

absolute india

NATION > 02

PM Modi's tenure marked by minimum non-customary ...



HOLLYWOOD > 06

Priyanka Chopra condemns 'appalling' death of Indian student...



SPORTS > 07

Asian Games: Sunil Chhetri set for another record as India begin ...



SPECIAL SESSION IN NEW BUILDING FROM TODAY AFTER PROGRAMME ON PARLIAMENTARY LEGACY

Mp's bid adieu to old parliament Building

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the special session of Parliament might be a short one, but it holds great importance in terms of historical decisions. While around eight bills are likely to be considered and passed during the session, the Prime Minister's indication of historical decisions has led to speculation over the actual purpose of the session.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha will attend a function in the Central Hall to commemorate the legacy of the Parliament before moving to the new Parliament building on Tuesday.

According to sources, after a group photo session of the members of both the Houses at 9:30 a.m., a function titled 'Legacy of Parliament of India and Making Bharat Developed by 2047' will be held in the Central Hall between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. After this, the special session will resume in



Nehru never mocked or deflected Opposition: Adhir Ranjan

New Delhi: After Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hailed first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for his 'stroke of midnight' speech that made India, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that he was "tireless" in listening to the voice of the Opposition and "never mocked or deflected" when answering questions. Chowdhury also hailed Nehru's vision saying that in 1946 Atomic Research Committee was formed and from there, "we moved forward and developed ISRO in 1964". Speaking in the Lower House, Chowdhury said, "It is really an emotional moment for all of us to move out from this (old) Parliament building today. We are all present here to bid adieu to our old building."

Chowdhury, NDA's leader of the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal and leader of opposition in the Upper House Mallikarjun Kharge will speak, sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is the leader of the Lok Sabha, will be present at the function but it is not clear if he will address the gathering.

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day on Monday after the culmination of the discussions on 75 years of Parliament.

Nehru's 'Tryst with Destiny' speech will inspire future generations of lawmakers: Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, while delivering his last speech in the old Parliament House, said that the echo of nation's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's iconic 'Tryst with Destiny' speech will always resound and continue to inspire the generations of future people's representatives. Recounting the 75 years of Parliament, the Modi said that during this period, around 7,500 MPs including 600 women MPs have represented the country during this period. Nehru, during his address to the nation on August 15, 1947, had said that, "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom."

"Today is an occasion to recollect and reminisce the Parliamentary journey of 75 years of India. We might be shifting to the new building but this building will keep on inspiring the coming generation as it is a golden chapter of the journey of Indian democracy," Modi said. "India will always feel pride for the inclusion of the African Union in G20 during its presidency," he added, while referring to the recently concluded Delhi G20 summit.

He informed the House that in the current 17th Lok Sabha, there is the oldest MP in Samajwadi Party's Shafiqur Rehman Barq, who is 93 years old, while in Chandramani Murmu of the Biju Janata Dal, the House has the youngest MP at 30 years. He said that it is an emotional moment to bid goodbye to this building as there are

the new Parliament building at 1:15 p.m.

At the programme in the Central Hall, Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Pralhad Joshi, leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan

HEAVY RAIN DISRUPTS MUMBAI-NORTH WEST INDIA TRAIN SCHEDULES

Mumbai | Agencies

Heavy rain in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh in the past couple of days have played havoc with the schedules of many long-distance trains on the Western Railway on the Mumbai-Delhi sector, officials said here on Monday.

Water levels are hovering above the danger mark -- over 40 feet -- on Bridge No. 502 between Bharuch - Ankleshwar on the River Narmada, forcing closure of the railway traffic and cancellations.

Among the trains cancelled for Monday (September 18) are: 22953 (Mumbai - Ahmedabad), 20901 (Mumbai - Gandhinagar Vande Bharat), (Gandhinagar-Mumbai Vande Bharat), 12009 (Mumbai - Ahmedabad Shatabdi Exp I), 19015 (Dadar - Porbandar), 12933 (Mumbai - Ahmedabad), 12931 (Mumbai - Ahmedabad), 82901 (Mumbai - Ahmedabad Tejas Express), 12471 (Bandra Terminus - Sri Mata Vaishnodevi Katra - Swaraj Express), 12925 (Bandra T - Amritsar).

On the return side, the services cancelled are: 12010 (Ahmedabad - Mumbai), 12934 (Ahmedabad - Mumbai), 12932 (Ahmedabad - Mumbai), 82902



(Ahmedabad-Mumbai Tejas Express), 22954 (Ahmedabad-Mumbai), and 09172 (Bharuch - Surat). However, the 04711 (Bikaner-Bandra Terminus Express), which started its journey on Saturday, and was short-terminated at Ahmedabad, will now

run up to Mumbai, said a WR Spokesperson. The disruption in the trains schedules has resulted in delays of other regular train services and officials are making efforts to avoid any further interruptions.

RPF rescues 23 minors during 10-day drives against human trafficking

Guwahati: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), which operates in the northeastern states and in seven districts of West Bengal and five districts of north Bihar, rescued 23 minors during the drives against human trafficking in the past ten days, officials said on Monday.

NFR's Chief Public Relations Officer Sabyasachi De said that the 23 minors were rescued and apprehended one person involved in human trafficking from different trains and railway stations over the NF Railway jurisdiction. The drives were conducted at different locations in New Bongaigaon, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, Samsi, Badarpur, Barsoi, Rangiya, Katihar and Dimapur railway stations. All the rescued persons were later handed over to the respective child lines as per norms for safe custody and family members after proper verification.

During the month of August, the RPF of NFR rescued 70 minor boys and girls and three women while one person involved in human trafficking was also arrested.

The RPF remains vigilant for suspected persons involved in human trafficking as well as the movement of children in a suspicious manner, travelling alone, without proper guardians.

Triathletes from 30 countries to participate in IRONMAN 70.3 India this October

Team Absolute | Panaji (Goa)

Triathletes and endurance sports enthusiasts from 30 countries will participate in the latest edition of the prestigious IRONMAN 70.3 India triathlon -- the country's biggest and truly international triathlon -- scheduled to be held in Goa next month.

This internationally acclaimed endurance race spread over three sports disciplines -- swimming, cycling and running -- is regarded as a global benchmark for the ultimate test of endurance, grit and an athlete's mental and physical strength.

The gruelling IRONMAN 70.3 India triathlon will begin with a 1.9 km swim off Miramar beach in Goa, followed by a 90 km bicycle ride, before concluding with a 21.1 km run; the latter two legs will start from the Miramar circle in Panaji, the state capital.

The race has a cut-off time of 8 hours and 30 minutes and each leg -- swimming, biking and the run also has its indi-



vidual cut-off timings. Participating athletes have to make it through the cut-offs in all three sections to complete the race and get their hands on that iconic medal.

"The response has been thrilling with participants registering from across India as well as 30 countries and counting. We have entries from the UK, US, and the Russian Federation as well as from other far-flung countries like Bolivia, South Africa, Argentina, Estonia and New Zealand among others which is a testament to the fact that

India is now on the radar of the global triathlon community," said Deepak Raj, chief executive officer of Yoska and franchise owner of the IRONMAN brand in India.

The triathlon is not just about competition, but also about the spirit of camaraderie and personal growth," he said. "Over 60% of the triathlon finishers in the previous edition of the IRONMAN 70.3 India were first-time finishers which shows that triathlons are gaining interest in the country," added Raj. Apart from hundreds of

entries from India, athletes from six continents -- North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Australia and Asia have registered to participate in the race happening in Goa. Since its inception, athletes from 50 countries have participated in the IRONMAN 70.3 India event in Goa.

Athletes from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Haryana top the list of states with the highest number of participants.

In 2019, Bishworjit Saikhom from India won the men's category in the IRONMAN 70.3 India (2019) with a timing of 4:42:44, while Nihal Baig won the title in 2022 with a timing, clocking 4:29:45. Bishworjit has registered for the upcoming event on Oct. 8th. Catjin Schierbeek also from Switzerland won the women's category in 2022.

In all 30 slots are reserved for winners in their respective categories, qualifying them for the opportunity to compete in the 2024 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship scheduled to be held in New Zealand.

Sena row: SC criticises Maharashtra Assembly Speaker for delay in ruling on disqualification petitions

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday criticised the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwarke on a plea filed by the Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction against the delay by him in deciding the disqualification petitions filed against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his camp.

A bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra came down heavily on the issue of delays in ruling on disqualification of lawmakers who quit the Thackeray faction and aligned with the Shinde group.

The CJJ said that the Speaker has to abide by the dignity of the Supreme Court, and that four months have passed since their judgement. "... and we are only at the stage of notice," he said. The court asked what action had been taken following its May 11 judgement, wherein he was told to rule on the petitions within a "reasonable time". The court remarked that the

Speaker could not continue to drag his feet and directed that he shall hear the concerned matter no later than a period of one week.

On July 14, the apex court had issued notice and called for responses of Narwarke and Shinde within a period of two weeks.

The plea filed by Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sunil Prabhu has alleged that the Speaker is delaying in deciding the disqualification pleas to permit "the illegal continuance of Eknath Shinde as Chief Minister, against whom the disqualification petitions are pending".

The Thackeray faction had moved the apex court on July 4 against the delay by the Speaker in deciding the disqualification petitions pending against Shinde and his camp. On May 11, a constitution bench of the Supreme Court had directed that the Maharashtra Speaker "must decide disqualification petitions in a reasonable time" against 16 Shiv Sena MLAs, including Shinde, who were accused of anti-party activities.





EDITOR'S SPECS

'TRIPLE DANGER' LOOMING OVER INDIAN MARKETS IN THE NEAR-TERM

There is a 'triple danger' looming over markets in the near-term: dollar index above 105, steadily rising US 10-year bond now around 4.39 per cent and the Brent crude above \$94, says V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. These are significant macro risks which the market cannot ignore for long. FIIs refraining from big selling is because of the FOMO (fear of missing out) factor, he said. Investors should exercise caution, particularly in the over-heated mid-and small-cap segments. Safety is in large-caps, he added. The participation of large-cap bluechips across sectors has been giving strength to the rally which has taken the Nifty well above 21,000 level, he said. The fact that the fairly valued banking segment has been a significant contributor to the recent rally also is a positive development. PSU banks like BoB, Canara Bank and Indian Bank are even now attractively valued, he added. Vaishali Parekh, Vice President - Technical Research, Prabhudas Lilladher said Nifty index continue to record new highs touching the 20,200 levels during the intraday session and is poised for further gains in the coming sessions with near term-target expected till 20,300-20,350 zone. The broader markets once again are regaining strength with significant participation visible from the mid-cap and small-cap counters supporting the index for further gains. The support for the day is seen at 20,100 levels while the resistance is seen at 20,350 levels, Parekh said. BSE Sensex is down 155 points at 67,682 points. Infosys, HDFC Bank, Wipro are down more than 1 per cent.

Ganesha-Lord of Purity, Intelligence and Eternity

Lalit Garg

Siddhi Vinayak Lord Ganesha was born on Bhadrpada Shukla Chaturthi. Ganesha was born as the son of Shiva-Parvati. On his birth, all the gods from Heaven came to bless Him. Lord Vishnu blessed Him with knowledge, Brahma blessed him with fame and worship, Dharmadev blessed him with religiosity and mercy. Lord Shiva blessed Him with generosity, intelligence, strength and self-control. Goddess Lakshmi said, "Wherever Ganesha lives, I will live there." Saraswati provided Him with speech, memory and oratory power. Savitri gave wisdom. The Trinity gave Ganesha the boon of being the most revered, the first god and the provider of Riddhi-Siddhi. That is why He is a god with universal, eternal and worldwide popularity. They are embedded in cultures ranging from India including Sindh and Tibet to Japan and Sri Lanka. In the Jain sect, He is present as the Ganadhaksha who compiles the knowledge, while the Vajrayana branch of Buddhism believes that mantra accomplishment cannot be achieved without praising Ganesha. Nepalese and Tibetan Vajrayani Buddhists place Ganesha next to the idol of their revered Tathagata. Actually, Ganesha is the presiding deity of happiness-prosperity, wealth, joy, knowledge and auspiciousness. In this world, favourable happens with unfavourable, good happens with inauspicious, knowledge happens with ignorance, happiness happens with sorrow. Ganesha is the saviour for man troubled by adversity, inauspiciousness, ignorance and sorrow. He is a Satvik deity and a remover of all obstacles. They are not only prevalent in every part of Indian culture and lifestyle, but are also present in homes, cars, offices and product centers in foreign countries. Ganesha is present everywhere. Lord Ganesha is worshiped and revered first for man's success in his daily work, for happiness and prosperity, for development of intelligence and knowledge and for the smooth completion of any auspicious work. Apart from being the first god, his personality is multi-dimensional. He is the character of a folk hero. Lord Ganesha is an integral part of Indian culture. From ancient times, Hindu society has been starting any work with the worship of Lord Ganesha to finish it smoothly. Indian culture has flourished with the vast imagination of one God and the worship of many gods and goddesses. There is a rule to worship Ganapati before worshipping all other gods. Actually, Ganesha is the presiding deity of happiness, prosperity, splendor and joy. All types of worldly tasks, big and ordinary, are started by remembering His divine form. Traders start the new-year by writing 'Shri Ganeshaya Namah' on their ledgers. Every work is started with Ganpati worship and Ganesh vandana. Be it the auspicious occasion of marriage or the laying of the foundation stone of a new house, the celebration of the consecration of an idol in a temple or the occasion of Shodas Sanskar in life, Ganpati is remembered first. According to the Skanda Purana, one who worships Ganesha with devotion never faces any obstacles. Ganpati, Ganesha or Vinayak-all mean the lord or leader of the gods. There are descriptions of different forms of Ganesha at different places, but everywhere the power of Ganesha to remove obstacles has been unanimously accepted. The shape of Ganesha is strange, but if we try to understand the mystery of the spiritual symbols of this shape, we



can get eternal benefits. Because Ganesha i.e. son of Shiva or Shivatva has to be achieved, otherwise the wish for welfare and profit will not be successful. If we explain Gajanan Ganesha, we will know that 'Gaj' is made up of two consonants. 'J' is the symbol of birth or origin, and 'G' is the symbol of movement and destination. That is, the word 'Gaj' indicates origin and end - you will go back to where you came from. What is birth is also death. Gajanan Ganesha is the one who creates the reality of Brahma and the world. Lord Shiva's comprehensive thinking is behind the entire physical structure of Ganesha. All the qualities of an efficient, just and powerful ruler and god are included in Him. Ganesha's head is the head, that is, he is the God of Intelligence. His memory power is very sharp. The Elephant's Myth: The origin of his instinctive inspiration lies in a serious, calm and steady consciousness. Elephant's eyes are relatively small and it is very difficult to understand the expressions in those eyes. Actually Ganesha is the ideal form of a philosopher. The leader of the group should have gravity and seriousness. That gravity is inherent in his physical body. His huge body also inspires to be alert and always ready to face all situations and difficulties. His Lambodar (large tummy) teaches one to absorb the secrets, evils and weaknesses of others, and keeps all kinds of condemnation and criticism in one's stomach, and inspires one to remain firm on the path of duty. His small face indicates being small, logical and soft-spoken. Ganesha's personality is mysterious, which is not possible for everyone to read and understand. Only that ruler is successful whose feelings cannot be read and understood. In this way, a good ruler is the one who can read the minds of others well, however no one can understand his mind. In fact, he is

also a symbol of bravery, courage and leadership. In his Heramb form one can see his love for war, in his Vinayak form he is seen as fierce as the Yakshas and in his Vighneshwar form he is seen as a people-oriented and charitable person. Gana means group. Ganesha is the lord of the group, that is why he is called by names like Ganadhaksha, Loknayak, Ganapati etc. The ears on the Gaj mouth also symbolize that the ruler should always keep his ears open to listen to the public. If the ruler closes his ears to the public, he will never be successful. The ruler should be as powerful and self-respecting as an elephant. The ruler should neither depend on anyone, nor know his sources of income for the maintenance of himself and his family. An elephant can lift everything with the help of its trunk and nourish Himself without bending. The ruler should not bow before others under any circumstances. Ganesha is a Satvik deity; his feet are small which are indicative of the physical senses and a symbol of Sattvic qualities. Mouse is the vehicle of Ganapati which is responsible for controlling the fickleness and propensity of exploiting others. Actually, rodents are very small and tiny animals. By making it his vehicle, Ganapati has enhanced his dignity and given the message that Gananayak should have affection towards even the most insignificant person. The four arms of Lord Ganesha give knowledge of four types of devotees, four types of creation and four efforts. Ganesha is considered to be the first scribe. He transcribed the epic of Mahabharata written by Rishi Ved Vyasji on the request of the gods. There is a tradition of worshipping Ganesha in Jain and Buddhist religions also. Ganesha is also considered as Adidev in Hindu culture. From time immemorial, Ganesha has been worshiped in many names as the remover of sorrow, fear, worry, etc. and has been removing the troubles of humans. In the present times, worshipping Lord Ganesha and celebrating the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi enthusiastically has its own special significance for the protection of independence, national consciousness, emotional unity and integrity. Ganesha is very fond of pure ghee, jaggery and wheat laddu-modak. These are the symbols of happiness or a happy mind. These three things are Satvik i.e. they are good food. Satvik diet brings stability to the intellect. Riddhi-Siddhi are the wives of Lord Ganesha. They are the daughters of Prajapati Vishvakarta. If Ganesha is worshiped properly, his devoted wives Riddhi-Siddhi also become happy who bestow happiness, peace, prosperity to the family and pure knowledge and intelligence to the children. Siddhi gave birth to two beautiful sons named 'Kshem' and Riddhi gave birth to 'Labh'. While Lord Ganesha is the remover of obstacles, his wives are the ones who make people successful, prosperous and prestigious. At the same time, auspicious benefits along with giving every happiness and good fortune keep it permanent and safe. Mankind will always be indebted to Him for the welfare of the people, for giving practical form to the principles of religion and for establishing happiness, prosperity and trouble-free governance. Today's rulers need to follow the footsteps of Ganesha.

international

World leaders at UN to focus on development, climate change under Ukraine War's shadow

Arul Louis | United Nations Residents, prime ministers, princes and monarchs begin their annual gathering in New York on Monday focusing on development and climate change, while the harrowing Ukraine War which the world body is powerless to stop hovers over them. The two issues are primary concerns of the Global South, many countries of which face a severe financial crunch in meeting the challenges, while their problems have been exacerbated by the Covid pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will push the industrialised countries to increase their funding for the causes of development and climate change. They start their week of packed programmes on Monday with the summit on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 17 lofty ambitions hoping to cure the world's ills from poverty and hunger to climate change and



inequality, while bringing about peace and justice by 2030. Guterres said that he considers the SDGs meeting "my most important objective" for the week. "I'm very hopeful that the SDG Summit will indeed represent a quantum leap in the response to the dramatic failures that we have witnessed until now in relation to the implementation of the SDGs", he said at a news conference previewing the high-level week. The SDGs were adopted by world lead-

ers in 2015 and as they meet on Monday halfway to 2030, they will find most are unreachable by the deadline and will need reinvigorated commitments, especially from the industrialised nations. Symbolically, this meeting starts a day before the traditional General Assembly meeting which will begin by tradition on Tuesday, with the first address by Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, to be followed by President Joe Biden. Biden will be the only top leader of a permanent member of the Security Council this week at the UN. Presidents Xi Jinping of China, Vladimir Putin of Russia and Emmanuel Macron of France, and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of Britain are skipping the summits, as is Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India. Asked about the striking absences of the leaders of the Council permanent members, Guterres said, "This is not a vanity fair". What matters is not their presence, but

their governments' commitments, he said. The General Assembly meeting is more political and Russia's invasion of Ukraine will figure prominently there. President Volodymyr Zelensky will be there in person this time - a much-adulated figure - after having been given a special dispensation last year to speak through a video link. He will speak during the opening session of the Assembly meeting, and the next day at the Council's meeting on Ukraine, where he will likely come face to face with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov as he makes his stinging denunciation of Moscow. The spotlight turns next to climate change on Wednesday. Guterres convened the Climate Ambition Summit to turbocharge action and funding to meet what he has repeatedly called the "existential threat" to humanity.

Turkish drone attack kills 4 Kurdish militants in Iraq

Baghdad | Agencies Turkish drone strike in northern Iraq has killed a senior member and three militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Counter-Terrorism Service of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region said in a statement. They were killed at 3 p.m. local time when a Turkish drone attacked their vehicle on a road in the Chalmir area of Sinjar mountain, nearly 120 km west of Nineveh's provincial capital Mosul, the statement said on Sunday. The Turkish forces frequently carry out ground operations, airstrikes, and artillery bombardments in northern Iraq against the PKK, especially in the Qandil mountains, the main base of the group, Xinhua news agency reported. The PKK, listed as a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the US, and the European Union, has been rebelling



against the Turkish government for more than three decades.

Brazil: 14 dead in Amazon plane crash

Sao Paulo | At least 14 people were killed when a small plane crashed in Barcelos, an inland city of Amazonas state in northern Brazil, local authorities have said. "They were all tourists who were going on a fishing trip," Amazonas governor Wilson Lima told a press conference on Saturday, adding that initial information showed all the tourists were Brazilian, Xinhua news agency reported. It was reported that the pilot had trouble finding the runway for landing in Barcelos, a sport fishing destination. The Manaus Aerotáxi airline, owner of the crashed Embraer EMB 110 Bandeirante, a Brazilian twin-turboprop light transport aircraft, confirmed the accident in a social media statement. According to Barcelos mayor Edson Mendes, Civil Defense teams found 14 bodies, which included 12 passengers, the pilot, and the co-pilot.

Iran won't relinquish share in disputed offshore gas field: Oil minister

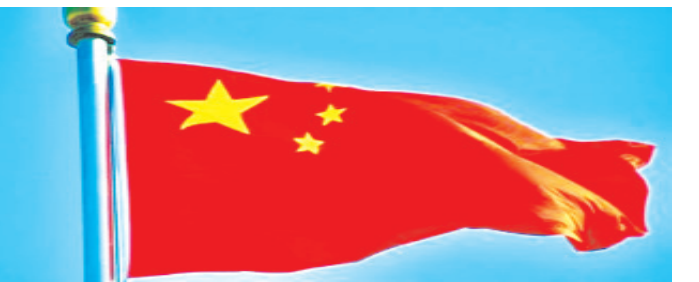
Tehran | Agencies Iran will not give up its share of the Arash gas field, which is located in a neutral maritime zone between Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji said. Owji added on Sunday that Iran expects all issues pertaining to the joint field to be resolved through negotiations with Kuwait, according to the Iranian Students' News Agency. Known as Durra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the offshore gas field was discovered in 1967. However, its development has been delayed due to a dispute over ownership between the three countries, Xinhua news agency reported. In March 2022, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait signed an agreement to jointly develop the field, but Iran has



denounced the agreement as illegal and said it violated previous negotiations. In July, Kuwait said it would commence drilling and gas production at the gas field without waiting for it to be officially demarcated with Iran.

China flies 103 military planes towards Taiwan in a new high of activity

Taipei | Agencies In a 24-hour period, China's military sent 103 warplanes towards Taiwan, which the island's defense ministry claimed on Monday was a new daily record in recent times. The planes were noticed between 6 a.m. on Sunday and 6 a.m. on Monday, the ministry said. As is customary, they turned back before reaching Taiwan. China, which asserts Taiwan as part of its territory, has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan as tensions have grown between the two and with the United States. The US, which is Taiwan's main supplier of arms, opposes any attempt to change Taiwan's status through force. Taiwan's Defense Ministry said that 40 of the planes crossed the symbolic halfway point between mainland China and the island. It also reported nine naval vessels in the last 24 hours. The ministry called the Chinese military action "harassment" and warned that it could escalate the current tense atmosphere. "We urge the Beijing authorities to bear

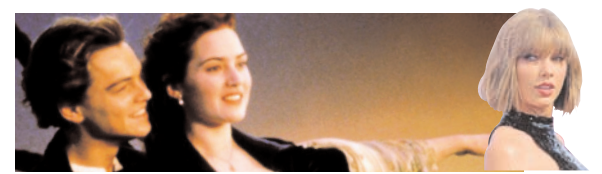


responsibility and immediately stop such kind of destructive military activities," it said in a statement. China last week sent a flotilla of ships including the aircraft carrier Shandong into waters near Taiwan. The drills came shortly after the US and Canada sailed warships through the Taiwan Strait, the waters that separate the island from the mainland. China also revealed a plan for an integrated development demonstration zone with Taiwan in China's nearby Fujian province, trying to entice Taiwan while also warning it. Experts say it is China's long-running carrot and stick approach. The recent actions by China may be an attempt to sway

Taiwan's presidential election slated to be held in January. The ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which leans towards formal independence for the island, is anathema to the Chinese government. China favours opposition candidates who support working with the mainland. Taiwan and China split in 1949 when the communists took control of China during a civil war. The losing Nationalists fled to Taiwan and set up their own government in the island. The island is self-governing, though only a few foreign nations give it official diplomatic recognition. The US among others has formal ties with China while it maintains a representative office in Taiwan.

Nawaz Sharif's driver spits on face of woman for asking 'uncomfortable question'

London | The driver of former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif purportedly spat on a woman who had stopped his car here and made an unflattering comment, according to a video going viral on social media. As per the video, shared on several social media sites, as well as Pakistani social media discussion forum Siasat.pk, the woman waved at the car in which the Pakistani leader was travelling on the front seat, and it stopped, and the driver rolled down the window. The woman, who was recording the incident on her mobile phone, then purportedly asked Nawaz Sharif, if he was corrupt and at this, the driver spat on her face, rolled up the window, and drove away.



HUGH JACKMAN HAS 'DIFFICULT TIME' FOLLOWING SEPARATION FROM WIFE



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Hugh Jackman has confessed that he is going through a "difficult" time. The 'Logan' star broke the news on Friday, September 15 that he and Deborra-Lee Furness - with whom he has Oscar, 23, and 18-year-old Ava - are going their separate ways after 27 years of marriage, and though he doesn't yet feel ready to talk about the split, he admitted things haven't been easy, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"It doesn't feel quite right talking about it on the street but I appreciate your thoughts, man. It's a difficult time ...," Hugh said in footage obtained by TMZ when he was stopped by a paparazzi videographer in New York City on Saturday, September 16.

The reporter then asked the 54-year-old star when he'd be returning to work on 'Deadpool 3', which is currently on hold because of the Hollywood strikes.

He said: "I can't really know until (the strikes end), but hopefully soon I hope."

The 'Greatest Showman' actor and his estranged wife announced they had split in a joint statement.

They told People magazine: "We have been blessed to share almost three decades together as husband and wife in a wonderful, loving marriage. Our journey now is shifting and we have decided to separate to pursue our individual growth."

"Our family has been and always will be our highest priority. We undertake this next chapter with gratitude, love, and kindness. We greatly appreciate your understanding in respecting our privacy as our family navigates this transition in all of our lives."

The pair signed off as "Deb and Hugh Jackman" and concluded: "This is the sole statement either of us will make."



Nicolas Cage thrilled by the idea of being aged up for 'The Retirement Plan'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Nicolas Cage relished the idea of being aged up for 'The Retirement Plan'.

The 59-year-old actor plays a retired assassin in director Tim Brown's new movie, and he was quick to get on board for the project because not only did he like the script, but he was intrigued at the thought of playing someone a decade older, reports aceshowbiz.com. "I sent Mike (Nilon), his manager, the script, and he responded. He said that he thought it was really funny. He loved the family theme that's running through it," Tim told The Hollywood Reporter when discussing how he got the 'Pig' star on board. "He loved the idea of playing a grandfather and playing a bit older than his own age. So he liked the idea of being aged up, and that was pretty much it. We talked a lot about the material, and the comedy really drew him to it." The filmmaker praised the 'City of Angels' actor for his "phenomenal" comic ability and the special qualities he brings to his work. He said, "I don't know if he ever gets enough credit for being a tremendous comic actor because he does so much drama and action, but his comic ability is phenomenal." He has an ability to improvise and add just a little twist of something that I refer to as the 'Nic Cage spice'. It's hard to explain, but you love it. So he brought his Nic Cage-ism to this role in the Caymans with us, as he does in every role that he does, and I got really lucky that he liked the material." Tim was grateful for Nicolas' improvisation skills. He said, "I always found that Nic is great out of the gate and he finds more improvisation and looseness in the more takes that he does."

Halle Berry seemingly calls out Drake for using a picture of her without consent



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Halle Berry is not looking "too happy" with the rapper Drake at the moment, saying that the musician had not asked for her permission before sharing a picture of her covered in slime for his song 'Slime You Out'.

The 57-year-old 'X Men' actress, remembering the incident took to her Instagram and rather humorously quipped: "Sometimes you have to be the bigger man. Even if you are a woman."

Letting the message be self-explanatory, she added a hand emoji with the finger pointing up as the caption. This was seemingly addressed to the 36-year-old rapper not asking her for permission to use a photo of her covered in green "slime" during the 2012 Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards for the cover art of his new single 'Slime You Out' featuring SZA, according to People.

Berry went on to confirm that this comment was directly referring to Drake, when she replied to an Instagram user who asked her in the comments what she thought of the cover art for Drake's newly announced single. "He didn't get my permission. That's not cool. I thought better of him!" the 'Bruised' director-star wrote in response.

She added in another comment, "Hence my post today. When people you admire disappoint you, you have to be the bigger person and move on!"



Priyanka Chopra condemns 'appalling' death of Indian student in US

Los Angeles: Actress Priyanka Chopra has responded to the tragic death of an Indian student named Jaahnavi Kandula in the US, calling it "appalling". She also fumed at the fact that the whole news of her death only surfaced nine months after her passing.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, the 'Citadel' actress wrote: "It's appalling to learn that such a tragic incident that occurred 9 months ago is only now coming to light."

"A life is only a life. It has no monetary worth," she added.

Director-actor-singer Farhan Akhtar had also expressed his sympathies on Instagram, writing: "#JaahnaviKandula. We didn't know one other, but as a student prepared to create a name for herself in the world, I knew your potential was infinite and your worth enormous. Sincere condolences to your family."

"RIP." The 23-year-old student had died on January 23, 2023, after being struck by a Seattle police patrol vehicle in the US. Months after her death, a recording from a body-worn camera surfaced, where two union leaders from the Seattle Police Department were heard laughing about her death.

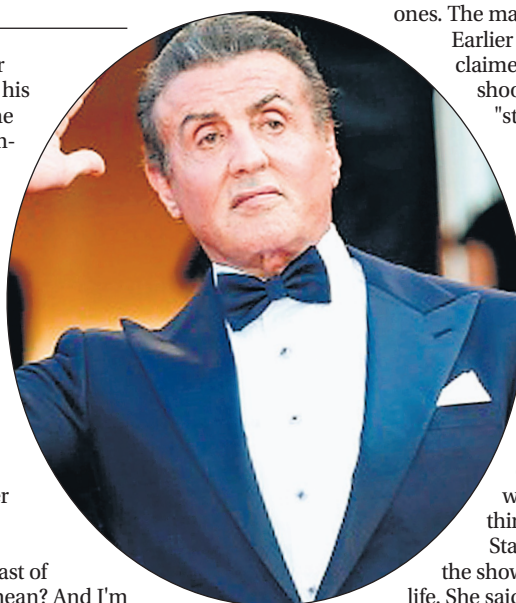
Sylvester Stallone proudly compares himself to 'the last of dinosaurs'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone has exceeded his own expectations in the movie industry, and even compared himself to "the last of dinosaurs."

"It's like, really, you can't be prepared for this. Especially with the longevity of this career, (which) is mind-blowing. It's just mind-blowing because I don't know how much longer you can wait ... Society is changing, the commerciality in cinema... it's faster. So longevity would become a premium," Sylvester shared to ETCanada, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I consider myself like the last of dinosaurs, you know what I mean? And I'm very proud of that. ... But yeah, you have to really think about that. It's incredible. Yeah, it is. I don't take it for granted, but I really want to spend it with my loved



ones. The majority of what's left."

Earlier this year, meanwhile, Stallone claimed that he was determined to shoot a reality TV show while he's "still relevant."

The Hollywood icon starred in a reality series called 'The Family Stallone', and the veteran actor insisted that he wanted to "share this notoriety" with the world.

Sylvester -- who starred in the 'Rocky' and 'Rambo' film franchises -- told Entertainment Tonight, "This would be great to share this notoriety with a reality show while you're still relevant. I love daughters, I love my wife and I wanted to share that. It's something that I think is entertaining." Stallone's wife, Jennifer, also wanted the show to be an authentic look at their life. She said, "I didn't want it to be set up. I didn't want it to be, 'Oh, we all get drunk and we all throw fits and we're screaming at each other.' I wanted to show people real life things that happen."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Gisele Bündchen



Mouni Roy went over 200 outfits, experimented with her hair for series

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mouni Roy, who is awaiting the release of her debut streaming series 'Sultan of Delhi', is over the moon with the fact that she got to play a highly stylised character that required her to go through over 200 outfits and demanded her to experiment a lot with her hair. Mouni will be seen embracing the retro vibe with classic, elegant dresses and hair-dos. 'Sultan Of Delhi', which is based on the book, 'Sultan of Delhi: Ascension' by Arnab Ray, is a larger-than-life mass entertainment made for streaming.

It also stars Tahir Raj Bhasin, Anjum Sharma, veteran actor Vinay Pathak and Nishant Dahiya in pivotal roles, alongside the ladies Anupriya Goenka, Harleen Sethi and Mehreen Pirzada. Talking about her look and character, Mouni said: "Which girl doesn't enjoy dressing up and looking strikingly different. Sultan Of Delhi gave me the opportunity to explore my own style and colour schemes across each episode, as Nayantara. It was a tedious process to find the perfect look for the character and I went through over 200 outfits and experimented a lot with my hair as well."

She further mentioned: "After trying over 10 test-looks, we finally got what we wanted. Nayantara brings a lot of glamour and glitter to the storyline in her own way. This is the first time I am donning a look from the 60s era and am very excited for the audiences to see this side of me."

'Sultan of Delhi' will stream from October 13 on Disney+ Hotstar.



Nithya Menen-starrer comedy drama 'Kumari Srimathi' to stream from Sep 28

Mumbai: Actress Nithya Menen's upcoming comedy drama series 'Kumari Srimathi' is all set to stream digitally from September 28.

Set in a village in East Godavari, the series hilariously encapsulates the tribulations in the life of a 30-year-old woman (played by Menen), who challenges stereotypes in a small town riddled with antiquity.

Produced by Early Monsoon Tales, a web division of Vyjayanthi Entertainments, the series is directed by Gomtesh Upadhye and stars Nithya along with Nirupam Paritala, Gautami, Thiruveer, Talluri Rameswari, Naresh, and Murali Mohan in pivotal roles.

The seven episodes of 'Kumari Srimathi' in Telugu are dubbed in Hindi, Tamil, and Malayalam.

Producer Swapna Dutt said: "Srimathi's journey is a celebration of determination, resilience, and the unbreakable bonds of family. With a fresh and unconventional plot, Kumari Srimathi explores the intricacies of the domestic households, breaking the norms of society, and nurturing personal aspirations, all while taking the audience on an emotional and entertaining roller coaster." "Firmly rooted in culture with strong familial bonds at the forefront, we are confident that the viewers will find relatability in the characters and the hilarity and enjoy the show as much as we did while filming it. We are thrilled to bring the unique and empowering story to audiences worldwide exclusively on Prime Video."

Manish Menghani, director of content licensing, Prime Video India added: "With an ensemble cast of outstanding talent, the series is an excellent choice for family viewing."



Amit Sadh cleans up part of Rakchham village during his bike expedition

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Amit Sadh, who is known for his work in 'Sultan', 'Jeet Ki Zid', 'Avrodh', 'Breathe' etc, is currently on a month-long motorcycle trip around India, and it's not just about adventure for him, but he is also committed to protecting the natural beauty.

During his journey, he's been to many places like Balasinor, Ahmedabad, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Delhi, Chandigarh, Theog, Sangla, Kaza, Jispa, Purne, Padum, Kargil, and Leh.

What's special about his trip is that he's doing his best to keep these places clean and beautiful. He's setting a good example for all travellers.

A source stated: "Amit truly loves his country and is deeply concerned about the environment. He doesn't want to see it being harmed. One remarkable stop on his journey happened in Rakchham (Himachal Pradesh) where he took a break but went beyond that."

"Amit voluntarily took the initiative to clean up the area, gathering the discarded garbage left behind by tourists. His actions reflect a profound belief that every traveller has a responsibility to preserve the cleanliness of our surroundings and minimise our impact on the environment," added the source.



As Amit nears the end of his journey, he continues to inspire others with his love for nature and India. His future plans include exploring Hanle, Sonmarg, and Jammu, where he will keep discovering new places and taking care of our environment.



Vicky Kaushal: Our film industry is a true representation of India's beautiful diversity

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal says the Indian film industry is a representation of how beautiful India's plurality is.

He said: "Our film industry is a true representation of India's beautiful diversity. Here you will see

people from various backgrounds make a living in our industry through sheer talent and work ethic."

The actor, who is lovingly called the national crush, is very proud of this diversity.

He said: "I'm very proud of this very diversity where when we are

on set, we are all one unit working towards the end goal that is making a film/project we are all very happy and proud of. Our film industry is a microcosm of what India is and I'm just fortunate to be a part of it."

Vicky's next is 'The Great Indian Family'. The film is a celebration of India's unity in diversity and how

the people of this country are bound by the bond of brotherhood and inclusivity.

Produced by Yash Raj Films, The Great Indian Family, directed by Vijay Krishna Acharya, is set to release on September 22.

Chahatt Khanna to bring in Lord Ganpati to her brand new abode

Mumbai | Agencies

Actress Chahatt Khanna, who is waiting for the release of her upcoming film 'Yaatri's' is having double celebrations this year on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. The actress has shifted to her new abode just in time for the festival.

Her luxurious 4-BHK house boasts of a balcony garden, newly acquired furniture, wardrobes, a revamped bedroom, and exquisite interior decor.

Expressing her excitement, Chahatt Khanna said: "I've had this plan to shift to my new home for a while. It's a spacious and elegant 4-BHK house that I've decorated with care, from the new furniture to the interior decor"

But the excitement doesn't stop there. Chahatt is all set to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in her new abode. She shared: "The goal was to expedite the shifting process so that we could focus on decorating for Ganpati and welcome our beloved Bappa to bless our new home and bring prosperity. It's my second year celebrating Ganpati, and I'm both thrilled and a little exhausted."



Meanwhile, her film 'Yaatri's', which also stars Raghubir Yadav, Seema Pahwa, and Jamie Lever, is set to release next month. The actor also shared that after Ganpati, she will be fully immersed in my work commitments, followed by the promotions and the release of 'Yaatri's'.

Chahatt Khanna's journey reflects the balance of personal joy and professional success, and her dedication to both aspects of her life shines through as she welcomes Lord Ganpati to her new home and eagerly awaits the release of 'Yaatri's'. It's a double whammy of happiness for the actress.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nayanthara