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Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma shared table with a drug kingpin ...



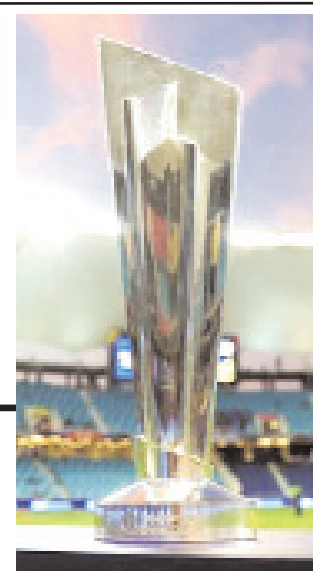
HOLLYWOOD > 06

Selena Gomez will never watch her mental health documentary again ...



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Men's T20 World Cup 2024: Dallas, Florida, New York confirmed by ...



► **"FOOD INFLATION PICKED UP IN JULY DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, CONTRIBUTING TO A RISE IN SOUTH ASIA'S OVERALL INFLATION RATE. IF INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT WEAKENS AND THE RICE EXPORT BAN REMAINS IN PLACE, THIS COULD ESCALATE FOOD PRICE INFLATION IN DEVELOPING ASIA," THE REPORT STATED.**

ADB cuts India's growth forecast, expects erratic rains to hit farm output

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday lowered its growth forecast for India's economy to 6.3 per cent for 2023-24 from 6.4 per cent estimated earlier, citing the adverse impact of slowing exports and erratic rainfall that could hit farm output. However, ADB has retained its GDP growth projection for 2024-25 at 6.7 per cent on the back of higher private invest-



ment and industrial production.

The report also points out that the Indian economy recorded a robust growth of 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year despite global uncertainties. It expects growth to be propelled by "robust domestic consumption as consumer confidence improves, and by investment including large increases" in government capital expenditure through the rest of this year and next year.

► Monsoon rainfall under the influence

of a developing El Nino has led to erratic weather patterns, including flooding in certain regions and deficient rains, particularly in August. The erratic rainfall patterns have resulted in damage to the rice crop in particular and lower sowing for pulses in the kharif season," the report said.

It has cut its projection for farm sector growth by close to one percentage point. ADB has also raised its inflation projection for India for 2023-24 to 5.5 per cent, up from the previous 5 per cent.

Women's reservation bill passed by 454 votes against 2 in Lok Sabha

WOMEN EMPOWERED!

The historic Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam or the women's reservation bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, by an overwhelming 454 votes, after a day-long discussion, with only AIMIM members Asaduddin Owaisi and his colleague Imtiaz Jaleel voting against it. The 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill was passed after voting, where 454 members voted in favour of the bill, while two AIMIM members voted against it.

► **CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI ON WEDNESDAY SAID IN LOK SABHA THAT HE SUPPORTS THE WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL BUT LAMENTED THAT THE MEASURE WAS "INCOMPLETE" AS IT LACKS QUOTA FOR OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES. PARTICIPATING IN THE DEBATE IN LOK SABHA ON THE WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL, HE ALSO SAID THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN INVITED WHEN THE TRANSFER OF PROCEEDINGS TOOK PLACE FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING. HE ALSO PUSHED FOR A CASTE CENSUS.**

► **"FOR SOME PARTIES, WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CAN BE A POLITICAL AGENDA AND A POLITICAL TOOL TO WIN ELECTIONS, BUT FOR BJP AND PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI IT IS NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE," SAID AMIT SHAH.**

► **AAP CORE COMMITTEE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SUPPORT WOMEN RESERVATION BILL OR NOT.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday thanked MPs across party lines as the Lok Sabha passed the Women's Reservation Bill, saying that it is a historic legislation that will further boost women empowerment and will enable greater participation of women in the political process. In a post on X, former Twitter, Modi said: "Delighted at the passage of The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha with such phenomenal support. I thank MPs across Party lines who voted in support of this Bill." The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is a historic legislation which will further boost women empowerment and will enable even greater participation of women in our political process," he added. The women's reservation bill on Wednesday was passed by Lok Sabha after the culmination of a day-long discussion, by an overwhelming 454 votes, with only AIMIM MPs Asaduddin Owaisi and Imtiaz Jaleel voting against it. The bill grants 33 per cent seats to women in the lower house and state Assemblies.

SONIA SUPPORTS WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL, SEEKS OBC INCLUSION

New Delhi: Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday said the Women's Reservation Bill was her husband and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's dream, which could come true now, but it needed to be implemented soon with the inclusion of SC, ST and OBC communities. She also said that the Congress demands that this Bill be enforced immediately, and along with that, arrangements be made for reservations to women from SC, ST and OBC communities by holding a caste census. Speaking in the Lok Sabha during the discussion on the Women's Reservation Bill, Sonia Gandhi said, "On behalf of the Congress party, I stand in support of the 'Nari Shakti

Vandan Adhiniyam 2023' (Women's Reservation Bill)." She said, "It is a very touching moment of my life. The first time, the Constitutional Amendment determining women's participation in local bodies was brought by my life partner Rajiv Gandhi. However it was not passed in Rajya Sabha due to seven votes." She also said that Congress supports this Bill (on Women's Reservation). "We are happy with the passage of this Bill but at the same time, we are concerned too. The Congress demands that this Bill be enforced immediately, and along with that, arrangements be made for reservations to women from SC, ST and OBC communities by holding a caste census," she added.

US supports Canada's probe of Khalistan activist's murder

Yashwant Raj | Washington

The United States doubled down on its support for Canada in its ongoing diplomatic row with India, saying on Wednesday that "we support Canada's ongoing law enforcement efforts" and that it was coordinating and consulting "closely" with Ottawa. The comment was made by Adrienne Watson, spokesperson of the US National Security Council, in response to media reports that suggested that the US had rejected Canada's call for a joint statement from the G7 countries because of President Joe Biden's efforts to keep India on the US side in readiness for any conflict or confrontation with China. And it came a day after NSC spokesperson for strategic communication offered a similar express of support for the Canadian in an interview with CNN. "Reports that we rebuffed Canada in any way on this are flatly false," Watson said in a post on X on Wednesday.



"We are coordinating and consulting with Canada closely on this issue. This is a serious matter and we support Canada's ongoing law enforcement efforts. We are also engaging the Indian government." There is a gradual hardening of the US stance on this row. Here is what Watson said on the day Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

made the explosive allegation in the Canadian Parliament linking the killing of a Khalistani activist to India: "We are deeply concerned about the allegations referenced by Prime Minister Trudeau. We remain in regular contact with our Canadian partners. It is critical that Canada's investigation proceed, and the perpetrators be brought to justice."

TWO WOMEN MAOISTS CARRYING REWARD OF RS 7 LAKH KILLED IN ENCOUNTER IN CHHATTISGARH



Raipur: Two women Maoists were gunned down in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Wednesday morning, officials said. They were jointly carrying a reward of Rs seven lakh, police said. The encounter took place when a joint team of security forces including District Reserve Guards (DRG) was carrying out an anti-Maoist operations in the region. Briefing the press, Dantewada SP Gaurav Rai said that input was received about the presence of Maoists of Darbha division. He said the Maoists opened fire on the security forces and an encounter ensued in the forests of Aranpur. Police said one of the Maoist killed in the encounter was identified as Kumari Lakkhe of Malangir area committee and area militia commander-in-chief. The other woman cadre was identified as Mangli Padami who carried Rs 2 lakh cash reward and was active as a member of "Platoon 24".

ONION WHOLESALLERS IN NASHIK GO ON INDEFINITE STRIKE TO PROTEST EXPORT DUTY HIKE

Nashik: For the second time in a month, wholesale onion traders in the Nashik APMCs launched an indefinite strike in protest against the 40 per cent hike in export duty for the crop till December. The hike in the export duty will make it difficult to export the vegetable and entails huge losses for the

farming community, already reeling under a truant monsoon this year. The strike move, sparking fears of shortages and hike in retail prices ahead of the festival season, evoked sharp reactions with Marketing Minister Abdul Sattar warning of strict action against the traders. Among the demands of

the traders are rollback of the export duty on onions, among others. Last month, the onion wholesalers had staged a similar protest but it was called off after the intervention by Union minister Bharti Pawar who belongs to the district. The protest last month was allegedly against the

Centre's failure on its assurance that NAFED would purchase onions from farmers and the producers getting lower than the promised price Rs 2,410/quintal. This week opened with a little over 18,000 quintals of onion being sold in auction for around Rs 2,000/quintal at the Nashik APMCs.

OVER 40 AKASA AIR PILOTS' ABRUPT RESIGNATIONS: DELHI HC TO HEAR CASE ON SEP 22

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Budget airline Akasa Air has moved the Delhi High Court, seeking direction to aviation watchdog Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to take action against those pilots who left the airline without serving their mandatory contractual notice period. This move comes after a set of pilots abandoned their duties and left without serving their mandatory contractual notice period. This, in turn, forced a disruption of flights between July and September, necessitating last minute cancellations that stranded customers and caused inconvenience to the travelling public. The airline, which operated its first commercial flight on August 7, has been India's most on-time airline with the lowest cancellation rates for the first 11 months of its operations. Akasa Air had told the high court that it faces the necessity of cancelling a substantial number

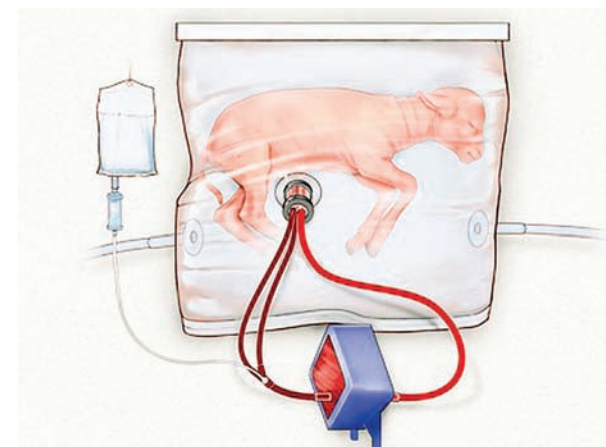
of flights, approximately 600-700, during the month of September. This predicament arises from the sudden resignation of 43 pilots who did not adhere to the stipulated notice period. Akasa Air also told the court that the airline is currently in a critical situation, having already cancelled an average of 24 flights per day in September due to the unexpected pilot resignations. Despite being only 13 months old, the airline has opted for legal action against the departing pilots and is also pursuing compensation of around Rs 22 crore to account for the loss of revenue caused by grounded aircraft and flight cancellations. The court has asked the parties to file their written submissions in the matter and has posted it for further hearing on September 22. The court also sought from Advocate Anjana Gosain for DGCA as to what action it takes in case flights have to be cancelled due to pilots' resignation.

'Artificial wombs' may soon see human trials

A team of US researchers, who, in 2017, first carried out the 'artificial womb' experiment, are now seeking Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for its tests on humans, according to a report. The regulators are expected to consider clinical trials of the system which mimics the womb, and could reduce deaths and disability for babies born extremely premature, Nature reported.

NEW YORK | Agencies

According to the World Health Organisation, preterm birth is the largest cause of death and disability in children under five. In 2020, there were about 13.4 million such births worldwide. In 2017, scientists at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in Pennsylvania kept a developing lamb alive for 28 days in a sterilised bag filled with fluid, where it received amniotic fluid, medicine and oxygen through tubes connected to umbilical cord tissue. The experiment showed that the lamb had positive growth in its lung, GI tract and brain devel-



opment. Now, the team at CHOP have sought approval for the first human clinical trials of the device they've been testing, named the Extra-uterine Environment for Newborn Development, or

EXTEND. The team has emphasised that the technology is not intended -- or able -- to support development from conception to birth. Rather, it may simulate some elements of a natural womb and will increase survival, improve outcomes for extremely premature babies, the report said. "If it's as successful as we think it can be, ultimately, the majority of pregnancies that are predicted at-risk for extreme prematurity would be delivered early into our system rather than being delivered prematurely onto a ventilator," Alan Flake, a foetal surgeon at CHOP who has been leading the effort, was quoted as saying in a 2017 video.

Flake is among several of the CHOP team who joined a start-up company, Vitara Biomedical in Philadelphia. It has since raised \$100 million to develop EXTEND. Meanwhile, the FDA's meeting of independent advisers aims to discuss regulatory and ethical considerations and what human trials for the technology might look like. "This is definitely an exciting step and it's been a long time coming," says Kelly Werner, a bioethicist and neonatologist at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, was quoted as saying. "Clinicians who work with premature babies will be closely following this meeting," she said.



DELHI COURT ACQUITS SAJJAN KUMAR IN 1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS CASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Wednesday acquitted former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in connection with the alleged killing of three Sikhs during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

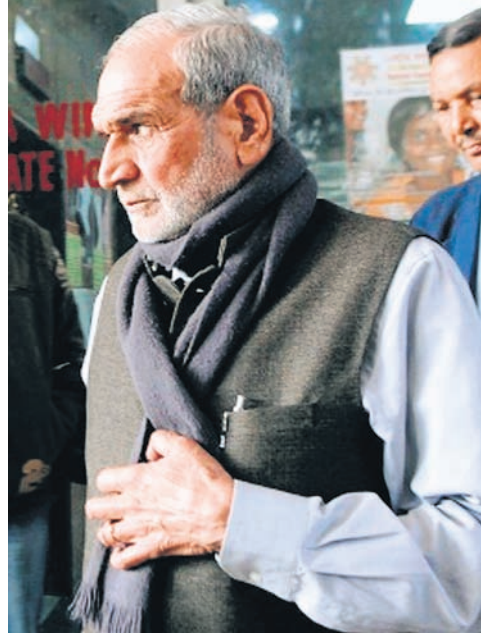
Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court acquitted Kumar with other accused individuals in the case. A copy of the detailed order is awaited.

In August, Special Judge MK Nagpal, had framed charges against Kumar under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including that of rioting, attempt to murder, promoting enmity between religious groups, and causing hurt, in a case related to the burning of a Gurudwara during the 1984 riots. Nagpal had called him the principal abettor.

The court had found sufficient oral and documentary evidence presented by the prosecution to support the contention that an unlawful assembly consisting of a large mob with weapons had gathered near a Gurudwara in Delhi's Nawada area on November 1, 1984.

However, while Kumar was charged as a part of this mob, he was discharged of the charge of murder (under Section 302 of IPC) in a separate incident on November 2, 1984, which resulted in two deaths and several injuries outside the Congress party's office in Uttam Nagar.

Regarding the November 1 incident, the court had observed that Kumar had prima facie instigated



other unidentified members of the mob to commit illegal acts, including burning down of the Gurudwara, damaging or looting articles, burning homes, and inflicting injuries on individuals. The mob's objective was to set the Gurudwara on

fire, loot its contents, destroy Sikh residences, and harm or kill Sikhs in retaliation for the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Meanwhile, court on Wednesday said that it will start hearing, from October 13, arguments on whether to frame charges against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler, an accused in the Pul Bangash killings during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Last week, Additional Sessions Metropolitan Magistrate Vidhi Gupta Anand had said that offences against Tytler are exclusively tryable by the sessions court and committed the file to Principal District and Sessions Judge of Rouse Avenue Court.

In view of the above, Special Judge Vikas Dhull was scheduled to start the proceedings on Wednesday, but adjourned the matter on Tytler's prayer.

Counsel for Tytler claimed that he needed time to approach the authorities concerned for certified copies of certain documents related to the case.

Even the Public Prosecutor for Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) did not take any objection with the plea. "Put up on October 13, 2023, for arguments on the point of charge," the judge said.

Anand had earlier noted that record reveals that the charge sheet, among other things, has been filed under Section 302 (titled as Punishment for murder) and 436 (Mischievous by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and these offences are exclusively tryable by the sessions court.

US, India collaborate on 10K electric buses for cleaner cities



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bringing into reality, a joint vision initially announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to the White House, India and the US on Wednesday launched a collaborative initiative aimed at deploying 10,000 made-in-India electric buses in cities across the country.

The goal is to promote sustainable public transportation, reduce emissions, and create cleaner and healthier urban environments.

The initiative aligns with the priorities set at the recent G20 Leaders' Summit, where both the US and India committed to tackling the climate crisis through sustainable investments, including decarbonising the public transportation sector.

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said: "Every day we see the impact of the climate crisis at a global level. We must respond now or jeopardise the future of our planet and our people. The partnership announced today will mobilise financing for a fleet of 10,000 electric buses throughout India, expanding options for electric public transportation in India, creating cleaner cities and healthier communities."

The initiative will involve collaboration between various stakeholders, including the US government (including USAID and the US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate), India's Ministry of Heavy Industries, Convergence Energy Services Limited, and private philanthropic organisations like the Global Electric Alliance for People and Planet and the Sequoia Foundation.

One crucial aspect of this project is the introduction of a payment security mechanism (PSM) designed to lower financial risks associated with electric bus investments.

By reducing risk for lenders, the PSM aims to improve loan terms and lower financing costs, making it easier to implement these sustainable transportation projects.

Overall, this partnership represents a model for international cooperation in the field of electric mobility and demonstrates how public and private entities can collaborate to address pressing environmental challenges.

Two dead, four injured after blast in Delhi factory

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two men were killed while four others were injured following a blast in a factory in Delhi's Bawana area on Wednesday, an official said.

The deceased and injured were identified as Sanjeev, 28, a resident of Agra, Sonu, 40, of Delhi's Nangloi, while the injured were Usha, 40, of Nangloi, Bhanu, Harveer, and Ashok, all residents of UP's Etah.

Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg said that a call regarding a blaze at a factory was received at 4.44 p.m followed which six fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

"On reaching the spot, it was found that some types of blast occurred in a plastic factory. Five persons were seriously injured in which two of them died on the spot. All were rushed to hospital," he added.

According to police, a police control room call was received at Bawana police station at 4.43 p.m regarding a fire at a factory in O-Block, Sector-3, Bawana and that few people are still trapped in the factory. Fire tenders, ambulances and police staff reached the spot.



"The injured were shifted to MV hospital where two persons were declared brought dead," said Deputy Commissioner of Police, Outer North, Ravi Kumar Singh.

During the initial enquiry, it was revealed that the factory is run by Mukesh and the factory buys empty plastic cigarette lighters and grinds them to pieces. "Total six labourers are employed in the factory. Today while grinding those lighters, a blast occurred which resulted in a heavy damage to the structure of the building, injury and casualty of people," the DCP said, adding that an FIR is being registered against the factory owner.

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma shared table with a drug kingpin: TMC

Team Absolute | Shillong

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma shared a table with an alleged drug lord at a recent gathering in Delhi, Trinamool Congress leader Mukul Sangma said on Tuesday.

Participating in a discussion in the Assembly on "menace of drugs and substance abuse", Mukul Sangma showed a photo of the alleged drug kingpin, Henry, at the event with the Chief Minister.

However, Conrad Sangma denied the accusations and claimed that, despite the fact that many people have their pictures taken with him as a prominent person, it does not imply that he is associated with them.

"In the age of social media, this is the most ridiculous way of trying to prove anything," he said.

However, Mukul Sangma said: "I have to advise the Chief Minister to



avoid any association with this man. He (Chief Minister) knows the man's history, right? I wanted to learn how the man managed to get a seat at the same table at such a high-profile

event in Delhi. I was told that the Chief Minister's office sought this seating arrangement."

"We need to be cautious about who we associate with. These persons will

have access if not. If they are traveling in the same convoy as us, if they are Z-plus category, and if they have access to such prestigious events.

Fighting this specific threat is a serious duty. We cannot act like small children who refuse to say goodbye to their old friends who may have wandered off." In reaction, the Chief Minister said that both he and the Trinamool leader are well-known figures who receive millions of photo requests. "The most irrational inference someone can draw, in my opinion, is one that links the actions of two people based solely on an image.

"Even if there were any events that two persons attended together or any seating arrangements were made. These things do occur. Organisational committees create the programs. Thousands of people sit around us."

"Do I appear in any police reports? Mukul Sangma shouldn't be drawing such hasty assumptions."

SC fixes Oct 17 for final hearing on pleas challenging constitutional validity of Citizenship Act's Section 6A

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday fixed October 17 for final hearing on pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship Act's Section 6A relating to illegal immigrants in Assam.

Section 6A was inserted by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985 to carve out a special category of citizens in Assam in accordance with the Assam Accord.

A 5-judge Constitution Bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna, M.M. Sundresh, J.B. Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra said that the common compilation having a common index will be prepared by the nodal counsel in accordance with the circular issued to streamline filing of soft copies.

It said that the title of the proceedings will be "In Re: Section 6A Citizenship Act, 1955."

The Assam National Register for Citizens seeks to identify the illegal immigrants in the northeastern state who migrated from Bangladesh after March 24, 1971.

Government to sell 4.9% stake in SJVN, share price fixed at Rs 69

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government on Wednesday announced that it plans to sell up to 4.9 per cent stake in power major SJVN via Offer For Sale.

The floor price has been fixed at Rs 69 per share which represents a 16 per cent discount from SJVN's closing price of Rs 82.1 on Wednesday.

SJVN, formerly known as Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, is an Indian public sector undertaking involved in hydroelectric power generation and transmission. It was incorporated in 1988 as Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh. The government will sell up to 2.46 per cent stake in the company as base offer via OFS and has retained an oversubscription option for another 2.46 per cent.



The offer will open on September 21 for non-retail investors and on September 22 for retail investors. The base offer will comprise 9.66 crore shares with a face value of Rs 10 which may be followed up with an additional sale of 9.66 crore as part of a green shoe option. "Offer for sale in SJVN

opens tomorrow for non-retail investors. Retail investors can bid on Friday. Government will divest 4.92 per cent equity including a Green Shoe option of 2.46 per cent," Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Ten people killed in road mishap at Assam-Nagaland border

Team Absolute | Guwahati

At least ten people were killed in a road mishap in Mariani area in Assam-Nagaland border area on Wednesday, officials said.

A senior police officer in Assam's Jorhat district said that a vehicle was coming from Kohima to Mariani and it collided with a truck that was coming from the opposite direction.

Both the vehicles are reported to have fallen in a deep gorge. The driver of the truck and his assistant are in critical condition.

"The accident happened in the Nagaland side. It was raining heavily and may be due to



low visibility, both the vehicles fell in the 200-metre-deep gorge," the officer said. Meanwhile, police teams have reached the location and the rescue operation is underway. Further details of the incident are awaited.

Karnataka Min says govt won't be stable if 3 DyCM posts not created

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Fighting in Karnataka's ruling Congress seems to have escalated with now Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna saying that if three posts of Deputy CM are not created, then the government will become "unstable".

Speaking to media on Wednesday, Rajanna stressed on the creation of three Deputy CM's posts in the state to win more seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

"It is wrong to interpret that CM Siddaramaiah is prompting me to talk on this matter. I have not met CM Siddaramaiah in the recent past. It is also wrong to say that Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar is going to lose prominence if three more DyCMs are made,"



he said. "If Congress wins less seats in Parliamentary elections, the government is going to be unstable. On many occasions, the high command had considered the public opinion whenever there was a defeat in the Lok Sabha elections," he said.

"I have told the high command to create three DyCM posts to ensure a stable government and to win more Lok Sabha seats. This is not a statement with ill-intention and I am stating this in the interest of the party," the minister added.

He noted that during the tenure of the Janata Party government, six state governments were sacked.

"We have to understand this. I am with no one and I don't have selfish

goals," he maintained. Rajanna asked why should CM Siddaramaiah take clarification from him and maintained that Shivakumar is the state party chief and can call him and question him.

"I have not met him as he is busy handling the Cauvery dispute," he said.

"I have proposed the creation of three DyCM posts. One should be from the oppressed classes and the other two should be selected from Lingayat and the minority communities," he said.

Clarifying that he does not belong to any camp in the state government, Rajanna claimed that he is speaking out with the view that in case of setbacks in Lok Sabha elections, instability will haunt the government.

"What's wrong with asking for three

DyCMs. I have proposed it to the high command in the interest of the party. They will do it or leave it," he said.

"Lok Sabha elections are important and I have proposed a strategy of victory. Caste plays a major role in the elections and if leaders representing major communities are made DyCMs, it is good for the party. I am ready to take any challenge and there is no question of going back on my words. There are instances where the state governments are dissolved after the Lok Sabha elections. This had happened during the times of former Karnataka CMs, late B.D. Jatti and Ramkrishna Hegde. What's the guarantee that it won't repeat this time? Against this backdrop, community wise leadership should be given," he contended.

26 kids fall ill after consuming milk in mid-day meal at UP school



Ghaziabad: Twenty-six children fell ill after consuming milk during the mid-day meal at a primary school in Prem Nagar Colony of Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad on Wednesday, said officials. According to the officials, the milk triggered nausea and vomiting among the children, leading to their admission to the Loni Community Health Center.

Simultaneously, the families of the ailing children caused a commotion at the school and confronted the authorities. In response to the incident, the government officials arrived at the scene. The police personnel were also there. More details are awaited.



"Congress is Nowhere" in Assembly Election race: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Team Absolute | Indore

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday hit out at the opposition Congress, saying that it was facing public anger in the state and that it was nowhere in the assembly election race.

He also accused the previous Congress government led by Kamal Nath of stopping the welfare schemes launched by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) earlier.

The ruling BJP has rolled out the 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' from September 3 to reach out to voters ahead of the elections, while the Congress launched the 'Jan Akrosh Yatra' on Tuesday, claiming that there was public anger against the present saffron regime.

"Congress is nowhere in the race (for the upcoming assembly elections). It is only facing public anger," Chouhan said while participating in the BJP's 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' in Indore. On the Congress's 'Jan Akrosh Yatra', Chief Minister Chouhan said, "They (Congress) do many things which we have already done, but their only intention is to garner votes, whereas we serve the public." People know the real face of the Congress, he said.



The BJP will win with a record number of votes in the upcoming assembly elections on 230 seats, he claimed.

Earlier, while talking to reporters at the Indore airport, Mr Chouhan alleged that the previous Kamal Nath-led Congress government had stopped the implementation of various public welfare schemes started during the BJP rule.

On DMK leaders' remarks against Sanatan Dharma, Mr Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh will not tolerate such statements. When asked about the BJP

leaders joining the Congress ahead of the assembly polls, the Chief Minister refused to comment on it.

Kamal Nath-led Congress government collapsed in March 2020, after being in power for 15 months, when a section of Congress MLAs, mostly loyal to Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, quit the grand old party and joined the BJP. After that, the saffron party returned to power with Mr Chouhan as the chief minister after losing the assembly polls in 2018.

LOCAL BJP LEADER BEATS INJURED TRIBAL MAN WITH SLIPPER IN ANUPPUR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two months after Sidhi urination incident in Madhya Pradesh, another local leader of the ruling BJP was seen beating a tribal man with a slipper.

The incident was reported in Anuppur district, adjoining Sidhi district.

In a viral video, BJP's Ganesh Dikshit, who is Mandal Adhyaksh of Anuppur district, was seen beating the tribal man with his slipper in the presence of over two dozen people.

As per the reports, Barnu Singh (60) was driving a two-wheeler with his relative Bhoma Singh (55) as pillion-rider when they were hit by a speeding mini-truck. Bhoma Singh received fatal injuries on his head and died on spot.

Seeing the incident, locals rushed to the spot. Ganesh Dikshit also reached there. In the viral video, Dikshit is seen asking about the dead person lying on the road. Barnu Singh, who was shocked, after the incident could not reply, which made Dikshit furious and he started beating him up with his slipper. Some people tried to stop him, but he kept beating the man furiously. The incident occurred on Tuesday



and the local police claimed to have registered a case against Dikshit and some other people. However, the police are yet to arrest the accused persons.

Anuppur district BJP president Ravindra Rathor later removed Dikshit from the post stating that the latter's act had dented the party's image.

"Your act has tarnished the party's image and therefore you have been removed from the party's membership with immediate effect," a letter signed by Ravindra Singh, Anuppur district BJP president read.

The state Congress has condemned the incident and has demanded answers from Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and state BJP president V. D. Sharma.

State Congress president Kamal Nath said, "Shivraj Singh Chauhan ji, you cannot ignore this gruesome video. Next to the dead body of a tribal man in Anuppur district, a Bharatiya Janata Party leader is seen beating another tribal man with slippers. BJP is becoming a party of tribal atrocities in Madhya Pradesh."

Former Union Minister and senior tribal leader (Congress) Kantilal Bhuria claimed the BJP leadership was protecting its party workers who did inhuman acts. "Police lodged an FIR against Ganesh Dikshit, but he was yet to be arrested by the police. It is a highly condemnable act by the BJP workers and he should be punished under the stringent Act of atrocities against tribal," Congress leader said.

EX-CM UMA BHARTI WRITES TO MODI OVER WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister Uma Bharti wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to express her concern over the Women's Reservation Bill. She has demanded that 33 per cent reservation should be assured for women in the Legislative Assemblies.

In her letter to Modi, Bharti has demanded that 50 per cent seats should be set aside for ST, SC and OBC communities. Bharti also hailed the Centre's decision to pass the Bill stating that the "step is a matter of happiness for the women of the country."

Bharti recalled that when the Women's Reservation Bill was presented in the House by the then Prime Minister Deve Gowda in 1996, she had then moved an amendment to this Bill. "I was a Member of Parliament. I immediately stood up and moved an amendment to this Bill and more than half of the House supported me. Deve Gowda happily accepted the amendment. He announced the handing over of the Bill to the Standing Committee."

She also recalled that there was a lot of uproar in the House before it was adjourned. She wrote in her letter that, when she came to the corridor of the House, many MPs from her party



were angry but late former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee gave her a patient ear. "Despite being staunch political opponents, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Lalu Yadav, and their party MPs were all in favour of the amendment," she wrote.

"I am presenting a proposal for an amendment before you (PM Modi) as well. I am confident that you will get this Bill passed with the proposed amendments. The 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies

is a special provision. However, it should be ensured that of these 33 per cent reserved seats, 50 per cent are set aside for ST, SC and OBC women," Bharti's letter read. She asserted that backward women from the Muslim community should also be considered for reservation in legislative bodies. "If this Bill is passed without this special provision, then the women from the backward classes will be deprived of this special opportunity," she added.

Former MP Bodh Singh and Budhni's BJP leader Rajesh Patel joined Congress

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Balaghat's big BJP leader and former MP Bodh Singh Bhagat joined Congress on Wednesday. In PCC, State Congress President Kamal Nath got him the membership of Congress. Before this, former municipality president Anubha Munjare had taken membership of Congress. Both the leaders come from Other Backward Classes. Balaghat district is OBC dominated and plays a decisive role in winning or losing most of the seats. In view of this, Bhagat's joining Congress is being considered a big shock.

On this occasion, former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said, Bhagat has also been with me in Parliament. I welcome them. There is a long list including Dilip Singh, Sharafatullah Khan, Sumit Chaubey, Rajesh Patel, Ashu Baghel, Bhim Singh Patel, Chandrashekhar Patel, Shahid. I apologize that my throat is sore. There is a lot of chest infection. But, today your enthusiasm has given me strength. All of you are supporting Congress by joining Congress. The picture of the state is in front of you all; corruption has no limits. The people of the Sarpanch organization told me at what level corruption is going on.

Kamal Nath said, Shivraj Singh says that one lakh people will get employment every month. I say that you fill only those vacant posts. Now this system has become that give money and do the work. What happened in Patwari recruitment? Everyone has seen this. This is the situation everywhere. 70 percent of the state's economy is based on agriculture. But, arrangements are bad. Farmers have to wander for fertilizers and seeds. Our tenure was 15 months. In that we presented our policy and intentions. What we started with was a sample. We wanted to bring the state on the right track. Why are the youth wandering today because no investment comes? Investment comes when people trust the state. But no one has faith in our state. Shivraj Singh says I submit the investor. Today we can see that all these things are useless. After taking membership of Congress, Bodh Singh Bhagat said that your (Kamal Nath government) tenure of one and a quarter year was excellent. Your government was toppled through a conspiracy. A good decision was taken regarding electricity. Burn 100 units and give 100 rupees, the electricity used would be less than that. My fight with BJP was over fake fertilizers and seeds. The corrupt minister Gaurishankar Bisen, who was facing a disproportionate assets case, was made a minister again.

PM Modi to visit Bhopal on September 25

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan obtained information regarding the ongoing preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhopal on September 25. It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Modi is coming to Bhopal to address the programme to be held at Jamboree Ground. Chief Minister Chouhan said in the meeting held at the State Airport that in view keeping the possibility of rain, all arrangements should be ensured. Traffic and parking arrangements should be made in a planned manner. Former minister Umashankar Gupta, public representative Bhagwan Das Sabnani, Sumit Pachauri, Bhopal Collector Ashish Singh, Police Commissioner Harinarayan Chari Mishra and other officials were present in the meeting.

COUPLE FOUND DEAD IN SIDHI, PROBE UNDERWAY

Bhopal: A married couple was found dead inside their house in Madhya Pradesh Sidhi district, police said on Wednesday. The deceased have been identified as Ramlal Saket (52) and his wife Basanti Saket (42). Upon receiving information, police reached the spot and took the bodies for post-mortem. As per the family, the couple had a land dispute with some neighbours and they could have been murdered. Irrate family members also staged a protest and demanded detailed investigation into the matter. The incident occurred in Barigama villslage under Kamarji police station around 40 km from district headquarters Sidhi. "Our investigation is underway. We are interrogating the relatives and neighbours of the deceased. The cause of the death would be ascertained once the post-mortem is done," a police official said. Further details are awaited.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS GULMOHAR, JAMUN AND MOULSHREE SAPLINGS

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Gulmohar, Jamun and Moulshree in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Along with the Chief Minister, Bhupesh Singhod and Laita of Jhabua planted saplings on their marriage anniversary and girl Saanvi Baghel, Vibhuti Singh and Shri Harsh Tiwari planted saplings on their birthday. Social workers of Ashok Nagar, Shaligram Sharma, Gajendra Singh Yadav, Bhagwati Prasad, Raja Singh Kaurav, Sher Singh Adivasi, Nitesh Mishra also participated in the plantation. Social workers of Agar-Malwa, Radheshyam Vishwakarma, Dheeraj Patel, Sardarnath Rathore, Giriraj Gupta and Radheshyam Vishwakarma also planted saplings.

MUKHYAMANTRI KRISHAK MITRA YOJANA WILL BE LAUNCHED IMMEDIATELY: CM CHOUHAN



Hard work of farmers led Madhya Pradesh to top place in agriculture. Madhya Pradesh's Sharbati wheat and Chinnor rice get global recognition. CM Chouhan launches MKMY registration by getting filled form of Harda's Namita Ranway. Namita became the first beneficiary. 11 KV line will be extended for permanent pump connection of 3 HP or above capacity

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the work of getting the forms of the beneficiaries filled under the Mukhyamantri Krishak Mitra Yojana to provide permanent agricultural pump connections to the farmers.

Chouhan said that the scheme includes extension of 11KV line of distance up to 200 meters for permanent pump connection of 3 HP or more capacity, installation of distribution transformer and low pressure line cable extension work.

The expansion work including all the material under the scheme and its maintenance will be undertaken by the power distribution company. 50 percent of the cost of this work will be borne by the government and 50 percent by the farmer or farmer group.

In the state level programme held at Kushabhau Thakre Auditorium, Chief Minister Chouhan launched the process of enrollment in the scheme by getting filled the applications of Namita Ranway of village Jinwaniya of Harda district and Premnarayan Panwar of Bhairuda

Shore. CM Chouhan said that the implementation of the scheme is being started immediately.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that he will soon meet regarding new gifts to the farmers. It is our religion to worry about the happiness and sorrow of the farmer. I am going to meet the farmers again soon, I have to release two thousand rupees each from the Mukhyamantri Kisan Nidhi in their accounts, I have to release the insurance amount, along with this I have to give other gifts to the farmers. There has been sufficient rainfall in the state, sufficient fertilizer is available, power supply is also being provided as per requirement. So there is nothing to worry about. The Annadata will remain happy and the government will continue to serve the farmers.

PROVISIONS OF THE SCHEME

- The power distribution company will do the work of infrastructure development and arrangement of material
- Farmers will have to give 50% of the cost of infrastructure development
- 50 percent of the cost will be borne by state government/power distribution company
- Maintenance of necessary line, transformer etc for the pump connection will also be done by power distribution company
- If group of farmers apply then members of the group will have to bear the cost proportionately
- Farmers will have to deposit only 50 percent of the amount
- Uninterrupted power supply with better quality of transformer and other material
- Power distribution company will now undertake all the maintenance related works
- The scheme will be effective for 2 years from implementation
- In the first year 10,000 farmers will be benefited

कार्यालय, नगर पालिका परिषद, गुना, जिला गुना (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/3375/ई-निविदा/2023-24 गुना दिनांक 18/09/2023

विज्ञापित क्रमांक 34 / ई-निविदा / न.पा.गुना / 2023-24 (Second Call)

Notice Inviting e-Tenders Online percentage rate bids for the following work are invited from registered Contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria. The following works and same will be received online at <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> as per key dates.

Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount (In Rs)	EMD Amount (In RS)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs)	Period of Completion (In Months)
2023_UAD_309102_1	Selection of Contractor for The Work of "Legacy Waste Dumpsite Remediation through Bioremediation, Bio mining and disposal of Residual waste" in Nagar Palika Parishad, Guana, Dist-Guna, (M.P)	5,28,00,000.00	2,64,00,000.00	20,000 + GST	10Month

1 टेंडर फॉर्म भरने की अंतिम तिथि 03/10/2023 साँच 5.30
टेंडर झालने की अंतिम तिथि 04/10/2023 साँच 5.30

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कार्यालय, नगर पालिका परिषद, गुना, जिला गुना (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक / / ई-निविदा / 2023-24 गुना दिनांक

विज्ञापित क्रमांक 35 / ई-निविदा / न.पा.गुना / 2023-24

निविदा विज्ञापित शुचना कायकल्प 20 योजना कार्य हेतु जौन लाइन निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है। अतः जो उम्मेदवार इस कार्य के करने हेतु इच्छुक हों वे अपनी-अपनी आगलाही निविदाएं 08:00-10:00 घण्टे के अंदर 02.09.2023 से प्रभावीत रूप से ऑनलाइन / एटलार प्रोडिगल पर भर प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	टेंडर नम्बर	कार्य का नाम	ई.एम.डी. रकम (₹) तिथि	निविदा प्राप्त करी की तिथि	कार्य की शुरुआत की तिथि
1	2023_UAD_309235_1	अशोकनगर रोड के नीचे कारखानों से रेलवे अवरूद्धित राक एवं चू रोष डेन, अशोकनगर रोड टीआरटी से घोरापुरा रेलवे जंक्शन तक. ए सी रोड से शास्त्री चार्ज सक्की मन्डी रोड कारा रोड, केन्द्र पुलिस स्टेशन से पुलिस क्वार्टर और सदर बाजार, नाली गू रोड जेन अशोकनगर रोड से न्यू सजीवनी विजिनिक कालापाठा एवं सी सी रोड रामकृष्णम मन्दा	₹ 194.93 लाख ₹ 97,865 / देवल ₹ 1,25,00,00	29/09/2023	1. 2 मास 2. 3 मास आमंत्रण

1. टेंडर फॉर्म भरने एवं टेंडर झालने की अंतिम तिथि 29/09/2023 साँच 5.30

श्रीमति सविता अरविन्द गुप्ता अध्यक्ष नगर पालिका परिषद, गुना

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी, नगर पालिका परिषद, गुना(म.प्र.)



EDITOR'S SPECS

NINE LAKH STUDENTS IN BENGAL WITHOUT AADHAAR CARDS

Around nine lakh students, who are aspirants for secondary and higher secondary examination, do not have their Aadhaar cards, revealed a survey conducted by the state school education department. The state government has admitted that due to the absence of Aadhaar cards such students are often denied the benefits of different welfare schemes of the state government. However, the state government has decided to overcome this problem by setting up 275 temporary cap offices throughout the state for Aadhaar card enrollment. "Attempts are on to set up one such registration camp in each block. The students will be able to get their names enrolled there without any kind of fees. Students at all levels starting from primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary levels will be able to get their names enrolled there. The process has started from Wednesday," said an official of the state education department. The facilities will be extended to students coming from both state-run and private schools. State education department sources that there had been a lapse on part of the government in conducting necessary awareness campaign drives to make the students and their guardians aware of the necessity of having Aadhaar cards. "There are several development schemes of the state government exclusively for the student community. For enrolment under such schemes Aadhaar is necessary. But anyway, better late than never. We hope that our initiative for Aadhaar enrollment through these block-level temporary registration camps will be a major success," a state education department official said.

SPECIAL ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE, 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

Peace is the beauty of life, not war

Lalit Garg

World Peace Day or International Day of Peace and Non-Violence is celebrated every year on 21 September. This day is considered an ideal of freedom, peace, non-violence and happiness among all countries and people in general. This day is celebrated mainly to establish peace and non-violence throughout the world. The first Peace Day was celebrated in 1982 by many countries with the help of political parties, military groups and people. This year the 41st International Day of Peace is being celebrated on Thursday, 21st September 2023. This year's theme is Action for Peace - Our Ambition for the Global Goals. This call to action is awakening us to our individual and collective responsibility to promote peace, which contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and which will further create a culture of peace for all. Everyone loves peace. Non-violence and peace are the beauty of life. Man sacrifices most of his life in its search.

But it is quite disappointing that today man is moving away from this peace and non-violence day by day. Today, the Russia-Ukraine war that has been going on continuously for one and a half years, and the spread of commercialism all around has made peace and non-violence further elusive. That's why UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "Today more than ever, peace is needed. War and conflict are causing devastation, poverty and hunger, which are driving millions of people from their homes. There is climate chaos all around and most of the countries of the world are in the grip of huge inequalities and political polarization." This year-2023 is also the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

Human beings, animals, birds, insects, spiders etc. all want to remain alive. No one wishes to die. When someone does not want death, then what is the justice in imposing it on him? People who believe in peace and non-violence do not torture, kill or hurt any living being, and from this tendency, the idea of non-violence and peace has emerged. Non-violence consists in uplifting the entire humanity along with oneself, avoiding self-fall and saving others from it. Disturbance is darkness, and peace is light. Darkness cannot be seen with eyes closed. Similarly, peace cannot be seen through unrest. To see peace requires the light of non-violence in the eyes. The earth, sky and ocean are all disturbed. Selfishness and hatred have disintegrated human society. Although the message of 'world peace' has been given in each and every era, it has more relevance today amidst the possibilities of world war.

There has been a war raging on between Russia and Ukraine for the past several months and many more countries harbour the ambitions to wage a similar war. Amidst all the fears and possibilities of this war, efforts for peace talks are becoming increasingly ineffective. The second big problem of the war between Russia and Ukraine is that in reality the war is not a war between Ukraine and Russia at all. The real war is going on between the Western alliance and Russia, and these parties are absent from the peace talks.

Today, when we find ourselves in the midst of a cold war, China is now standing alongside Russia in that cold war. And in this period, China has become not just 1.25 cents, but 125



cents. In fact, the world moving towards world war needs the reconstruction of non-war, peace and non-violence. And if this reconstruction is not done, then the boiling war in Ukraine will engulf not only Ukraine but many other countries. Peace alone will not solve the problem in Ukraine. This fire will continue to burn like this in future, too. Maintaining peace in the entire world is the main goal of the United Nations today. It is also clearly mentioned in the United Nations Charter that the UN was born to prevent international conflicts and to develop a culture of peace. In this era of conflict, terror and unrest, propagating the importance of peace has become extremely important and relevant. Therefore, the United Nations, all its institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society and national governments organize this day every year. To spread the message of peace to every corner of the world, the United Nations has appointed world famous personalities from the spheres of art, literature, cinema, music and sports as the peace messengers.

India is a country that gives maximum importance to non-violence and peace, its precious soil has given birth to many saints, seers and sages, who gave the message of non-violence and peace to the world through their life of sacrifice and sadhana. Mahatma Gandhi laid maximum emphasis on non-violence and peace. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had given five basic mantras to establish peace and tranquility in the world, these are also called 'Principles of Panchsheel'.

These five basic principles of Panchsheel are the five basic principles of mutual cooperation among countries with different political, social and economic systems to establish the ideals of human welfare and world peace - respecting each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, not taking aggressive action against each other. Do not interfere in each other's internal matters, follow the policy of equality and mutual benefit and believe in the policy of peaceful co-existence. It is believed that if the world follows the above five points, there will be peace and tranquility, non-violence and peace everywhere in the entire world. On the occasion of 'World Peace Day', white pigeons are flown at various places in every country, spreading the principles of 'Panchsheel' to the world. The

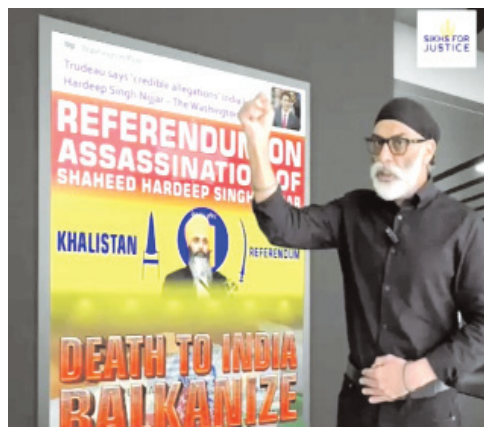
following couplet by a poet conveys a very thoughtful idea of peace—"Let us carry the message of brotherhood, so that the blood of any protector of the country is not shed in vain." Today many people believe that the biggest threat to world peace comes from imperialist economic and political misdeeds. Developed countries create war situations, so that their military equipment can be sold. This is such a bitter truth that no one can deny. Violence and unrest are the burning problems of the world. Non-violence and peace are the only solution to this problem. Non-violence is also one of the constituent elements of Indian culture. Here saints and ascetics of all religions have been preaching non-violence. In this context, the statement of Acharya Shri Mahapragya is going to pave the way for a permanent solution to the problem. During his Ahimsa Yatra, he had repeatedly reiterated that he was searching for the reasons for violence in his journey. The philosophy of Lord Mahavir is the philosophy of non-violence. Words like non-violence, equality, friendship, compassion, restraint, etc. give expression to the same meaning. Ahimsa Savvabhuyakhemankari - There is a need to create a non-violent society to remove the ashes that have fallen on the bright light of non-violence which brings welfare to all the living beings of the world and to remove the rust from the power of non-violence and sharpen its edge. This year, during his presidency of G-20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was seen giving shape to the entire world as one family by declaring Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. They are trying to establish world peace and non-violence in the world, the whole world is looking towards India with hopeful eyes that once again India should shine the light of peace and non-violence. There is great significance and utility in celebrating Peace and Non-Violence Day, it will enlighten the inner instincts, the voice of adopting non-violence and peace will be raised from the inner mind and non-violence and peace will come in the human nature engaged in violence and unrest.

international

KHALISTANI LEADER PANNUN THREATENS INDO-CANADIAN HINDUS, ASKS THEM TO LEAVE

Toronto | Agencies

S tating that pro-Khalistan Sikhs have always been loyal to Canada, Gurbatwant Pannun, leader of radical Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), threatened Indo-Canadian Hindus and asked them to leave the country in a video which went viral on Wednesday. The emboldened dare from Gurbatwant Pannun, legal counsel of SFJ, which is a banned terror outfit in India, comes after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused New Delhi of involvement in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, resulting in tit-for-tat expulsions of senior diplomats. "Indo-Canadian Hindus, you have repudiated your allegiance to Canada and Canadian constitution. Your destination is India. Leave Canada, go to India," Pannun, who faces 22 criminal cases in Punjab, said in the 45 seconds video clip. "Pro Khalistan Sikhs have always been loyal to Canada. They have always sided with Canada and have upheld the laws and the constitution," Pannun said. Pannun announced in the video that another referendum to weigh support for Khalistan will be held in Canada on October 29, and it will be asking voters whether Indian high commissioner Sanjay Verma was



responsible for Nijjar's killing in June. Responding to the threatening video, Ottawa-based researcher and commentator Rupa Subramanya wrote on X: "If a white supremacist had threatened saying all people of colour must leave Canada, imagine the uproar. Yet when a Khalistani threatens Hindus in Canada at an event in Canada, everyone bats their eyelid and looks the

other way." On Tuesday, Pannun told Vancouver-based Global News that protests are slated to take place outside Indian consulates in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver on September 25. "We will not allow the Indian consulates to function and we're going to push the Canadian government to name the individuals who are responsible for assassinating and giving the orders to hit Nijjar," Pannun told the news channel. The SFJ has reportedly said that it will also be calling for the expulsion of High Commissioner Verma. Pro-Khalistan leader Nijjar, who was declared a "wanted terrorist" by the Indian government, was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen on the premises of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, of which he was the head, in the Punjab-dominated Surrey city on June 18. The police in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have registered separate FIRs against Pannun, a law graduate from Panjab University in Chandigarh, over threats and attempting to disturb peace, stability and communal harmony. Countries like Canada, the UK and the US, with a sizable Sikh diaspora, have allowed the outlawed group to conduct anti-India activities, including holding illegal referendums to building a campaign for secession of Punjab.

10 killed in clashes between army and civilians in South Sudan

Juba | Agencies

A t least ten civilians and security officers have been killed following two days of clashes in Pochalla town of Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPA) in eastern South Sudan, the army has said. Lul Ruai Koang, spokesperson for the South Sudanese army, told Xinhua news agency on Tuesday that the clashes that broke out on Sunday started after the army pursued an officer who had escaped detention. He said the escapee had gone into hiding at the home of his former commander, Okony Okwom Othow, who had himself absconded from duty in May after refusing orders to deploy him to another sta-



tion. "Whenever a soldier commits a crime or disobeys lawful orders, he would go and report to Okwom. So on Sunday, there was a soldier that sold ammunition and guns and was arrested; that soldier escaped from prison and reported to his (Okwom) area," Koang said in an interview on Tuesday in the South Sudanese capital of Juba. He disclosed that clashes erupted on Sunday evening till Monday when soldiers were dispatched to re-arrest their colleague who had escaped detention.

Intense heatwave, strong winds fuel bushfires in Australia

Sydney | Agencies

S t strong winds and intense heatwave fuelled bushfires in Australia after which extreme fire danger warnings were issued for greater Sydney and the Hunter region, media reports said. On Wednesday, 63 grass and bushland fires were reported along the New South Wales coast including 12 that were uncontained. "It's September and we're already experiencing four days in a row of temperatures above 30C with high winds, communities needed to be prepared" The Guardian quoted NSW premier Chris Minns telling reporters on Wednesday. Bureau of Meteorology senior meteorologist Miriam Bradbury said heat was expected to ease by Wednesday night and on Thursday morning in NSW when temperatures were forecast to top 22 degrees Celsius in Sydney. New South Wales Rural



Fire Services (NSW RFS) had on Tuesday declared that a total fire ban is in place for the Greater Sydney Region and Far South Coast area, Xinhua news agency reported. "High temperatures and strong winds are the perfect conditions for a bushfire. On those days, the RFS can declare a total fire ban which means no fires out in the open, including wood or charcoal barbecues," said the fire authority, urging residents to stay ready to act. On the state's Far South Coast, the NSW Department of Education decided to temporarily shut down 20 public schools on Tuesday after consulting with fire authorities.

Cop 'manhandles' elderly Hindu priest in Leicester; video goes viral

London | Agencies

I n a shocking video that emerged from UK's Leicester city, a police officer was seen behaving rudely with an elderly Hindu priest and other community members, who had gathered to celebrate the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. The more than a minute-long video was shared on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday by Insight UK, a Hindu advocacy group, which said the priest was "pushed around" and "manhandled". Identifying the cop as Adam Ahmed of Leicester Police, the group said that he used "excessive force against peaceful Hindu devotees". "Last night (September 19) Officer Adam Ahmed of Leicestershire Police used what we believe is excessive force against peaceful Hindu devotees celebrating #GaneshChaturthi. Hindu priest manhandled by Officer Adam Ahmed of @leicispolice," Insight UK wrote on X. "We condemn the actions of the officer and believe that



the actions by Mr Ahmed were uncalled for," the group wrote in a post along with the video. While the police officer can be heard saying to the priest, "I just need to talk to you", a Hindu devotee, who called the priest, "Shastri ji" is seen telling the officer, "shame, shame on you. Do not touch our priest. Stand back... He is an old man". In several videos of the incident, which emerged later, a woman can be repeatedly heard on the video telling the cop "do not touch our priest".

Biden trails Haley, leads Ramaswamy in 2024 race: Poll

Washington | Agencies

I ndian-American former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley leads President Joe Biden in hypothetical 2024 head-to-head matchups, according to a new poll. The Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll released this week found the US president trailing behind GOP candidates, Donald Trump, Haley and Tim Scott but ahead of Indian-American entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. When asked about a hypothetical matchup between Haley and Biden in 2024, 41 per cent of respondents said they would back her, in comparison to 37 per cent who said they would support the current president. Twenty-one per cent of respondents said they didn't know or were unsure who they would support - Biden or Haley. "No question that



President Joe Biden is showing lagging national poll numbers and that now multiple GOP candidates are ahead of him. This is a new development as (non-Trump) potential opponents like Haley get exposure," Mark Penn, the co-director of the Harvard CAPS/Harris Poll, told The Hill. The poll shared with The Hill found that 44 per cent of respondents said they would vote for Trump, while 40 per cent said they would back Biden. A separate 15 per cent said they were

unsure or didn't know in a poll largely unchanged from a similar Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll in July that had Trump at 45 per cent and Biden at 40 per cent, The Hill reported. When asked about a match between Biden and Scott, the former received 37 per cent, while the latter got 39 per cent in the poll conducted from September 12-14 with 2,103 registered voters. Biden performed better than the other Indian-American in the race, Vivek Ramaswamy, who came in at 37 per cent while

Biden received 39 per cent. The octogenarian also did well against former Vice President Mike Pence and DeSantis but a slew of negative polls point to his age as an issue for the president. America's oldest ever president, Biden had recently said that a lot of people seem focused on his age. "I get it, believe me, I know it more than anyone. I'm running because democracy is at stake, because in 2024 democracy is on the ballot once again. And let there be no question: Donald Trump and his MAGA Republicans are determined to destroy American democracy". Assessing how Republican candidates would fare in a race against Vice President Kamala Harris, the poll found that Trump was the only candidate who would defeat Harris in a head-to-head race (46 per cent - 40 per cent).



Ahead of festive season, Maha RERA cracks whip on 388 errant builders

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Just ahead of the festival season, the realty sector watchdog, Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Maha RERA) has cracked the whip on 388 builders in the state for various lapses and frozen their projects' bank accounts, an official said.

Of the 388, the highest are from Pune (89), followed by Thane (54), Nashik (53), Nagpur (41), Palghar (31), Raigad (22), Mumbai (20), Satara (13) and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (12).

The others are from: Kolhapur (7), Sindhudurg and Wardha (6 each), Ratnagiri and Solapur (5 each), Amravati (4), Jalgaon, Sangli and Ahmednagar (3 each), Washim, Chandrapur and Latur (2 each), Akola, Yavatmal, Nanded, Dhule, Beed (1 each). The stern move came last week after these realtors allegedly failed to provide their respective project updates to the home-buyers on their websites, and not responding to the Maha RERA's notices in the matter. The realtors shall now be banned from advertising, taking up marketing



or selling the flats/homes on these projects till further notice or till they comply with all Maha RERA directives, an official said here.

The sub-registrars have also been ordered not to register agreements of sale and sale-deeds for the properties under these tainted projects, specifically those from early this year.

By January 2023, the Maha RERA had registered 746 projects which

were mandated to provide full updated and current information in their quarterly filings by April 20, 2023.

This would include details on the number of bookings for flats, garages, the income received from these, the actual spend on construction, modifications if any made to the projects, etc. Out of these 746 who were served the 15-day notices followed by 45-day warning notices to comply, 358

replied and the remaining 388 ignored them. Accordingly, the Maha RERA clamped down on these errant 388 builders by freezing their bank accounts, and halting registration of the sale agreements.

All this could seriously hamper the work of these projects, particularly with the auspicious festival season of Navratri-Diwali when the realty sector experiences a boom.

BMC LISTS 13 MUMBAI BRIDGES 'UNSAFE' FOR GANESHOTSAV PROCESSIONS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the 10-day-long Ganeshotsav festival kicked off in Maharashtra on September 19, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has identified 13 Mumbai bridges as 'unsafe' for the grand processions and immersions associated with the annual celebration. The BMC issued a notice on Tuesday, September 20, categorizing these bridges as 'dangerous' due to their deteriorated condition.

The Mumbai bridges in question, all of which are Road over Bridges (RoB), are mostly located above railway lines, making them crucial thoroughfares for the city's bustling population.

Mumbai was steeped deep in devotion as it welcomed the annual homecoming of Lord Ganesha on Tuesday, marking the beginning of the 10-day festival amid pomp and grandeur. Families, including children as well as senior citizens, stepped out of their homes early morning to bring their beloved "bappa" home amid



chants of "Ganpati Bappa Morya" and the beating of drums. Many people were seen carrying the idols of Lord Ganesha in autorickshaws, cars, and other

modes of transport. Several politicians and celebrities from Bollywood install idols of the deity of wisdom and knowledge in their homes every year.

Maha to get 96 women MLAs post-quota bill; unsettles many male leaders

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra is set to get around 95 women MLAs in the 288-member Legislative Assembly when the proposed Women's Reservation Bill is implemented in the country, unsettling many male politicians across parties.

Presently, the state's lower house has only 24 MLAs and a sole woman Cabinet Minister Aditi Tatkare, but after the 33 per cent women's quota bill is introduced, the state would have around 95 female MLAs.

From the current (24) strength, the BJP has 11, Congress has five, Nationalist Congress Party has three, Shiv Sena has two, Shiv Sena (UBT) has one, and there are two other Independents - totalling to 24. While all political parties have openly hailed the 33 per cent reservations for women, privately it has unnerved many of the male leaders, particularly those commanding their independent bastions since years, and created doubts about their political future. A senior Congress leader said that akin to the reserved SC-ST constituencies, it is expected that the seats for women candidates would also be earmarked, compelling all parties to compulsorily field women in those constituencies to ensure the 33 per cent quota in the elected House. "Depending on when or how soon the 33 per cent reservations are enforced, all political parties would have to heavily juggle with their candidates' lists, find suitable women nominees for various seats given many other considerations like caste, age, political experience, seniority, etc," he explained, declining to be quoted.

A NCP (SP) group leader preferring anonymity, said that all parties would now have to focus on and either create a dedicated separate women's cadre, develop leadership qualities, or strengthen their existing woman's wings which are generally



treated as a 'formality', plus "cast the net wide to attract younger, educated women, especially in the rural areas, which will be no mean task". Local chieftains of various political parties, who are lording in certain constituencies for years or decades, are seriously worried for their future prospects in case their seat/s is/are suddenly declared as 'reserved' for women candidates. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar, and Leaders of Opposition Vijay Wadettiwar (Assembly) and Ambadas Danve (Council), and heads of major parties have warmly welcomed the move to give greater representation to the fair sex in parliament and legislatures, and make them 'more empowered'.

Maha furore as 7 debt-hit farmers end life in 72 hours

Team Absolute | Yavatmal

As the Ganeshotsav festival commenced, Maharashtra was rocked by seven farmers suicides in the past 72 hours from the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, a top farm activist said here on Wednesday.

The suicides were reported from Yavatmal (6) and Wardha (1) in the past less than three days, said Vidarbha Jan Andolan Samiti President and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Kishore Tiwari.

They are: Pravin Kale of Hivari, Trabank Keram of Khidki, Maroti Chavan of Shivni, Gajanan Shinde of Arjuna, Tevichand Rathos of Banegaon, Nitin Pane of Jamwadi (all in Yavatmal), and Dinesh Madavi of Rantapur in Wardha district, said Tiwari.

"Of these, six suicides were reported in the past 48 hours and one a day before on Sunday. Most of them are from the deprived sections of society and they took the extreme due to the burden of huge debts, crop failures and little or no help coming from the state government," said Tiwari grimly.

With the latest deaths, the farmlands' suicides toll in the state has shot up to



1,586 from January 2023, said the VJAS leader who has been tracking the agrarian crises that has been claiming lives without break since 1997.

"Everyday we are getting reports of one-or-two tillers' suicides cases from a small region like Vidarbha... The situation in other states is hardly known. Yet, the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre is harping tall claims of making India a USD Five Trillion economy in the near future...how is it possible," said Tiwari.

He said that if the government is indeed serious about the agrarian crisis gripping large parts of the country owing

to the truant monsoon, then Prime Minister Narendra Modi should discuss the issue along with Vidarbha in the ongoing Special Session of Parliament.

"Despite claims by the Centre and the state government, the core issues of costs, crops and credit are not addressed, thus driving the farmers to end their lives, and it has virtually assumed 'genocidal' proportions now. Relief packages are announced with great fanfare but they fail to penetrate fully or provide relief to the rural economy that has crashed," declared Tiwari.

Coupled with the climate change complications, the uneven monsoon this year with a drought-like situation confronts at least 10 districts around Maharashtra, the main cash crop cotton facing very low demand, input costs have shot up phenomenally and low credit is provided by the public sector banks.

All these have combined to put brakes on the rural economy besides the government's failure to promote sustainable food pulses and oilseeds crops in the region, leaving farmers with no options but suicide, he added.

Tanker carrying oil gutted in fire in Thane, nobody injured

Team Absolute | Thane

A tanker transporting oil was gutted in a major fire in Bhiwandi Taluka of Maharashtra's Thane district on Wednesday, the police said, according to a news agency. Nobody was injured in the incident, the police said.

According to the report, the incident occurred on the Bhiwandi-Nashik bypass road around 10.30 am, they said. After getting the alert, the fire brigade personnel of the Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation rushed to the spot and extinguished

the blaze, but the vehicle was reduced to ashes by then, an official said.

"Nobody was injured as the tanker driver and 'cleaner' (driver's assistant) managed to jump out of the vehicle in time," he said. The fire incident affected the movement of traffic on the highway for a couple of hours, the official said, adding that the cause of the fire was being probed. Meanwhile, some parts of weather shed stationed at a building in Girgaon area of Mumbai collapsed on Wednesday afternoon, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) disaster control

room said. According to the civic body, the incident was reported on Wednesday afternoon at around 3:35 pm following which relief operations were launched by the civic staff, police and the Mumbai Fire Brigade.

The incident took place at around 2:50 pm at Bansi Bhavan, Khetwadi 3rd lane, Near Alankar Cinema in Girgaon, some parts of the shed suddenly collapsed, the civic body further said.

Some people were trapped on the upper floors of the building but they were rescued by Fire Brigade personnel through the staircase, the officials said.

Mumbai man dies of electrocution on sets of a daily soap

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A crew member of a daily soap succumbed to electrocution on the sets located in the city's western suburb of Goregaon. According to the police, the deceased has been identified as Mahendra Yadav.

According to a report, the incident happened on Tuesday evening. All Indian Cine Workers Association president, Suresh Shyamal Gupta said that the

deceased got electrocuted while he was working on the shooting set of a daily soap.

"The man was taken to the nearby government hospital and the doctors declared him brought dead," he added.

The president of AICWA also demanded that the Maharashtra government provide a compensation of Rs 50 lakh to the kin of the deceased. He said that a case should be registered against the

producer and production house.

Gupta was quoted as saying, "A case should be registered against the producer and the production house of the serial.

Rs 50 lakh compensation should be given to the next kin of the deceased and the resignation of the Managing Director and Labor Commissioner of Film City should be taken with immediate effect."

Further probe into the incident is underway, the police said.

Mumbai Police book Christian mission head for alleged 'casteist slur, abuse'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The MHB Police Station has booked the Director of a prominent Christian education mission for allegedly hurling caste-slurs at a technical education institution's director-principal, torturing and making him and his students clean toilets, officials said here on Wednesday.

The complaint was lodged by an academic, Santosh Pandurang Shinde, 46, Director-Principal of Ava Elma Vocational Educational Pvt. Ltd., the MHB Police have registered a FIR against Fr. Corlis Noel Gonsalves, Director, Bosco Boys Home, according to lawyer Nitin Satpute. The police have invoked various sections of the stringent SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and further investigations are on, said an official. On his part, Prin. Shinde and his students staged a protest outside the



police station on Monday demanding the immediate arrest of Fr. Gonsalves for allegedly subjecting him and some of his 80-odd vocational students to casteist slurs, mental torture and humiliation in different forms.

"The Director Fr. Gonsalves has been continuously targeting my students and me in different ways, including cutting

off our drinking water supply, locking up the toilets and removing the cleaning staff to force me clean up the rest rooms of my government-recognised vocational training institute," claimed Prin. Shinde.

Despite repeated attempts, Fr. Gonsalves was not available for his version of the allegations against him though police have not yet made any arrests in the case.

The problems started in Jan. 2023, when Fr. Gonsalves slapped a notice asking Prin. Shinde to vacate his rented premises (@3,600 sq.foot) in the Bosco Boys Home, near Gorai, within six months.

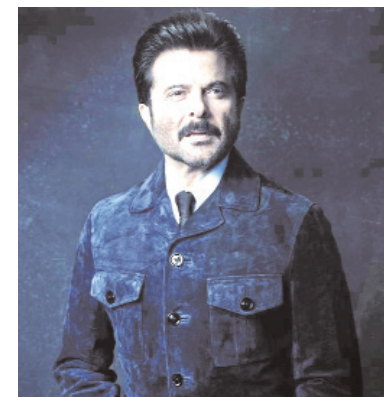
Prin. Shinde suspects that Fr. Gonsalves' attitude allegedly underwent a sudden change when he learned that "I belong to a Dalit caste" and started the harassment by locking up the institute's toilets.

'My personality is my life's work and I've worked hard to build it'

With this lawsuit, I'm seeking protection of my personality rights to prevent against its misuse in any way" shares Anil Kapoor on his Lawsuit

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor and Producer Anil Kapoor has taken legal action to safeguard his Personality/Personality rights. He has filed a suit in the Delhi High Court, requesting a permanent injunction against the unauthorized use of his name, voice, signature, image, or any attribute exclusively linked to him for commercial or personal gain without his consent. This move reflects Kapoor's commitment to protecting his identity and reputation in an era of rampant digital content sharing. Sharing his thoughts on the legal suit, Anil Kapoor shares, "I had filed a suit in Delhi high court through my lawyer Mr. Ameet Naik for protection of my personality rights including my name, image, likeness, voice and other attributes of my personality against any misuse including on digital media. The suit has various instances of misuse of my attributes." "The court has after a detailed hearing granted an order acknowledging my personality rights and restraining all



offenders from misusing my personality attributes including my name, image, likeness, voice etc without my permission in any manner including through artificial intelligence, deep fakes, GIFs, etc. My intention is not to interfere with anyone's freedom of expression or to penalise anyone. My personality is my life's work and I've worked hard to build it. With this lawsuit, I'm seeking protec-

tion of my personality rights to prevent against its misuse in any way, particularly in the current scenario with rapid changes in technology and tools like artificial intelligence that are easily misused to the detriment of the owners of such rights." Anil Kapoor's name, likeness, voice, or any other feature of his identity may not be used by anybody to produce items, ringtones, or other products, according to the ruling issued by Justice Prathiba M. Singh. In cases where such actions are likely to infringe against Kapoor's rights, the Court additionally prohibited the use of artificial intelligence systems to morph his image as well as the usage of his image in GIFs for monetary benefit or commercial purposes. On the work front Anil Kapoor's AKFCN produced film "Thank You For Coming" was recently premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and received a standing ovation. The film is set to release on October 6th, 2023 and fans cannot wait to see this coming age of comedy.



SELENA GOMEZ WILL NEVER WATCH HER MENTAL HEALTH DOCUMENTARY AGAIN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Popstar-actress Selena Gomez has said that she will never revisit her mental health documentary 'My Mind and Me' because it's 'so hard' to watch.

The 31-year-old laid bare her personal and professional struggles in the candid film for Apple TV Plus which touched on her 2016 breakdown and stint in a treatment centre as well as her diagnosis of bipolar disorder and later battles with mental health issues - and she has now revealed she was reluctant to make the film over fears it would jeopardise her career, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Speaking during an appearance at Thrive Global's Music and Health Conference in Los Angeles on Tuesday, she explained: "I was very against it. There was a very long period of time where I just didn't know if it was a good idea. I knew, eventually, one day I wanted to maybe just be an actress for a while, and I didn't know if it would jeopardise things in my life."

"I don't know what I'm doing, letting people into my life. And then the moment it was released... I had no choice at that point. And I was relieved. I felt like a huge weight was lifted."

However, she admitted she can't bring herself to watch it again.

Gomez added: "I felt like I got to say things that I've been keeping in for years. It's very hard for me to watch. I will never watch it again, but I'm very proud of it. I couldn't have been luckier to have the people that worked on it with me."

During the appearance, she also spoke about her relationship with social media - insisting she's not bothered about numbers of followers but feels the "heavy" responsibility of interacting with fans who are going through tough times.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Demi Lovato feels her most "confident" when she's having sex because she can shut out the external things that "cloud (her) judgement".

The 'Cool for the Summer' hitmaker, who has been dating musician Jutes for over a year, is able to shut out the things that "cloud (her) judgement" when she's getting intimate with someone, though she acknowledged not everyone feels at ease in the bedroom, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Speaking on the 'LadyGang' podcast, she said: "I feel the most confident when I'm having sex."

"Cause you're so present that you're not thinking about what is actually like...what clouds your judgement throughout the rest of the day, or at least that's how it is for me. It's not that way for everybody."

But the 'Confident' singer recalled how "nervous" she felt when she first met Jutes - whose real name is Jordan Lutes - on the recording sessions for her 2022 album 'HOLY FVCK'.

She said: "The way that I met my boyfriend was actually in a session. He is a musician himself, but he also co-writes on other people's music. So he came into the session and I literally was like, 'Who is this guy?'"

"I texted my friends and was like, 'Oh my God, the hottest guy just walked in. I am so nervous. I don't know what to do with myself.'"

Lovato said it took a "couple months" for things to turn romantic because Jutes was so professional at first.

Demi Lovato feels most confident in the bedroom



CHRIS EVANS ON STEPPING BACK FROM HOLLYWOOD: 'THIS INDUSTRY WASN'T HEALTHY'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Evans explained why he initially rejected the chance to star in 'Captain America'.

The 42-year-old actor signed on for the Marvel superhero in the blockbuster film franchise but revealed that when he was first approached to take on the part, he said no because he felt "anxious" over his career, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I was really apprehensive about taking the role initially. I remember in my late 20s having a real shift in how I felt on set, how I felt promoting films, a little more anxiety, a little more uncertainty," he told GQ prior to the onset of the SAG-AFTRA strike.

"You always end up questioning, 'Is this what I should be doing.' I just wasn't sure if I was moving closer to myself or further away. And something inside me kept saying that I was getting further away - that something about this industry wasn't healthy."

The Hollywood star last appeared in the MCU in the 2019 smash hit 'Avengers: Endgame' and while he would "never say never" to going back once more, he is actually hoping to act "a little bit less" in the upcoming years.

He said: "I'll never say never, just because it was such a wonderful experience. But I'm also very precious with it. It's something that I am very proud of. And like I said, sometimes I can't believe it



Anne Hathaway feels insulted when people say she looks good for her age

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Anne Hathaway does not see it as a compliment when people tell her she looks good for her age.

The 40-year-old actress considers the concept of ageing irrelevant and sees the process as "another word for living," reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I don't think about age. To me, ageing is another word for living. So, if people want to pay a compliment, it's nice. But whatever the hype is, I'm interested in what's beyond the concept of hype," Anne said in an interview with 'Today'.

The 'Devil Wears Prada' star also explained that she has learned to be kinder to herself now she has grown older and is also better at "sharing."

She explained: "I'm right at that point where I have a much better sense of how I like to do things. I'm so much better at sharing. I feel like I'm kinder to myself and kinder to others."

Hathaway was recently announced as the face of Shiseido's Vital Perfection product range, an opportunity that she considers to be a dream come true.

She told People: "I feel like I'm punching above my weight class with this one."



Keanu Reeves was left 'physically and emotionally destroyed' by his role as John Wick

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Keanu Reeves pleaded for his titular character in 'John Wick: Chapter 4' to be "definitively killed" at the end of the movie, according to one of the producers.

Basil Iwanyk has revealed how the 59-year-old Hollywood star was left so "physically and emotionally destroyed" after shooting the motion picture that he wanted his character - a former hitman who is forced back into the criminal underworld - to be axed, reports aceshow-

biz.com.

"After the second, third, and fourth movie, making these films is so exhausting and it destroys Keanu, physically and emotionally. By the end, he's always like, 'I can't do this again,' and we agree with him," Iwanyk said to Collider.

Iwanyk admitted Reeves is like a "shell of himself" at the end of filming because he gives so much to the part.

He added: "The guy is just a shell of himself because he just goes off and goes for it. He was like, 'I wanna be definitively killed at the end of this movie.' We were like, 'You

know, we'll leave a 10 per cent little opening.'"

"In May, it was revealed 'John Wick 5' is in the early stages of development. Lionsgate chairman Joe Drake revealed at the time that a fifth movie was already in the works, along with a host of other projects at the production studio.

During a recent financial call, he said, "We're now moving across that franchise, not just in the AAA video game space, but looking at what the regular cadence of spin-offs, television really growing that universe so that there is a steady cadence of a franchise that there's clear appetite by the audience."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kendall Jenner



Men's T20 World Cup 2024

Dallas, Florida, New York confirmed by ICC as venues to host games

In Super eight, teams will be split into two groups of four each, with top two sides from two groups entering the semi-finals. Hosts West Indies and USA, as well as Australia, defending champions England, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh have already qualified for the competition.

Dubai | Agencies

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed Dallas, Florida and New York will be the three USA venues identified to host the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas, Broward County in Lauderdale, Florida and Nassau County in New York will be venues for the tournament to be staged in the USA for the first time. The ICC Board awarded the hosting of the event to the West Indies and the USA in November 2021 and added the venues were selected following extensive evaluation of several options.

The ICC said in its statement that an agreement has been reached for the construction of a 34,000-seat modular stadium in Eisenhower Park, a purpose-built sports and events park in Nassau County, New York, on awarding of the required permit next month.

It added that it has commissioned the design and



development of the venue complete with team and match official changing areas and workspaces, media and broadcast facilities, and premium hospitality areas.

The site will include a fan zone, as well as match day operations and event presentation and production infrastructure. Team training facilities will be developed on existing adjacent cricket fields and nearby cricket clubs. The work schedule will commence towards the end of January 2024 with a completion date of May 2024.

Talking about the pitches creation, ICC said the development of all playing surfaces will be over-

seen by internationally reputed curators and local natural sports turf experts, with one of the significant legacy benefits of the project will be the improved cricket playing surfaces that will be left behind.

ICC further said the existing venues in Grand Prairie, which hosted inaugural Major League Cricket (MLC) matches and Broward County, where India has played T20Is against West Indies previously, will be increased in size by modular stadium solutions to expand seating, media and premium hospitality areas subject to final agreement, with the deadline to complete the upgrades being May 2024.

It concluded by saying a number of other venues around the USA, including George Mason University in Washington, the new home of MLC team Washington Freedom, have also been identified as potential venues for pre-event matches and training. Ireland, Scotland and Papua New Guinea sealed their spots for the tournament through regional qualifiers, with Americas (one spot), Asia (two spots) and Africa (two spots) qualifying competitions to be held in near future.

The 2024 Men's T20 World Cup will be hosted jointly by the West Indies and the USA. 20 teams will be divided into four groups of five each for the first round. Top two teams from each group will qualify for the Super eight stage.

Champions League

Manchester City begins title defence with 3-1 comeback win over Red Star

Manchester (UK) | Agencies

Manchester City began the defence of our UEFA Champions League trophy with a 3-1 victory over Serbian champions Red Star Belgrade (Crena Zvezda) on the opening night, here at the Etihad Stadium. Champions League holders had to come from behind but a classy second-half display with Julian Alvarez's brace and Rodrigo's strike and earned the win against the Serbian champions on Tuesday night. Red Star initially took the lead on the brink of half-time when Osman Bukari's goal was awarded following a VAR check for offside. Erling Haaland headed against the crossbar and visiting goalkeeper Omri Glazer made a string of saves before Bukari ran through to beat Ederson for a shock lead.

However, Alvarez had City



on level terms just 73 seconds into the second period before his free-kick on the hour - intended more as a cross than a shot - beat everyone and completed the turnaround. Then, Rodrigo, who scored the winner in June's final, made the game safe with a cultured finish in the 73rd minute. City have now gone 27

Champions League home games since their last Etihad defeat - a run stretching all the way back to September 2018. Notably, Glazer made 13 saves, the first time a goalkeeper has made ten or more saves in a Champions League match since Kamil Grabara for Copenhagen in October 2022, also against Manchester City.

Olympic Games are obviously a priority: Iga Swiatek

Paris (France) | Agencies

World No.2 Iga Swiatek shared her 'priority' to play in the 2024 Olympic Games, and also expressed disappointment with the World Tennis Association (WTA) for scheduling the Roland Garros 2024 just before the Paris Games. Roland Garros (French Open) which is scheduled from May 28 - June 9, 2024 in the State Roland Garros in Paris will be played just before the Olympic Games, scheduled from July 26 - August 11. "I need to listen to my body and the season is very intense - our number one priority is to play it until the end in good health and plan it wisely so we wouldn't risk an injury," Swiatek told EuroSport. "The



Olympic Games are obviously a priority, but it will be difficult to be in optimal shape specifically for these competitions. If I wanted to do that, the preparation period would have to start during Roland-Garros...The calendar is very

tight and I have many important tournaments ahead of me. Swiatek won her fourth Grand Slam after defeating Czech Republic Karolina Muchova in the 2022 French Open final in a 3-set with a scoreline of 6-2, 5-7, 6-4.

Mohammed Siraj becomes the new top-ranked bowler in men's ODIs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India fast bowler Mohammad Siraj has re-grabbed the number one position among bowlers in the latest update to ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings after his sensational haul of 6-21 against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final at R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. Siraj first grabbed the top position in January this year and was displaced by Josh Hazlewood in March, has surged eight spots after his memorable and deadly performance that helped dismiss Sri Lanka for just 50 runs. His performance enabled India to complete a 10-wicket victory for clinching their eighth Asia Cup title. Overall, Siraj finished the 2023 Asia Cup with 10 wickets at an average of 12.2. South Africa left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj is another big mover in the men's ODI bowler rankings. Maharaj, who helped South Africa become just the fifth team to win a five-match ODI



series after losing the first two matches, had figures of four for 33 in the final match that helped him finish with eight wickets in the series at an economy rate of just 4.07 and reach 15th position, 10 places above his previous career best ranking.

Other bowlers to move up the rankings include Afghanistan spinners Mujeeb-ur Rahman (up two places to fourth) and Rashid Khan (up three places to fifth). England's pace all-rounder Chris Woakes is up to 11th place while South Africa's

pacer Lungi Ngidi is in 21st position.

In the men's batting rankings, South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen and England's Dawid Malan are big movers. Klaasen's cracking 174 against Australia in Centurion, as South Africa made 416/5, has lifted him into the top 10 for the first time, at ninth position.

On the other hand, Malan is at a career-best 13th position after scoring 277 runs in the three matches he played in the series. Ben Stokes has gained 13 spots and moved into 36th position with the bat after recording England's highest ever score of 182 at The Oval. South Africa's David Miller (up four places to 17th), Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka (up two places to 28th), Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hassan (up five places to joint-29th) and Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey (up three places to joint-29th) are among the others to move up in the batting rankings.

Asian Games

India men's volleyball team stuns South Korea to enter knockout stage

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian men's volleyball team stunned three-time champions South Korea 3-2 in their thrilling second and final pool match of the Asian Games, in Hangzhou on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, after securing a 3-0 victory over Cambodia, India took the top position in their group, amassing a total of five points.

According to information received here, India will face either Chinese Taipei or Mongolia as they continue their quest for a medal.

It's worth noting that India's last medal in this competition came in the 1986 edition when they clinched bronze. In the previous



edition held in Indonesia, India finished in the 12th position.

Team Absolute | Greater Noida

As India becomes the latest nation to host a MotoGP World Championship round with Round 13 set to take place here at the Buddh International Circuit, the Repsol Honda Team pairing of Marc Marquez and Joan Mir excited to meet their Indian fans in person.

The 4.96 kilometers of the Buddh International Circuit look set to produce another thrilling round of racing, a mix of long straights, tight hairpins and technical sections offering up a variety of overtaking opportunities. Marquez has always been a quick study and will be aiming to get up to speed and understand the 13 corners of Buddh as soon as possible. He arrives on the back of a progressive



weekend in Italy which culminated in seventh place, continuing his steady progress across the year.

With a new track to learn, the work of the weekend will need to be balanced between learning and continu-

ing to work on making improvements to the Honda RC213V.

"I am really excited to meet all of the fans in India. It's always a nice moment when we bring MotoGP to a new country, new people and new

fans to share our sport and our passion. We will need to work a lot to understand everything about the track and about our own situation with the bike. The objective is to put together another weekend like Misano, build over each day and have a good pair of races. Let's get ready for India and to meet everyone!"

On the other side of the garage, Mir is hoping that a new venue will bring new fortunes after a tricky end to the San Marino GP.

Despite the end, Mir was able to make steps forward in improving his feeling with the Honda RC213V. More track and bike time will be the key to continuing this trend and the intense schedule at the end of the year will provide exactly this to Mir.

Indian Super League 2023-24 season to be accessible to widest audience ever

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming ISL 2023-24 season is set to introduce exciting innovations, which will be broadcast across 8 linear channels in 4 different languages and streamed live for free on digital. This season, Football enthusiasts will be able to enjoy an immersive multi-camera experience free on JioCinema, marking a historic first in Indian football. This feature allows viewers to select their preferred camera angles, providing a dynamic and comprehensive view of on-field action. The New Home of Indian Football, will be brought to audiences across eight linear channels - Sports18 Khel: Hindi, Sports18 1 SD & HD, VHI SD & HD, Surya Movies, DD Bangla & Colors Bangla Cinema -- along with being streamed live for free on JioCinema. Fans across the country can catch the action



in English, Hindi, Bengali, and Malayalam.

As part of FSDL's partnership with OneFootball, ISL live streams and highlights to all matches of the upcoming 2023/24 season will be delivered across more than 190 countries. The tenth season of the ISL kicks off with Kerala Blasters hosting former champions Bengaluru FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru

Stadium in Kochi on September 21, 2023.

In addition to this, to mark its 10th season, ISL introduces 'ISL Fantasy' a classic fantasy format game. Fans can participate in the overall league or club-based leagues based on their preferences. They can create private leagues, inviting friends and fellow football aficionados to compete.

TVESA SEES LEAD CUT TO HALF AS ANANYA CHASES HARD IN 13TH LEG OF WPGT

Team Absolute | Gurugram

Tvesa Malik saw her lead cut by half but still held a comfortable 3-shot margin over her nearest rival after two rounds in the 13th Leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the DLF Golf & Country Club. Tvesa had three bogeys between the eighth and the 13th as she carded 2-over 74. At one stage Ananya Datar (71-71), who shot a second straight 71 to come within three shots, was just one behind after 11 holes, at the rather challenging Gary Player layout which hosts India's biggest women's event, the Hero Women's Indian Open next month. Tvesa was 5-under 139 for two rounds and Ananya Datar, seeking her maiden Hero WPGT win, was at 2-under 142. The rest of the field was way behind. Khushi Khanijau (75-70) rose up the leader board to get to third at 1-over 145, while Neha Tripathi (71-75) slipped from overnight joint second to fourth at 2-over 146. Tvesa dropped shots on the third and Par-5 eighth before she found her first birdie of the day on ninth to make the turn in 1-over 37. Meanwhile, Ananya was 2-under for the front nine as she had three birdies and just one bogey in her 2-under 34. The lead between the two



was now just three. On the back nine, when Tvesa bogeyed the Par-4 11th and Ananya birdied the same hole, the lead was just one shot. The duo bogeyed the Par-4 13th and Ananya dropped a shot on 14th to help Tvesa move two ahead. A birdie on the Par-4 17th made the lead a handy three for Tvesa as Ananya parred the last four holes. Khushi Khanijau had two birdies and two bogeys on the front nine but did much better on the back nine where she had three birdies against one bogey for the day's best round of 2-under 70 and she moved

to sole third. Overnight joint second Neha Tripathi, the winner last week, had a front nine with a bogey on Par-5 fourth and a triple bogey on Par-3 fifth. A birdie on eighth was small compensation and on the back nine, Neha seemed to make up some ground with birdies on 15th and 17th, but there was further disaster in the form of a double bogey on the Par-5 18th as she carded 75 to fall to fourth. Jasmine Shekar (72-75) was fifth and Kriti Chowhan (74-76) was sixth. Pranav Urs continued to struggle as she added a 75 to her first round 76 and she was Tied-7th alongside Asmitha Sathish (77-74) and Agrima Manral (73-78).

Amateur Mahreen Bhatia, double medallist at US Kids European and US Kids World Championships golf, made a big improvement on her first round with a 73 after a first round 80 to force her way into Top-10.

Among the big names lagging behind were Seher Atwal (81-74) at T-12 and Sneha Singh (77-79) at T-15.

The cut fell at 167 and 27 players made the cut. Tvesa Malik will play her final round with Ananya Datar and Khushi Khanijau.



SAMANTHA HAS 'MESSED UP' HER SKIN FROM STEROIDS TAKEN TO TREAT MYOSITIS



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Samantha, who has currently taken a break from work for her health as she is dealing with Myositis, said that her skin does not have clear skin due to the "steroid shots" she took for her treatment. A fan on Instagram asked the 'Kushi' actress the secret for her "clear skin". However, she denied and said that she was using a filter as she has a lot of pigmentation due to the steroids taken for her treatment. Samantha said: "Its actually absolutely not. Chinmayi Sripada is going to fix that, she's promised. She's going to make my skin glossy. Actually because of this issue, I had to be on so much of steroids, I actually had to do a lot of steroid shots so it really, really messed up my skin, gave me a lot of pigmentation. So no, this is a filter guys."

Another fan asked her: "What are the top 3 things you live by? Things you tell yourself to keep in touch with reality."

After thinking it over, she replied: "I have become very patient, strong and my willpower has reached infinity."

She then added: "1. I will overcome 2. Stop questioning things...it is what it is. 3. Move forward in honesty and truth."

On the work front, Samantha will be seen in the Hindi adaptation of 'Citadel', which also stars Varun Dhawan and Sikander Kher.



AMITABH BACHCHAN wears 'veshti' to celebrate Ganeshotsava

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Megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be seen wearing the traditional attire 'veshti' on the sets of quiz-based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 15.

Taking to social media on Wednesday, Big B shared a photo of himself sitting on the hot seat of 'KBC 15', and can be seen sporting a veshti, on the occasion of Ganeshotsava.

He captioned the photo on Instagram as: "Veshti on .. KBC on!! Traditional never falters". While, on X (formerly Twitter), the actor wrote: "T 4775- Who says that one cannot run wearing 'Mundu' ie veshti!!!"

Ila Arun commented on Big B's post and wrote: 'fantastic look'. Filmmaker Abhishek Kapoor said: 'Gorgeous man'.

Fans wrote: "Beautiful", "Super sir", "Keeping our Indian traditions alive...VESHTI this time", "YES TRADITIONAL NEVER FLTERS WHEN THE ORIGINAL KEEPS IT SAFE FOREVER", "Waaah sir waahh kya andaz hai", etc.

The 'Sholey' actor also took to his official blog and penned a long note, saying: "It is the season of festivity .. of Navratri .. of celebration .. of bringing together the variety of our 'sanskara' .. Sanskaar of our age old traditions and beliefs .. and in keeping with the diversity but in its unity .. we design the KBC with the different traditional wear from each part of the country."

Varun Sharma says he is not afraid of getting typecast

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Varun Sharma, who is set to return with his iconic character of Choocha in the upcoming third instalment of the 'Fukrey' franchise, 'Fukrey 3', is not afraid of getting typecast. Varun has garnered immense appreciation over the years for his characters of Choocha and Sexa.

Looking back at this journey in the industry so far, the actor said that he feels fortunate that he got to debut with a character like Choocha in 'Fukrey'.

He said: "Any actor who is kickstarting his career in films wants to be accepted and loved by the audience. I am blessed it happened with Choocha and then again with Sexa. I love to make people laugh. Bringing a smile to another human being's face is such a rare thing in today's times. If an artiste gets a chance to spread laughter and happiness through the biggest medium that we have in the country, which is cine-



ma, then that's a huge opportunity."

He further mentioned: "Comedy is one genre that I will continue to work in. I have never been afraid of getting typecast. The most important thing for every actor is to get cast on a regular basis in memorable characters and amazing films. I really want to explore different genres but not just for the heck of it. The yes for a film has to come from the heart."

Talking about if he envisions himself in a romantic film, he said: "I hope in the years to come, a good film comes my way. I have a lot of love to give and it would be nice to do a cute love story."

'Fukrey 3' is all set to land in theatres on September 28 where it will clash with 'The Vaccine War', and will also muscle it out against the Shah Rukh Khan and Nayanthara-starrer blockbuster 'Jawan'.

NEETI MOHAN

New song on Lord Ganesha is straight from the heart

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Singer Neeti Mohan, who has sung a heartfelt ode to Lord Ganesha, 'Hey Ganaraya', called it an expression of devotion, love and gratitude.

On the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, Neeti and Suhit Abhyankar released 'Hey Ganaraya'. This divine musical creation is a harmonious fusion of tradition and contemporary flair celebrating

unwavering faith, spiritual love, and the deep connection that devotees share with Bappa, the remover of obstacles. Cherishing the bond between Lord Ganesha and his devotees, the track is composed and penned by Suhit, and sung by Neeti. Hey Ganaraya's video is a visual delight taking viewers on a poignant journey from the creation of the Ganapati murti to its visarjan. Featuring Neeti, the video beautifully portrays the love, excitement, passion and the profound place that Ganpati Bappa and the festival holds in the hearts of the people. Talking about the track, Neeti said: "Hey Ganaraya' is not just a song, it's our heartfelt expression of devotion, love and gratitude towards Lord Ganesha. It is a song straight from the heart and we hope it touches the hearts of all our listeners and is a part of their beautiful celebrations."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mukti Mohan

Hina Khan on her debut single: The entire experience was surreal

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Hina Khan is set to make her singing debut with 'Barsaat Aa Gayi', and called it a "surreal" experience. Hina recently took to her social media platforms to share this news.

An excited Hina said: "I have officially sung my first ever song on record, and the entire experience was truly surreal! Hearing my own voice being recorded for the beautiful Barsaat Aa Gayi track was such an exciting experience."

"One of the most intriguing experiences of mine as a performer. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I am very excited for everybody to hear the song. I am also sure of this not only being my first of many songs, as I definitely want to explore a lot more singing as well. The song will be released on Vyr! Originals. Just a few days ago, Hina let a sneak peek into her upcoming project, 'Barsaat Aa Gayi' by sharing captivating behind-the-scenes glimpses.

Hina is known for playing Akshara in the television show 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' and Komolika in 'Kasautii Zindagii Kay 2'.

In 2017, she participated in the reality shows Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 8 and Bigg Boss 11 and emerged as runner up in both.

She made her Bollywood debut in 2020 with Vikram Bhatt directed 'Hacked'. The film also stars Rohan Shah, Mohit Malhotra and Sid Makkar. 'Hacked' is the story of a boy's love for an older girl and how it turns into an obsession.