

absolute india

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Messi draws blank as Inter Miami held by Nashville...



Government calls Parliament 'Special Session', opposition criticizes

SPECULATIONS OF AGENDAS

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.



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

"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 5-day 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 coincide with the opposition bloc I.N.D.I.A.'s third meeting.

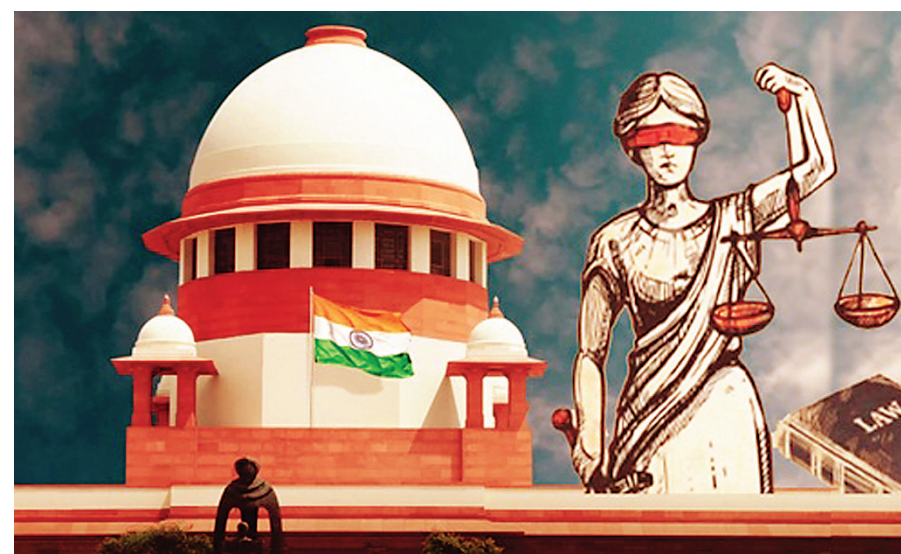
sentiments. Surprised at choice of dates!" Shiv Sena UBT's Priyanka Chaturvedi said, while the Nationalist Congress Party's Supriya Sule asked for it to be rescheduled. "Whilst we all look forward towards meaningful discussions and dialogue, the dates coincide with Ganpati Festival, a major festival 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 government has called a special session of Parliament between September 18 and 22, amid speculations that it may bring 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

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



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 continuously progressing by citing different figures and apprised that in the previous year around 1.88 crore tourists visited J&K and the one crore mark has been crossed till date for year 2023.

Mehta said that on comparing the present situation with 2018, terrorists initiated instances are reduced by 45.2 per cent, infiltration has been reduced by 90.2 per cent, stone pelting reduced by 97.2 per cent, and security persons casualties reduced by 65.9 per cent.

"These are factors which agencies would take into consideration... In 2018,

stone pelting was 1,767 and it is nil now and calls of 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 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.

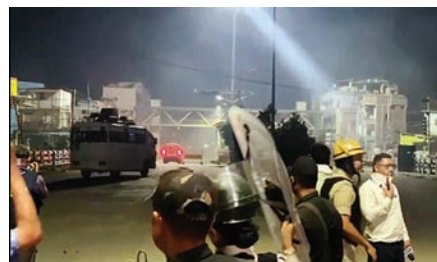
Manipur's tribal leaders forum declares emergency shutdown after clashes

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-Zo dominated areas of Manipur came under attack.

The ITLF said, "Areas like Lonphai, Khousabung, Kangvai and Sognu 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 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

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



at his packed media briefing, even as the government announced a Special Session of Parliament -- to be convened in the third week of

September.

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

Is 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 Spectroscopy (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 first-ever 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 aluminium (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 Ujjwala 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



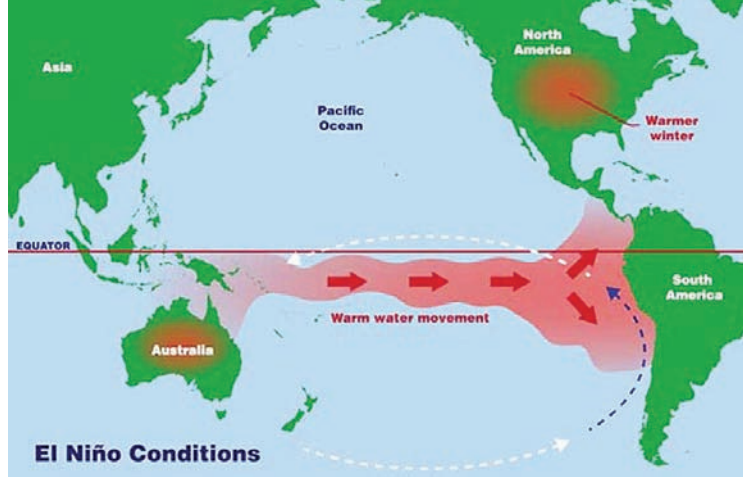
direct benefit transfer (DBT), state home minister Narottam Mishra, who also spokesperson of MP government told the press on Thursday. "The cabinet has approved a proposal to increase the incentive amount of ASHA workers from Rs 2,000 to Rs. 6,000. The incentive amount of ASHA supervisors has been increased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



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

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After 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 IMD said in its report. 'Currently, borderline positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over the Indian Ocean. The latest forecasts from MCMFS 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.

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

Satara | Agencies

In 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...



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.

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

Kohima | Agencies

Marking 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 integrating it with Aadhaar enrolment for children in the age group of 0 to 5.

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.

He lauded the consistent efforts of the Office of the Commissioner, Nagaland, in providing Aadhaar-linked services to the state's residents. UIDAI has been actively supporting states through workshops, door-to-door enrolments, and out-reach to remote areas...

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

Jaipur | Agencies

A 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.



Raje's 'Dev Darshan' will start from the Chaturbhujia 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 Charbhujia, Nathdwara and Tripura Sundari temples on Friday.

Meanwhile, the sudden announcement by Raje to go on a religious tour on the eve of 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 Charbhujia 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's Parivartan Yatra will start from the Trinetra Ganesh temple in Sawai Madhopur on Saturday.

Lawyers up in arms in Raj over Gehlot's remarks on judiciary

Jaipur | Agencies

Ashok 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.



urging the latter to take cognisance of Gehlot's remarks and consider his letter as a criminal complaint.

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 letter 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 immediate apology from the Chief Minister.

FIVE MINORS DROWN IN BIHAR'S AURANGABAD

Patna: Five children drowned in Bihar's 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 Salsaiya 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.

NUH VIOLENCE: BITTU BAJRANGI GETS BAIL

Gurugram | Agencies

Cow vigilante Bittu 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.



Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra on July 31.

Bajrangi was arrested by Faridabad police two days after the violence in connection with another case related to the communal clashes but was released on bail after he joined the investigation. He was charged with making incendiary speeches on social media.

The FIR was registered against Bajrangi under Indian Penal Code Sections 148 (riots), 149 (unlawful assembly), 186 (obstructing a public servant from discharging duty), 323 (causing hurt), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant) and 506 (criminal intimidation) and provisions of the Arms Act.

Communal violence had erupted between two groups on July 31 which claimed the lives of six people including two Home Guards and a cleric.

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 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 councillor's meeting allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 25,000 per meeting.

SHARMILA EYES KEY POST IN CONGRESS, 15 ASSEMBLY TICKETS

Hyderabad | Agencies

YSR 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 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.

Dissident BRS leader invited to join Congress

Hyderabad | Agencies

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



State Congress chief A. Revanth Reddy met Nageswara 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 Rashtva 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.



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 REALISING THE DREAM OF METRO IN INDORE.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under 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 visible at the metro depot.

MP Shankar Lalwani greeted the officers, employees and technical

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.

Sitting BJP MLA resigns in MP, accuses Scindia of sidelining him

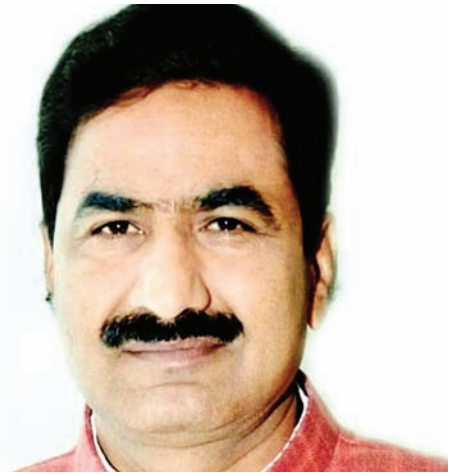
Team Absolute | Bhopal

The ruling BJP witnessed 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-



ter. 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 in-charge for Gwalior-Chambal

region would say that "mandir me prasad tau chadhana hi padega (offering will have to made at the temple)".

He further alleged that the farmers' money deposited in 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

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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

MP school hijab row

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

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh High Court has granted bail to the administrators of Damod-based 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'.

The issue created a political storm in the poll-bound Madhya Pradesh and the ruling BJP demanded a strict action against the school administration. Subsequently, the recognition of



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 Rustum 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 religions to read/study any material or language which has not been prescribed or approved by the Madhya Pradesh Education Board."

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

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Days 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 former 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

Chief 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

Reacting to recent resignation 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 for leaving the BJP. On Thursday, Scindia reached Gwalior on his two-day visit where he held a meeting with officials at the airport. In this meeting, he discussed with the officials regarding the development



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 elections shows his intention. The change which happened

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

Scindia said that in the year 2020, the Congress government had made a promise against the farmers and young 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. Ladi Behan Yojana could not have been started. All this is due to the BJP.

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

Team Absolute | Indore

Former 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-the-box 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 M.Tech. 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 B.Tech. 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-real-time trajectory simulations of all ISRO launch vehicles.



EDITOR'S SPECS

LACK OF SOIL MICRONUTRIENTS LINKED TO CHILDHOOD STUNTING IN INDIA

Adding zinc to farmland soil can help prevent childhood stunting, according to a study on children in 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 filmworld

Vikas Datta

Writer 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 jipani", 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"), Sharmila Kapoor's exuberant ebullience ("Chabe koi mujhe jungle kahe"), or Dev Anand's insouciant jauntness ("Khooya khooya 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 daffi 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 an 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..."

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 "Pyaar hua ikraar hua", "Ajeeb daastaan hai yeh", "Sajan re jhoote mat bolo", "Aaj phir jeene ki tamanna hai", "Yeh raat bheegi bheegi", "O sajan, barkha bahar aai", "Ruk ja raat, thahr ja re chanda", "Zindagi khwab hai", "Tu pyar ka saagar hai", "Chadh gayo paapi bichhua" and "Chalal musafir..." and many more.

international

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

London | Agencies
British Queen Camilla has unveiled a portrait of Noor 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



headquarters, during which time she made two unsuccessful attempts at escape, and was then sent to 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. 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

63 dead in Johannesburg building inferno

Johannesburg | Agencies
At least 63 people were killed 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 video. Videos 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 Mulaudi 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.

North Korea fires 2 short-range ballistic missiles: Seoul

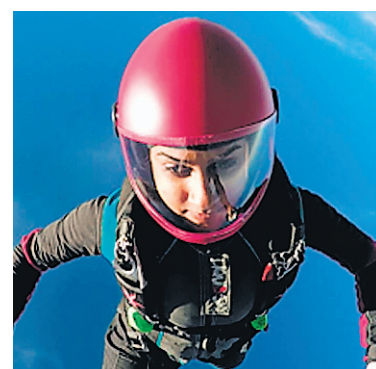
Seoul | Agencies
North Korea has fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the East Sea, in apparent protest against combined South Korea-US military drills, the Seoul government said on Thursday. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launches from an area in or around Sunan in Pyongyang 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



staged joint air drills, involving 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 end Thursday. 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 production capability and for war contingency preparations in an "offensive" manner. The JCS said it would thoroughly 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 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.

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

New York | Agencies
An 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 cliché 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.



ZENDAYA SKIPS VENICE FILM FESTIVAL DUE TO HOLLYWOOD STRIKES

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress 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.



Denzel Washington develops 'fatherly' relations with Dakota Fanning



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood 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.

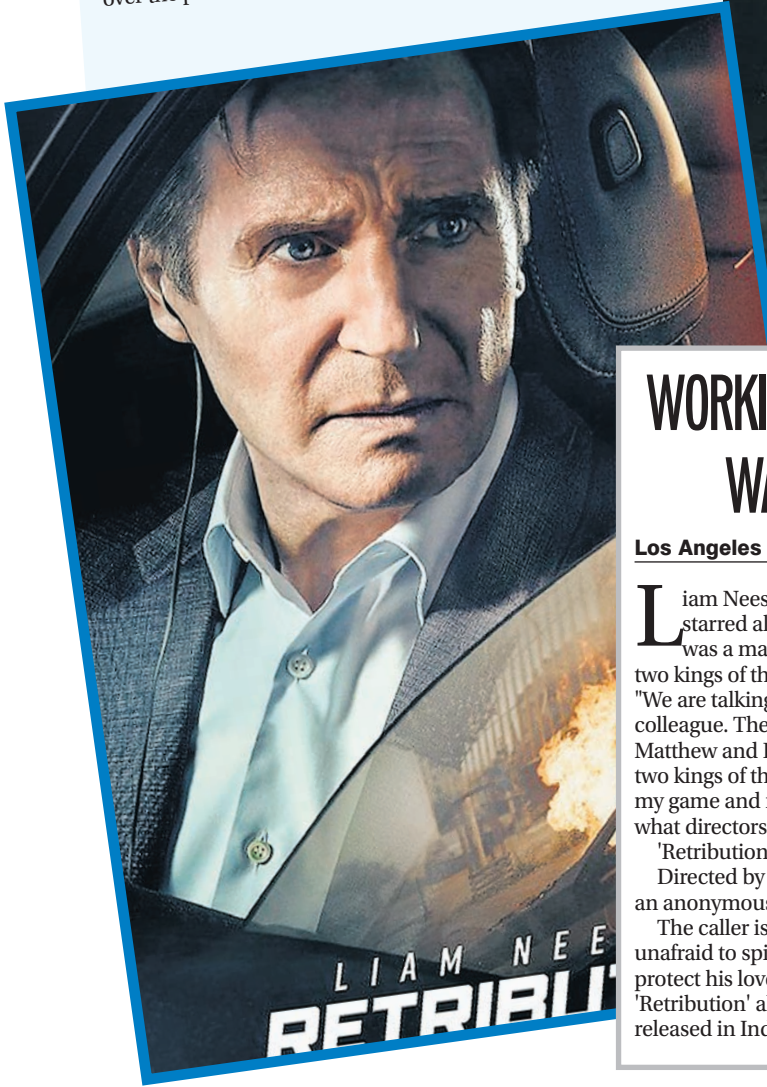
But you can see how she has grown quite a bit. I think it was more fascinating for Denzel than anyone else. Every once in a while when I would yell cut he would just look over and be like, 'I can't believe she's like a grown woman now.' I think it was more fascinating for him than anyone else."

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 overwhelming and it's hard to see the light some 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.



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

Los Angeles | Agencies

Liam 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 was 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 an anonymous caller threatens to blow up his family the moment he stops.

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.

Los Angeles | Agencies

English 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-years-old 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 character built," Wright said.

"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 her.



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

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rappers 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" rhymers 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



Kimberley Garner

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



SRK's 'southern swag' wows netizens

SRK's upcoming trailer sets Internet on fire

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Packed with action and impactful dialogues, the makers of Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Jawan' finally unveiled the trailer of the film on Thursday.

The two-minute forty 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 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 interest 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,



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 background. 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!"

Nushratt got 'dangerous threat'

FILM'S CAST HAD TO RELOCATE FROM TURKEY TO UZBEKISTAN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The team of Nushratt 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 Nushratt 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 Studios along with Shashant Shah, and Vicky Sidana, the film delves deep into themes of bravery, resilience, liberation.

Alongside Nushratt, the film boasts a stellar cast, including international talents like Amir Boutros 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 Pritam's 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."

"I have been very moved by her poetry and very intrigued by her biographies. Here 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 universe is listening."

Amrita Pritam, a literary luminary whose words have resonated across generations, 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 cracklingly 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.



Bhumi Pednekar