

SPECULATIONS OF AGENDAS

Development work undertaken by Centre in J&K not relevant in deciding pleas against Article 370: SC

According to sources, in this special session of Parliament, Modi government can bring a bill on One Nation One Election. Political experts say that by bringing the One Nation One Election Bill in the special session of the Parliament, the government can either extend the tenure of the Lok Sabha for one more year or can also hold the Lok Sabha elections along with the assembly elections of five states. This possibility has created a stir in the opposition. This news has come at a time when the meeting of Opposition Alliance I.N.D.I.A. is being held in Mumbai.

The debate regarding One Nation-One Election has been going on in the country for a long time.

In January 2023, the Law Commission had sought answers to six questions from political parties regarding this.

The government wants to implement it, many political parties are against it

If the government wants to conduct one country one election, then this year the assembly elections of five states including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh can also be postponed.

Team Absolute New Delhi

The government has called a special session of Parliament between September 18 and 22, amid speculations that it may being in some special legislative business. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi posted on X (formerly Twitter), adding, that there will be five sittings. "Amid Amrit Kaal, looking forward to having a fruitful discussion and debate in Parliament," he said. Government sources have, so far, been tight-lipped on possible agendas.

There will be no Question Hour, no Zero Hour and no private member



business during the special session, sources told reporter. The President, who normally summons a Parliament session, will summon this special ses-

"Managing the News Cycle, Modi style.

1. News today has been dominated by latest revelations on the Modani-scam.

2. Tomorrow the ever-growing INDIA parties meet in Mumbai. How to counter? Announce a 5day special session of Parliament when Monsoon session has just ended 3 weeks back. Regardless, the JPC demand will continue to resonate inside and outside Parliament," Ramesh said. The timing of the special session does coincides with the opposition bloc I.N.D.I.A's third meeting. sion also under Article 85 (1) of the Constitution, sources said further. The cabinet committee of political affairs (CCPA) took the decision to convene the special session and it has

duly informed the Parliament. Since President Droupadi Murmu is currently on a tour of Chhattisgarh, she will issue orders to summon the special session, once she returns, sources said.The news of the special session has opened up a lot of political debate, as it has been suddenly announced just days after the Monsoon Session ended. There is a likelihood that the President may address both houses in the new Parliament building.

The call for the special session has been criticised by several opposition leaders, with those from Maharashtra pointing out the dates clash with "India's most important festival of Ganesh Chaturthi"."This special session called during India's most important festival of Ganesh Chaturthi is unfortunate and goes against Hindu

sentiments. Surprised at choice of dates!" Shiv Sena UBT's Priyanka Chaturvedi said, while the Nationalist Congress Party's Supriya Sule asked for it to be rescheduled. "Whilst we all look forward towards meaningful discussions and dialogue, the dates coincide with Ganpati Festival, a major festival in Maharashtra. Urging the Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister to take the above into consideration," Sule posted on X.The Congress has also reacted; party spokesperson Jairam Ramesh called the special session "managing the news cycle, Modi style' and flagged the mega opposition meet in Mumbai.

The 22nd Law Commission had issued a public notice seeking opinion from political parties, the **Election Commission and all** organizations associated with the election process. The Law Commission had asked whether holding simultaneous elections in any way violates democracy, the basic structure of the Constitution or the federal structure of the country? The commission also asked that in the event of a hung assembly or a hung mandate in a general election when no political party has the majority to form a government, Is the prime minister or chief minister may be appointed by the speaker of the elected parliament or assembly?



Team Absolute New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday clarified that the development works undertaken by the Centre in Jammu and Kashmir post August 2019 will not be relevant in deciding the constitutional challenge against abrogation of Article 370.

The Constitution Bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud remarked that the roadmap, given by the Union government, on restoration of statehood of J&K and holding of elections, cannot be an answer to the constitutional challenge and it has to be dealt "independently".

"The nature of development work taken place post August 2019 may not be relevant to the constitutional challenge (and) cannot be an answer to the constitutional challenge These facts would possibly have no bearing on the constitutional issue," the CJI observed. On the 13th day of hearing, the Centre told the Supreme Court that it cannot give any fixed timeline for restoration of statehood in J&K and the Union government is ready for elections at any time in the valley. At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta

argued that the region is

year around 1.88 crore

continuously progressing by

apprised that in the previous

citing different figures and

tourists visited J&K and the

Mehta said that on com-

paring the present situation

with 2018, terrorists initiated

45.2 per cent, infiltration has

instances are reduced by

been reduced by 90.2 per

cent, stone pelting reduced

persons casualties reduced

agencies would take into

consideration... In 2018,

by 97.2 per cent, and security

'These are factors which

one crore mark has been

crossed till date for year

2023.

organised bandhs (protests) by secessionist forces were 52 and now it is nil," he said. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing on a petitioner's behalf, asked whether the Constitution Bench will take into account

stone pelting was 1,767 and

it is nil now and calls of

Bench will take into account the facts presented by the government because as per him they were extremely "irrelevant". He countered the figures

given by the government, saying that they "will go into the mind of the court" and "trying to show as to how this enormous change (revocation of Article 370) has taken place for the benefit of the people of J&K".

"If you have 5,000 people under house arrest and Section 144 throughout the state, there cannot be no bandhs (protests)," said Sibal, adding that such facts are not "necessary" or "relevant" in adjudicating upon the constitutional reference.

Manipur's tribal leaders forum declares emergency shutdown after clashes

Imphal Agencies

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) - a joint body of the Kuki-Zo tribes, declared an 'Emergency Shutdown' in violence-hit Manipur's Churachandpur district after several Kuki-Zodominated areas of Manipur came under attack.

The ITLF said, "Areas like Lonphai, Khousabung, Kangvai and Sugnu areas are under attack. ITLF calls for an Emergency Shutdown with immediate effect. Emergency services like medical, police, water, electricity, and press will be exempted."

The "emergency shutdown" came hours after seven people died in fresh violence in the Churachandpur district. Heavy exchange of fire continued for the past three days in the border areas of Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts after a period of



calm for a fortnight.Several people have died in the last three days, and over a dozen people from both the Meitei community and the Kuki-Zo tribe have suffered bullet and splinter injuries.Security forces in violence-hit Manipur are being rushed to the Naranseina Maning Leikai area, which is now the epicentre of the new flare-up.

Two people suffered severe bomb splinter injuries after a firing that happened yesterday, sources said.

India's April-July fiscal deficit rises to Rs 6.06 lakh crore

New Delhi: The government's fiscal deficit rose to Rs 6.06 lakh crore in April-July period, compared to Rs 4.51 lakh crore in April-June, according to data



released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Thursday.

This takes the fiscal deficit for the first four months of the current fiscal to 33.9 per cent of the full-year target of Rs 17.87 lakh crore.The fiscal deficit for April-July 2022 was 20.5 per cent of the target for 2022-23.

In July, the monthly fiscal deficit was Rs 1.54 lakh crore, while during the corresponding period of last year, the government had recorded a fiscal surplus of Rs 11,040 crore.The fiscal deficit for April-July 2022 was 20.5 per cent of the target for 2022-23. The government's fiscal deficit terget for

The government's fiscal deficit target for 2023-24 is 5.9 per cent of GDP, down from 6.4 percent of GDP in 2022-23.

'Want to save democracy, Constitution from dictatorship': Mumbai INDIA conclave leaders

by 65.9 per cent.

Team Absolute Mumbai

On the eve of the third National Opposition INDIA conclave opening here on Friday morning, various participating opposition leaders from the country on Thursday said they are converging to protect the Constitution and safeguard democracy in the country from authoritarianism.

Leaders of 28 parties from all over India have arrived here for the crucial deliberations to provide an alternative to the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Earlier on Thursday evening, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi set the aggressive tone for the INDIA meet September. The host, President au Thackeray v along with s leaders, to r all the visiti he has organ a suburban "We want cy. We are fi fighting for want to kee said Aditya sion at the H Santacruz

at his packed media briefing, even as the government announced a Special Session of Parliament -- to be convened in the third week of The host, Shiv Sena (UBT) President and former CM Uddhav Thackeray was personally present, along with several other top party leaders, to receive, meet and greet all the visiting leaders for a dinner he has organised on Friday night at a suburban deluxe hotel.

"We want to preserve democracy. We are fighting for it. We are fighting for the Constitution. We want to keep our country together," said Aditya Thackeray on the occasion at the Hotel Grand Hyatt in Santacruz.

Senior leader and Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar said that people from all states are very much interested in the INDIA bloc meeting outcome.

INDIA'S MOON ROVER PLAYFUL ON THE LUNAR SURFACE? LOOKS ARE DECEPTIVE!

Chennai Agencies

s India's moon rover being playful on the Chandamama? It seems so, the Indian space agency said.

For many kids in India, the moon is usually referred to Chandamama as their mothers show it to them while feeding them.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently rotated the moon rover for a safe navigation route. The movement was captured by a camera on the moon lander and was transmitted to the ISRO.

Uploading the video on the social media platform X, the ISRO said: "It feels as though a child is playfully frolicking in the yards of

Chandamama, while the mother watches affectionately. Isn't it?"

However, looks may be deceptive, as the 26kg rover is actually into serious business.

According to the ISRO, one more instrument on the rover confirmed the presence of sulphur (S) in the region through another technique.

The Alpha Particle X-ray Spectroscope (APXS) has detected S, as well as other minor elements.

"This finding by Chandrayaan-3 compels scientists to develop fresh explanations for the



source of Sulphur (S) in the area: intrinsic?, volcanic?, meteoritic?,.....?" the ISRO said.

Recently, ISRO said the rover has found the presence of oxygen, aluminium, sulphur and other materials near the lunar south pole, while investigation regarding the presence of hydrogen is underway, the Indian space agency added.

According to the ISRO, the Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard Chandrayaan-3 rover has made the firstever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south pole.

These in-situ measurements confirm the pres-

ence of sulphur in the region unambiguously, something that was not feasible by the instruments onboard the orbiters. LIBS is a scientific technique that analyses the composition of materials by exposing them to intense laser pulses. A high-energy laser pulse is focused onto the surface of a material, such as a rock or soil.

The laser pulse generates an extremely hot and localised plasma, ISRO said. The collected plasma light is spectrally resolved and detected by detectors such as Charge Coupled Devices. Since each element emits a characteristic set of wavelengths of light when it's in a plasma state, the elemental composition of the material is determined.According to ISRO, preliminary analysis, have unveiled the presence of aluminum (Al), sulphur (S), calcium (Ca), iron (Fe), chromium (Cr), and titanium (Ti) on the lunar surface.

Further measurements have also revealed the presence of manganese (Mn), silicon (Si), and oxygen (O).LIBS payload is developed at the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems (LEOS)/ISRO, Bengaluru.

India on August 23 reached the Moon with its lander safely landing on the lunar soil in a text book style. Later the rover rolled down and started doing experiments.

Shivraj cabinet nod to compensate Rs 450 LPG subsidy for Ujjwala beneficiaries

Team Absolute Bhopal

With eyes firmly set on the Assembly elections due later this year, the Madhya Pradesh cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday approved the proposal to compensate Rs 450 on per gas cylinder purchased by Ujjawala connection beneficiaries.

The announcement was made by CM Chouhan during an event in Bhopal a couple of days back.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, Chouhan has announced that the state government would provide the cooking gas cylinder at Rs 450.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led MP cabinet approved this proposal two days after the Union Cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to reduce the price of LPG cooking cylinders by Rs 200.

After slashing the price of gas cylinder by Rs 200, a 14-kg LPG cylinder would cost Rs 900, and now the state government has also announced to compensate Rs 450 through



direct benefit transfer (DBT), state home minister Narottam Mishra, who also spokesperson of MP government told the press on Thursday. "The cabinet has approved a proposal to increase the incentive amount of ASHA workers from Rs 2,000 to Rs. 6,000. The incentive amount of ASHA supervisors has been increased from Rs 350 to Rs 500 and maximum."





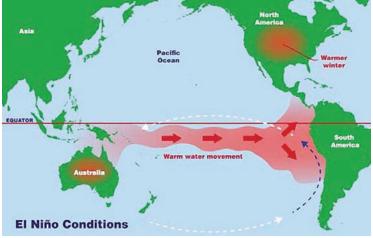
AFTER DRY AUGUST, HEAVY SEPTEMBER RAIN IN PARTS OF INDIA: IMD

Team Absolute New Delhi

fter India experiencing the driest August since 1901, the Southwest Monsoon is expected to revive over the weekend bringing rainfall to central and southern parts of the country, the weather office said on Thursday.

The India Meteorological Department on Thursday said that weak El Nino conditions are currently prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region, however, positive Indian Ocean Dipole conditions are likely to strengthen during the upcoming months.

"The latest Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecasting System (MMCFS) and other global model forecasts indicate that the El Nino conditions are likely to intensify further and continue until early next year. Apart from the ENSO conditions over the Pacific, other factors such as Indian Ocean Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) also have an influence on the Indian Monsoon,"



He lauded the consistent

Commissioner, Nagaland, in

efforts of the Office of the

providing Aadhaar-linked

services to the state's resi

actively supporting states

through workshops, door-to-

reach to remote areas, assist-

Regional Office in Guwahati

ing them in harnessing the

benefits of the Aadhaar

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the IMD said in its report. "Currently, borderline positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over the Indian Ocean. The latest forecasts from MMCFS and other global models indicate that the positive IOD conditions are likely to strengthen during

the upcoming months," it added.

The IMD further predicted that rainfall averaged over the entire country during September is likely to be normal (91-109 per cent of LPA). The Long Period Average (LPA) of rainfall over the country for September, based on data from 1971-

2020, is about 167.9 mm. "The forecast suggests that abovenormal rainfall is most likely over many areas in northeastern India, adjoining eastern India, foothills of the Himalayas, and some areas of east-central and south peninsular India. However, the probability of normal to below-normal rainfall is highest over the remaining parts of the country. The white shaded areas within the land area represent climatological probabilities," the report said. "In September, above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, except for some areas in south peninsular India and a few pockets in west-central India, where normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are expected. Above-normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, except for some areas in extreme northern India, where normal to below-normal minimum temperatures are expected," it said.

Maha horror: Dalit widow beaten on road for seeking return of Rs 2K

Satara Agencies

n yet another incident, a Dalit widow was allegedly thrashed by at least four persons after she demanded repayment of a Rs 2,000 advance paid to a man for undelivered fodder, as videos of the beating went viral on social media network here on Thursday.

The shocker took place on August 26 in Panven village where the victim, Shahida Mahadev Tupe was beaten up in public and evoked strong reactions from Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) President Prakash Ambedkar.

According to local eyewitnesses, the prime accused, one Devdas Naraley and his associates allegedly abused, punched, kicked and pushed around the middle-aged woman till she fell on the road, crying for help.

With no help from the onlookers, some of whom were clicking pictures or videos of the assault, the four assailants fled the spot.

Later, the widow's son lodged a police complaint after which the police swung into action and nabbed the remaining accused Santosh Shinde, Shantaram Narale, and Janappa Shinde by late Monday, two days after the incident. Ambedkar said that the video of the physical abuse "is so disturbing that I am struggling to find words in my vocabulary to illustrate this caste atrocity in words. Absolutely cruel and inhuman". "It does not stop, does it? A helpless Dalit widow was brutally beaten by



a group of men in Satara. Her crime? She demanded her own money back which she paid for undelivered goods - fodder," said Ambedkar on a social media post.

The Mhaswad Police, probing the outrageous incident, have booked all the accused under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The VBA activists protested on Wednesday in the village and later, submitted a memorandum to the district authorities demanding police security and justice for the Tupe family. This is the second major attack on Dalits, coming close on the heels of the August 25 incident in Haregaon, Ahmednagar when four VBA activists were stripped, urinated upon, spat, hung upside down from a tree and beaten up. VBA chief Ambedkar will take out a protest rally in Ahmednagar to condemn that and the fresh incident reported from Satara

Nagaland becomes 1st state in NE to launch Aadhaar-linked birth registration

Kohima Agencies

arking a significant feat, Nagaland has become the first state in the northeastern region to initiate Aadhaar linked birth registration (ALBR) on Thursday

The initiative is anticipated to enable children's access to various social welfare schemes designed for their welfare. This pioneering initiative aims to streamline birth registration by integrat ing it with Aadhaar enrolment for children in the age group of 0 to 5. Nagaland government Commissioner T. Mhabemo Yanthan highlighted the pivotal role of ALBR in registering newborns and ensuring the inclusion of children aged 0 to 5 years. He urged the cooperation of state government officials to ensure the successful implementation of ALBR across all districts of



Nagaland.

To extend the reach of this service to residents across districts, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Nagaland, which serves as the Registrar for Birth and Death for the state, has collaborated with UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) as a Registrar cum Enrolment Agency for Child Enrolment via the ALBR process. Director of UIDAI, Col.

has been working in close co-Abhishek Koushik, comordination with the Office of mended the Nagaland govthe Commissioner Nagaland, ernment for leading the which serves as the Nodal northeastern region in imple-Department for Aadhaarmenting ALBR. related activities in the state.

Raje's religious tour ahead of BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra' triggers speculation in Rajasthan

Jaipur Agencies

day before BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra' begins in Rajasthan, senior party leader and former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje will go on a day-long religious tour to three temples in the poll-bound state on Friday.

nation

Raje's 'Dev Darshan' will start from the Chaturbhuja temple in Rajsamand district. She had embarked on a similar yatra from the same temple before the Assembly elections in 2013 and 2018 as well. As per official sources, Raje will visit Charbhuja, Nathdwara and Tripura Sundari temples on Friday.

Meanwhile, the sudden announcement by Raje to go on a religious tour on the eve the party's Parivartan Yatra has triggered speculation in the political circles of the state. The former Chief Minister is yet to announce her plans to join the Parivartan Yatra. Raje will leave from Jaipur on a



chopper on Friday morning and will directly reach the Charbhuja temple in Rajsamand district. After darshan, Raje will proceed to Nathdwara in the same district by helicopter. From Nathdwara, she will go to the Tripura Sundari temple located in Banswara district.

Raje's office told IANS that she has been going on religious yatras every time before a political yatra.

Incidentally, Raje is not the face of the party in the four Parivartan Yatras being organised by the BJP. In such a situation, the former Chief Minister embarking on a religious tour just a day before the commencement of the party's Parivartan Yatra has created a flutter in the political circles of the state.

It is being said that at each of the three spots Raje is going to visit on Friday, her supporters will turn up in large numbers as a show of strength.

BJP' Parivartan Yatra will start from the Trinetra Ganesh temple in Sawai Madhopur on Saturday.

assembly), 186 (obstructing a

public servant from discharg-

FIVE MINORS DROWN IN BIHAR'S AURANGABAD Lawyers up in arms in Raj over NUH VIOLENCE: BITTU BAJRANGI GETS BAIL Gurugram Agencies

Patna: Five children

6

Gehlot's remarks on judiciary

Jaipur Agencies

shok Gehlot's remark that a "lot of corruption is happening in the judiciary" has triggered a row in Rajasthan, leaving a section of the lawyers angry who burnt an effigy of the Chief Minister at the high court premises on Thursday.

A PIL has also been filed against Gehlot in the high court for his remarks made on Wednesday, wherein he had stated that "today, a lot of corruption is happening in the judiciary. What many lawyers take in writing, the same judgment comes, What is happening inside the judiciary? The situation is serious and the countrymen should think about".

Former vice-president of the Bar Council of Rajasthan (BCR), Yogendra Singh Tanwar, has written to the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.



urging the latter to take cognisance of Gehlot's remarks and consider his let-

ter as a criminal complaint.

"Gehlot has given public statements accusing the judiciary of large-scale corruption. This has damaged the reputation of the judiciary. These derogatory comments not only harm the reputation of the judiciary, but also hinder the smooth functioning of the legal system," Tanwar wrote.

Advocate Shivcharan Gupta, who filed the PIL in the high court, said that Gehlot's remarks have embarrassed the judiciary besides tarnishing its reputation.

"Gehlot's comments come under the definition of contempt, so the high court should take cognisance under Article 215 of the Constitution and take necessary action," Gupta said. Some lawyers also burnt Gehlot's

effigy in the high court premises, demanding an immediately apology from the Chief Minister.

Aurangabad district as they went to a local pond for a bath after Raksha Bandhan on Thursday, police said. The incident was reported in Sonarchak village under Salaiya police station at around 11 a.m.The victims, without realising the depth of the pond, entered it for a bath and drowned. The villagers took out the bodies and taken them to the hospital where all of them were declared brought dead.The deceased are identified as Dhirai Kumar. 10, Neeraj Kumar, 12, Prince Kumar, 10, Golu Kumar, 12, and Amit Kumar, 8, all residents of Sonarchak village.

ow vigilante Bitti Bajrangi, who was arrested in connection with the Nuh violence in Haryana earlier this month, has been granted bail by a local court on Wednesday. Bajragi, who was sent to 14-day judicial custody on August 17, was lodged at the

Neemka jail in Faridabad. He was arrested from Faridabad after an FIR was registered against him on a complaint of Assistant Superintendent of Police Usha Kundu.

According to the FIR, Bajrangi and his supporters misbehaved with and threatened Kundu and police team which had stopped them while they were carrying swords and trishuls to Nalhar temple during the VHP's



Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra on July 31.

Bajrangi was arrested by ing duty), 323 (causing hurt), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt Faridabad police two days to deter public servant from after the violence in connechis duty), 353 (assault or tion with another case relatcriminal force to deter public ed to the communal clashes but was released on bail after servant), and 506 (criminal he joined the investigation. intimidation) and provisions of the Arms Act. He was charged with making incendiary speeches on Communal violence had social media.

erupted between two groups The FIR was registered on July 31 which claimed the lives of six people including against Bajrangi under Indian Penal Code Sections two Home Guards and a cler 148 (riots), 149 (unlawful ic.

AAP passes resolution to hike councillor allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 25K per meeting; BJP hits back



Team Absolute New Delhi

fresh political row has been triggered in the national capital after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday passed a resolution to raise MCD councillor's allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 25,000 per meeting, drawing sharp criticism from the opposition BJP.The MCD councillors will now receive Rs 25,000 per session as meeting allowance, a considerable rise from the present allowance of Rs 300 a session. However, the councillors will not receive more than Rs 1 lakh per month as allowance. The proposal, passed by the MCD Council, will now be

forwarded to the Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) before seeking approval from the Central government. It remains to be seen if the Centre gives its nod.

Meanwhile, the BJP has condemned AAP for bringing such a resolution, terming it a Black Day in the history of MCD.Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said that the party strongly condemns Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for allowing his party members to bring and approve a resolution in the MCD house meeting to raise councilor's meeting allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 25,000 per meeting.

SHARMILA EYES KEY POST IN CONGRESS, 15 ASSEMBLY TICKETS

Hyderabad Agencies

SR Telangana Party (YSRTP) chief Y. S. Sharmila, who met senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on Thursday, expects a key position and 15 Assembly tickets in return for the merger with the Congress

During the meeting with Gandhis, she discussed wide-ranging issues related to Telangana politics and placed before them what she expected from the party leadership.

Sharmila, daughter of Congress leader and former chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh late Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR), is said to be keen to get the position of Congress General Secretary.

Sharmila, who has already announced her intention to contest the Assembly election from Palair constituency in Telangana's Khammam district, wants the party to give tickets to her nominees for at least 15 constituencies."She will now wait for a response from the Congress high command and depending on the further talks the modalities for the merger will be worked out," a source in YSRTP told reporter.

The YSRTP leader had detailed discussion with Rahul Gandhi on the



Telangana politics. Sonia Gandhi later joined them. After the meeting, Sharmila told media persons that she discussed with them issues related to Telangana. "As the daughter of YSR, I will continue to make relentless efforts to serve people of Telangana," she said.

Sharmila also remarked that the countdown has started for KCR government.She, however, did not answer questions as to when the merger will happen.

Sharmila's camp sees the meeting with the top leaders as a big achievement. "They had very good interaction. The meeting was an ice-breaker," a leader, who did not want to be identified, told reporter.

Sharmila is sister of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who had who had raised a banner of revolt against the Gandhi family and floated YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in 2010, a year after the tragic death of their father YSR in a helicopter crash.

Jagan Mohan Reddy was then backed by Sharmila and their mother Y.S. Vijayamma.

invited to join Congress Hyderabad Agencies

Dissident BRS leader

he Congress in Telangana on Thursday invited former minister and BRS leader Tummala Nageswara Rao to join the party.

State Congress chief A. Revanth Reddy met Nageshwara Rao here and invited him to join the

Congress. Nageswara Rao is reported to have responded positively to the invitation by the Congress leaders. He is miffed with the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) after he was denied ticket from Palair constituency for the coming Assembly elections. The BRS has given ticket to

Kandla Upender Reddy, who was elected on Congress ticket in 2018 but later defected to the BRS. Nageswara Rao was elected on BRS ticket from Palair in 2016 by-election. In 2018, he lost to



Upender Reddy.

After denial of the ticket, the former minister held a massive show of strength in Khammam. He told his supporters that he will contest the coming Assembly election. If Nageswara Rao joins the Congress, the party may offer him a ticket from Palair.

Congress leaders hope that this will be a big boost to the party's prospects in undivided Khammam district.

The Congress is already upbeat after former Khammam MP and suspended BRS leader Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy recently joined the party.



Madhya Pradesh

INDORE ADDS ANOTHER SUCCESS AS METRO COACHES REACH INDORE

TRIAL RUN OF METRO PROPOSED IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

A NEW CHAPTER WAS **ADDED TO THE GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF INDORE ON** THURSDAY. ON THIS DAY, A **NEW LINK WAS ADDED TOWARDS REALISNG THE DREAM OF METRO IN** INDORE.

Team Absolute Bhopal

nder the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the work to provide world-class metro facilities in Indore is progressing rapidly. The coaches which arrived in huge trolleys last night at the Metro Depot in Gandhi Nagar, Indore were put on track after rituals this morning. The trial run of Indore Metro of

about 6 kilometers in length is proposed in September. With the launch of Metro, Indore will join the developed cities of the country and the growth of the city will get a new impetus. The team of Metro Rail Corporation is working diligently day and night to complete the metro project rapidly. When the shining



yellow coloured coaches were put on the tracks in Indore today, an amazing atmosphere of happiness and enthusiasm was was visible at MP Shankar Lalwani greeted the officers, employees and technical

team present. He said that he is extremely happy to see the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi being realised under the leadership of Chief Minister Chouhan. It is a matter of pride for us that Indore city is transforming into a

metro city. Shri Shobhit Tandon, Director (Technical) of Metro Rail Corporation, present on this occasion, said that the capacity of the three coaches coming to Indore will be around 900 passengers.

MP school hijab row



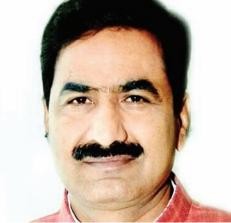
Sitting BJP MLA resigns

a major setback just two months ahead of the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh as its sitting MLA (Kolaras) Brijendra Singh Raghuvanshi resigned from the party on Thursday. "With a heavy heart, today

I am resigning from the membership of the BJP and the state working committee. I have been expressing my concerns to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the last five years, but he did nothing," Raghuvanshi wrote in a letter to state BJP head V.D. Sharma on Thursday.

In his official letter-pad, Raghuvanshi, who is MLA from Kolaras Assembly seat in Shivpuri district alleged that ever since Jyotiraditya Scindia joined the BJP, he has been sidelined from the

party "Corrupt officials have been appointed in Kolaras and Shivpuri. It is being done on the behest of Jyotiraditya Scindia. My supporters are being harassed regularly," Raghuvanshi wrote in his let-



He pointed out that Scindia had joined the BJP claiming that the Congress failed to fulfill its promises to the farmers. "However, after joining the BJP, he did not speak about the farmers. I have been sidelined for working for the party honestly since 2014," letter read.

Raghuvanshi also alleged that "commission has been flourishing in the BJP government, and when questioned, the minister incharge for Gwalior-Chambal

chadhana hi padega (offering will have to made at the temple)". He further alleged that the farmers' money deposited in

region would say that

"mandir me prasad tau

co-operative banks in Shivpuri and across the state has been siphoned off by a strong nexus of leaders and officials

"The issue of Co-operative Bank scam was raised in the state Assembly also, but no action has been taken so far," Raghuvanshi said.

PWD Consultants will be monitored through 'Sarthak" app

the metro depot.

Team Absolute Bhopal

he Public Works Department will now monitor the consultant responsible for quality control of construction in the state through the 'Sarthak' app. This app, prepared by the Science and Technology Department, will have to be followed by all the engineers appointed for the supervision of the construction works. Besides, the concerned consultants will also be connected to the Sarthak app.

Principal Secretary, Public Works, Shri Sukhveer Singh has instructed the heads of all the construction agencies of the Public Works Department that it is necessary to monitor the contracted consultants for supervision and quality control at the construction site, because many times during the inspection,

the consultants are absent at the construction site due to which the quality of construction work is likely to be affected. Sarthak app should be used to monitor the consultant. All the construction agencies of the department, Chief Engineer Public Works, Chief Engineer Building, Managing Director Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation, Managing Director Madhya Pradesh Building Development Corporation will contact the Science and Technology Department and seek detailed information and working system of the app and download the app on their mobile. Besides, the concerned consultants will also be given instructions to download the app. The Principal Secretary directed that

HC grants bail to 3, says 'students not to be forced to wear headscarves'

Team Absolute Bhopal

adhya Pradesh High Court has granted bail to the administrators of Damodbased private school, and said that the "applicants shall not prevent (students) from wearing the essentials of their own religion".

In May this year, a controversy erupted after the Ganga Jamuna Higher Secondary School in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district put up a poster on the premises of students who topped in Classes 10 and 12 state board exams.

In the poster, all female students were seen wearing headscarves, though five of them were not Muslim. A group of activities associated with the right wing Bajrang Dal then staged a protest inside the school and had recited 'Hanuman Chalisa'.

created a political storm in the pol The issu



the school was also cancelled by the state government.

An FIR was registered on May 31 and a total 11 members, including the school principal, were booked for allegedly forcing girl students to wear headscarves under Sections of the IPC and Juvenile Justice Act, and they all were arrested.

On Wednesday, hearing the bail application, the high court released committee members Asfa Sheikh, Anas Athar and Rustom Ali on a personal bond of Rs 50,000, with a warning that, "applicants shall not repeat commission of offence in which they are being released on bail." The court has said, "They shall not prevent

from wearing the essentials of their own religion such as wearing a sacred thread (kalawa) and putting tilak on the forehead.

They shall not compel the students of other eligions to read/study any material or langua which has not been prescribed or approved by the Madhya Pradesh Education Board.'

action will be taken against the consultant if the attendance report is not received through the Sarthak app.

bound Madhya Pradesh and the ruling BJP demanded a strict action against the school administration. Subsequently, the recognition of



Locals protest CM Chouhan's announcement to make Pandhurna MP's 55th district

Team Absolute Bhopal

ays after Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced to make Pandhurna the 55th district of Madhya Pradesh by carving it out of Chhindwara, the largest district in the state, the locals of Pandhurna and Sausar tehsils, including those from his own party, have started protesting against the proposal.

Chhindwara is known to be the stronghold of state Congress President and fomer Chief Minister Kamal Nath. The protesting locals, including politicians, government employees and advocates, have handed over a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister to the local administration on this count.

The protests that began on Tuesday continued on Wednesday as people from different walks of life took to the streets in Sausar town, claiming that they were demanding to make Sausar (also part of



Chhindwara) the 55th district of Madhya Pradesh, but the announced the name of Pandhurna instead.Chouhan had made the announcement while addressing a public rally in Chhindwara on August 24, when he also laid the foundation for a 'Hanuman Lok' in Pandhurna. The announcement is seen by many as a political tactic to breach the stronghold of Kamal Nath ahead of the Assembly polls scheduled later this year. Residents of Sausar town, including politicians like sitting

Congress MLA Vijay Revanth Chore and former BJP leader Pradip Thakre, took out a 3 km-long protest march from the Bharat Mata Chowk to Chhatrapati Shivaji Chowk in Sausar on Wednesday.

While some protesters were semi-clad, others wore black bands against the CM's announcement to create a separate Pandhurna district instead of Sausar district.Addressing the protesters, Harish Batra, an advocate associated with the BJP, said, "CM Chouhan's announcement of making Pandhurna a new district has shocked all of us. I was present there and had clapped the announcement thinking that he was going to name Sausar as the new district, but instead he named Pandhurna, which, as per the government decision, will include Sausar and Pandhurna tehsils and the Nandanwadi sub-tehsil." He also said that Chouhan made this announcement without consulting the people of Sausar.

There should be no shortage of water and electricity for agriculture : CM Chouhan

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the availability of water and electricity for irrigation in the coming months in view of less than normal rainfall in the state. CM Chouhan said that special attention should be paid to maintenance to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity. Power supply should not be affected anywhere due to lack of staff, along with this the control room system should also be kept active at all times.In the meeting, detailed information was given about the demand and supply management of



electricity in various areas of the state in the coming months. CM Chouhan said that there should be no shortage of water and electricity for agriculture in the state during the Rabi season. Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar,

Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary Farmers Welfare and Agriculture **Development Ashok** Varnwal, Principal Secretary Energy Sanjay Dubey and other officers were present in the meeting.

"Quite Common During Polls," Says Scindia after Shivpuri MLA Virendra Raghuvanshi Exits BJP

Team Absolute Gwalior

eacting to recent resignation R nation of former BJP MLA from Shivpuri Virendra Raghuvanshi from the party, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said, "joining and leaving parties is quite common during elections and is part of process."

Notably, MLA Raghuvanshi had cited that he was "fed up" by the Scindia faction in the party, as one of the reasons of leaving the BIP.

On Thursday, Scindia reached Gwalior on his twoday visit where he held a meeting with officials at the airport. In this meeting, he discussed with the officials regarding the development



against the farmers and young works of the city. Along with this, he reviewed in detail about airport construction, elevated road, Chambal water, and project works. On the other hand, on leaving the party of BJP MLA Virendra Raghuvanshi, Scindia said that in the atmosphere of elections, joining and leaving continues, giving the history paper two months before the

once before in the history of Madhya Pradesh when DP Mishr's government fell repeated the history

Scindia said that in the year 2020, the Congress government had made a promise

women. There was corruption in the 15-month government, six cabinet ministers resigned from the government at the same time, but today we are seeing that resignations are given two-four months before the elections. If there was a Congress government today, the airport elevated road, and the 1000-bed hospital in Gwalior would not have been built. Ladli Behan Yojana could not have been started. elections shows his intention. The change which happened All this is due to the BJP.

EX-ISRO CHIEF DR K SIVAN APPOINTED AS IIT INDORE BOG CHAI

Team Absolute Indore

ormer ISRO chairman Dr K Sivan has been appointed as the chairman of Board of Governors at Indian Institute of Technology Indore for a period of 3 years.

"His appointment came (on August 22) just one day before the historic occasion of Chandrayaan-3 landing on the Moon's "Shiva-Shakti" point,' said a press release issued by IIT Indore on Thursday.

This culminated the tenure of Prof Deepak B Phatak who was the chairman of BoG IIT Indore from Feb 19, 2019 to August 21, 2023.

IIT Indore director Prof. Suhas Joshi said, "We are very happy and excited to have Dr Sivan as the chairperson of IIT Indore BoG. At the same time, we are very thankful to the outgoing Chairperson Phatak who has mentored the institute and taken us to newer heights. Phatak has led us from

the front and guided us through his immense experience and out-of-thebox solutions.

Joshi added, "There could not have been a better time to have Sivan onboard when India has marked a historic occasion through

Chandrayaan-3 and shown its acumen and expertise in the field of Space Engineering which was earlier meant for a select few. This year, we introduced 10 new academic programs including a BTech Program in Space Science and Engineering with an intake capacity of 20, including 4 girl students. This is one of its kind program only available at IIT Indore. We already had introduced an MTech. and PhD. Programs in Astronomy, Astrophysics and Space engineering since 2016. I am confident that in the guidance of Sivan, the institute is expected to reach newer heights and work in the unexplored field of Space Engineering and contribute to the



Space mission of the country." "Under the leadership of Sivan, it is expected that IIT Indore will work to collaborate with ISRO and contribute significantly to India's march into the new space age. The institute is planning to establish more direct collaboration with ISRO through several large-scale programs like the Space Technology Cell, Student Satellite Program and involvement of ISRO scientists and engineers to share their expertise through our UG/PG curriculum," the press release reads.

Sivan joined Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre on October 29, 1982 and since then has played a key role in the design and development of ISRO's launch vehicle programme. Under his chairmanship, ISRO launched Chandrayaan 2, the second mission to the moon and in 2019 itself, configured Chandrayaan-3 with the corrections required.

After completing BSc (Mathematics) from Madurai University, he joined Madras Institute of Technology to pursue BTech. in Aeronautics. Thereafter, he completed his ME in Aerospace Engineering from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and PhD in Aerospace Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. He is the chief architect of 6D trajectory simulation software, SITARA, which is the backbone of the real-time and non-realtime trajectory simulations of all ISRO launch vehicles.



New Delhi, Friday, September 1, 2023

EDITOR'S SPECS

LACK OF SOIL MICRONUTRIENTS LINKED **TO CHILDHOOD STUNTING IN INDIA**

dding zinc to farmland soil can help prevent childhood stunting, A help prevent contained a study on children in according to a study on children fin India, where more than a third under five suffer from stunting. Stunting is a condition due to chronic undernutrition that is *associated with poor brain development* and long-lasting harmful consequences, such as reduced school performance and increased disease risks. For the study, researchers from the Stanford University in the US analysed health data from nearly 300,000 children and one million women across India with over 27 million soil tests drawn from a nationwide soil health programme. The findings, published in the journal Scientific Reports, showed that the presence of zinc in soil helps prevent stunted childhood growth, and iron in soil helps keep haemoglobin - a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen -- at healthy levels. The results suggest that fortifying soil with minerals could be a beneficial health intervention. *The link between soil zinc and childhood* stunting is particularly robust -- a one standard deviation increase in satisfactory soil zinc tests is associated with approximately 11 fewer children stunted per 1,000, according to the research. The study is the first large-scale study to examine the association between children's nutritional status or health outcomes and soil mineral availability in India. It shows that adding minerals to farmland soil could help prevent conditions associated with long-lasting harmful consequences. "Our results add to a growing body of literature suggesting that interventions like micronutrient-enriched *fertilisers may have a positive effect on* health," said lead author Claire Morton, an undergraduate in mathematics and computational science at Stanford. As a result, the researchers suggest that the potential benefits of using zinc-enriched fertilisers as health interventions deserves *more consideration in India specifically* and perhaps more generally.

'Hothon pe sachai rehti hai...': Shailendra, the only 'true' film lyricist of Hindi filmdom

Vikas Datta

absolute edit

Triter K.A. Abbas did not take much notice of the nondescript-looking man accompanying Raj Kapoor to his house to hear the story for a film. After listening quietly to the over two-hour-long rendition, this man only said that it was a good story. Is that all, asked Kapoor noticing the bemused Abbas.

"Gardish mein hoon, aasman ka taara hoon," he then responded. Abbas, taken aback, told Kapoor that he had spent two-and-a-half hours telling his story and his unknown visitor had perfectly

summarised it in one phrase. The "nondescript man" was Shailendra, whose 100th birth anniversary falls today (August 30). Just one film old at this meeting, he would go on to become Hindi cinema's most exemplary, innately-gifted yet self-effacing lyricist, whose songs like "Awaara hoon", "Mera joota hai Japani", and "Hothon pe sachai rehti hai" that made Indian film music popular across the world.

While his words would also help cement the images of Hindi films' top superstars - Raj Kapoor's innocent naivety ("Sab kuch seekha hamne"), Dilip Kumar's despondency ("Yeh mera diwanapan hai"), Shammi Kapoor's exuberant ebullience ("Chahe koi mujhe junglee kahe"), or Dev Anand's insouciant jauntiness ("Khoya khoya chand"), but that was not only his contribution to film music.

With "Barsaat mein hamse mile tum..." (Barsaat, 1949), he wrote the first title song in a Hindi film, and would go on to replicate the feat in scores of other films. He was also an accomplished dafli player who taught Raj Kapoor who would shake the instrument in at least two films.

Credited with some 800-odd



songs in a career cut short by his untimely death, Shailendra's rich thought and endearing simplicity of expression was acknowledged by his peers -- Raj Kapoor called him his "Kaviraj" or "Pushkin" -and became an inspiration for a later generation of lyricists. Gulzar, particularly, deemed him the best of all, for being a true film lyricist, instead of being a poet who wrote for films.

"In my view, he was the lyricist who understood films as a medium distinct from poetry and theatre perfectly, and adapted to it

beautifully. For his ability to know the medium, understand the situation, get into the shoes of his characters, and writing in a language suiting the character, he was without peer," Gulzar said in a interview for Ganesh Anantharaman's "Bollywood Melodies: A History of the Hindi Film Song".

Shailendra, as per Gulzar, was also the only one who could effectively and successfully merge his personal experiences and beliefs with his lyrics without sermonising or ideologising.

'... Chhote se ghar mein gareeb ka beta/Main bhi hoon maan ke naseeb ka beta/Ranj-o-gam bachpan ke saathi/Aandhiyon mein jali jeevan baati/Bhuukh ne hain bade pyaar se paala/Dil ka haal sune dilwala..." from "Shree 420" (1955) is autobiographical.

And then, his take on the eastern ethos is priceless. "Kuch log jo ziada jaante hain/Insaan ko kam pehchante hain/Ye purab hai purabawaale/Har jaan ki keemat jaante hain/Mil jul ke raho aur pyaar karo/Ek cheez yehi jo rahti hai...

Born Shankardas Kesarilal in 1923 in Rawalpindi to a family that had migrated there from Bihar's Arrah for a livelihood, Shailendra did not have a very comfortable childhood. His family later moved to Mathura where he studied. In the early 1940s, he came to Bombay and found a job as a mechanical engineer apprentice at the railway vard in Matunga.

Fond of poetry since young and published in various magazines, Shailendra became and remained a committed revolutionary at heart.

"Har zor zulm ki takkar mein, sangharsh hamara naara hai", the clarion call of protesters from the 1960s, and especially in the turbulent 1970s, was from a poem he wrote.

He came to the attention of Raj Kapoor with his poem "Jalta Punjab" at a poetic symposium in 1948. An impressed Kapoor asked him to join him for his debut film "Aag", but Shailendra, a member of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and chary of anything to do with films, flatly said that he did not write for

money. A year later, however, Shailendra

was in dire straits and approached Kapoor, who was then making "Barsaat" and for the then princely sum of Rs 500, he wrote two songs -- "Barsaat mein" and "Patli kamar hai" -- for it.

From here, Shailendra, along with singer Mukesh, music composers Shankar-Jaikishan, and fellow lyricist Hasrat Jaipuri, became an indispensable part of the Raj Kapoor team - both in RK banner films, as well others, like "Chori Chori" (1956) and "Anari" (1959). Shailendra also worked with

other filmmakers and composers. Bimal Roy's personal choice to write lyrics for "Do Bigha Zamin" (1953), given its setting - remember "Dharti kahe pukaar ke", he was roped in for his "Madhumati" (1958) and "Bandini" (1963), and also wrote for Hrishikesh Mukherjee's "Anari" (1959) and for Dev Anand's "Guide" (1965).

Salil Chowdhury and Sachin Dev Burman were the other composers he struck a chord with.

As the 1960s dawned, Shailendra was keenly interested in Basu Bhattacharya's "Teesri Kasam" (1966) and backed it, but the delay in its making, and its commercial failure, played heavily on him and he died in December 1966, aged just 43.

However, his legacy remains intact - with songs like "Pyar hua ikraar hua", "Ajeeb daastaan hai yeh", "Sajan re jhooth mat bolo", "Aaj phir jeene ki tamanna hai", "Yeh raat bheegi bheegi", "O sajna, barkha bahar aai", "Ruk ja raat, thahr ja re chanda", "Zindagi khwab hai", "Tu pyar ka saagar hai", "Chadh gayo paapi bichhua" and "Chalat musafir.." and many more.

international

QUEEN CAMILLA UNVEILS PORTRAIT OF INDIAN-ORIGIN BRITISH SPY NOOR INAYAT KHAN

London Agencies **D** ritish Queen Camilla has





headquarters, during which time she made two unsuccessful attempts at scape, and was then sent t

North Korea fires 2 shortrange ballistic missiles: Seoul Seoul Agencies

staged joint air drills, involv-

ing at least one US B-1B

strategic bomber, over the

Yellow Sea in connection

with exercise Ulchi Freedom

Shield (UFS), which began

on August 21 and is set to

Pyongyang has long

accused the military drills of

being an invasion rehearsal

against it, with the North's

leader Kim Jong-un recently

calling for a "drastic boost" in

the country's missile produc-

contingency preparations in

tion capability and for war

an "offensive" manner.

end Thursday

Inayat Khan, an Indian-origin spy and descendant of Tipu Sultan at the Royal Air Force (RAF) Club in London.

The portrait now hangs opposite the stained glass window, which highlights the roles of Women in the RAF since its inception in 1918, and was inaugurated by the late Queen Elizabeth II in 2018.

Queen Camilla also formally named the room in the club as the "Noor Inayat Khan Room".

During the visit, she met Shaik Mahmood, Noor Inayat Khan's cousin, before unveiling the portrait by Paul Brason, a former President of the Society of Portrait Painters.

The 76-year-old senior Royal was also presented with a book, "The Spy Princess -- The Life of Noor Inayat Khan", a biography of Noor Khan, by the author Shrabani Basu.

Noor was born on January 1, 1914 in a monastery just outside the Kremlin in Moscow to Sufi preacher Hazrat Inayat Khan and American mother, Ora Ray Baker.

She was recruited in 1943 from the

Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) to Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE), which conducted espionage, sabotage, and reconnaissance in occupied countries during the Second World War.

She was the first woman SOE operator to be infiltrated into France, and was landed by Lysander aircraft on June 16, 1943.

"During the following weeks, the Gestapo arrested most of the Paris Resistance Group in which she worked. Despite the danger, Noor refused to return to England because

she did not wish to leave her French comrades without communications and she hoped also to rebuild the Group," the RAF said in a statement.

According to the statement, the Gestapo had a full description of Noor, who they knew only by her code name "Madeleine", and in October 1943 she was captured by them.

Despite brutal interrogation she refused to give any information, either as to her work or her colleagues.

She was imprisoned at the Gestapo

Germany for so called "safe custody".

"She was considered to be a particularly dangerous and uncooperative prisoner. On September 12, she was moved to Dachau Concentration Camp where she was subjected to further brutal treatment, then taken to the crematorium and shot. Noor displayed the most conspicuous courage, both moral and physical, over a period of more than 12 months," the RAF said in its statement.Noor was one of only two members of the WAAF to be awarded the George Cross (GC).

Alongside the Victoria Cross, the GC is the highest award bestowed for acts of the greatest heroism, or for the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger.

Following the portrait unveiling, Queen Camilla joined a Reception in the Sovereigns Room attended by members of the Board of Trustees of the RAF Club and serving female RAF personnel representing the RAF Stations of which the Queen is Honorary Air Commodore, and other areas of the RAF.

L N two short target East Sea, in apparent protest against combined South Korea-US military drills, the Seoul government said on Thursday.

orth Korea has fired

vo short-range halli

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launches from an area in or around Sunan in Pyongyang between around 11.40 p.m. and 11.50 p.m. Wednesday night, reports Yonhap News Agency.

The missiles each flew some 360 km before splashing into the waters, the JCS said, with the allies' intelligence authorities conducting further analysis.

The JCS strongly condemned the launches, calling them "acts of significant provocation" that not only undermine peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula but also in the international community.

On Wednesday, the allies

The ICS said it would thor oughly carry out UFS and other combined drills, while closely monitoring for signs of additional activity by the North.

The latest saber-rattling also comes after Pyongyang's failed launch of a purported space rocket, carrying what it claimed to be was a military reconnaissance satellite, last Thursday, which marked its second botched attempt this year

The North last test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles on July 24.

63 dead in Johannesburg building inferno

Johannesburg Agencies

t least 63 people were killed A and 43 others injured on Thursday after a massive fire ripped through a five-storey building in Johannesburg, according to the South African city's emergency services.

The emergency services said the fire was reported at around 1.30 a.m. on Thursday, CNN reported.

"At this stage the cause of the fire incident is still a subject of investigations. Officials from City of Johannesburg Disaster Management have been activated to start facilitating relief for affected families," it said in a videoVideos circulating on social media show huge orange flames engulfing the lower floor of a building, and scores of people who appear to have fled outside.

In a series of tweets, emergency



services spokesperson Robert Mulaudzi said multiple people were being treated and some had been transported to health care facilities, reports CNN.

Meanwhile, South African state broadcaster SABC said that emergency services and firefighters are still working to douse the raging inferno

Indian American scientist hopes to be 1st woman to jump from stratosphere

New York Agencies

n Indian-American scientist is hoping to become the first woman to skydive from the stratosphere at an altitude of 42.5 km above the Earth, and shatter four records.

Swati Varshney is one of the three candidates selected by the Hera Project of Rising United that seeks to empower women in science and technology, the organisation has announced.

If she makes it to the skydive in 2025, Hera Project expects her to break four current records: The free fall record by 1.1 km from the highest altitude, endure the longest free fall time, break the sound barrier unaided by 264 kph, and the highest crewed balloon flight by over 1 km.

"At Rising United, we're embarking on



a historic journey, shattering records and ceilings to advance women's equality and inspire young women's interest in STEAM education," the organisation said.

Varshney has a PhD in materials sci-

ence from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has made over 1,200 jumps with a speciality in vertical freefall, according to Space.com.

Billed as the "First Female Mission to the Edge of Space", the project seeks to have minority women smash the records, and the other two contenders are of Latino descent, Eliana Rodriguez and Diana Valerin Jimenez.

The project will include educational programmes for schools to increase interest in science and technology among girls, especially from minority groups.

Varshney told Space.com that for her skydiving "is a lot more similar to my scientific training than I ever thought it would have been in the first place. It was just another avenue for me to pursue this goal of lifelong learning".

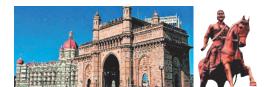
Varshney, who has spent a decade skydiving, told the media outlet: "My academic progression and my career trajectory has been really intertwined with skydiving as it went along. So I started skydiving

She tried tandem jumping and found it such a "blast", that she took it up as a hobby

"I really just wanted something that was totally different, and as a release to -this is a really cliche way to say it -- cut away right from what I was doing in my day-to-day life," she told Space.com.

"It became this never-ending journey of another pursuit of knowledge that went alongside my academic career," she added.

The stratosphere is from about 6 km to 50 km above the Earth where it gives way to the mesosphere



maharashtra

RAHUL REITERATES DEMAND FOR JPC PROBE INTO ADANI MATTER, CITES OCCRP REPORT

Team Absolute Mumbai

Cenior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday reiterated the demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani matter, and also asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to break his silence on this issue.

Addressing a press conference ahead of the opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc's third meeting here, Rahul Gandhi referred to a new report by the OCCRP (Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project), which allegedly found at least two cases where "mysterious" investors bought and sold Adani stock through offshore structures.

Showing reports published by global newspapers copies on this issue, Rahul Gandhi said: "There was an investigation ... evidence was given to SEBI but it gave a clean chit to (Gautam) Adani. The gentleman who gave clean chit to Adani is today a Director in NDTV. It is very clear that there is something very wrong here."

"We are trying to show the world that 'we are a transparent economy'. We are trying to show the world that India has a level playing field," he said.

Firing salvos at the Central government, Rahul Gandhi said, "Why is this one gentleman who is close to the Prime Minister allowed to move a billion dollars to pump up his share price, to use that money to capture Indian assets, airports, ports? Why no investigation is taking place?

"Its very important that Prime Minister Narendra Modi clears his name and categorically explains what is going on. At the very least, a JPC should be allowed, a thorough investigation should be conducted.

"I don't understand why the Prime Minister is not allowing an investigation. Why is he



quiet, why doesn't he say that he is going to make sure that this issue is investigated and the people who are guilty are put behind bars."

The former Congress President said that this raises very serious questions on the Prime Minister, just before the arrival of global leaders to India for the G20 meet.

"They are going to be asking questions ---What is this special company that is owned by a gentleman close to the Prime Minister? Why an economy like India giving this gentleman a free ride? They are going to ask these questions. I think it is very important that these matters are cleared before they arrive," he said.Referring to the news reports, Rahul Gandhi said, "These are not random newspapers, these are newspapers that affect investment in India. They affect the perception of our country in the rest of the world. They are stating clearly that over a billion dollars went from India, were circulated in different places, and then came back to India. This is, according to them, clearly proved with the documentation they have.

"The first question is, whose money is this? Is it Adani ji's money or any other person's? The mastermind behind this is a gentleman called Vinod Adani, who is the brother of Gautam Adani. There are two foreign nationals who are involved in round-tripping of the money. Why are these two foreign nationals being allowed to play with the valuation of one of the companies that controls almost all of Indian infrastructure?'

The remarks came after the OCCRP report alleged that "opaque" funds were used to funnel substantial investments into the publicly traded stocks of the Adani Group, purportedly masking the involvement of business partners associated with the Adani family.

The Adani Group, on its part, has rejected the OCCRP report alleging stock manipulation

"We categorically reject these recycled alle-

gations. These news reports appear to be yet another concerted bid by Soros-funded interests supported by a section of the foreign media to revive the meritless Hindenburg report. In fact, this was anticipated, as was reported by the media last week," the Group said. "These claims are based on closed cases from a decade ago when the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) probed allegations of over invoicing, transfer of funds abroad, related party transactions and investments through FPIs.

"An independent adjudicating authority and an appellate tribunal had both confirmed that there was no over-valuation and that the transactions were in accordance with applicable law. The matter attained finality in March 2023 when the Supreme Court of India ruled in our favour. Clearly, since there was no over-valuation, there is no relevance or foundation for these allegations on transfer of funds.

"Notably, these FPIs are already part of the investigation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). As per the Expert Committee appointed by the Supreme Court, there is no evidence of any breach of the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) requirements or manipulation of stock prices," it added. As per the report, exclusive documents obtained by OCCRP and shared with The Guardian and Financial Times, including files from multiple tax havens, bank records, and internal Adani Group emails, shed light on that very matter.

These documents, which have been corroborated by people with direct knowledge of the Adani Group's business and public records from multiple countries, show how hundreds of millions of dollars were allegedly invested in publicly-traded Adani stock through opaque investment funds based in Mauritius, the report said.

INDIA bloc leaders accuses **BJP** of destroying country

absoluteindia

New Delhi, Friday, September 1, 2023

Team Absolute Mumbai

Several leaders from Opposition bloc INDIA have launched a scathing attack at the ruling BJP, accusing it of destroying the country, and said its alliance is for rebuilding the country.

as a nation is integrally

linked to the future of this

not a coalition of only par-

alliance (INDIA). This is

ties, this coalition is of

ideas. The country has

already suffered a lot,

which needs healing

Dal (RJD) MP Manoj

Kumar Jha, who has

INDIA bloc.

arrived here to attend the

Attacking the ruling dis-

two-day meeting of the

pensation at the Centre,

Jha said "This alliance is

is for rebuilding the coun-

try."Echoing a similar sen-

timent, Samajwadi Party

(SP) MP Ram Gopal Yadav

while taking a swipe at the

BJP said, "The alliance of

Opposition parties has

of India. Those sitting in

"We will work unitedly. "The future of India now We will oust them in 2024,' Yadav said referring to the forthcoming General Elections Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD

tions.

fidence that the Opposition

will oust the ruling BJP in

the 2024 Lok Sabha elec-

) President and MP Jayant Singh said, "This country with its great diversity, history, importance in the now," said Rashtriya Janata world stage, needs collective leadership that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of all sections of society."

Attacking the government, he said, "The government is so critical of anyone who raises questions not only to fight elections, it (against it). It's time that those citizens of our country who want India to shine at the world stage, our economy to do better, our young people to get jobs, the farmers to get their right produce, the right of taken place to save the soul the most underprivileged section of the society to power are destroying India."He also exuded consecure, should come out and support INDIA.

ED arrests promoter and managing director of **Topworth Steels and Power Pvt. Ltd. in PMLA case**



Team Absolute Mumbai

he Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said that it rested Abhay Narend before a special PMLA court in Mumbai which remanded him to the ED's custody till September 8. The ED initiated a PMLA investigation based on an FII

ties and companies overseas and within India (hitherto not declared) were unearthed during the searches. Foreign currency of different countries bearing the present value of above Rs 7 lakhs along with various other incriminating documents have also been recovered," the official said. The official said that

details of shell entities controlled by Abhay Lodha were also recovered. The ED investigation

revealed that in addition to causing wrongful loss amounting to Rs 63.10 crore to IDBI bank by committing fraud in the credit facility of the Letter of Credit / Trade Credit Bank Guarantee (LC TCBG) during the period 2014-15 to 2016-17, the Topworth group of companies controlled by Abhay Narendra Lodha also generated proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 3000 crore through the Topworth group and its connected entities. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing.

NATION LOOKS UP TO RAHUL GANDHI'S LEADERSHIP: SANJAY RAUT



Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday said that the country has accepted and looks up to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's leadership in the coming times

Speaking to the media, he said that Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra has struck a chord among the masses and he will embark on a similar BJY in the west-east direction. "The country has accepted him as a non-controversial, capable leader. The people love Rahul Gandhi they want to work under his leadership," declared Raut. However, he made it clear that all the National Opposition parties will sit together and discuss all aspects of putting an end to the differences among some of the parties. The comments came hours before Gandhi and his mother Sonia Gandhi are expected to reach Mumbai for the INDIA Conclave scheduled in an informal gathering later this day and a formal round of

deliberations on Friday.

Out to arrest history-sheeter, Mumbai police team attacked by Irani gang members

man coming out of a bank with

cash. On the pretext of checking

victim's attention. Khan then

escaped in an autorickshaw, the

Team Absolute Mumbai

team of DN Nagar police in Ambivali, Mumbai were attacked by notorious Irani gang members and the locals when the cops reached the locality to arrest a history-sheeter.

The incident, which took place on August 27, was caught in a camera.

The incident unfolded in Ambivali, when the police attempted to arrest the history-sheeter Firoz Fayyaz Khan, only to encounter vehement opposition from the locals. The attempt to prevent the arrest culminated in the police being targeted with stones hurled by the crowd. The situation turned so dire that the police had to hastily push the apprehended criminal into a school van, which ame as a back up, to ensure his custody.The Mumbai police records indicate a recurring trend, with a significant number of fake cop imposters, chain snatchers, and mobile snatchers hailing from Ambivali village. This fact was reinforced by the recent case of Firoz Fayyaz Khan, who impersonated a fake cop and became the subject of a complaint addressed by the DN Nagar police.On August 10, Khan,



Lodha, promoter and managing director of Topworth Steels and Power Pvt. Ltd. (TSPPL) and the Topworth Group in a bank loan fraud case and allegedly generating iRs 3000 crore through the Topworth group and its connected entities.

The official said that after his arrest he was produced

registered by the CBI, BS & FB, Mumbai against Topworth Steels and Power Pvt. Ltd., Abhay Narendra Lodha and others.

"Searches were conducted at twelve premises at various locations in Mumbai, Pune, New Delhi, Nagpur and Durg. Details of ownership of various immovable proper-



posed as a police officer, to stop a from the Mumbai police articulated the prevailing challenge, stating, "If one person comes to know that his bag for drugs, he allegedly stole somebody has been arrested, the Rs 1 lakh in cash by distracting the message spreads like wildfire and hundreds of people gather to set the nabbed criminal free from our police said.A crime branch officer custody."

Take Rahul Gandhi to Balasaheb Thackeray memorial, demands **BJP MLA**



Team Absolute Mumbai

uling alliance 🖌 Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Nitesh N. Rane on Thursday dared the Shiv Sena (UBT) to "take Rahul Gandhi to the memorial of Balasaheb Thackeray" the party's founder-patriarch, at Shivaji Maharaj Park.

Slamming Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut's adulatory remarks on the Congress MP, Rane Jr. - son of Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane - said that Rahul Gandhi had insulted the great revolutionary Vinayak D. alias Swatantryaveer Savarkar several times, and also the founder of Shiv Sena the late Balasaheb Thackeray. "Now, the Shiv Sena (UBT) is running after the same Rahul Gandhi ... I challenge Sanjay Raut to take him to the memorial of Balasaheb Thackeray and offer his respects there instead of promoting him,"

said Nitesh Rane.

The Congress and Sena (UBT) has not yet reacted to Nitesh Rane's comments vet, but several other BJP

leaders joined to lambast the INDIA block gathering. Some BJP leaders termed the INDIA effort as 'ghamendia' (arrogant) meeting of disgruntled leaders with a one-point agenda

to oust Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but they would never succeed. The Shiv Sena (UBT) President and ex-Chief

Minister Uddhav Thackeray is hosting the INDIA Conclave with around 100 leaders from 28 national opposition parties, scheduled at a suburban luxury hotel on Friday.

The leaders shall chart out their united strategy for fighting the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections and hope to dislodge the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre.

Auto-rickshaw driver kills 17-yr teen on suspicion of flirting with wife

In a shocking incident, an auto-rickshaw driver has been arrested for allegedly killing and chopping a teenage boy who he suspected was flirting with his wife and sister-in-law.

Team Absolute Mumbai

he accused will be produced before a Magistrate Court on

Thursday. The incident occurred on Monday when the accused, identified as Shafiq Abdulmajid Sheikh, 33, of Chembur allegedly killed the minor, then chopped off his body into three-four pieces.

He stuffed these dismembered pieces in three plastic bags and hid them below the kitchen platform of his home, planning to dispose of them later, before going about his routine chores.

On Wednesday, his wife came home after visiting her parents' home in nearby Bharatnagar, and detected a foul smell from the kitchen and even complained to Sheikh who tried to divert her mind.

When she persisted, her husband finally broke down and confessed to the crime after which the shocked wife informed the police who



rushed there.

In his police statement later, Sheikh claimed that he and his family were very fond of the boy whom they treated like a family member for the past more than seven years. Even his wife and sister-in-

law treated the boy like a

brother, but Sheikh disliked the boy for reportedly teasing, flirting or inappropriately touching the womenfolk and hence resorted to the

extreme step. Police probe has revealed that Sheikh had been arrested around 2014 in a murder

case by Raigad Police but was acquitted.

The victim's body has been sent to Sir J.J. Hospital for an autopsy while Sheikh has been charged under various sections of IPC and MCOCA and shall be produced before a court.

Drunk man's bomb hoax call triggers searches at secretariat in Mumbai



Team Absolute Mumbai

omb detection personnel along with sniffer dogs searched the Maharashtra secretariat in South Mumbai on Thursday after police received a phone call about an explosive being placed in the high-security complex, but it turned out to be a false alarm, an official said.

A man, who was under the influence of alcohol, was later detained in Ahmednagar in western Maharashtra for allegedly making the bomb threat call, he said. A phone call was received

on 112 helpline of the Navi Mumbai police in the afternoon about a bomb being found.

placed in Mantralaya or the state secretariat, said the official.

After the call, Mumbai police personnel along with a bomb detection and disposal squad (BDDS) and sniffer dogs rushed to the state government's administrative headquarters and thoroughly checked the premises, but no suspicious object was found, he said.

The call was later traced to Ahmednagar.

This was the second incident in the last 15 days when a call about bomb threat at the secretariat was received by the police. The first call had also turned out to be a hoax as

nothing suspicious was



hollywood



ZENDAYA SKIPS VENICE FILM FESTIVAL DUE TO HOLLYWOOD STRIKES

Los Angeles Agencies

ctress Zendaya has decided to skip Venice Film Festival due to the Hollywood strikes. The actress was initially slated to go to the film festival to promote Luca Guadagnino's film 'Challengers', which was also the movie that was supposed to open the 80th annual Venice Film Festival. Zendaya has been a supporter of the ongoing Hollywood strikes, and given her standing in Hollywood, it would have been nearly impossible for the 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' actress to make it. So instead, Venice kicked off the festival with the Italian World War II drama film 'Comandante', directed by Italian director

Edoardo De Angelis, reports Variety.

The movie is mostly set on a submarine, and ended up landing a brief 90-second standing ovation as actor Pierfrancesco Favino -

who plays naval officer Salvatore Todaro - took a bow. Indeed, due to the Hollywood strikes there was a severe lack of star power which was strongly felt at the Venice opening night. The

size of the crowds that lined up outside the Sala Grande Theatre was also very modest.

The biggest cheers went to Damien Chazelle, who is presiding over the Venice jury, with director Jane Campion who won Oscar in 2021 for her film 'Power of the Dog' is another jury member. She was spotted wading into the crowds to sign autographs and take selfies. Things were further complicated by the Hollywood strikes and the support given by the jurors and writers at the Venice Film Festival, which only encouraged more stars to skip the festival.The ongoing WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikes have also been supported by Damien Chazelle who is currently presiding over the proceedings of the festival.





Los Angeles | Agencies

ollywood star Denzel Washington has developed a "fatherly" relationship with actress Dakota Fanning, with whom he is starring in 'The Equalizer 3', according to director Antoine Fuqua

The 57-year-old filmmaker, who helmed the new 'Equalizer' movie, told PEOPLE that the 68-year-old actor has a "little bit of a fatherly, mentor relationship" with the actress, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The Hollywood veteran and Dakota first worked together on the 2004 action movie 'Man on Fire' and their relationship has evolved over time.

Antoine added: "As a child her first experience with Denzel Washington is very powerful, emotional.

But you can see how she has grown quite a bit. I think it was more fascinating for Denzel than anyone else. Every once in a while when I would yell cut he would just look over and be like, 'I can't believe she's like a grown woman now.' I think it was more fascinating for him than anyone else."

Earlier this month, the 29-year-old actress described reuniting with Denzel as a "dream come true."

She told PEOPLE: "I would have done anything to be a part of this and work with Denzel again. It's just a dream come true.' Prior to that, Dakota revealed that she's

determined to remain "true to (herself)." The actress told Vogue: "I think for me, I just try to be true to myself and treat others with respect and myself with respect, and try and focus on doing the right thing and not giving up."

"This world can feel very overwhelmng and it's hard to see the l

WORKING WITH LIAM NEESON, MATTHEW MODINE WAS MAGICAL: DIRECTOR NIMROD ANTAL

Los Angeles | Agencies

iam Neeson's new action-thriller film 'Retribution' is a high octane adrenaline rush. Liam starred alongside veteran actor Matthew Modine in the Nimrod Antal directorial, which vas a magical experience for Nimrod, who said working with the two was like dealing with two kings of their craft. Talking about working with Liam and Matthew, director Nimrod said: We are talking about two men that I have been a fan of before I ever had an opportunity to be a colleague. They say you don't want to meet your heroes, but, you know, sometimes you do. With Matthew and Liam, there's an incredible warmth between them, but you're also dealing with two kings of the craft. "It's pretty magical for me. When I have people of this caliber, it elevates my game and makes me very conscientious when it comes to my role. These guys really do hear what directors are saying. So I'm always very cautious as to what I'm saying. 'Retribution' is essentially a cat and mouse chase.

Directed by Nimrod Antal, the movie follows Matt Turner in a very dangerous situation when anonymous caller threatens to blow up his family the moment The caller is a mystery, though he clearly harbours a strong grudge against Matt, and is unafraid to spill blood for it. With his back against the wall, Matt must battle his way out and protect his loved ones in order to clear his name. Alongside Liam Neeson and Matthew Modine, Retribution' also stars Jack Champion and Embeth Davidtz in pivotal roles. The movie was released in Indian theatres on August 25, 2023 and was released by PVRINOX Pictures.



days, but I think it's important to remember that I do think ultimately people are good and it's important to focus on that and just keep going," she continued.



was disappointed with Ginny Weasley's time in 'Harry Potter': **Bonnie Wright**

character built," Wright said.

Los Angeles | Agencies

nglish actress Bonnie Wright, who played Ginny Weasley in the 'Harry Potter' franchise, was left largely disappointed with her character due to the limited time she was given on screen. Wright, 32, was just 9-yearsold when she was cast as Ginny Weasley, the sister of Ron Weasley (played by Rupert Grint), and the future wife of Harry Potter (played by Daniel Radcliffe). In the new episode of Michael Rosenbaum's 'Inside of You' podcast, Wright expressed disappointment that Ginny was not more prominent in the films. "I definitely feel there was anxiety toward performing and doing the best thing as my

'Like, Oh gosh, will I do justice to this character that people love? So that was always hard to do, especially when, inevitably, a lot of the scenes of every character were chopped down from the book to the film," reports Deadline."So you didn't really have as much to show in the film. Sometimes that was a little disappointing, because there were parts of the character that just didn't come through because there weren't the scenes to do that. That made me feel a bit anxious or just frustrated, I guess."Wright was given only one line in the first film of the franchise: 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' released in 2001. Wright initially didn't have any lines. 'The actual first line I had in the film, which was one line, was given to me on the day, (and director Chris Columbus) was like, 'I think you need a line,' which is my 'good luck' to Harry," she said. "I actually read Hermione lines because they didn't have

any other scenes for me to read, so they were like, 'You're just going to have to read this character.'

There was little conversation with producers about Ginny being more involved, due to the script largely not having



Eminem, Machine Gun Kelly revealed as Jacksonville shooter's targets

Los Angeles | Agencies

appers Eminem and Machine Gun Kelly could have met their demise at the hands of a cold-blooded gunman, who was behind a recent mass shooting in Jacksonville, Florida.

In his chilling writings, Ryan Christopher Palmeter listed a slew of his potential targets, including Em and MGK, according to Rolling Stone, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Eminem (aka Marshall Mathers, aka Slim Shady aka Ken Keniff, aka the white guy from D12): Stared the abyss (being ni-dly) and the abyss stared back (becoming a n****r)," he wrote.

He appeared to express his disdain for the "Slim Shady" rhymer as writing: "Walks the edge of n****r lover and honorary n****r. Fell off not because his new stuff sucked but because the lyrics were gay annoying liberal s**t. ROE for Total N****r Death is to include Eminem (aka Marshall Mathers, aka Slim Shady aka Ken Keniff, aka the white guy from D12) as a valid target and he is to be killed on sight."

Similar to Eminem, Ryan wanted MGK "to be killed on sight" and he may have been close enough to assassinate the "Bloody Valentine" hitmaker. "Colson Baker (aka Machine Gun Kelly): Honorable n****r. To be killed on sight like Eminem because I didn't get a shot at him up in Ohio," so he claimed.

Neither reps for both artists nor FBI have commented on the chilling writings.

Ryan opened fire at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday, August 26. He shot and killed himself after he barricaded himself in an office.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY





Asia Cup SRI LANKA OPEN CAMPAIGN WITH 5-WICKET VICTORY OVER BANGLADESH

Kandy Agencies

C ri Lanka opened their Asia Cup Scampaign with a convincing fivewicket victory over Bangladesh in their Group B match at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

On a two-paced pitch, young pacer Matheesha Pathirana took career-best figures of 4-32, while the ever-reliant Maheesh Theekshana picked up 2-19 as Bangladesh were bowled out for 164 in 42.4 overs.

Spinners Dhananjaya de Silva and Dunith Wellalage kept the Bangladesh batting line in middle overs, never allowing the batters to score freely, though Najmul Hossain Shanto played a valiant hand for Bangladesh with a fine 89.In reply, Sri Lanka were reduced to 43-3, but Charith Asalanka slammed 62 not out, hitting five fours and a six, while Sadeera

Samarawickrama made 54, laced with six fours.

On their way to making their respective half-centuries, the duo shared a 78-run partnership for the



fourth wicket to complete the chase with 11 overs remaining. Though Bangladesh took out

Samarawickrama and Dhananjaya in quick succession, it was too late as Sri Lanka got their 11th consecutive win in ODIs

Bangladesh's next game against Afghanistan on Sunday is now a mustwin clash for them to enter the Super Four stage.

he Indian men's team overcame Malaysia 7-5 and then scripted a stunning 35-1 win over Japan on Thursday, the twin wins helping it to storm into the semifinals at the Men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier

Salalah (Oman) Agencies

here. In the second game of the day, Maninder Singh slammed in 10 goals as India thrashed Japan after starting the day with a narrow 7-5 win over Malaysia in a thrilling encounter.

Maninder Singh scored in 1st, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 9th, 15th, 20th, 24th, 25th and 29th minutes of the match. Mohammed Raheel (3', 4', 11', 12', 17', 26, 26'), Pawan Rajbhar (2', 6', 10', 13', 23'), Gurjot Singh (12', 20', 21', 27', 30'), Sukhvinder (4', 8', 16', 22'), captain Mandeep Mor (18', 23', 29'), and Jugraj Singh (15') were on target for India. For Japan, Masataka Kobori (29') scored the lone consolation in the match.

It was a fiery start from India as seven goals were struck by the side led by



India thrash Japan 35-1

after beating Malaysia 7-5

Mandeep Mor within five minutes. Maninder Singh (1', 3', 5'), Pawan Rajbhar (2'), Mohammed Raheel (3', 4'), and Sukhvinder (4') found the back of the net to help India take a 7-0 lead early on. Japan's captain Masataka Kobori (29') added a late goal for his side but it was too late for a return, and with Gurjot Singh (30') scoring the final goal of the night, India won the match 35-1. Earlier in the day, India played

Malaysia in a thrilling encounter that went right down to the wire. With Gurjot Singh (7', 11', 17', 29' 30') scoring five

goals, and Maninder Singh (12'), and Mohammed Raheel (21') getting a goal each. India won the match 7-5.

Malaysia saw goals from Arif Ishak 6'), captain Ismail Abu (7'), Muhamad Din (8'), Kamarulzaman Kamaruddin (26'), and Syarman Mat (30+').

The match started on a cagey note with both the teams playing cautiously in the early minutes of the match.

The hold was broken by Arif Ishak (6'), and Ismail Abu (7') scoring back-toback goals for Malaysia, Immediately afterwards, Gurjot Singh (7') pulled one goal back for India.

Muhamad Din (8') scored the goal in the next minute, but Gurjot Singh (11'), and Maninder Singh (12') scored late and the match went into halftime with the scores levelled at 3-3.

With two big wins on the day, India managed to finish in the second position in the Elite pool table with 12 points and earned a direct qualification for the semifinals. India will next play in the second semifinal match of the tournament on September 2.

Boca Juniors reach Copa Libertadores semifinals

Buenos Agencies

ires: Six-time champions Boca Juniors reached the Copa Libertadores semifinals with a penalty shootout win over Racing Club. Former Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo

converted the decisive spotkick after the aggregate score was locked at 0-0 at the end of normal time, reports Xinhua.

The result means Boca will face Palmeiras in the semifinals, with the first leg slated for September 4 and the return fixture on October 4,

In Wednesday's only other Copa Libertadores quarterfinal, Palmeiras were held to a goalless home draw but advanced by virtue of a 4-0

win in the first leg. On Thursday, Olimpia will host a Fluminense side that has a 4-0 advantage after the first leg.

New York Agencies

Brief scores

Bangladesh 164 all out in 42.4

overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 89,

Maheesha Theekshana 2-19) lost to

Sri Lanka 165/5 in 39 overs (Charith

Matheesha Pathirana 4-32,

Asalanka 62 not out, Sadeera

five wickets

Samarawickrama 54; Shakib Al

Hasan 2-29, Shoriful Islam 1-23) by

ovak Djokovic once again proved his unwavering dominance by advancing to the third round of the US Open 2023. The Spanish tennis player Bernabe

Zapata Miralles was defeated by the Serbian tennis player by a score of 6-4, 6-1, 6-1. Novak will now face his fellow countryman, Laslo Djere in the Round 3.

Novak expressed his joy playing in the US Open tournament after a long time and said, "I'm happy to be back in front of you guys. That's what gives me strength & motivation at 36. I still have the hunger & desire to play my best on this court."

Since the introduction of the ATP rankings in 1973, Zhang Zhizhen of China became the first male Chinese player to defeat a top-five opponent, making history in the process. With a score of 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 0-6, 6-2, the world number 67 defeated Casper Ruud, who finished runner-up at the US Open the previous year, in an astounding shock.

His victory over Ruud was a key turning point for Chinese men's tennis, as Zhang's outstanding perform-



US Open Day 3

Zhang Zhizhen of China scripts history, Novak Djokovic, Iga Swiatek,

ance demonstrated his tenacity and fortitude.

Over time, the accomplishments of the 26-year-old Zhang have progressively increased. In the past, he made history by becoming the first man from China to win a main-draw

match at the French Open in 86 years

He also advanced to the quarterfinals of the Madrid Open ATP Masters 1000 tournament. Zhang's recent victory over Ruud is evidence of his commitment and resolve to improve

Chinese men's tennis on the international scene.In the US Open second round, Swiss player Dominic Stricker defeated seventh-seeded Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas after a grueling five-set. Stricker defeated Tsitsipas in the nail-biting finale with a score of 7-5, 6-7(2), 6-7(5), 7-6(6), and 6-3, earning his first victory over a player ranked in the top 10.

Meanwhile, Americans Frances Tiafoe, Tommy Paul, Coco Gauff, and Taylor Fritz continued to shine at the US Open, advancing to the third round showcasing the strength of American Talent.

Iga Swiatek of Poland, the reigning champion, encountered a difficult challenge in her second-round match against Daria Saville. Swiatek was tested to the limit despite winning 6-3, 6-4 since Saville showed persistence throughout the match.

In the first round of the US Open's doubles, Australian Matthew Ebden and Indian Rohan Bopanna displayed their skill by defeating the Australian team of Christopher O'Connell and Aleksandar Vukic. The duo earned 60 match points as compared to Vukiv and O'Connell who only managed to get 32 points.

Men's ODI World Cup

Netherlands team players in India for spin and batting camp

Bengaluru | Agencies

Tith a focus on the Men's ODI World Cup, twelve players from the Netherlands men's team are in India this week for a training camp focused on spin and batting led by head coach Ryan Cook, said the **Royal Dutch Cricket Association** (KNCB) in a statement on Thursday.

The camp is intended to prepare for the local conditions to be found in the upcoming Men's ODI World Cup in India from October 5 to November 19. In addition to Cook, assistant coaches Ryan van Niekerk and Heino Kuhn are present with the Netherlands players in Bengaluru.

The training group is currently residing in Bengaluru and Alur and is supplemented locally with net bowlers and side-arm specialists for

NETHERLANDS

practice. Both of Netherlands' training camps and necessary facilities are happening in cooperation with the

Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

In this phase, they are scheduled to play three games against the Karnataka state side, for which dates are yet to be finalised. After this, Netherlands will be staying in Thiruvananthapuram for its' Men's ODI World Cup warm-up matches at the Greenfield International Stadium: against Australia on September 30 and against India on October 3.

Netherlands sealed their qualification for the Men's ODI World Cup after emerging as runners-up of the qualifier tournament in Zimbabwe in June this year. The Dutch will open their ten-team tournament campaign against 1992 champions Pakistan on October 6, followed by facing New Zealand at the same venue on October 9.

ANTWERP BEAT AEK ATHENS TO REACH UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP STAGE

Athens: Belgian champions Antwerp clinched a 2-1 victory over Greece's AEK Athens in the second leg of the UEFA Champions League playoffs in Athens, advancing to the group stage for the first time.

Gyrano Kerk netted the opening goal for Antwerp in the 73rd minute, just seven minutes after coming onto the field at the bustling Arena stadium, reports Xinhua.

In the 90th minute, Sergio Araujo managed to level the score for the Greek hosts. However, merely five minutes afterward, Michel-Ange Balikwisha of Antwerp headed in the deciding goal.

Earlier, Antwerp had edged out AEK Athens 1-0 in the first leg of the playoffs on August 22.

Messi draws blank as Inter Miami held by Nashville

Washington Agencies

nter Miami's nine-game winning run ended when they were held to a goalless home draw by Nashville in their Major League Soccer duel.

The hosts had 70% of possession and 13 shots on goal but failed to breach Nashville's defense at DRV PNK stadium in Fort Lauderdale, reports Xinhua.

Messi's best scoring chance of the night came on the hour when he won a free-kick near the edge of the area after being brought down by Dax McCarty.But the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner made poor contact with the resultant set piece, sending a timid shot over the wall but straight at goalkeeper Elliot Panicco. The result leaves Inter Miami 14th in the 15-team Eastern Conference standings, 13 points shy of the play-off places.

The Florida outfit had won nine consecutive games following the arrival of Messi and manager Gerardo Martino in mid-July.

The sequence reached a high point on August 19 when Internacional beat Nashville



on penalties to win the Leagues Cup, an annual competition featuring clubs from Mexico, the United States and Canada.

JUDE BELLINGHAM IS LA LIGA'S PLAYER **OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST 2023**

Madrid (Spain): Real Madrid's English star Jude Bellingham has been chosen as the best player of August 2023 by the La Liga. Bellingham was voted as the Player of the Month for August 2023 for his superb performance in the opening weeks of the season.

In what is his debut campaign in the competition, the British footballer has got off to a flyer, helping Real Madrid to three consecutive victories to start their season. Thanks to the triple wins in August, Real Madrid lead the points table while Jude Bellingham stands out as the star player. The Englishman is so far the top scorer of La Liga with four goals in the three games he has played. He started the season by scoring the second goal in the 0-2 victory over Athletic Club in San Mamés. Later he scored a double that fuelled Real Madrid's comeback in a 1-3 victory over Almería, and finally, he scored again to have the final say in a hard-fought match against Celta Vigo and give his team a 0-1 victory. Those exceptional displays meant Bellingham won the first Best Player of the Month trophy in the 2023-24 season of La Liga

US crushes Jordan, China suffers more in **FIBA** World Cup

Manila Agencies

he US delivered another impressive performance in the FIBA World Cup, securing consecutive games with over 100 points for the first time since 2006, as they defeated Jordan 110-62, while China concluded its winless group phase after a loss to Puerto Rico.

After defeating Greece 109-81 on Monday, the US secured a spot in the round of 16 with a game to spare. They only needed a victory on Wednesday to secure the top spot in Group C, reports Xinhua. Against Jordan, who had suffered back-to-back defeats, the US displayed aggressiveness right from the start, nearly sealing the win with a halftime score of 62-33. "We were looking to experiment with some lineups. The challenge with FIBA is that you have only a few weeks to shape your team compared to an NBA season spanning six to eight months. While the game wasn't competitive, both groups had a good rhythm. We



haven't made any decisions moving forward, but we wanted to explore some aspects," commented US head coach Steve Kerr. All 12 players on the US roster contributed to the scoresheet, with Anthony Edwards standing out with 22 points. The 22-year-old shot 8-of-16 from the field, securing eight rebounds and four assists. "Our depth will be crucial moving forward; all 12 of us can score. Our synergy is important as we draw energy from each other. Having that depth is really significant," highlighted the Minnesota Timberwolves' star

player.On the Jordan side, Rondae Hollis Jefferson maintained his exceptional form, contributing 20 points and seven rebounds.

Greece advanced to the round of 16 alongside the US by defeating New Zealand 83-74. In the second round, Greece and the US will face Montenegro and Lithuania, respectively, while Jordan and New Zealand will compete in the Classification Games 17-32.

China's slim hopes for reaching the round of 16 were dashed by Puerto Rico in a Group B match. China now has to participate in the Classification Games in pursuit of their Olympic aspirations. Puerto Rico took control of the game, leading 52-37 at halftime. Despite China scoring 37 points in the following quarter, cutting the deficit to nine points, Puerto Rico held their ground and secured a spot in the round of 16.

In another Group B match, Serbia remained focused on their objective, easily defeating debutant South Sudan 115-83 to progress from the group.

France beats Turkey in men's EuroVolley 2023

Jerusalem Agencies

lympic champions France clinched a 3-0 victory over Turkey (25-20, 30-28, 27-25) in their Group D debut at the 2023 Men's European Volleyball

Championship (EuroVolley). Group D matches, which kicked off the previous evening with Israel defeating Greece, are unfolding at the Shlomo Group Arena in the Israeli coastal city of Tel Aviv-Yafo. Meanwhile.

Italy, North Macedonia, and Bulgaria are hosting the other three groups, reports Xinhua. In the opening sets, France's performance was powered by Jean Patry's significant contributions. They secured the close second



and third sets with a spike from Yacine Louati and an ace by Patry. Both Patry and Barthelemy Chinenyeze stood out, each contributing 15 points for France. For Turkey, Adis Lagumdzija led the team with 14 points. Later that evening, Portugal bested Romania 3-0 (25-19, 25-18, 25-23). Jose Pedro's decisive play was instrumental, particularly when Romania had the edge, leading 18-17 in the third set.





SRK's 'southern swag' wows netizens

SRK's upcoming trailer sets Internet on fire

Team Absolute Mumbai

acked with action and impactful diaglogues, the makers of Shah Rukh Khanstarrer 'Jawan' finally unveiled the trailer of the film on Thursday.

The two-minutes fourty five second long trailer begins with Shah Rukh Khan in his husky voice saying: "Ek raja tha ek baad ek jung haarta gaya... bhookha pyaasa ghoom raha tha jungle main bahut gusse main tha."

The perfectly cut trailer then shows SRK's character floating in the sea, having blood on his hands and lying down fully bandaged. What comes next is a hijack followed with car chasing scenes, guns and high octane action. An intriguing scene from the film is shown, where a bald Shah Rukh Khan is seen in a metro holding people hostage.

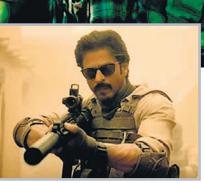
A voice says: "Yeh batao tumhe chahiye kya?" SRK then says: "Chahiye toh Alia Bhatt." Later, the Atlee-directed film's trailer shows glimpses of Shah Rukh as 'Jawan', meaning a soldier, wearing a uniform and sporting a mustache. The trailer also has glimpses of Sanya Malhotra, Priyamani, Nayanthara and

Deepika Padukone, who is even seen she is seen in a fight with SRK. The trailer has a sprinkle of humour too! A child actor from the film is seen asking SRK if his hair is real or if he has dyed it and also,

SRK's evil laugh leading to a cough. SRK is also seen wielding a gun saying: "Jab main villain banta hu na..." Vijay Sathupathi plays Kaali, the fourth largest

weapons dealer in the world. Another dialogue that piques the interst is when SRK says: "Hum Jawan hai. 1000 baar apni jaan daav par laga sakte hai lekin sirf desh ke liye.

Tumhare jaisai desh bechne waalo ke liye nahi.. So kaali no deal." Then the action packed avatar of SRK as Jawan comes into the scene, and says: "Bete ke haath lagane se pahela baap se baat kar." In the end,



entertainment

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SRK's negative avatar is heard talking to Nayanthara, who asks him: "Ab aur kya chahiye?"

To which, he replies: "Ek Gaana sunaayiye," and the classic Ramaiya Vastavaiya starts playing in the backdrop. He captioned the trailer: "Of Justice & A Jawan. Of Women & their Vengeance. Of a Mother & A Son. And of course, a lot of Fun!!! Ready Ahhh!!!#JawanTrailer out now!"

Nushrratt got 'dangerous threat'

FILM'S CAST HAD TO RELOCATE FROM TURKEY TO UZBEKISTAN

Team Absolute New Delhi

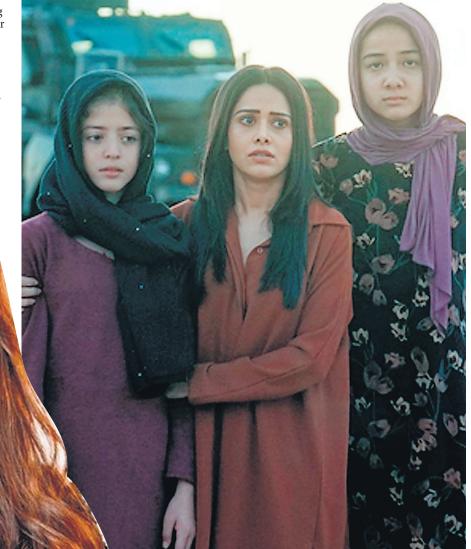
The team of Nushrratt Bharuccha-starrer 'Akelli' had to change their shoot location from Turkey to Uzbekistan, after getting dangerous threats directed towards the lead actress.

The sources claimed: "The production of the movie 'Akelli' experienced one tough curveball forcing the team to relocate their shoot from Turkey to Uzbekistan. The trouble began when the production team received a dangerous threat directed towards lead actress Nushrratt Bharuccha, while they were in Turkey preparing for the shoot."

"After completing the recce and survey of the location, the team was all ready to start preparation and shoot. However, the threat made the team choose a new location in Uzbekistan just 14 days before their shoot was supposed to start in Turkey. This decision was driven not only by safety concerns but also by the sensitive topic the film touched upon - through a terrorist organisation," added the source.

Directed by Pranay Meshram, and produced by Ninad Vaidya, Aparna Padgaonkar of Dashami Studioz along with Shashant Shah, and Vicky Sidana, the film delves deep into themes of bravery, resilience, liberation.

Alongside Nushrratt, the film boasts a stellar cast, including international talents like Amir Boutrous and Tsahi Halevi. 'Akelli' is an intense thriller that delves into the gripping narrative of a young woman's struggle for freedom.



Rasika Dugal's dream role is to portray Amrita Pritam in a biopic

Team Absolute Mumbai

On legendary writer Amrita Pritam's birth anniversary, Rasika Dugal has expressed her heartfelt wish to portray the iconic wordsmith's life journey in a movie, if such an opportunity arises. Rasika said: "Amrita Pritams writings, to my mind, talk about romance and revolution in the same breath. There is a sadness, a sense of longing, a passion, a calm anger, a questioning and an imagination in her words which is never too conscious of itself and hence really hits home."

and hence really hits home. "I have been very moved by her poetry and very intrigued by her biographies. Here

and very intrigued by her biographics relations is a woman who lived life on her own terms- acknowledged her obsessions and passions and nurtured them fearlessly. It would be a dream come true for me to get an opportunity to portray her if a film about her is ever made. I have been manifesting this for quite some time. I hope the uni-

verse is listening." Amrita Pritam, a literary luminary whose words have resonated across generations,

words have resonated across game has left an indomitable legacy with her evocative writing and unflinching stance on

life. Her upcoming projects include reprising her role as Neeti Singh in the third season of 'Delhi Crime'. Furthermore, she is set to return as Beena Tripathi in the much-anticipated third installment of 'Mirzapur'. She will also be seen in a diverse array of projects such as 'Little Thomas', 'Lord Curzon Ki Haveli', 'Spike', 'Fairy Folk', and a few unannounced projects.



Rani says 'Mardaani 3' is in ideation stage, 'girls have to find it empowering'

Team Absolute Mumbai

Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji has shared details about the third installment of the 'Mardaani' franchise and said that it is in ideation stage.

In the franchise, Rani essays the role of a feisty and fearless cop named Shivani Shivaji Roy, in this franchise and she takes on criminals who prey on women.

Rani shared: "Mardaani 3 is in ideation stage. Once YRF has a great and concrete story idea, Mardaani 3 will get into the scripting stage. I'm excited to see how Mardaani 3 shapes up! I am crossing my fingers because I would love to play the part of Shivani."

"When I did Mardaani 2, I was quite nervous because I had never done a sequel before. I was like how will it happen? Because I leave my characters behind each time a film gets over and I don't know if I will be able to reprise that part again. With Mardaani 2, I was surprised that I enjoyed reprising the part. So now I have tasted blood. So now I want to reprise it again in 3," she added.

Rani revealed that the film's script will need to be exceptional because the expectation from audiences is sky-high from this franchise and they would need to see a crackingly fresh story.

Rani said: "I will be very happy and excited if the Mardaani 3 script comes about really something that we would make a film. Because I as an actor always believe that we don't want to do a film because it sounds good. We need to do a film when the script is good and when we want to make a film which is making a difference."

She added: "With Mardaani 3 we

can't make a film if the story does not have that substance. It has to be something that people relate with today, the girls find it empowering. Only then we can do Mardaani 3. We can't do it just because it sounds exciting. So I am hoping if they can crack a really good script, I would just like to get on with it."

'Mardaani' first released in 2014 The narrative revolves around Shivani Shivaji Roy, a cop whose interest in the case of a kidnapped teenage girl leads her to uncover secrets of human trafficking by the Indian mafia played by Tahir Raj Bhasin.

The second installment was released in 2019. The plot follows her attempts to catch a 21-year-old rapist and murderer, played by newcomer Vishal Jethwa.



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