

# absolute india

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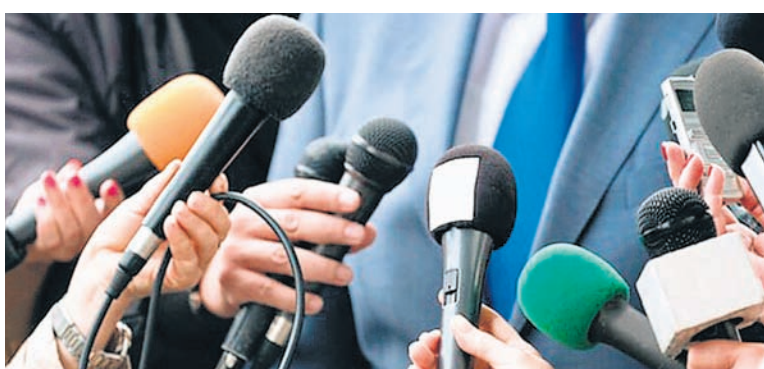


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## Majority feels journalists give preference to divisive issues instead of real ones: Survey

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A survey conducted by CVoter for IANS has found that a majority of the respondents feels that during debates and discussions, journalists give preference to communal and divisive issues instead of real ones. The survey had a sample size of 2,433. A total of 45.5 per cent respondents said boycotting some journalists would benefit or harm the opposition INDIA



block, while 30.8 per cent said it would benefit it. A majority of 67.5 per cent said it is right to question the impartiality and credibility of journalists in present times. As per the survey, 33.7 per cent said newspapers are more impartial, while 32.8 per cent said TV channels are more impartial. A majority -- 51.4 per cent -- respondents feel that the opposition INDIA bloc should withdraw its decision to boycott some journalists.

A majority of 50.8 per cent feels that the INDIA bloc has taken the decision to boycott some journalists because elections are drawing near. To a question on among the government, journalists and the public, whose responsibility is it to ensure that journalism remains impartial, a majority of 58.7 per cent respondents said it is the responsibility of the journalists, 24.6 per cent said it is the responsibility of the government, while 12.5 per cent said it is the responsibility of the public.

## NEW BILL PROPOSES WOMEN'S RESERVATION FOR 15 YEARS, MAY ROLL OUT IN 2029

# WOMEN EMPOWERED?

The women's reservation bill has proposed that the reservation would continue for a period of 15 years and there will be quota for SC and STs within the reserved seats for women. The legislation however is unlikely to be implemented in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, sources said. It will be rolled out only after the delimitation process is over, most probably in 2029, they added.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, was introduced in Lok Sabha in the supplementary list of business. The reservation will come into effect after a delimitation exercise is undertaken and will continue for 15 years. Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation exercise, according to the bill. The government said women participate substantively in panchayats



### 'It is ours', says Sonia

New Delhi: Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday reacted to the Union Cabinet clearing the long-awaited Women's Reservation Bill, saying "it is ours". Sonia Gandhi's sharp reply came after she arrived at Parliament on Tuesday morning. When enquired about the Women's Reservation Bill being brought in Parliament again, she said, "It is ours, apna hai." Her remarks came a day after the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Constitution Amendment Bill to provide reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies -- paving the way for the introduction of the historic bill in the ongoing special session of Parliament.

2010, when the Rajya Sabha had passed a bill for women's reservation, but the same could not be passed in the Lok Sabha and it got lapsed. Modi further said that Narishakti Vandan Adhinyam will further strengthen Indian democracy.

## Canadian PM 'suspects' Indian hand in killing of Khalistani terrorist

Ottawa | Agencies

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has reportedly said that the country's security agencies have "reason to believe" that agents "linked to the Indian government" carried out the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia on June 18.



### Nijjar was forming terrorist groups in Punjab : NIA

New Delhi: Hardeep Singh Nijjar, chief of proscribed terrorist organisation Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) was engaged in luring youths and forming terrorist gangs to carry out extortion for raising funds and for carrying out targeted killing of businessmen and leaders of particular communities in Punjab. He was declared a designated terrorist in 2020. On a number of occasions he held Khalistani referendums, and the last one was on September 10. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Special Cell have mentioned him in a few charge sheets which they recently filed in various courts. The NIA has alleged in its charge sheet that he was making efforts to form terrorist groups in Punjab for target killings, and the Special Cell charge sheet has revealed that Nijjar was in touch with the members of Neeraj Bawana gang.

### INDIA ALSO EXPELS CANADIAN DIPLOMAT AFTER CANADA

New Delhi: Amid deteriorating diplomatic relations between India and Canada, New Delhi on Tuesday expelled a senior Canadian diplomat based here, who has been asked to leave within the next five days. The High Commissioner of Canada to India (Cameron Mackay) received summons on Tuesday during which the Government of India conveyed its decision to expel a senior Canadian diplomat currently stationed in the country. The concerned diplomat has been officially instructed to depart from India within the next five days, a statement issued by the external affairs ministry said. "The decision reflects Government of India's growing concern at the interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities," the statement said. The decision came after Canada had earlier expelled a high ranking Indian diplomat.

## CONGRESS TEARS INTO GOVT OVER WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday launched a tirade against the government after it tabled the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament saying that the Bill is one of the biggest poll 'jumla' and a huge betrayal of the hopes of crores of Indian women and girls. "In a season of election jumlas, this one is the biggest of them all. A huge betrayal of the hopes of crores of Indian women and girls," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh wrote on X. Lashing out at the government, Ramesh who is also a Rajya Sabha MP said, "As we had pointed out earlier, Modi government has not yet conducted the 2021 Decadal Census making India the only country in G20 that has failed to carry out the Census. Now it says that the reservation for women will come into effect only following the first decadal Census conducted after the Women's Reservation Bill has become an Act. When will this Census take place?" "The Bill also says the reservation comes into effect only after the publication of the next Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise thereafter. Will the Census and delimitation be done before the 2024 elections? Basically the Bill gets the headlines today with a very vague promise of its implementation date. This is nothing but EVM - Event Management," the Congress communication in-charge said.

and at municipal bodies, but their representation in State Assemblies, Parliament is still limited. Women bring different perspectives and enrich quality of legislative debates and decision-making, it

added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his first speech in the new parliament building said that there had been several efforts to introduce women's reservation bill in the Lok Sabha and

State Legislative Assemblies since 1996. In 1998 and 1999, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had brought the bill, but his dream could not be fulfilled. The last such attempt was made in

## Azerbaijan launches operation against Nagorno-Karabakh

Baku: Azerbaijan's defence ministry says it has begun "anti-terrorist" operations in areas of its Nagorno-Karabakh region under ethnic-Armenian control. Tensions in the South Caucasus have been high for months around the breakaway enclave, recognised internationally as part of Azerbaijan. Air raid sirens and mortar fire were heard in Karabakh's main city. Eleven Azerbaijani police and civilians have been reported killed in a mine blast and another incident. Defence officials in the breakaway region said the Azerbaijani military had "violated the ceasefire along the entire line of contact with missile-artillery strikes". Other Karabakh representatives spoke of a "large-scale military offensive". The two neighbours, Azerbaijan and Armenia, have gone to war twice over Nagorno-Karabakh, first in the early 1990s after the fall of the Soviet Union and again in 2020.



## IISER Bhopal uses statistical methods to improve rainfall forecasts in Indian river basins

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal (IISER Bhopal) researchers on Tuesday said that it has collaborated with Australian universities and research organisations to develop statistical techniques to enhance the accuracy of rainfall predictions in Indian river basins. The research team said that it aims to miti-

gate the challenges posed by the erratic nature of rainfall, a crucial factor for India's agricultural productivity and overall sustenance. The research team employs diverse statistical approaches to predict rainfall patterns. By analysing a range of observational datasets, including satellite and rain gauge data, the researchers evaluated forecast accuracy across major river basins like Ganga, Narmada,

Mahanadi, Tapi, and Godavari. The team implemented a statistical model called the Seasonally Coherent Calibration (SCC) model to enhance rainfall forecasts in the Narmada and Godavari River basins. The SCC model significantly improved the skill of forecasts over a five-day lead time. The calibrated precipitation forecasts were further applied to generate streamflow predictions using a Soil and Water Assessment Tool.

## Technician who helped build Chandrayaan-3 launchpad now selling idlis

Deepak Kumar Uprariya, a technician in HEC (Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited) who worked for building ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 launchpad, has been selling idlis at a roadside stall in Ranchi to make ends meet. According to the BBC, Uprariya has a shop opposite the Old Legislative Assembly in the Dhurva area of Ranchi. He opened his roadside stall after HEC - a Government of India Company (CPSU) that made the folding platform and sliding door for Chandrayaan-3 - did not pay his salary for 18 months.

Team Absolute | Ranchi

Chandrayaan-3 made a soft landing on the surface of the Moon's South Pole in August, and with this, India became the first country to achieve this feat. At the time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the ISRO scientists and even addressed the launchpad workers of the Chandrayaan mission. However, in the backdrop, employees of the HEC in Ranchi were protesting their 18-month salary arrears. According to the BBC, around 2,800 employees of the HEC claim that have not received their salaries for the past 18 months. Among them is Uprariya. Speaking to the outlet, Uprariya said that he has been selling idlis for the



past few days to make ends meet. He has been managing his shop and office work together. The technician sells idlis in the morning and goes to the office in the afternoon. In the evening, he sells idlis again before heading back home. Explaining his situation, Uprariya said, "First I managed

my house with a credit card. I got a loan of Rs2 lakh. I was declared a defaulter. After that, I started running the house by taking money from relatives." "So far I have taken a loan of four lakh rupees. As I have not returned the money to anyone, now people have stopped lending. Then I mortgaged my

wife's jewellery and ran the house for a few days," he added. Further, the technician said that he decided to sell idlis when he felt that the "time of starvation" had come upon him. "My wife makes good idlis. I get 300 to 400 rupees every day by selling them. I make a profit of 50-100 rupees. I am running my house on this money," he told the outlet. "My children are humiliated after this. My daughters come home crying from School. It breaks my heart to see them cry. But I don't cry in front of them," Uprariya added. Meanwhile, according to the BBC, this situation is not only for Deepak Uprariya. Like him, some other people associated with HEC are also earning their livelihood by doing similar work.



# Manipur civil body bans film star from films for 3 years for participating in beauty pageant in Delhi

Team Absolute | Imphal

An organisation in Manipur has banned famed actor Soma Laishram from acting in films and attending social functions for 3 years for taking appearing as a show stopper in a "beauty pageant" in Delhi despite a general appeal made by it to her to desist from partaking in such programmes when Manipur is "still burning".

The decree by civil society group, Kangleipak Kanba Lup (KKL), sent shockwaves to the film fraternity of the strife-torn state.

The Film Forum Manipur (FFM), the umbrella body of all film bodies of the state, expressed dissatisfaction over the KKL's move and said it would act to bring a solution to it.

Soma, who has acted in over 150 Manipuri films and bagged numerous awards, clarified that there were certain misjudgments over her participation at the New Delhi event on Saturday.

She had participated as a show stopper in a concluding programme of the North East Students' Festival held at Talkatora Stadium where she passionately spoke on the unprecedented current turmoil in Manipur and used the platform to appeal for support from all for peace and normalcy in the state.



"As a professional actor and a social influencer, it is my responsibility to communicate and speak up about the crisis in Manipur and I chose this platform," the celebrity actor told the media on Tuesday.

"The event I participated in is a northeast festival hosted by My Home India, a non-profit organisation and the program I took part in was a cultural programme celebrating the cultural heritage of northeast. A resident of the Kongeng Hajari Leikai in Imphal West district, she clarified that Saturday's event was not a beauty or fashion show organised for fun.

"It was a cultural event where each state of the northeast like

Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, Arunachal etc was represented by their own chosen personalities. So from Manipur, it happened to be me. They invited me. I didn't want to miss the opportunity," Soma said. KKL, in a statement on Monday said that it had approached the FFM and the Film Actors Guild Manipur who then requested Soma not to take part in the Delhi beauty pageant. However, Soma "in full defiance of all such requests and in total disrespect to the Meitis who have died so far", and thousands of people rendered homeless as many houses were burnt, participated in the event, the statement said.

## 48-hour shut down hits normal life in Manipur's five districts

Imphal: Normal life was badly affected in the valley areas of Manipur on Tuesday as various civil society organisations called a 48-hour shut down across the state demanding unconditional release of five 'village protection volunteers'.

Officials earlier said that Manipur Police arrested five persons on Saturday with sophisticated weapons in camouflage uniform.

Protesting this arrest, a large number of men and women came out to protest on Sunday and tried to storm Porompat police station in Imphal East district demanding release of the arrested persons. Joint security forces repelled the police station attack by firing tear gas shells. In the melee several men and women including a Rapid Action Force personnel received minor injuries.

In view of the shutdown in five valley districts, all types of vehicles, including those of security forces were off the roads, inter-district, inter-state buses and trucks did not operate.

Markets, shops, business establishments, banks, government offices, educational institutions were closed in the five valley districts -- Bishnupur, Kakching, Thoubal, Imphal West, and Imphal East.

# GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER AGE LIMIT FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE: HC

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

The High Court of Karnataka observed that it would be suitable if an age limit was introduced for using social media akin to the legal age for drinking alcohol.

A division bench of Justices G Narendar and Vijaykumar A Patil made the observation while hearing an appeal by X Corp (formerly Twitter) challenging the single judge order of June 30 which had dismissed its plea to the takedown orders issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY).

MeiTY had under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act between February 2, 2021 and February 28, 2022 issued 10 Government Orders directing it to block 1,474 accounts, 175 Tweets, 256 URLs and one hashtag. Twitter challenged the orders related to 39 of these URLs.

"Ban social media. I will tell you a lot of good will come. Today's school going children are so addicted to it. I think there should be an age limit such as in Excise rules," Justice G Narendar noted.



The court further observed that "children may be 17 or 18. But do they have the maturity to judge what is or is not in the interest of the nation? Not only on social media, even on the Internet things should be removed, it corrupts the mind. Government should consider bringing in an age limit for the use of social media."

The court had also imposed a cost of Rs 50 lakh on X Corp. X Corp's counsel argued that MeiTY had not informed the users about

blocking their tweets and accounts and even the company was forbidden from informing them.

The high court asked the government "You do not release the order. He is not permitted to reveal the order. How is he going to defend himself?" The high court suggested that the government may have to tweak the rules a bit as it is at the government's discretion that X Corp is blocking the accounts of users and the company cannot be left high and dry.

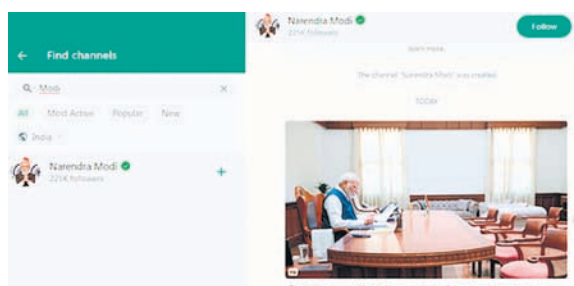
# PM joins WhatsApp Channels, shares excitement with users

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday joined WhatsApp Channels, a feature offered by messaging application WhatsApp.

"Thrilled to join the WhatsApp community. It's yet another step closer in our journey of continued interactions. Let's stay connected here," he posted on the social messaging site after joining the new application of WhatsApp.

He also shared a picture of his office from the new Parliament building. Modi has been quite active



on social media, especially on X (formerly Twitter).

The development comes on the day the proceedings of Parliament shifted to the new Parliament building.

WhatsApp Channels are a one-way broadcast tool for admins to send text, photos,

videos, stickers, and polls.

Channels can be found in a new tab called Updates on WhatsApp - where one can find the status and channels one chooses to follow, and are separate from one's chats with family, friends and communities.

# Global Exposition Fair at Poornima University

Team Absolute | Jaipur

The Global Exposition Fair organized by Poornima University (PU), Jaipur was an exciting and informative event that aimed to provide valuable information to students about various opportunities related to passport awareness, study abroad programs and scholarships etc. It was inaugurated by Australian artist, Dr. Daniel Connell. Dr. Suresh Chandra Padhy, President, PU; Dr. Manoj Gupta, Pro-President; Dr. Chandani Kirpalani, Registrar and Dr. Swati Gokhru, Dean- International Relations graced the opening of the exposition and motivated students to pursue their dreams. This exposition fair witnessed more than 500 students enquiring and understanding about the International domain. It attracted a diverse crowd of undergraduate



and postgraduate students, as well as faculty members who were keen to explore opportunities for their students.

The fair also featured multiple sec-

tions dedicated to study abroad programs. Pawan Solanki with his team from Global Reach were present in the fair to give information about studying abroad opportunities in the

USA, UK, Canada & Australia and about their academic offerings, admission procedures, and scholarships available. Students had the opportunity to interact with representatives from Global Reach and were able to gather valuable insights into pursuing higher education abroad.

There was also a section where Aiesec students and volunteers from different countries were present to make students aware about the different programs and internship opportunities for foreign exposure.

Another key aspect of the fair was the scholarship information section. Here, students were made aware about the eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and the application process for domestic and international educational scholarships. This was immensely beneficial for students seeking financial assistance to support their academic aspirations.

## LeT commander Uzair Khan killed in Kashmir encounter: Police

Srinagar: LeT commander Uzair Khan has been killed and his body retrieved from the forested area at Kokernag in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district where an encounter between terrorists and security forces was raging on since last Wednesday, officials said on Tuesday.

"Uzair Khan has been killed and his body has been retrieved," Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar told reporters.

Meanwhile, the body of missing soldier Sepoy Pradeep Singh was found on Monday evening from the encounter spot. Singh, of the 19 Rashtriya Rifles, hailed from Punjab's Patiala. "He had gone missing during the operation that claimed the lives of three security officers including a colonel and a major of the Army and a DSP of the Jammu and Kashmir Police," an official said.

# Last rites of slain soldier performed with full military honours in Manipur

Team Absolute | Imphal

Last rites of Indian Army soldier Serto Thanghang Kom was held at his ancestral village Litan in Manipur's Chandel district on Tuesday. The last rites were conducted with full military honours and were attended by the family members, a large number of villagers and officers of Army, Assam Rifles and district administration.

Three armed men abducted Defence Service Corps (DSC) personnel Serto, 49, from his house at Tarung, Happy Valley in Imphal West district, at gunpoint on Saturday and his bullet-riddled body was found at Khuningthek Village East in Imphal East district on Sunday.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son.

The Manipur government has constituted a one man Inquiry



Commission with Inspector General of Police, Zone-1, Themthing Ngashangva to probe the killing of Indian Army soldier and the enquiry report shall be submitted to the government within one month.

Large number of men and women, mostly the Kom tribes, on Monday staged widespread demonstrations in Imphal and other places of the

state against the killing of its community member.

Kom Union Manipur President Serto Aha Kom said that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh held a meeting with the Kom community leaders and the bereaved family members and assured to provide a suitable government job to the next of kin of the deceased.

# CID seeks Chandrababu Naidu's custody in another corruption case

Team Absolute | Vijayawada

The Andhra Pradesh Police's CID has filed a Prisoner Transit (PT) warrant petition against TDP President and former Chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in FiberNet scam even as he remained in judicial custody in the skill development scam.

The CID on Tuesday filed the petition in Vijayawada ACB Court seeking custody of Naidu in the third graft case.

The investigating agency had filed a PT warrant petition against Naidu in the Amaravati Inner Ring Road case on September 11, two days after he was arrested and sent to judicial custody in multi-crore skill development scam.

The court on Tuesday adjourned hearing on CID petitions for Naidu's police custody in skill development and Inner Ring Road cases to September 21 in view of the hearing of Naidu's petition for quashing of the cases in the High Court.

Naidu has moved the High Court seeking quashing of the FIR and his judicial remand



in skill development. The court on Tuesday reserved its judgment. The High Court adjourned to September 21 hearing on Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief's petition for anticipatory bail in Inner Ring Road case. According to CID, all the three scams happened when Naidu was the Chief Minister between 2014 and 2019. The CID has alleged that the work order for the first phase of the AP FiberNet Project of Rs.321 crore was allotted to Terasoftware in violation of rules and by manipulating the tender process. The project was aimed at providing optical fiber connectivity to villages and towns across the state.

# GUJARAT: 13,000 CUSECS WATER DISCHARGED FROM VASNA BARRAGE IN SABARMATI RIVER TO REGULATE WATER LEVEL

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

In wake of incessant rainfall in Gujarat over last several days, approximately 13,000 cusecs of water have been discharged from the Vasna barrage into the Sabarmati River in the last two days to regulate the increasing water level.

Several areas of Ahmedabad have witnessed waterlogging amid the ongoing rainfall.

On Tuesday, a steady discharge of 8,040 cusecs of water is flowing from the Narmada main canal into the Sabarmati River. An additional 20,012 cusecs of water is being released from the Sant Sarovar Dam, further contributing to the heightened water flow in



the Sabarmati.

Vasna barrage will release approximately 30,000 cusecs of water into the Sabarmati River by Tuesday evening, as part of ongoing efforts to regulate water levels.

The local administration has asked the residents living in villages along the Sabarmati River downstream of the Vasna barrage to exercise caution and remain vigilant about the changing water conditions.

# BJP MLA ticket scam: K'taka police nab religious seer in Odisha

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

In a major development the sleuths of a special wing of Karnataka City Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested the absconding religious seer, Abhinava Halasri, in connection with BJP MLA ticket scam in Odisha, police said on Tuesday.

Prime accused Chaitra Kundapura, a Hindu activist had told to media while in custody that once the Abhinava Halasri is arrested, the involvement of big fish in BJP with regard to the scandal will come out. The questions were raised on the investigation as the seer was not arrested even after 10 days.

According to police, the seer was arrested in the Cuttack city of Odisha with the help of



local police on Monday night. The seer was travelling in a train to Bodh Gaya from Bhubaneswar city. The accused seer will be brought to Bengaluru by evening.

Halasri is accused of receiving Rs 1.5 crore bribe from an

industrialist Govind Babu Poojari promising him a BJP MLA ticket from Baundur assembly constituency in Dakshina Kannada district. He allegedly formed a gang with prime accused Chaitra Kundapura in the scam.

Sources said that Halasri was wearing a t-shirt and travelling as a normal man in the train by shunning the saffron dress. He had disappeared following the arrest of Kundapura on September 12. The complaint was filed by the victim on September 8. He was attending a meeting when Kundapura was arrested in Udupi and he left the programme and went into hiding. He was planning to reach Kashi, sources said.

He had gone to Hyderabad, Farooqabad, Puri and Konark.

His arrest has raised curiosity in the case as he is expected to talk about his connections in BJP and RSS big wigs. The investigations have shown that the accused seer had made purchase of agricultural land and also invested in a petrol bunk.

# 9 DIE IN RAIN-RELATED INCIDENTS IN RAJASTHAN

Jaipur: As many as nine people died in different parts of Rajasthan in the rain-related incidents ever since heavy rains lashed the state since Sunday which continued till Monday night.

Met officials on Tuesday have predicted light to moderate rainfall in different places including Sirohi, Jalore, Shriganganagar and Barmer among others.

While two deaths were reported in Banswara on Monday, as per district collector PC Sharma, another woman died in Udaipur after the wall of her house collapsed at Kanbai village of Kherwara on Monday, added officials.

Earlier on Sunday, six people had died in rain-related incidents in Banswara, confirmed the officials.

The much-famous Baneshwar Dham shrine remained isolated for nearly 36 hours as it turned into an island due to heavy rains. People were given food and shelter at a government school situated nearby.

Meanwhile, Monday was a rainy day for cities like Kota, Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Sikar, Jodhpur, Pratapgarh, Sirohi, Banswara, Gongunda and other places.





EDITOR'S SPECS

## WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL A TEST FOR INDIA BLOC UNITY

Even as the Women's Reservation Bill is tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, it will be the first litmus test for the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc's unity as many of the parties earlier have opposed the Bill in the present form. The Bill will be a litmus test for the INDIA bloc as earlier the parties like Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Samajwadi Party had opposed the Bill in the present form. Both the parties have demanded a quota for women from the backward classes within the 33 per cent quota. Being a constitutional amendment, the Bill will require the support of two-thirds of the members in the Lok Sabha. It was part of the BJP's election manifesto in 2014. The passage of the Bill in Parliament comes at a time when the INDIA bloc during its third meeting in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1 had decided to hold the negotiations for a complex seat sharing formula at the state level for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The RJD and the Samajwadi Party had withdrawn support from the Congress-led UPA government in 2010 after its passage in the Rajya Sabha. Thus the Bill could not be passed in the Lok Sabha in 2010. However, the Left parties and the Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal-United had then supported the Bill. Nitish Kumar's decision to support the Bill after initially opposing it had led to fissures within the party. Earlier in the day, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi reacting to the Women's Reservation Bill said, "It is ours, 'apna hai'." She gave a clear indication that the grand old party will stand in support of the Bill.

# A decade on, China's imperial financial gambit goes awry

Kavya Dubey

Giving China a renewed status in contemporary times, its president Xi Jinping's brainchild One Belt One Road (OBOR) is a massive development project that was announced in 2013. With the intent of enhancing connectivity and cooperation among 78 countries across Asia, Africa, and Europe, this project has had the world watching South Asia.

Also known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the proclaimed purpose of this initiative was to restore the ancient silk route that connected Europe and Asia. However, over the years, with initiating a massive network of road, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, and associated infrastructure projects, its scope has expanded to include more new territories—and new concerns as well.

The two parts of the OBOR project are the 'Silk Road Economic Belt' and the '21st Century Maritime Silk Road'. The former connects China with Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe through land; while the latter is a network of sea-based routes to connect China's southern coast with the Mediterranean, Africa, South-East Asia, and Central Asia.

Essentially, six economic corridors are the pillars of OBOR: The New Eurasian Land Bridge which connects western China to Western Russia; China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor that connects northern China to eastern Russia via Mongolia; China-Central Asia-West Asia Corridor which connects Western China to Turkey via Central and west Asia; China-Indochina Peninsula Corridor which connects southern China to Singapore via Indo-China; China-Pakistan Corridor which connects southwestern China through Pakistan to Arabia via sea routes; and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Corridor which connects southern China to India via Bangladesh and Myanmar.

This project holds great significance for China as it seeks to boost not only its domestic growth, but is also a crucial part of the country's strategy for economic diplomacy in the greater global arena.

As it particularly seeks to connect the lesser developed border regions like Xinjiang with adjoining countries, China is on course to ramp up its economic activities, and with the elaborate OBOR network, new markets for Chinese goods is also very much an agenda.

Economically, and with respect to aligning with the development goals of present times, projects under OBOR are said to be green and sustainable development. Besides promoting mutual growth, 're-globalisation' and 'new regionalism' are its missions.

Re-globalisation refers to rebuilding an inclusive and equitable global economy, that is essentially de-westernising and decentralising the prevailing dynamics. New regionalism refers to economic corridors in contrast to conventional economic unions and zones.

Pertinently, in 2012, just before OBOR was initiated, China had troubled diplomatic and economic relations with the world, and with severe environmental pollution and industrial over capacity, China's local economy was on the verge of collapsing.

Internally, it is reasoned that with improved connectivity between China's poor and richer provinces, it will enhance economic integration and bring about regionally balanced growth. Likewise, the effect is sought beyond China's national borders.



Countries like Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are in support of OBOR for the massive investments China is bringing into their economies.

Further, China has announced investments of more than \$1 trillion in numerous infrastructure projects in participating countries and is funding them by offering low-cost loans. However, such associations seldom conclude with commercial exchanges.

China is widely accused of debt-trap diplomacy, whereby the financial relations with the creditor country extends debt to a borrowing nation to enhance the lender's political leverage. The intention is to extract critical concessions that are political and decisive, when the debtor country is unable to repay.

India's close neighbour Nepal is the latest country to join OBOR by entering into a partnership to help improve cross-border connectivity with China. Pakistan, on the other hand, is seeking to reap benefits from the \$46 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in PoK that will connect southwestern China and Pakistan, allowing further access to Arabian Sea routes.

Certainly, these developments are for India to keep a close watch on, lest an alarm goes off.

As expected, given the scale and quantum of this Chinese venture, it has made the Asian giant difficult to ignore. For China, OBOR is its means to rise (and eventually assert itself) as a regional leader.

Although the stated intent behind OBOR is to facilitate smoother cross-border trade and financial inflows from the Eurasian region, the pre-existing border disputes with India

impede the ties, compounding certain aspects of our bilateral relations.

The geopolitical implications of OBOR, however, go far beyond south Asia and the Eurasian regions. OBOR may also be viewed as an instrument to counter the status quo of the US as a reigning super power in the global arena.

The strategic investment in infrastructure such as airports and dockyards around the world, which could also be used as military bases should there be a need, point to such a possibility. But since India is as difficult to ignore as the smaller Asian giant, its concerns not only hold valid, but also has the world paying it attention. While the Indian security establishment is suspiciously watchful of the new Silk Road initiative, the BRI in the long disputed Pakistan-occupied parts of Jammu and Kashmir has only put India in an uncomfortable spot, straining relations with China. Further, Chinese-built Hambantota port in Sri Lanka is marking its presence in the Indian Ocean Region. As much as factual realities are taken into account, it is also a matter of perspective to balance economic and political interests to keep a nation's integrity intact.

OBOR has become an integral element in global geopolitics in a matter of ten years, particularly with regard to South Asia. What appears is that India is looking at its critical immediate concerns and priorities while China is looking towards the world at large.

## international

# US 'DEEPLY CONCERNED' OVER CANADA'S ALLEGATIONS ON NIJJAR'S KILLING

Washington | Agencies

The US has expressed "deep concern" over Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of "potential link between Indian government agents and murder of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar". According to a report in ABC NEWS, White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson in a statement said, "We are deeply concerned about the allegations referenced by Prime Minister Trudeau earlier today."

"We remain in regular contact with our Canadian partners. It is critical that Canada's investigation proceed and the perpetrators be brought to justice," the statement said. The startling accusation was followed by the Canadian foreign minister Melanie Joly, who informed that they had expelled a top Indian diplomat over the incident. Joly said Trudeau had also raised the matter with US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. India rejected claims by the Canada government that it had an involvement in the killing of Nijjar. Terming them as "absurd and motivated" the external affairs ministry in a statement said, "We



have seen and reject the statement of the Canadian Prime Minister in their Parliament, as also the statement by their Foreign Minister. Allegations of Government of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated."

"Similar allegations were made by the Canadian Prime Minister to our Prime Minister, and were completely rejected," the statement said further.

"We are a democratic polity with a strong commitment to rule of law," the ministry said further. "We urge the Government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil," the strongly worded statement added.

It went on to add, "The inaction of the Canadian Government on this matter has been a long-standing and continuing concern". India's reaction came after Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau in an emergency statement made in Parliament, said on Monday that Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing "credible allegations of a potential link between Indian government agents and the murder of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June". Amid deteriorating diplomatic relations between India and Canada, New Delhi on Tuesday expelled a senior Canadian diplomat based here, who has been asked to leave within the next five days, citing interference concerns.

London | Agencies

As Pirola, the new mutation of Omicron strain of Covid-19, worries health experts, the UK's National Health Service (NHS) has asked senior citizens above age 65 to immediately get their top-up booster jabs. People aged 65 and over in England are being urged to get a top-up booster vaccine against Covid at a time when more people are coming into hospitals with the highly-mutated BA.2.86 virus, reports the BBC. The vaccines will soon be provided for free to more vulnerable groups. "Hundreds of thousands of adults who are eligible for winter vaccines -- including all aged 65 and over, pregnant women and those with an underlying health condition -- will also begin receiving invitations from the NHS to encourage them to get their Covid and flu jabs from this week," NHS said in a statement late on Monday. According to the report, Covid hospital admissions are now at the highest rate since the end of April, at 4.6 per 100,000 people. That is still below the level reached last winter. The hospital admission rates remain



highest among people aged 85 and over, followed by 75 to 84-year-olds. "Vaccines are our best protection against flu and Covid-19, and I strongly encourage all eligible people to come forward for their life-saving winter vaccines as soon as they can," Steve Russell, NHS director for vaccinations and screening, was quoted as saying. The UK Health Security Agency (HSA) last week reported 34 cases of BA.2.86, 28 of which were reported from a single elderly care home in Norfolk -- an early indicator that the variant may be sufficiently transmissible to have impact in close contact settings.



## 24 killed as bus plunges into ravine in Peru

Lima | Agencies

At least 24 people were killed when a passenger bus plunged into a ravine in Peru's Huancavelica region, local media reported. The incident occurred on Monday around 1:30 a.m. local time (0630 GMT) in the mountainous area in Churcampa province, Xinhua news agency reported. There victims included minors, News broadcaster Radio Programas del Peru reported, citing the Churcampa Integrated Health Network. The injured were rushed to hospitals in the towns of Huancayo, Pampas and Ayacucho. The district mayor of Anco, Manuel Zevallos, told the radio station that the road has been in poor condition for at least a month as a result of an avalanche in the area.

## Biden-era migrant crisis 'spoiling' budgets of liberal, sanctuary cities: Report

New York | Agencies

US sanctuary cities are facing heavy financial burdens as the costs to care for new migrants continue to rise, the media reported. "Chicago's announcement this week that the Windy City is facing a 538 million US dollars budget deficit, with a significant part of that attributable to its ongoing migrant crisis, marks the latest instance of a 'sanctuary' city paying a heavy financial cost for migrant arrivals," reported Fox News on Sunday. The sanctuary cities are obliged by law to accommodate new migrants. New York City, also a sanctuary city, which means that it bars local and state law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, has also faced significant financial issues. Mayor Eric Adams has warned recently that the



crisis of over 110,000 migrant arrivals in the last year threatens to "destroy" his city, Xinhua news agency reported quoting Fox News. On the financial impact of the crisis, he warned New Yorkers that it could mean cuts to services and could cost 12 billion US dollars by 2025. "We are about to experience a financial ... tsunami that I don't think the city has ever experienced," Adams has said. "Every service in this city is going to be impacted."

# SKorea, China, Japan's high-level talks next week to discuss trilateral summit

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea, China and Japan are planning to hold a high-level meeting in Seoul next week to discuss three-way cooperation, including setting up a trilateral summit of their leaders.

The meeting, set for September 26, will bring together South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Chung Byung-won, Takehiro Funakoshi, Japan's senior deputy foreign minister, and Nong Rong, China's assistant minister of foreign affairs, Seoul's foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Lim Soo-suk, spokesperson for the ministry, said the three sides will discuss various matters related to their trilateral consultative body, and review the current state and future direction of cooperation between the three countries, Yonhap news agency reported.

A ministry official told reporters the meeting will also discuss matters related to a possible trilateral summit that has been suspended since 2019.

"The trilateral summit is currently under discussion with the



aim of holding it within the year," the official said, adding the three sides could hold a foreign ministerial meeting to coordinate a date for the summit. Three-way summits among the regional neighbors, first held in December 2008, were suspended after the eighth gathering in December 2019 following a dispute between South

Korea and Japan over forced labor compensation rulings and the pandemic. Talks on the need to revive tripartite summit diplomacy have surfaced following a thawing of the frozen ties between Seoul and Japan since the launch of the current South Korean administration under President Yoon Suk Yeol in May of last year.

# Russia withstands unprecedented sanctions pressure: Putin

Moscow | Agencies

Russia has withstood the unprecedented pressure from Western sanctions, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said. "We have withstood the absolutely unprecedented external pressure, the sanctions onslaught of some ruling elites in the ... Western bloc ... in individual countries that we call unfriendly," Putin said on Monday during a meeting on the federal budget for 2024-2026, Xinhua news agency reported. "Russia's GDP has reached the level of 2021, and now, it is important to create conditions for further stable and long-term development," he said, announcing that the country's economic recovery period is now complete.



Glorious start to Ganeshotsav, 'Raja' arrives in pomp with an eye on lore, history & science

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

After a lull of almost three years, the Ganeshotsav festival-2023 commenced in colourful splendour as thousands of gigantic, big, medium and small idols of the elephant-headed Lord Ganesha started arriving at his annual 10-day abode in homes, housing complexes, and public celebrations in Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra, on Tuesday.

Accompanied by the music of dhol-tasha, tutari, cymbals, dancing, and cries of 'Ganpati Bappa Morya', the Lord Ganesha with a benign expression seemed to cast a loving glance at his millions of devotees eagerly waiting to worship him and lure him with his favourite 'modak' sweetmeat. This year, Lord Ganesha will be treated to topical themes of decorations ranging from lore to science to history, like, highlighting the Chandrayan-3 recent descent on the Moon, which is drawing crowds at the Khetwadicha Raja Sarvajani Ganeshotsav Mandal in south Mumbai.

The ever-popular 'Lalbaghcha Raja' is seen sitting majestically on a throne, symbolising the 350th anniversary of the Coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the last creation of the late Art Director Nitin C. Desai.

Several other Ganeshotsav mandals, like Chinchpokli Chitanmani have displayed themes of the upcoming Lord Ram Temple in Ayodhya, which is likely to be opened early 2024.



This year, the idols range from 36-feet tall (Khetwadicha Raja) to the 2-feet smallies popular with household celebrations, in a variety of moods, poses, colours, designs and decorations.

The Khetwadicha Raja narrates the theme of the Chandrayan-3 with the Moon, ISRO, the Lunar Rover, all planets in the Solar System in a 3-D format with dazzling fluorescent colours, thrilling the devotees and visitors. The country's most expensive Ganeshotsav marquee is at the GSB Seva Mandal with the Lord Ganesha idol adorned with 60 kgs gold and 336-kgs silver ornaments, two special thanksgiving 'havans' for the Chandrayan-3 landing (September 19) and the fulfilment of the Lord Ram Temple (September 20), and a tailor-made total all-encompassing insurance cover of Rs 350-crore, said the organisers.

Besides these header marquees, the other prominent crowd-pullers are Tejukaya Mandal, GSB Sarvajani Ganeshotsav Samiti

Wadala, Shri Balgopal Ganeshotsav Mandal Marine Lines, Sarvajani Ganeshotsav Mandal Fort, Andhericha Raja in Andheri, Khetwadi 11 and 12 Lanes and the Sahyadri Mandal in Chembur. This year, the BMC has given out permissions to nearly 2,729 organisations, up from 2,417 in 2022, for the public Ganeshotsav celebrations. The country's commercial capital has been converted into a huge open celebration venue with over 12,000 gigantic and big idols, and more than 3,00,000 medium and small idols dotting almost every road, nook and cranny in the city over the next 10 days. Homes and localities reverberate with chants of 'Ganpati Bappa Morya' to honour Lord Ganesha, with daily morning, afternoon and evening 'aartis', small and big 'prasads', various social-cultural activities carried out alongside.

This morning the formal celebrations commenced with the 'sthaapna pooja', performed by traditional aartis to mark the birthday of Lord

Ganesha, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

The pot-bellies Lord Ganesha symbolises wisdom, prosperity, good fortune, the 'vignaharta' (remover of obstacles) and divine blessings on his devotees, and millions trooping out on the roads for Ganeshotsav Tourism daily.

Elsewhere in the state, especially in the 'golden triangle' of Mumbai-Pune-Nashik, the coastal Konkan with thousands of homes welcoming Lord Ganesha for the state's biggest public festival got off to a roaring start Tuesday. The idols of Lord Ganesha are brought and worshipped at the Raj Bhavan, Chief Minister, ministers, leaders of virtually all political parties, film stars like Amitabh Bachchan, the Kapoor clan, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, Nana Patekar, the Mangeshkar family, industrialists like Mukesh Ambani, Anil Ambani, socialites, plus many from different communities like Muslims, Sikhs, Parsis and others.

PARINEETI'S MUMBAI HOUSE LIGHTS UP AHEAD OF HER WEDDING WITH RAGHAV CHADHA



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ahead of her marriage with AAP leader Raghav Chadha, actress Parineeti Chopra's home in Mumbai has been lit up as the wedding celebrations are all set to begin. A video shared by paparazzi

Viral Bhayani shows a glimpse of Parineeti's house on Instagram. It showed Parineeti's high-rise apartment all lit up. The picture was captioned: 'Light Pari ke Ghar pe'. The 'Kesari' actress is in Delhi. She reached the National capital on Sunday and the prep for

the celebrations began in Raghav's home in Delhi. The duo is reportedly set to leave for Udaipur for the main wedding functions scheduled on September 23 and 24. On September 24, the couple will get married in Udaipur's luxurious The Leela Palace.

Man accused of assaulting 2 persons with iron rod at Ganesh pandal

Thane | Mumbai

A 30-year-old man from Kalyan in Thane district has been booked by the police for allegedly assaulting two individuals with an iron rod at a Lord Ganesh pandal, stated a PTI report. The incident, which transpired on Monday evening, reportedly occurred while the accused, identified as Kunal Ingle, was under the influence of alcohol. As of now, he has not been arrested, according to officials. The altercation began when Ingle engaged in a dispute with two men who were involved in decorating the pandal. He subsequently assaulted them with



an iron rod, the report stated. In response, the police have registered a case against Ingle under sections 324 (Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means) and 506 (Punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Tamil actor Vijay Antony's daughter allegedly dies by suicide

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Meera Antony, the daughter of Tamil actor-composer Vijay Antony, allegedly died by suicide on Tuesday at her home in Chennai. She was reportedly 16.

Reacting to an old tweet by Meera's mother, film trade analyst Ramesh Bala tweeted, "In March of this year, Fatima Vijay Antony was so happy that her daughter Meera Vijay Antony became the cultural secretary of her school students association."

We all congratulated her on Twitter. She was the world to her parents. Can't imagine the pain."

Meera was a Class 12 student of a private school in Chennai. According to reports, Meera, who was under pressure and was getting treatment for the same, was taken to a private hospital after being found hanging at her Chennai residence.

Upon examination by the doctors, she was declared her dead. Meera was found hanging at the residence around 3.00 a.m. by the house help. The shocked family rushed her to the hospital where she was declared dead. Meera is survived by her father, mother Fatima and her sister Lara.



Women's quota bill another 'false promise' of Modi government: Wadettiwar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra legislative assembly, Vijay Wadettiwar stated that the women's reservation bill was another "jumla" (false promise) of the Modi government, as it would not come into force at the time of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"The women's reservation bill will come into effect only after the decadal census is completed. The census was supposed to be conducted in 2021 and it has not yet started," Wadettiwar said.

The Congress leader also claimed that a bill reserving seats for women in state assemblies and parliament was first introduced by Congress.

"Modi has misled the women in the country on the very first day of the new parliament building," Wadettiwar said. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Deputy CM



Devendra Fadnavis welcomed the bill. Speaking to media about the bill, Fadnavis said he welcomes "prime minister Modi's decision. I am sure the bill will pass through both the houses and we will get to see more women repre-

sentatives in the assembly and the Lok Sabha." On the other hand, Delhi Commission For Women chief Swati Maliwal congratulated the Centre on its decision to introduce the Women Reservation Bill. "After 76 years of independence, the government has accepted that unless women are in the Parliament and Legislative Assembly, the country's progress will only be on paper," she said.

Women's issues are a burning topic in the country today due to which the Centre is bringing #WomenReservationBill in the country. I congratulate the government and hope that the likes of Brij Bhushan will now be replaced by women in Parliament" she said in a post in Hindi on X. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi also welcomed the Women's Reservation Bill and said, "More clarity is needed on the bill".

"Inappropriate": Fadnavis on BJP leader's remarks on Ajit Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday took a dim view of party MLC Gopichand Padalkar's controversial comments on NCP leader and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar.

"Gopichand Padalkar's comments are inappropriate. It is wrong to make such statements. Leaders and party workers from all three parties (in government) need to respect each other. It is my clear opinion that such language should not be used at all," Fadnavis told reporters.

Queried on the Supreme Court's directive to Maharashtra assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar on disqualification petitions against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other MLAs of Shiv



Sena, Fadnavis said it is a quasi-judicial procedure.

He said it would be the speaker's prerogative to speak on the matter.

"It will be inappropriate on my part to comment on it. I think blessings of Lord

Ganesh are with the Mahayuti," Fadnavis added.

Padalkar has written to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis on issues faced by the Dhargar community in Maharashtra.

When asked why he hadn't written to Ajit Pawar, who is also Deputy Chief Minister, Padalkar retorted, "Ajit Pawar is a cunning pup of a cunning wolf and there is no need to approach him".

In his letter to Shinde, Padalkar warned of a protest by Dhangars (shepherd community) similar to the Jat agitation and asked the government to call a meeting over the demands of the community. NCP leaders on Monday objected to Padalkar's remarks against Ajit Pawar and demanded that the ruling party take action against the legislator.

Mumbai Airport records 32% growth in passenger traffic in August

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Airport said on Monday it has posted 32 per cent year-on-year growth in passenger volume to 4.2 million (42 lakh) in August.

The facility had recorded 32 lakh passengers in August 2022. When compared to the pre-pandemic level (August 2019), the growth in passenger traffic in the previous month was 108 per cent, the airport said. In August 2023, CSMIA recorded passenger traffic of over 4.32 million, with a growth of 32 per cent compared to 3.2 million passengers in August 2022, the private airport operator said, adding international passengers at the facility alone witnessed a strong 33 per cent growth with more than 1.1 million passengers against 0.84 million in the same period last year.

The airport recorded a total of 20,711 domestic air traffic movements and 6,960 international ATMs during the month under review, it said.



Apple online, its India retail stores now offer best ways to own iPhone 15

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

Apple opened pre-orders for new iPhones and Watch Series 9, with their availability in India from September 22, the tech giant has detailed how customers (including first-time buyers) in the country can now own their favourite devices with attractive offers, trade-ins and more online and at Apple BKC (Mumbai) and Apple Saket (Delhi) retail stores. The buyers can get Rs 6,000 instant savings on iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max, Rs 5,000 on iPhone 15 and 15 Plus, Rs 4,000 on iPhone 14 and 14 Plus, Rs 3,000 on iPhone 13 and Rs 2,000 on iPhone SE when they use eligible HDFC Bank cards. They get instant trade in credit when exchanging an eligible smartphone. You can even



cover your interest on eligible products with No Cost EMI over 3 or 6 months from most leading banks. The Apple Watch lovers can get instant savings of Rs 3,000 on Watch Ultra 2, Rs 2,500 on Watch Series 9 and Rs 1,500 on Watch SE when they use eligible HDFC Bank cards, along with 3 or 6 months No-Cost EMI offer. Apple trade-in feature makes it easy to exchange any eligible smartphone for instant credit towards a new iPhone. Select

brand, model and condition and Apple India Online store will provide a trade-in value to lower the price of a new iPhone. When Apple delivers your new iPhone, it will complete trade-in right on your doorstep. Express delivery is also available on in-stock items and items will automatically ship as they become available. The buyers can also add a special message with free engraving on the new devices. Engrave your iPad, AirPods, AirTag, or

Apple Pencil (2nd generation) with a unique mix of emojis, numbers, and text. Choose from Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, Gujarati, Telugu, and English -- for free. The buyers can enjoy 2 years of peace of mind when they buy AppleCare+ for iPhone. Every iPhone comes with 1 year of hardware repair coverage through its limited warranty and up to 90 days of complimentary technical support. Each incident is subject to a service fee of Rs 2,500 for screen or back glass damage, or Rs 8,900 for other accidental damage. The Apple Support app is a personalised guide to the best support options from Apple. Customers can also call, chat or email with an Apple expert, or schedule a callback when it's convenient.

Mumbai sees rise in malaria and dengue cases: BMC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) stated that there has been a rise in vector-borne diseases in Mumbai this week. Around 756 malaria cases and 703 dengue cases were reported in the city from September 1 to September 18. "A rise is observed in malaria and dengue cases this week," the health bulletin of BMC stated, adding that, "In 2023 cases increased due to an increase in reporting units from 22 to 880. These units include BMC dispensaries, BMC Hospitals, HBT clinics, additional private labs, and private hospitals."

According to the BMC data, around 83,342 blood slides were collected for malaria, 11,926 houses were inspected, 33,560 breeding sources were inspected and 1,270 Anopheles mosquito breeding

spots were detected by the civic authorities in the past 18 days in the city. Besides dengue and malaria, seven H1N1 cases, 322 gastro cases, 50 lep-

tospirosis cases and 19 chikungunya cases were also reported by the civic body in Mumbai, this month till September 18.

BMC shares advisory for prevention of vector-borne diseases -Malaria and Dengue:

- As the number of dengue and malaria cases rises, use mosquito nets while sleeping. Use of complete clothing is advised to avoid mosquito bites.
- To prevent the breeding of mosquitoes, the workplace, residence and surroundings must be kept clean. Mosquito larvae live in standing water, the larvae require only minimal amounts of water, and even something as small as a puddle of water on a discarded plastic container can house them, odd articles such as tins, thermocol boxes, coconut shells, tires, which must be removed. Maintain cleanliness around houses.
- Whenever have fever, headache, rashes, muscle & joint pain, vomiting, or diarrhoea, do not take self-medication and consult your nearest BMC health post/dispensary/hospital immediately. It is important not to delay treatment because it can lead to complications and even death if left untreated.
- If malaria is detected, take complete treatment as per doctors advice.



# LILI REINHART

## talks about feeling insecure about her arms

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Lili Reinhart says her "body dysmorphia has been going crazy" because she has been obsessing over the size of her arms. The 'Riverdale' actress has criticised unrealistic standards of beauty and insisted most of the "skinny" limbs people see on pictures are only a natural size on teenagers as she said she regretted having "wasted" so much time worrying about her own biceps and triceps, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

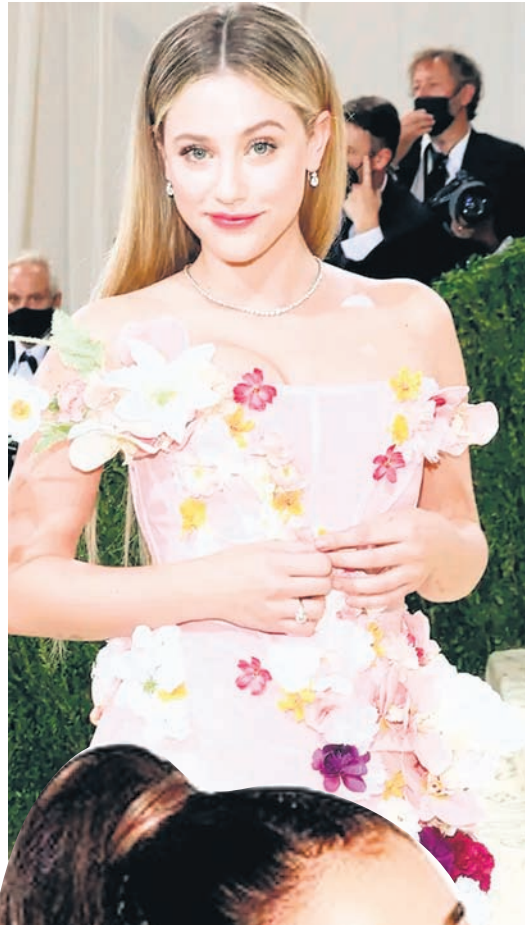
"I wish there were more average sized arms represented in mainstream media for women. My body dysmorphia has been going crazy because I feel like my arms need to be half the size they are currently?" she wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

"We've glamorised these skinny arms that, for most of us, can only be achieved if you're a literal adolescent. I truly wonder how anyone survives or gets through this life without having severe BD. Maybe it's a cruel amplified version in combination with my OCD, but damn. The amount of time I've wasted thinking about my arms in the last few months is insane (sic)."

The 27-year-old actress hoped her admission would offer support to other women worrying about their bodies.

She added, "I wanted to throw my own thoughts out there to let other women know they aren't alone."

This isn't the first time Lili has spoken up about unrealistic beauty standards as last year, she blasted Kim Kardashian for her "ignorance" when she revealed she had lost 16lbs in just three weeks to fit into Marilyn Monroe's dress for the Met Gala. Taking to her Instagram Story, she fumed, "To walk on a red carpet and do an interview where you say how starving you are ... because you haven't eaten carbs in the last month... all to fit in a f\*\*\*\*\* dress? So wrong. So f\*\*\*\*\* on 100s of levels."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Mariah Carey excitedly welcomed two new furry friends into her home as she shared the news that her family adopted two new kittens named Nacho and Rocky Jr.

The 'Obsessed' singer shared the newest addition to her family with her fans in a sweet end-of-summer post on Twitter, reports [Mirror.co.uk](#). In the post, the mother-of-two was seen posing with her new pets alongside her 12-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe.

In the wholesome snap, Mariah was all smiles as she and her kids held their tiny light orange striped kittens.

In the snap, the famous pop singer looked comfy and cute in her home as she was seen rocking a pair of cheetah print pants paired with fuzzy white slippers. Mariah captioned the post: "Summer prolonged... even though I try, I can't let go! Introducing #DemKittens, the new adopted family members: Nacho & Rocky Jr."

As per [Mirror.co.uk](#), fans flooded the post with love and excitement for their new family members and Mariah's clever slip-in reference to lyrics from her song 'Can't Let Go' from her 'Emotions' album which is celebrating its 32nd anniversary today after its debut in 1991.

One fan wrote: "Aww. We love the new family members. They're already icons" along with a photo of Mariah covered in colorful hearts. Another fan added: "We LOVE to see you enjoy the life you DESERVE with your beautiful family, Queen!! Thank you always, for sharing your life and music with us."

## Katy Perry sells rights to her music catalog for \$225 mn

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Katy Perry has sold the rights to her music catalog in a deal reportedly worth \$225 million. The Carlyle Group investing firm announced on Monday, the rights to the 38-year-old singer's songs and albums released from 2008 to 2020 had been bought by Litmus Music, reports [eshowbiz.com](#). According to outlets including Deadline and Billboard, the deal includes Katy's five albums released through Capitol Records, 'One of the Boys' (released in 2008), 'Teenage Dream' (2010), 'Prism' (2013), 'Witness' (2017) and 2020's 'Smile'.

Litmus co-founder and CEO Hank Forsyth said, "Katy's songs are an essential part of the global cultural fabric. We are so grateful to be working together again with such a trusted partner whose integrity shines in everything that she does." Matt Settle, managing director at the Carlyle Group, added:

"We believe this is a testament to the team's ability to partner with the world's top artists. Katy's iconic songs have not only achieved outstanding commercial success but have significantly influenced popular culture." The 'I Kissed a Girl' hitmaker is among a growing number of big-name artists to sell the master recordings of their back catalog. Justin Bieber sold his share of his own music rights in January to Hipgnosis Songs Capital for a reported \$200 million.

In January 2022, it emerged Bob Dylan had sold the rights to his entire back catalog to Sony, for an undisclosed amount, though the deal was said to be worth up to \$183 million. Bruce Springsteen also sold his music to Sony in late 2021, in a mammoth deal worth a reported \$500 million.

News of Katy's deal broke as she hit headlines over her marriage to comic Russell Brand after he was accused of rape, sexual assault and physical and emotional abuse by four women as part of a media investigation into his treatment of women.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Ariana Grande and her husband, Dalton Gomez have officially filed for divorce.

The couple were married for two years, but in July of this year, Ariana and Dalton were reported to be "heading for divorce", reports [Mirror.co.uk](#).

Ariana removed photos from her wedding to Dalton from her Instagram quickly after these reports were made.

After her breakup with Dalton, Ariana started to date Ethan Slater, with

rumours that the relationship started before the split happened.

The two met while filming the movie version of the musical 'Wicked' in London, with Ethan playing Boq and Ariana playing the good witch Glinda.

As per [Mirror.co.uk](#), Laura Wasser, Ariana's lawyer, is said to have filed first on Monday (Pacific Standard Time), allegedly citing the reason for divorce as irreconcilable differences. Dalton's lawyer reportedly filed shortly after. It's thought everything was worked out between them before being legally filled.

Some sources claim that Ariana will give Dalton a check for an undisclosed amount, and that would be the end of it. The two had a prenup agreement, so it looks like a smooth break ahead. The official date of separation was listed as February 20, 2023, five months before divorce and new romance rumours.

**Ariana Grande, Dalton Gomez head to splitsville as they file for divorce**

## JAMES CAMERON

### TO EXECUTIVE PRODUCE MAORI CENTRIC DRAMA 'TAONGA' BY SHANE RAGI

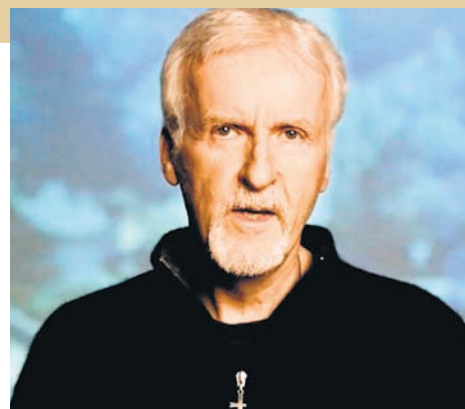
Los Angeles | Agencies

Acclaimed director James Cameron, who released his massive box office hit 'Avatar 2: The Way of Water' in 2022, will now be executive producing a new Maori centric drama film called 'Taonga', by new comer director Shane Rangi.

Shane, while new to direction, is no stranger to filmmaking as such, having worked with James on production and writing of his 'Avatar' films.

Shane has written the script for the feature and will also be directing it. Drawing on his own life, Shane, who is of Ngati Porou descent, wrote 'Taonga' to tell the story of an indigenous Polynesian rugby star who ends up becoming homeless; before a violent encounter with law enforcement leaves him for dead and changes his life.

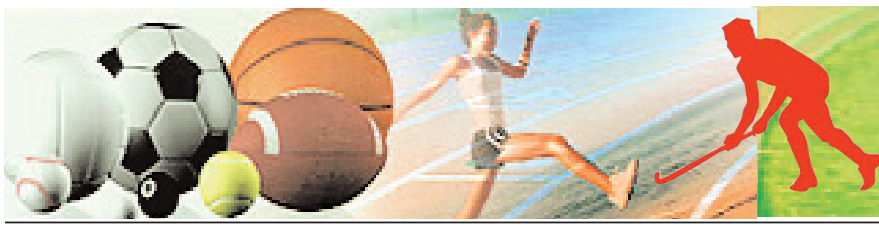
The story aims to navigate the realities of homelessness and modern-day policing, as per The Hollywood Reporter. Many of these things were in fact a reality for Shane himself, a lifetime ago who was able to drag himself out of the dirt and become an actor and stunt performer in major Hollywood productions; which were shot in New Zealand as they left those dire straits. This led to a long friendship with James and a collaboration with the man on the development of 'Taonga'. On top of the two 'Avatar' films, he has notched credits on 'Thor: Ragnarok', 'The Wolverine', the 'Narnia' franchise, as well as all three films in each of 'The Hobbit' and 'Lord of the Rings' franchises, among other productions.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Gisele Bundchen



## ISSF World Cup

# Rifle shooter Nischal bags silver as India finish with two medals

Rio de Janeiro | Agencies

Teenage Indian rifle shooter Nischal bagged silver in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol stage here to give India a second medal on the final day of the tournament.

Her achievement becomes even more credible given this was her very first senior World Cup final. Nischal finished behind Norwegian Rifle ace Jeanette Hegg Duestad with a score of 458.0 in the final late on Monday night. Duestad is the reigning Air Rifle European Champion and 300m 3P World Champion and has 12 ISSF World Cup medals to her name including five gold. She was also fourth in the Tokyo Olympics in Air Rifle. Nischal, who is in her first senior year and has three international medals at the junior level, was in supreme shooting form throughout the day, breaking the qualification national record in Women's 3P in the process.

It all began with the elimination rounds in the morning where a total of 18 shooters were eliminated over two rounds totalling 73 competitors. She shot a solid 587 in relay one to safely make it to qualification. So did her two countrywomen, previous qualification national record holder Anjum Moudgil and Ayushi Podder, both of whom shot in relay two. Then in qualification, Nischal shot a sub-



lime 592 including a perfect 200 in the prone position, to erase Anjum's score of 591, shot in the President's Cup in Cairo last year. Anjum herself shot a solid 586, but finished 10th to miss the final by a point. Ayushi was further back in 35th with 580. The final had a stellar field. Besides Duestad, there was qualification topper (594) and world champion Wanru Miao of China, 2018 Youth Olympic champion Stephanie Grundsoe of Denmark, Italian Olympian Sofia Ceccarello and senior Polish shooter Aneta Stankiewicz, among others. Not one to be fazed, Nischal went head-to-

head with the Duestad from get-go of the 45-shot final. She was 0.1 behind the Norwegian after the first 15 kneeling shots and the same after the consequent 15 shots in the prone position.

By the time, Ukrainian Viktoriya Sukhorukova and Swiss shooter Chiara Leone became first to be eliminated after the first 10-shots in the standing position, Duestad had opened up a gap of 0.7 over the Indian. A 9.4 by the Norwegian for her 41st was cancelled out by a 9.0 from Nischal for her 42nd and the gap widened to 1.1. An 8.4 for the 43rd almost cost her a medal, but Wanru still fell short of the Indian and bowed out in fourth.

Thereafter, Stephanie Grundsoe, who had moved up to second, shot a 7.9 in her 44th shot, assuring Nischal of silver and herself settling for bronze. Duestad closed out calmly for gold with a 10.2 and a score of 461.5, a clear 3.5 ahead of the Haryana shooter. Gurpreet Singh was also in action in the other medal event of the concluding day but he could not make much headway, shooting 574 to finish 15th in the Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol.

The 16-member Indian contingent thus returned with one gold and one silver from the Rio World Cup and a creditable seventh position in the standings, considering there was only limited participation by India in the event. Elavenil Valarivan had also won the Women's 10m Air Rifle gold in tremendous fashion.

# 'It's beyond my understanding', says Harbhajan Singh on Chahal's omission from Australia ODIs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh expressed his displeasure on spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's omission from the upcoming home ODI series against Australia ODI series and said he finds it difficult to understand why the 33-year-old talented spinner has not been given a chance.

Earlier, Chahal was omitted from India's 15-member World Cup squad as well and has since been playing County Cricket for Kent.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Harbhajan stated: "Yuzvendra Chahal should have been here. He has not been given an opportunity. It is beyond my understanding. Either he has fought with someone or he has said something to someone, I don't know. If we talk only about skill, his name should have been there in this team because a lot of Team India



players are resting." Australia will face India after losing a five-match ODI series 3-2 against South

Africa, but their batting dept with solid finishers in the middle will give India a tough fight.

## SCIVER-BRUNT EXTENDS LEAD IN LATEST ODI BATTING RANKINGS

Dubai | Agencies

England superstar Nat Sciver-Brunt has moved further ahead as the game's leading ODI batter after the latest update to the ICC Women's Player Rankings. Sciver-Brunt plundered a record-breaking century in their third ICC

Women's Championship ODI victory over Sri Lanka, reaching three figures in just 66 balls, the best for an England women's player. She finished with 120 from just 74 balls, hitting 18 fours and a six in the knock, states ICC. More records are in the all-rounder's crosshairs after the effort, with her 807-point rating the third-highest for an English women's player in ODI batting ranking history. Only Claire Taylor (814) and Sarah Taylor (812), who reached their respective ratings in July 2009, stand above



the 31-year-old. On the Sri Lankan side, Hasini Perera was one of the few players to provide respite to England's press, with the 28-year-old moving up 26 spots to 57th (325) after three innings in the series. While there was only one shuffle in the top ten rankings on the bowling side (Ayabonga Khaka going to seventh and leap-frogging Kate Cross), there were marked changes for those ready to pounce in the top 20. Charlie Dean's 5/31 in the third ODI against Sri Lanka moved her to a career-best

12th on the list (571 points), while Nida Dar (up two spots to 19th) and Nashra Sandhu (up one spot to 15th) lead the way for Pakistan.

Compatriot Sadia Iqbal also made an impression, jumping 13 spots into the top 50 with successive hauls of 2-32 and 2-26 against South Africa. England's Sarah Glenn stepped up in the absence of the injured and top-ranked Sophie Ecclestone, claiming five wickets in the ODI series against Sri Lanka to move up 12 places to 52nd (328).

## AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers

# India go down to Korea Republic in opener

Team Absolute | New Delhi

It wasn't the best of times for the India Women's U17 National Team at the charming Buriram City Stadium on Tuesday as they went down to former champions Korea Republic 0-8 in their opening fixture of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers Round 2. But then, it wasn't the worst of times, either, despite the yawning scoreline. True, Priya PV's girls found the going tough against the Mighty Koreans, one of the finest teams in the competition. But the few Indian fans present at the stadium could take solace from the fact that the Young Tigresses didn't go down without a fight – they remained worthy of their names against a bunch of opponents, who displayed lively skills and an opponent's ability to switch flanks without a blink of their eyes. Korea Republic led 2-0 at the break. While a hat-trick by skipper Won Jueun, who scored two of her goals from spot kicks, was the highlight of the day, Seo Minjeong (2) Park Juha and substitute Han Gukhee were the other scorers. An own goal by Shivani Toppo further widened the margin. Had India not exhibited the vulnerability in their defence in the second session, the story could have been little better. India head coach Priya PV



had her plan firmly in place; she stressed more on her defensive strategies for obvious reasons. After defending stoutly for 13 minutes, a momentary lapse in defence cost India dear as they conceded the first goal. Centre back Thoibisana Chanu, who till then showed all the resoluteness to keep the attackers at bay, swung her leg in an attempted clearance that turned out to be a miskick. It was then easy for Park Juha to step onto the edge of the box to find the net with a low shot. Indian goalkeeper Khushi Kumari had no answer to it. India displayed urgency after being left in the

areas and had an opportunity to hit back in the 17th minute when captain and midfielder Menaka Devi pulsed quickly with Sibani Devi on the right, but the resultant aerial ball was too much for Shilji Shaji to go for a proper header. The gap between the two teams widened in the 28th minute when Sonibia Devi Irom was pulled up for a foul on Won Jueun inside the dreaded area. Jueun herself decided to take the shot that beat Khushi Kumari hands down. The third goal, which came a couple of minutes after the change of ends, was Won Jueun's second goal of the day. She made most of a through pass from Beom Yeju to make it 3-0. She completed her hat-trick in the 65th minute, almost immediately after India replaced Khushi Kumari with Khambi Chanu Sarangthem under the bar. Eleven minutes later, substitute Han Gukhee slammed in the fifth to give the scoreline a look of rout.

Not that the Indians never threatened the Korean goal. Their best chance came two minutes before the half time when striker Sulanjana Raul stole the ball on the left, dashed into the box and finding the Korean custodian out of position, took a prompt shot. Woon Sumin saved her citadel at the last moment as she managed to tip the ball over.

# Pachuca beat Santos Laguna to keep alive Liga MX playoff hopes

Mexico City | Agencies

Pachuca survived a late Santos Laguna rally to secure a 3-2 home win in their Liga MX Apertura fixture. Marino Hiestroza gave Pachuca the lead just before halftime but Lionel Brunetta equalized shortly after the restart, reports Xinhua.

Bryan Gonzalez restored the hosts advantage in the 69th minute and Illian Hernandez made it 3-1 with a stoppage-time strike.

Santos Laguna pulled a goal back through Felix



Torres but Pachuca held on to clinch their second win from eight games, one rung below Santos Laguna, who have 11 points.

are now 12th in the 18-team standings with nine points from eight games, one rung below Santos Laguna, who have 11 points.

# Djokovic would have been 'Frustrated' without grand slam record: Rafael Nadal

Madrid (Spain) | Agencies

The 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal has said that his rival Novak Djokovic would have been "frustrated" had he not set the record of winning the most Grand Slam titles.

Last week, Djokovic won his 24th Grand Slam singles title at the U.S. Open, which has further solidified his status as the GOAT. He is the oldest man to have won the title and has tied Margaret Court for the most wins in men's or women's tennis.

"I'm not frustrated for a simple reason. I believe that, within my means, I have done everything possible to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible for me. Novak could be frus-



trated because he lives everything more intensely and that's why he's the best," Nadal told Spanish digital

platform Movistar Plus. "I have been one of the most inactive players on the circuit for many

years, I've missed four and a half years of Grand Slams. That's what the sport is all about. Djokovic is also more successful because he has had a level of fitness/physique that has allowed him to play more than me," he added.

Nadal, who remains at 22 majors, eyes a comeback in 2024 following hip surgery earlier this year but made it clear that he is not harboring hopes of winning the 2024 Australian Open, French Open, or any other Grand Slam tournament.

The 37-year-old Spaniard has been absent from competitive tennis since sustaining a hip muscle injury during his second-round loss to Mackenzie McDonald at the Australian Open in January.

## Asian Games

# China outwit Indian challenge in Hangzhou

Hangzhou | Agencies

Despite a brave first half performance, India fell to hosts China 1-5 in their opening group game at the 19th Asian Games at the Huanglong Sports Centre Stadium, here on Tuesday.

Rahul KP scored India's only goal in injury time of the first half. It was but natural that the hosts would kick the game off at a frenetic pace, buoyed as they were by a partisan crowd. The vigour and passion generated by the anthems had barely subsided when they conjured their first chance, Tao Qianglong crossing from the left only for Xu Haoyang to put his header wide. It was a sign of things to come. China repeatedly targeted the Indian right through the early exchanges, Qianglong running riot, and



with ease. In the 13th minute, Tan Long was played through by Dai Weijun, a brilliant through ball undoing the Indian defence. Long shot at goal from close range but a snap reflex by Gurmeet saw the attempt saved. In the end it didn't matter, the linesman had ruled it offside.

By then though India had started growing into the game, led by Sunil Chhetri, who dropped back repeated-

ly to pick the ball and hold possession. A minute later India had a first attempt at goal, via who else but the history maker himself. A misjudged run by Sumit Rathi saw the ball ricochet into space on China's left. Chhetri picked it up and drove at a back-peddalling China defence before letting fly from 35 yards. The ball flew over, but only just. China had been put on notice.

# TVESA SHOOTS BOGEY FREE 65 TO TAKE 6-SHOT LEAD AFTER DAY 1 IN 13TH LEG OF WPGT

Team Absolute | Gurugram

Tvesa Malik gave a very strong and positive indication of where her game is headed as she compiled a superb 7-under 65 to take a whopping six shot lead after the first day of the 13th Leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour.

Playing at the DLF Golf and Country Club, which will host the Women's Indian Open next month, Tvesa had seven birdies and no bogeys as she closed with a string of four birdies in the last four holes.

Last week's winner Neha Tripathi put together a decent 1-under 71 and Ananya Datar recovered from an early triple bogey on par-4 second hole for a similar 71. Yet they were six shots behind Tvesa, who was in full flow. "It's a relief to get a round of golf like that. Does great for the confidence, especially ahead of the Hero



Women's Indian Open, our flagship event."

Jasmine Shekar (72) is sole fourth, while Agrima Manral and Anisha Agarwalla are tied fifth at 1-over 73 each.

Tvesa, who has managed only a few starts on the Ladies European

Tour this year, is using the platform of the competitive domestic Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour to play herself back into form. To that extent she has succeeded. She won the 11th Leg, and finished runner-up in the 12th Leg. She was earlier runner-up in the sixth Leg.

Neha Tripathi, one of the senior and seasoned players on the domestic Tour, has also been playing well on the domestic Tour. She won the 10th and 12th Legs, and is now second on the Order of Merit.

One of the disappointments of the opening day was Asian Games-bound Pranavi Urs, who had two double bogeys in her round. They came on the Par-5 fourth and the Par-4 eighth. She had two other bogeys and two birdies, one of them on the 18th.

Tvesa Malik, Neha Tripathi and Ananya Datar go out in the final group on the second day.

Kriti Chowhan (74), Khushi Khanijau (75) and Pranavi Urs (76) are placed seventh to ninth. Three players Asmitha Sathish, Durga Nittur and Sneha Singh are tied for 10th with cards of 77 each.



## Shreyas Talpade celebrates Ganesh Chaturthi with full devotion in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Shreyas Talpade is celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi with full devotion in Mumbai, as he was seen participating among a full crowd of Ganapati bhakts, offering his own prayers with tilak on his forehead and bowing his head in reverence to the deity. Taking a break from his work, the actor has made no secret of his own sense of spirituality and religious devotion, being a staunch devotee of both Lord Shiva and his son, Lord Ganesha.

As part of the Ganapati festival in Mumbai, the 'Om Shanti Om' actor stepped out of his car wearing very simple white attire, and brought forth his own offerings which he gave proudly at the Ganapati mandapa, offering his own prayers and saying 'Ganapati Bappa Morya'.

While celebrating, the actor had come up with both his wife Deepti Talpade and daughter Aadya.

While he got out of his car, the actor was surrounded by fans and while he spoke to them, he avoided talk of any new projects and was single mindedly focused on the cel-

ebrations.

His own offerings included a full statue of Lord Ganesha, and some prasadam which he offered at the mandapa while a priest was chanting Sanskrit mantras.

After that, while amidst normal people Shreyas was seen smiling and going to the stalls featuring several Ganapati idols, offering his prayers.

Though usually he talks to the paparazzi the actor remained somewhat silent and instead was simply spending time with his family, with his wife who herself was wearing a tilak, carrying their little daughter.

## SS Rajamouli announces Dadasaheb Phalke biopic, shares teaser

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker SS Rajamouli has announced the biopic on Dadasaheb Phalke titled 'Made In India', which will be directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Nitin Kakkar.

Taking to Instagram and X, where he shared the teaser of the project, Rajamouli, who will be presenting the movie, said that making the biopic is tough.

"When I first heard the narration, it moved me emotionally like nothing else. Making a biopic is tough in itself, but conceiving one about the FATHER OF INDIAN CINEMA is even more challenging. Our boys are ready and up for it... With immense pride, Presenting MADE IN INDIA..." Rajamouli captioned the video.

'Made In India' is said to be based on 'the father of Indian cinema' Dadasaheb Phalke.

The film will be released in six languages -- Marathi, Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada.

The film will be produced by VarunGupta of MaxStudios and SS Karthikeya of Showing Business.

Other details about the film are still under wraps.



**KARTIK AARYAN VISITS LALBAUGCHA RAJA ON 1ST DAY OF GANESH CHATURTHI**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan, who is known for films like 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', 'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety', 'Pyaar Ka PUNCHNAMA' franchise and others, visited Lalbaugcha Raja in Curry Road area of Mumbai on the first day of the Ganeshotsava.

The actor shared a picture of his visit on his Instagram for his followers. Donning a pastel pink kurta, Kartik looked extremely dapper for the first day of Ganesh Chaturthi as he arrived early in the morning and started the season.

Kartik wrote in the caption, "Its that Joyous time of the year. Ganpati Bappa Morya. #LalBagchaRaja (sic)".

The actor also follows a tradition of taking blessings of Bappa at Siddhivinayak on day one of his film releases.

Meanwhile, on the work the actor is busy with the shoot of his highly anticipated next with Kabir Khan, 'Chandu Champion'. Earlier, the first look of the film was released which showed Kartik looking into the camera as he donned the blazer with "India" written on it.

The upcoming film is based on a true

story of a sportsperson. The actor sports short hair in the first look, and has attempted a never been seen before look for the film. His sharp buzz-cut haircut and the intense look on his face gave the viewers a glimpse that he has a riveting story to tell and one that will make the nation proud.

'Chandu Champion' went on floors with its mahurat shot in London in the presence of Sajid & Warden Nadiadwala along with Kabir Khan and Kartik present at the location with, a special guest of honour Minister of Culture, Media and Sports of the UK, Stuart Andrew.

## AASHIKA BHATIA OPENS UP ON WORKING MORE IN BOLLYWOOD



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Aashika Bhatia, who made her Bollywood debut with Salman Khan's 2015 box-office hit 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo', recently opened up about her plans to do more work in Bollywood. Speaking about the same, Aashika shares about how the character offered to her matters: "I focus on portraying my talent. I will do films where I get to play a strong character. I would love to play a character based on my personality."

Answering if she feels the pressure after being part of a blockbuster like 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo', the actress confidently replies: "I don't think that working on a film like Prem Ratan Dhan Payo has added a pressure on me to do better things. But it has surely motivated me to do more such projects and I think that's nice."

Aashika also revealed about her openness to working in web-series which appear to be the order of the day: "I like to watch crime thriller series and horror series as well. I would like to play a strong character where I can show my acting skills."

## Big B inspires people on 'KBC 15': 'Status of life must read #hardwork'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bollywood's megastar Amitabh Bachchan shared an inspirational speech, saying how in today's digital era, we can make our lives as easy as social media.

The host of quiz based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 15, Amitabh began the episode 26th with a speech, leaving the audience spellbound.

Big B said: "If we wish, in today's era of social media, we could make our lives just as easy as social media itself in the following manner. May the page of our lives be filled with stories and posts of effort and hard work. The status of life must read #hardwork."

"May inspiration, hope and dedication be on our friends list. May, courage and strength be our followers. May we be

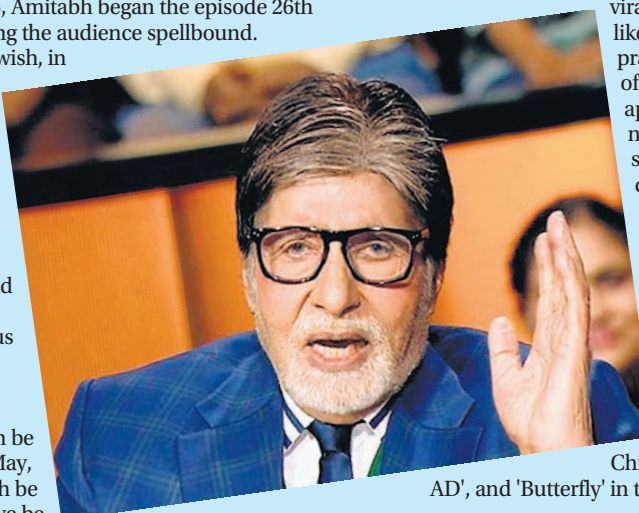
able, to tag our victories and poke our goals, and ask our challenges, 'What's on your mind?'," shared the actor.

The actor went on to say: "And fill that space with a picture of life in which we can crop negativity, apply a filter to positivity, and make our lives brighter!"

"There's more... May every attempt we make go viral. May we get loads of likes and heart emojis of prayers. If the blue tick of self-confidence appears after our name, then there is no situation in life that can log your passion out! Thank you very much," he added.

'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' airs on Sony.

Meanwhile, on the film front, Amitabh has 'Ganapathi', 'The Umesh Chronicles', 'Kalki 2898 AD', and 'Butterfly' in the pipeline.



**Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia**