeja, who has six wickets from the 2023 Asia Cup, is additionally the second Indian cricketer after Kapil Dev, the 1983 ODI World Cup-winning captain, and legendary fast-bowling all-



rounder, to complete a double of 2500 runs and 200 wickets in the format, where he is the 14th player in the world to be a part of this exclusive club. Jadeja, 34, has seven four-wicket hauls, while his

career-best figures in ODIs are 5-36 coming against West Indies in 2013 at the Oval during India's triumphant run in the ICC Champions Trophy. Jadeja has also taken 275 wickets in 67 Tests and 51 scalps in 64 T20Is.

HEINRICH KLAASEN SMASHES FOURTH FASTEST 150 IN MEN'S ODIS AS SOUTH AFRICA RECORD SEVENTH 400+ TOTAL

Centurion | Agencies

South Africa wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen smashed the fourth fastest 150 in men's ODIs as South Africa recorded their seventh 400+ total when they posted a mammoth 416/5 against Australia at Supersport Park on Friday.

South Africa made 268 runs in the last 20 overs and 173 in the last 10 as Klaasen plundered 174 off just 83 balls, recording his hundred off 57 deliveries. His 150 came in just 77 deliveries and overall, he hit 13 fours and as many sixes.

Klaasen was ably supported by David Miller, who shot a 45-ball 82 and helped South Africa smash their seventh total of over 400 in ODIs, the most by any team, as Australia were at the receiving end of a special batting innings.

Klaasen and Miller put on a record double-century stand off just 85 balls, finishing on 222 off 92 balls, the pair separated only off the final ball when Klaasen holed out off Marcus Stoinis. No other double century stand in the history of ODIs has come at a better run rate



than the 14.47 between Miller and Klaasen on Friday.

Klaasen's knock is now the eighth-highest score by a South African batter in men's ODIs. The 57-ball hundred from his bat is also the second-fastest in ODIs against Australia after the 52 balls taken by Virat Kohli for his ton in Jaipur in 2013.

The 174 by Klaasen is the second-highest score by a batter from No.5 or below in ODIs after Kapil Dev's 175 not out against Zimbabwe in the 1983 World Cup. Australia had reduced South Africa to 194/4 in 34.1 overs before Klaasen and Miller joined forces for a destructive partnership.

Meanwhile, leg-spinner Adam Zampa registered an unwanted record to his name, conceding 113 runs in his ten overs, the joint-most by any bowler in men's ODIs. Mick Lewis of Australia had also conceded 113 runs in the famous series decider between these two sides in 2006 when South Africa chased down 435.

Golf: Neha Tripathi picks up second win in three starts, wins 12th Leg of WPGT

Gurgaon | Agencies

Neha Tripathi, who had not won for more than four and a half years, ended the drought by winning twice in three starts on the Women's Pro Golf Tour on Friday.

After winning the 10th Leg before the mid-year break, Neha triumphed in the 12th leg of the WPGT at the Golden Greens Golf & Resorts Ltd, to give herself a big boost for the final stage of the season.

Neha became the third player to win two titles this year -- the other two are Sneha Singh and Gaurika Bishnoi. Neha also moved to the second spot on the Order of Merit, as Sneha Singh, despite a T-22 finish, stayed on top. Seher Atwal, who was 12th this week, is lying third.

The seasoned pro, Neha, who has shown encouraging form after a lot of off-season work, overcame a disastrous quadruple bogey while carding a round of 1-over 73 and still won by three shots.

With rounds of 68-67-73, she totalled 8-under 208 and warded off a strong final-day challenge from Tvesa Malik, who put together a superb 6-under 66 to finish second at 5-under 211. Tvesa earlier shot 75-70 on the first two days.

Ridhima Dilawari (70-72-70) was tied third with Riya Yadav, who after two fine days dropped to 75 in the third and final round. They totalled 4-under



212. Neha, starting the final day with a two-shot lead, got off to a birdie start, but then a quadruple bogey on the Par-5 fifth created a crisis for her. However,

Riya Yadav, her nearest rival and just two behind at that stage, was unable to take advantage. Riya, who had a hole-in-one on the first day, dropped bogeys on the eighth and ninth and then three in a row from 13th to 15th as she carded 75 and fell to Tied-third.

Neha started her recovery process with a birdie on the eighth and again on the 10th. She then birdied 14th but dropped a shot on the 15th. With three steady pars on the last three holes, she ensured a comfortable win, her second of the season. She received her winning cheque of Rs. 1,48,000 from Mr Ravi Grover, Director of Golden Greens Golf & Resorts Ltd.

Tvesa Malik had three birdies and one bogey on the front nine and then four birdies on the back nine as she played a round of 66. She started the final round ten shots behind Neha and it was too big a lead to cover, though Tvesa made up seven shots. Still, she fell three short but gained a lot of confidence going ahead.

Ridhima Dilawari had two birdies and a bogey in the first four holes, three birdies against two bogeys between the eighth and 12th and parred the last six holes for 70.

The Order of Merit leader, Sneha Singh had a disappointing week with a round of 80 after 78-75 on the first two days and finished T-22nd.

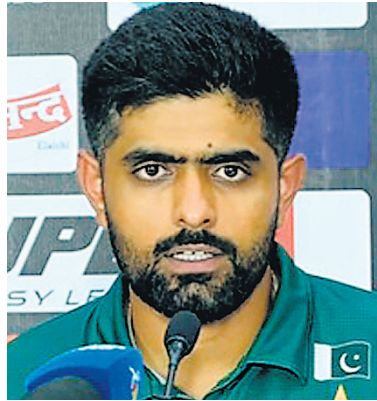
Not telling our Plan B now: Babar Azam ahead of World Cup

Colombo | Agencies

Pakistan's captain, Babar Azam, has not provided a definitive statement regarding the fitness status of crucial fast bowlers Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf for the start of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup scheduled to commence next month in India.

The pace duo picked up niggling injuries during Pakistan Super Four clash against India at the Asia Cup and were sitting on from the sidelines when the side crashed out of the tournament after suffering a 2-wicket loss (DLS) against Sri Lanka on Thursday.

Zaman Khan and Shah Nawaz Dahani stepped in for the injured pair during that match, and they might be consid-



ered as potential options to participate in the World Cup if Naseem and Rauf do not recuperate in time.

While Babar is hopeful that both Naseem and Rauf will recover in time for Pakistan's World Cup opener against the Netherlands in Hyderabad on October 6, the skipper was not giving too much away when asked on contingency plans should the pair miss out.

"I'll tell you later," Babar was quoted by ICC Website. "Not telling you our Plan B now. But yes, Haris Rauf is not bad. He's just got a little bit of a side strain, but he's recovering before the World Cup," he said.

"Naseem Shah also... they have a couple of miss matches, I don't know (how long) the recovery, but in my opinion, Naseem Shah also (will be) in the World Cup later on. But let's see," the Pakistan skipper added.

Davis Cup: Mukund to start India's World Group II playoff challenge against Morocco

Lucknow | Agencies

Sasikumar Mukund will kickstart India's challenge in the Davis Cup World Group II tie against Morocco when he takes on World No. 557 Yassine Dlimi in the opener at the Vijayant Khand Mini Stadium in Gomti Nagar, here on Saturday.

Mukund is ranked No. 365 as compared to his Moroccan opponent whereas Sumit Nagal, India's highest-ranked singles player at No. 156, will face Adam Moundir, ranked 779, in the second singles on Day One. Rohan Bopanna



and Yuki Bhambri will team up for the men's doubles on Sunday. Digvijay Pratap Singh is the other member of the squad while Rohit Rajpal

is the non-playing captain. The draw ceremony for the tie starting on Saturday was conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath at his official residence here on Friday. He also wished the players luck in the tie.

The draw ceremony was also attended by All India Tennis Association (AITA) President Anil Jain, Secretary General Anil Dhupar, other officials, captains and players from both teams.

On Sunday, Bopanna will team up with Bhambri to take on Morocco's doubles pair of Elliot Benchetrit and Younes Lalami Laaroussi whereas Nagal and Mukund will play Dlimi and Moundir respectively in the reverse singles on the final day.

England's Nat Sciver-Brunt hits record century in her 100th ODI

Leicester | Agencies

England allrounder Nat Sciver-Brunt slammed a breathtaking 120 off just 74 balls against Sri Lanka in the third and final ODI in a 31 overs-per-side rain-affected game here on Thursday.

Sciver-Brunt's brilliant knock and a 65-ball 95 by Maia Bouchier helped England Women reach a challenging 272/8 in 50 overs.

Sciver-Brunt, the No.1 ranked batter and all-rounder in the ICC Women's Player Rankings was in top form on Thursday as she unfurled some outrageous strokes on her way to a spectacular hundred in her 100th ODI.

With the persistent rain, the toss had been delayed in Leicester, but when it relented, Sri Lanka put England in to bat and reduced them to 18/2 inside the first five overs.

Sciver-Brunt came together with Maia Bouchier and the duo raced off the blocks, taking the team to 72/2 in 10 overs despite the initial setback.



With the platform well set and a shortened innings on the cards,

Sciver-Brunt and Bouchier pressed the accelerator further. Bouchier beat

Brief scores

England-W 273/8 in 50 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 120, Maia Bouchier 95; Kavisha Dilhari 3-42) against Sri Lanka W.

Sciver-Brunt to her half-century, taking just 38 balls for it.

Sciver-Brunt followed suit with a hat-trick of fours in the 15th over. The 193-run stand came off just 20 overs and was only broken when Bouchier was trapped in front by Kavisha Dilhari. By then, Sciver-Brunt had completed her century off 66 balls, making it the quickest ODI ton by an England women's player.

The wicket didn't deter the England all-rounder, though, and she smashed three fours in a row of the same over. She was dismissed next over for a brilliant 120 but had already done enough to give England a huge total.

ASIAN GAMES: CONFUSION OVER GURPREET AND JHINGAN AS BOTH INCLUDED IN UPDATED FOOTBALL TEAM

Chennai | Agencies

The updated Indian men's football team for the Asian Games, revised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Friday, is causing much confusion over the inclusion of goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and defender Sandesh Jhingan in the squad.

While the Sports Ministry has included Sandhu and Jhingan in the squad for Hangzhou, the Indian Super League (ISL) has not verified the release of these players, nor has the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) stated anything on this matter.

The list of 655 players for the Asian Games released on Thursday by the Ministry significantly looks different from the list released by



AIFF earlier on Wednesday. The AIFF's revised list for the Asian Games had 13 changes in the original team after the Indian Super League clubs refused to release a few players.

However, the list from the MYAS, on the other hand, is quite different.

The Ministry made six changes to the team, which was originally announced by

the AIFF in August but has preserved the bulk of it. Sandesh Jhingan and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who were removed from the AIFF's revised roster, are among the players who make up this group.

The list also includes Mahesh Singh Naorem, Anwar Ali, and Akash Mishra.



TERENCE LEWIS INTRODUCED ME TO CONTEMPORARY DANCE STYLE:

Manushi Chhillar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar, who will grace the stage of 'India's Best Dancer' season three, honoured the legacy of ace choreographer Terence Lewis in contemporary dance. The upcoming episodes of the dance reality show will see Vicky Kaushal and Manushi promoting their upcoming film 'The Great Indian Family'.

Nearing its finale, the contestants have raised the bar of the competition and will give it their all, vying for a spot in the coveted Top 6.

One of the most memorable acts are of contestant Samarpan Lama, as he delivers a breathtaking contemporary performance to 'Abhi Mujh Mein Kahin'.

Manushi praises the act saying, "Samarpan, your body effortlessly synced with the changing rhythms and beats of the song, showcasing your remarkable ability to catch the tune. Your ability to adapt and change your pace was truly impressive."

"What I admire most in dancers is their extraordinary neuromuscular coordination and precise control over their bodies - and in Samarpan, I witnessed that exceptional level of control. You are not just an incredible dancer, but also incredibly cute and endearing. When we hold someone in high regard, we often offer them a symbol, and today, I present you with a rose", she says.

Manushi said: "I have watched Terence perform contemporary dance on television, and he introduced me to this captivating dance form. And today, Samarpan's performance brought back memories of Terence's artistry."

Music changes every six months, have to adapt and maintain identity: Javed Ali

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer Javed Ali, who has crooned many beautiful songs, said that these days the music industry is changing with new sounds coming every six months and every singer has to adapt to that without losing his own identity.

Ali, who has given us songs like 'Srivalli', 'Kun Faya Kun', 'Tu Jo Mila' and many more, is back with yet another single titled 'Hanju' which is directed by Ajay Devgn's nephew Danish Gandhi and features Priyank Sharma and Ishita Raj. The song is getting great response from the audience.

In an exclusive conversation, the singer spoke about the song, changes coming in the Music Industry, recreation of iconic songs and much more.

Talking about the changes coming in the music industry, he said, "Drastic changes are coming in the music industry. Every six months, a new style comes with a new sound. We have to adapt accordingly and I try my best to bring something new to my songs each time. But I do believe that we should adapt to that change but should not lose our own identity."



"When I sang the song 'Srivalli' that was the first time I tried that style of singing. So a new journey started for me post that. Even in the song 'HANJU' I have tried to bring something new."

Talking about the song Hanju, he said, "This song is very close to my heart. I like the emotions in it and the simplicity of the song. The song has been written and composed very beautifully."



Nehha Pendse recalls working with Sunny Deol

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nehha Pendse, who is known for her versatile performances in both television and film, recalled her journey as a child artiste, and expressed her admiration for actor Sunny Deol. Nehha is set to make her return in the new episodes of 'May I Come in Madam', as Madam Sanjana. She shared insights into her remarkable journey as a child artiste, and the changing landscape for young talent in the entertainment industry.

Reminiscing about her early days in the entertainment world, the actress said: "I began my acting career as a child artiste with a television serial on DD channel, and made my big-screen debut alongside the legendary Sunny Deol in 'Pyaar Koi Khel Nahin'."

"My parents had always held a deep appreciation for art and entertainment, and that's where it all began. During that era, child artistes were relatively limited, as many perceived it as taboo to involve children in the entertainment industry," said Nehha. She said: "However, I believe destiny had its role to play, and everything fell into place, allowing me to be part of numerous wonderful projects as a child artiste."

Speaking further, Nehha expressed gratitude for the enriching experiences she had while working with various artistes. She particularly highlighted her admiration for Sunny Deol, with whom she shared the screen in her early career.



SRK REVEALS WHY HE CHOSE THE BALD LOOK FOR 'JAWAN'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who has been receiving immense appreciation from across the world for his recently released movie 'Jawan', has opened up on his preference for anti-heroes. He also shared why he chose the bald look for the action entertainer. SRK spoke with IMDb for their brand-new segment titled 'Icons Only'. The first guest in the segment was global star Shah Rukh Khan.

The actor spoke on 'Jawan' and shared quintessential details of his career so far. Directed by Atlee, 'Jawan' stars SRK in dual roles of Captain Vikram Rathore, an ex-commando; and Azad, the jailer of a woman's prison.

Talking about the same, SRK said: "I never wanted to play the hero. I find heroes very boring. I find them doing all the good things. Hence, to be able to do good, I need to quickly transfer to do bad so I can understand that part."

Opening up on his iconic bald look in Jawan, SRK said: "I chose the bald look out of laziness because then I didn't have to wear two hours of makeup. I'd rather just go bald. I just hope girls like bald men because I like bald girls!"

He further described himself: "If I was to explain myself, I would explain myself as there's an actor somewhere in India who has tried, and is still trying very hard."

Talking about Jawan's genre, the 'Baazigar' fame actor said: "There is a genre of filmmaking that exists in South India. It's louder, larger than life. It's a roller coaster ride of everything packed into two and a half hours. It can be an out-of-body experience for global audiences."



I want to stay fit not to maintain my figure but to stay healthy : Shilpa Shetty



Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

Actress Shilpa Shetty, who reached the Pink City on Thursday, was seen promoting her new film "Sukhi". The actress told that she keeps herself fit not only to maintain her figure but also to stay healthy; She also said that she often does not get time during the day, that is why she does pranayama before sleeping at night.

When she was asked that apart from being a mother, she is also a working woman, how does she maintain balance in both her roles? She said that it is a bit difficult to be a working woman along with being a mother, but you can gradually balance it. He said that spending time with children is like a vacation for him in this busy life.

Shilpa Shetty also said that she lives her life on her own terms. She became a part of the talk show organized by We The Women of Rajasthan at Hotel Grand Uniara and talked to all the women present there, giving tips ranging from her fitness to how to balance the responsibilities of being a mother and a working woman.



Gokila