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Asian Games 2023

India Finish With Historic 107 Medals

Hangzhou | Agencies

The Indian contingent impressed everyone with their brilliant performances at Asian Games 2023 and finished with a historic haul of 107 medals. It included 28 gold medals - a record for India in the history of the competition - as well as 38 silver medals and 41 bronze medals. India were on the verge of reaching the 100-medal mark at the start of Saturday's order of play and with gold medals in men's and women's kabaddi, men's cricket and men's doubles badminton, they were able to finish the Asiad on a high.

On the other hand, Pakistan could only manage to win 3 medals at Asian Games 2023 - one silver and two bronze. The two bronze medals came in kabaddi and shooting while the silver medal came in the men's team squash event where they were beaten by India in a hard-fought summit clash. The Indian men's kabaddi team emerged victorious after an hour of arguments to reclaim its Asian Games title, beating defending champions Iran 33-29 in a controversial final, which was temporarily suspended, on Saturday. The women's team survived by the skin of its teeth as it beat Chinese Taipei 26-25 in a dramatic final for the country's 100th medal. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty earned India's first-ever badminton gold medal at the Asian Games with a straight-game win over South Korea's Choi Solgyu and Kim Wonho in Hangzhou on Sunday.



World number 3 Satwik and Chirag, who had become the first Indians to win the Asian championships in 58 years in March this year, extended their sensational run with a 21-18 21-16 win over Choi and Kim, ranked 15th, to achieve their crowning glory. It was also India's first medal in men's doubles in 41 years since Leroy D'sa and Pradeep Gandhe won a bronze in 1982 edition. The Indian men's cricket team clinched the gold

medal on its Asian Games debut after their final against Afghanistan was called off due to rain, and the Rituraj Gaikwad-led side was adjudged winners by virtue of being seeded higher in the continental showpiece on Saturday. Put in to bat, Afghanistan were 112 for 5 in 18.2 overs when persistent rain halted the proceedings at the Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket Field, and the match never restarted from that point.



SRK's 'Jawan' gets an explosive salute in Malegaon cinema hall

Quaid Najmi | Nashik

Some overzealous fans of Shah Rukh Khan gave an explosive response to his latest blockbuster release 'Jawan' at a cinema hall in the late-night show last night, officials said here on Saturday.

Soon after the film started, some members of the enthusiastic audience whipped out fire-crackers, twine-bombs and burst them inside the dark, closed Kamaldeep Theatre, and even fired several rockets at the ceiling, scaring many of the patrons.

The sudden explosive bursts made many of the audience panic and brought back the chilling memories of the real bomb blasts that had rocked this minority-dominated town in 2006 and 2008.

As the fireworks raged inside, the theatre management halted the show and switched on the lights and many of SRK fans were seen dancing, clapping and jumping with joy at SRK's antics on the silver screen, all resulting in a deafening cacophonous ruckus.

Many in the audience even shot the melee on their mobile phones, amidst the screams while some women chose to quietly slip out of the cinema hall that was filled with smoke and stench of the explosives.

Soon afterwards, a posse of local police

rushed to the cinema and whisked away some of the revelers, and detained some of them briefly. The cops also warned them that bursting fire-crackers in this manner in closed spaces was illegal. The film show resumed after a break of 20 minutes, and peace returned. Malegaon, reputed as a town of film-buffs witnessed another similar incident last year in a cinema hall when the classic 'Sholay' was re-released and some fans freaked out by bursting fire-crackers on some dialogues of Amitabh Bachchan and Amjad Khan. A Malegaon local, Aref Shaikh said that the town is virtually a paradise for filmgoers who prefer to watch major releases in the cinemas, and that too as soon as the film is released. "The people here work hard all day, but films, songs and Bollywood actors are a staple of their daily life and discussions. They love their heroes and heroines like SRK, Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Kareena Kapoor and many others," Shaikh said with a smile. Since its release worldwide on September 7, SRK's latest film 'Jawan' has shattered all previous box office records grossing over Rs 700 crore, and continuing to get strong viewership across India and globally, gladdening the film industry.

UP farmer takes goats to police station for damaging marigold crop

Kanpur: In a bizarre case, a farmer in Kanpur took two goats to the police station for entering his field and eating his marigold flowers. According to Shailendra Nishad, several goats had entered his field but he managed to catch only two. The incident took place in the Gauri Kakra village of the Bhitargaon block where farmers cultivate flowers. Shailendra Nishad had been noticing that his flowers were going missing from the field. Two days ago, he sat behind a tree in his field, hoping to catch the thieves. Towards the evening, he discovered that four to five goats had invaded his land from one side and devoured the flowers. He tried to catch the goats but could manage to get only two of them. He went straight to the road, got an auto, loaded them into the vehicle and arrived at the police station. The policemen were astounded to witness the man with the goats and shocked to learn the reason behind his visit. "They (goats) quietly gorge on my flowers every day due to which I am suffering a lot of financial loss.

However, the owner of the goats does not pay any attention to them. Therefore, I caught these goats and have brought them here," he said. Police Inspector Pramod Kumar said that the goats belonged to a girl in the village. She has been warned to keep the goats tied so that they do not enter fields and damage crops. The matter was resolved and no First Information Report was submitted by Nishad.

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SWIFT PARROT NAMED 2023 AUSTRALIAN BIRD OF YEAR

Canberra | Agencies

The bright green-coloured critically endangered Swift Parrot was announced as the winner of the 2023 Australian Bird of the Year on Friday after winning more than 11,000 votes in a biennial poll. First initiated by bird conservation group BirdLife Australia and media outlet Guardian Australia in 2017, the fourth edition of the poll kicked off on September 25 with a line-up of 50 Australian native birds, while the bottom five species were eliminated at the end of each weekday, reports Xinhua news agency. In Thursday's final count where all votes from earlier rounds were discarded, Swift Parrot edged past Tawny Frogmouth with a narrow 441-vote lead, and the latter finished as runner-up for 3rd time in a row. Gang-gang Cockatoo secured the third place with 7,192 votes. Swift



Parrot, also known as Lathamus discolor, is a small, fast-flying, migratory bird that can be found in south-eastern Australia. It is bright green with patches of red on the throat, chin, face and forehead. The native species normally breeds in Australia's island state of Tasmania during spring and summer and then migrates to the mainland for winter.

'Removal of passport as identity proof will help rural youth applying for drone pilot licence'

Team Absolute | Chennai

The central government's decision to remove the mandatory condition of having a passport as identity proof for those applying for drone pilot licence would enable rural youth in sizable numbers to get trained, said a top official of Garuda Aerospace. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has removed the mandatory requirement of a passport for those applying for drone pilot licence and said any government issued identity and address proof is sufficient as substitutes. Commenting on the government's decision Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder and CEO of Garuda Aerospace said, "The recent move by the Ministry of Civil Aviation waiving off the mandatory requirement of a passport to apply for a drone pilot license is welcome." "This will allow youth with any government issued proof of identity and address to avail of the programme and take benefit of technology. Most of the aspirant Drone Pilots are from rural India and this clause was a major hindrance for them," Jayaprakash said. Garuda Aerospace plans to train 100,000 Drone Pilots by 2025.

Air India unveils first look of A350 aircraft



In August, Tata Sons-owned Air India revealed its updated logo and livery, which will coincide with the delivery of brand-new A350 aircraft in December 2023.

During an event in Delhi, the airline explained that its new logo, referred to as 'The Vista', draws inspiration from the apex of a golden window frame, symbolizing boundless opportunities, forward-thinking, and the airline's assertive and optimistic vision for the future. This fresh emblem takes its cues from the timeless and iconic Indian window shape, historically associated with Air India and seen as a symbol of 'Window of Opportunities'.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Air India on Saturday unveiled the first look of its A350 aircraft following its rebranding and the introduction of a fresh logo and livery, following its acquisition by the Tata Group. "Here's the first look of the majestic A350

in our new livery at the paint shop in Toulouse. Our A350s start coming home this winter," the flag carrier said in a post on X.

The latest pictures captured at the paint shop of Air India's workshop in Toulouse, France. The A350s will start arriving this winter.

Lucknow gets its first robot restaurant

Team Absolute | Lucknow

Lucknow has got its first 'Robot restaurant' that has two Artificial Intelligence-based robot-servers -- affectionately known as 'Ruby' and 'Divya'. Ruby and Divya, both donning a vibrant shade of yellow, are the pioneering waitstaff at Lucknow's inaugural robotic dining establishment, aptly named 'The Robot Restaurant - The Yellow House' in Aliganj. The other UP-based branch of this restaurant is operational in Noida. Aniket Srivastava, the visionary behind this high-tech dining venture, explains, "The robots operate on an Artificial Intelligence-based system meticulously crafted by our engineers. After a mere 2-3 hours of charging, they can effortlessly serve patrons for over 12 hours. Utilising a sophisticated remote sensor technique, we assign table numbers to the robots through a discreet tablet-like interface situated at the rear of these mechanical maestros. The robots then navigate seamlessly towards the designated table, relying



on Google's cutting-edge navigation technology. If any obstacle obstructs their path, these robots exhibit remarkable grace by halting instantly." What sets these robot-servers apart is their ability to communicate with diners. When encountering an obstruction, they politely utter "Please excuse me". After successfully delivering the order to the table, they announce with precision, "Your order has arrived". And, as patrons take their food, a simple press of the exit button on the left side prompts a gracious departure with the parting words, "Have a nice meal". These robots even return to

their designated positions, as meticulously programmed. Ankit added, "The response from our customers has exceeded our expectations, with patrons often queuing for tables during peak hours. Our prediction that this unique technological concept would captivate diners has been validated, especially among our younger clientele, who relish capturing selfies with our robot servers." The restaurant has already become a sensation.

"The Robot Restaurant" franchise has seen the addition of Ruby and Divya as invaluable members of its team, significantly reducing the need for human manpower.

While this may be the first of its kind in Lucknow, the concept of robotic dining has been making waves in India.

In 2017, Chennai witnessed the country's inaugural robotic restaurant, 'Robot', inspired by similar Japanese and Chinese eateries. Subsequently, in 2022, Noida and Jaipur followed suit with their own robotic dining establishments.



GLOBAL PARTICIPATION OF FARMERS IN U.P KRISHI KUMBH

Team Absolute | Lucknow

Nearly two lakh farmers from India and abroad are expected to participate in 'Krishi Kumbh', scheduled to be organised here in December. A state government spokesperson said that the event proposed to be organised at the Indian Sugarcane Research Institute (ISRI) will see participation of farmers and experts from many countries including Japan, Israel, Germany and the US. "They will be made aware of new technology and innovation," the spokesperson said, adding that instructions have been given to invite national and international level renowned companies/institutions of agriculture and allied sector, agricultural universities, agricultural science centres and progres-

sive farmers. The topics which are expected to be taken up during the meet include cow-based natural farming, preparedness to face the challenges of climate change, promotion of 'Sri Anna', FPO-based business, reducing the cost of farming, stubble management as well as agriculture in the state with a \$1 trillion economy. "There will also be discussions, lectures, demonstration of agricultural drones, agricultural exhibition etc. on topics related to various aspects of agriculture, he said. The first edition of Krishi Kumbh was organised in Lucknow in 2018 when more than one lakh farmers and over 300 companies participated. A national level workshop was also held for stubble management during the event," he added.

Marriage assistance scheme

TN govt allocates Rs 117.18 crore for purchasing gold coins

Chennai | Agencies

The Tamil Nadu government has allocated an amount of Rs 117.18 crore for buying gold coins of eight grams each to be given as marriage assistance to women under various schemes. The state government has already floated a tender for purchase of 25000 gold coins of 22 carat purity and weighing eight grams each. The amount allocated is for purchase of new gold coins as well as to clear the backlog of previous four to five years. The AIADMK government had stopped providing gold coins for marriage assistance in 2019 which was resumed after the DMK government assumed office in 2021. The state government is providing assistance to girls under four marriage schemes. The 'Thalikkai Thangam' scheme was changed to 'Puthumai Penn' scheme in 2021 and issuing gold coin was stopped. Instead, under the new



scheme, girl students from government schools who enroll for diploma or degree course after Class 12 are given a monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 till they complete their higher studies. Under the marriage assistance scheme for daughters of widows, eight grams gold coin and an amount of Rs 50,000 is given to graduates and diploma holders while eight gram gold coin and Rs 25000 is given to non-graduates by the state government.

The Mother Teresa scheme is constituted for orphan girls who are given gold coin and

cash assistance of Rs 50,000. There are assistances for widow remarriage as well as inter-caste married girls. Under the Dr. Dharmambal Ammayar memorial widow remarriage scheme, the women who have a graduate or diploma certificate are given Rs 50,000 in cash as well as an eight gram gold coin. However, non graduates will get Rs 25000 in cash and an eight-gram gold. The same conditions are applicable for inter-caste marriages under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy memorial scheme.



Don't change names of places/institutions to create possible conflict: Manipur govt

Team Absolute | Imphal
The Manipur government has asked various organisations and the public in general not to change the names of districts, sub-divisions, places, institutions on their own to create possible conflict between communities, and if any organisation or individual does this, appropriate action will be taken as per the law.

A Manipur government official said that after the ethnic violence broke out in the state between the non-tribals Meiteis and tribal Kukis, some organisations changed the name of districts, places and institutions on ethnic lines and beliefs, without the knowledge of the government or the concerned authorities.

To check these trends, Manipur Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi has issued an order asking people and organisations not to do any such thing which might create problems for the authorities.



The Chief Secretary's order said that it has come to the notice of the state government that many Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), institutions and people are deliberately renaming or trying to rename districts, sub-divisions, places, institutions and address of such institutions.

"...these steps and actions are objectionable, or likely to create controversy and conflict between communities residing in the state, more particularly in the context of the ongoing law and order crisis in the aftermath of the Tribal Solidarity March organised by the All Tribal

Students Union Manipur (ATSUM) on May 3," the order said.

It said the state government views the matter very seriously with utmost sensitivity as such practices may create mistrust among the communities and are likely to create divide or aggravate the current law and order situation in the state.

"Any one found violating this order shall be prosecuted under the relevant law of the land. All Central and state government authorities, institutions, establishments, and autonomous bodies are also advised to check the name and address of their respective offices/establishments in all signage, official communications, websites, all documents related to services provided, etc., and also ensure compliance with the orders." The Chief Secretary has asked all the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police of all districts to take necessary action to enforce the order.



AIR INDIA SUSPENDS DELHI-TEL AVIV FLIGHTS AMID ESCALATING HAMAS OFFENSIVE IN ISRAEL

Team Absolute | New Delhi
Air India has suspended its services between Delhi and Tel Aviv in response to the ongoing Hamas offensive that erupted in Israel on Saturday, resulting in the loss of at least 40 Israeli lives besides leaving more than 700 injured. "AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv on October 7 and the return flight AI140 from Tel Aviv to Delhi have been cancelled in the interest and safety of our guests

and crew. Passengers are being extended all support, as per their requirement," said an Air India spokesperson. The Gaza-based terror group launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday morning, firing thousands of rockets and sending gunmen into Israeli communities by land, sea and air, killing at least 40 people and injuring hundreds, The Times of Israel reported. The multi-pronged attack, coming a day after

Israel marked the 50th anniversary of the surprise invasion on Yom Kippur, appeared to have caught the Israeli military and security forces completely by surprise. Hamas gunmen overran at least one military base and gunmen were moving through Israeli border communities, killing and capturing residents, apparently with little resistance from Israeli forces, residents were quoted as saying by the Israeli daily.

Let it be a reminder of the monumental disaster: Congress on withdrawal of Rs 2,000 banknotes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As the deadline to exchange the Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes ended on Saturday, the Congress criticised the government saying it is a reminder of the monumental disaster of November 8, 2016 (demonetisation) and after blowing thousands of crores of taxpayers' money in a futile exercise, the Modi government will move onto managing the next headline. In a post on X, Congress General Secretary Jai Ram Ramesh said, "As the nation marks the obituary of the 2,000 rupee note, let it be a reminder of the monumental disaster that was the Tughlakian decision of November 8, 2016."

He said, "Those who questioned the logic back then, including Rahul Gandhi, were mocked by the drum-beaters of the self-appointed 'Vishwaguru'. Some even claimed microchip-enabled notes to help track black money!" "Now, after blowing thousands of crores of taxpayers' money in a futile exercise and destroying lakhs of micro and small businesses across the country, the Modi government will move onto managing the next headline," Ramesh, who is also a Rajya Sabha MP said. In his post on X, he also attached a photograph of two Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes with a garland of flowers around the frame, signifying their death. Ramesh also quoted a tweet by Rahul Gandhi on November 9, 2016. The former Congress president had questioned the Modi government's decision at that time and said, "One Q (question) for the PM (Prime Minister): How is replacing 1,000 rupees notes with 2,000 rupees notes going to make black money hoarding a lot harder? Modi logic."

The remarks from the Congress General



Secretary, who is also the communications incharge of the Congress, came as Saturday was the last day for the public to exchange or deposit Rs 2,000 banknotes. About Rs 12,000 crore (or 3.37 per cent) of the currency notes remain in circulation, the Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said during the monetary policy review meeting on Friday. On May 19, the RBI decided to withdraw the Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation but said they would continue to remain as legal tender. Initially, the RBI fixed September 30 as the deadline to complete the exchange and deposit exercise. However, based on an assessment, the RBI decided on September 30 to extend the arrangement until October 7. The Rs 2,000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016, primarily to meet the currency requirement of the economy in an expeditious manner after the withdrawal of the legal tender status of all Rs 500 and Rs 1000 banknotes in circulation at that time.

PM Modi reviews preparations of implementation of key promises made in his I-Day speech



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reviewed the preparations towards implementation of two key announcements he had made in his Independence Day speech this year. Modi on August 15 had announced ensuring affordable credit for poor and middle class housing and providing solar power for households. Modi on Saturday reviewed the preparedness for implementation of these two announcements. In his Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister had said: "The weaker sections who live in

the cities face a lot of problems. Middle-class families are dreaming of buying their own houses. "We are coming up with a new scheme in the coming years that will benefit those families that live in cities but are living in rented houses, or slums, or chawls and unauthorised colonies. "If they want to build their own houses, we will assist them with a relief in interest rates and loans from banks that will help them save lakhs of rupees. "If the income tax bracket for my middle-class families is raised from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 7 lakh, it benefits the salaried class, the middle class the most."

K'taka woman farmer commits suicide after alleged harassment by micro-finance company

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

In a tragic incident, a woman farmer in Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru district committed suicide after being allegedly harassed by staffers of a microfinance company to repay a loan, police said on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as 64-year-old Deviramma and the incident occurred in Tangali village of Kaduru taluk. According to the police, the victim had taken a loan of Rs 78,000 from the Grameena Koota Finance Company. As she was in crisis due to crop failure, she has not been able to pay an instalment for a month. The company staffers had been coming to her house ever week since and allegedly harassed and pressured her to repay the loan. Not being able to take the



torture, the woman hung herself inside her house.

A case had been lodged against the microfinance company staffers Shankar Nayak, Usha, and Rubina with the Katur police station.

Chikkamagaluru has been declared a drought-hit district by the state government.

According to official statistics, three farmers have committed suicide due to the drought.

Girl students filmed in IIT-Delhi washroom; 1 held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi Police on Saturday registered a case after students of Delhi University's Bharati College registered protest after they were allegedly filmed while changing clothes during IIT Delhi's Rendezvous fest on Friday.

The Delhi Police said that a complaint was received through X at Kishangarh police station regarding making a video in the ladies washroom of IIT, Delhi by a boy. "In this regard, a case under section 354 C IPC dated October 7 was registered at Kishangarh police station and the accused a contractual sweeper of age 20 years has been arrested and sent to judicial custody.

Further investigation is under progress," the police said. The remarks from the Delhi Police came after the students participating in a fashion show, which was part of the Rendezvous fest, were filmed through window



shafts by a contractual sweeper. The students shared the ordeal on a post on Instagram and said that the culprit was caught three hours after the incident and that he claimed to have deleted the recorded content. Recounting the horrific experience, ELANTRE, the fashion society of Bharati College, issued a statement expressing deep disappointment over the fact that despite the incident, the IIT Delhi authorities asked them to "stay calm" and focus on their performance to "distract" themselves. The aggrieved students also highlighted the absence of women security guards outside the washrooms. "We also suspect that the video might

still exist as the phone cover and device seen by us at the time of the incident differed from the one seized by authorities. We, along with our family members, have filed an FIR, and an investigation is still underway," the post read. Meanwhile, the IIT Delhi in a statement said that the "accused in an unfortunate and regrettable incident dated Oct 6, 2023, was immediately handed over to the Delhi Police that is investigating the matter." The IIT Delhi said: "He was identified as an employee of an agency to which housekeeping services have been outsourced. The Institute treated the matter with the utmost seriousness and urgency it deserved. The Institute is fully cooperating with the police and has a zero-tolerance policy for any such instance." "The Institute has also strengthened the existing measures to ensure a safe and secure environment for all students and visitors at the fest," the IIT Delhi said.

DAYS AFTER FLAUNTING REVOLVER IN HOSPITAL, JD-U MLA NOW ABUSES MEDIAPERSONS

Team Absolute | Patna

JD-U MLA Gopal Mandal allegedly used abusive language with mediapersons on Friday after they asked him about carrying a revolver inside a hospital. On October 3, Mandal had gone to the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital in Bhagalpur for a CT scan of his granddaughter. He was seen carrying a revolver in his hand, a video of which had gone viral on social media. When someone had asked him to clarify the need for carrying a firearm inside a hospital, he had said: "It is a thing that needs to be held in the hand and not in the waist (Hath Me Lekar Nahi Chalege to Kyā Kamar Me Rakhege)." Mandal reached the JD-U office in Patna on Friday to take part in a meeting headed by CM Nitish Kumar that was also attended by the party's national President Lalan Singh. The words he used for mediapersons were extremely objectionable. He again



said that he is carrying a revolver in his waist for self-defence. When mediapersons strongly objected to his act, he ran towards the Chief Minister's security personnel. When asked about the act of Mandal, state Minister Ashok Chaudhary said that his party believes in peace, and not violence. "We are the followers of Mahatma Gandhi," he said. Meanwhile, Bhagalpur DM has served a notice to Mandal, asking him to submit a written reply explaining his act inside the hospital.

3 held in Kolkata outskirts for gang-rape of IT professional at late night party

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Three persons have been arrested at New Town in northern outskirts of Kolkata on Saturday afternoon on charges of raping an IT professional at a late-night party at a posh residential complex there on Friday night.

The victim has filed a complaint to the police claiming that she was invited to a party, where her drink was laced with some intoxicants and later she was gang-raped.

After escaping for the party she first reached her residence and then to the Technocity Police Station to report the incident. She filed



a complaint against the three accused who were present at the party.

The arrested accused are colleagues of the victim. The victim woman has been sent for a medical test.

"Of the three persons arrested, two were residing at New Town while the third accused is a resident of Entally area in central Kolkata," an official said.

Besides interrogating the three accused, the police are also questioning people present at the party.

The accused will be produced at a lower court on Sunday, where the police custody of the accused will be sought, the official added.

Security tightened along Assam-Nagaland border areas



Team Absolute | Guwahati/Kohima

Security has been further tightened along the Assam-Nagaland border areas to check and curb the movement of extremists, anti-social elements, and to prevent unlawful activities, an official said on Saturday.

Officials of both Assam and Nagaland governments said that militants and anti-social elements sometimes do various illegal activities including unlawful trade of forest resources and wildlife on either side of the border.

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Sivasagar district of Assam has enforced night curfew in a 5-km belt on the Assam side of Sivasagar district, which shares a border with Nagaland.

The night curfew, which is in effect from 6 p.m. in the evening to 6 a.m. in the morning, will remain in place till November 6.

"The decision to enforce the night curfew has been taken as a precautionary measure to deter anti-social elements, extremists, and

unlawful activities from crossing the Assam-Nagaland border within the Sivasagar district," a district official said.

He said that during the period of the night curfew, the movement of any person, group of persons, or vehicular traffic is strictly prohibited within the specified area.

Assam shares a 512-km-long border with Nagaland and several patches of the interstate border are disputed and the two states are now in parley to resolve the dispute.

After a series of top-level meetings, the Assam and Nagaland governments in 2021 withdrew their respective forces from the disputed sites.

Though the decades-old Nagaland and Assam border dispute cases have been pending in the Supreme Court for many years, the Chief Ministers of the two states held several meetings and are trying to settle the issues out of court. Many people have been killed, most of them on the Assam side, in the attacks by the armed forces from Nagaland in different incidents in 1979, 1985, 2007 and 2014.

“The person who talks most of his own virtue is often the least virtuous.”



Jawaharlal Nehru

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OVER 200 DEAD IN ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT AFTER SURPRISE ATTACK BY HAMAS

THE WAR BEGINS

At least 198 have died in Gaza, Palestine said, while 70 were killed in Israel as 5,000 rockets were fired by militant group Hamas in a surprise attack. Israel declared war against Hamas, vowing to avenge the fierce attack, and launched airstrikes on Saturday. Besides, more than 50 Israelis have been reportedly held hostage by the militant group. The group published footage showing its members capturing a number of Israeli soldiers during an attack on a military base on the border with the Gaza Strip on Saturday.

“Citizens of Israel, we are at war. This is not an operation, not an escalation - this is war. Hamas will pay an unprecedented price. The enemy will receive a response they have never known before,” Israel President Benjamin Netanyahu said during an address to the nation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X, “Deeply shocked by the news of terrorist attacks in Israel. Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. We stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour.”

World leaders have called for end to hostilities and safe passage for civilians amid the “war” between Israel and Hamas.



from land, sea and air. The Israeli army also said it launched “Operation Iron Swords” against the Hamas group in the Gaza Strip, Al Jazeera reported. The early-morning attacks occurred on Simchat Torah, a holiday which falls towards the conclusion of the weeklong Jewish festival known as Sukkot, or the Feast of Tabernacles.

The rockets were fired as far north as Tel Aviv. Hamas also sent fighters into southern Israel, Al Jazeera reported.

Israeli media said that gunmen had opened fire on passers-by in the town of Sderot, and footage circulating on social media appeared to show clashes in city streets as well as gunmen in jeeps roaming the countryside.

One report claimed Hamas fighters had taken control of multiple Israeli civilian population centres, where residents were begging for help from their government, Al Jazeera reported. The Israeli army says dozens of fighter jets were carrying out

attacks on Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip. Dozens of Israelis are believed to have been captured by Palestinian militants in an unprecedented assault into Israeli territory, BBC reported. At least 70 people in Israel have been confirmed killed, with hundreds of others being treated in hospitals, according to emergency services. Nearly 200 people have been killed in retaliatory Israeli strikes in the Gaza strip, officials there say, BBC reported. Hamas commander Mohammed Deif says the Palestinian militant group had “decided to say enough is enough”. In its statement, the Israeli army also confirms that there are hostage situations in the kibbutzes of Ofakim and Be’eri. It says special forces are involved and “live firefights” are ongoing.

Israel confirms soldiers and civilians taken hostage by militants

London: Dozens of Israelis are believed to have been captured by Palestinian militants in an unprecedented assault into the Israeli territory, a media report said.

At least 70 people in Israel have been confirmed killed, with hundreds of others being treated in hospitals, according to emergency services. Nearly 200 people have been killed in retaliatory Israeli strikes in the Gaza strip, officials there say, BBC reported. Hamas commander Mohammed Deif said the Palestinian militant group had “decided to say enough is enough”.

In its statement, the Israeli army also confirmed that there are hostage situations in the kibbutzes of Ofakim and Be’eri. It said special forces are involved and “live firefights” are ongoing.

‘ENOUGH’ ISRAELI CAPTIVES TO FREE ALL PALESTINIAN PRISONERS: HAMAS

New Delhi: A senior Hamas leader has said that the group has captured “enough” Israeli soldiers during an unprecedented attack against Israel to make Israeli authorities free all Palestinian prisoners in its jails, a media report said.

“We managed to kill and capture many Israeli soldiers. The fighting is still on,” Saleh al-Aroui, deputy chief of Hamas’ political bureau, told Al Jazeera on Saturday.

“Our detainees in (Israeli) prisons, their freedom is looming large. What we have in our hands will release all our prisoners. The longer fighting continues, the higher the number of prisoners will become,” added al-Aroui, who said senior officers were among those captured, but did not provide any figures. Nearly 5,200 Palestinians are in Israeli jails, including 33 women, 170 minors and more than 1,200 placed under administrative detention, Al Jazeera reported, citing the latest figures by Addameer, a prisoners’ rights NGO.

GST on e-gaming firms not retrospective, Centre tells dissenting states



In the year of the millet, the GST Council exempted millet flour from GST. Food preparations in powder form containing at least 70 per cent millets will not have to pay any GST. These food products have to be sold in loose form or non-branded packets.

The age of retirement for the president of the appellate tribunal had been raised from 67 years to 70 years while that of the members had been raised from 65 years to 67 years.

The Council decided to exempt the GST on overseas vessels if they undertake cruises on India’s coastal route during the tourist season.

The Council decided to give the states a free hand to levy tax on extra neutral alcohol (ENA) which is used to make alcohol for human consumption.

being levied retrospectively since some online games involved in betting were already being charged a 28 per cent GST under the law earlier.

Certain states during the GST Council meeting on October 7 are reported to have flagged the issue of retrospectively imposing GST on online gaming companies, according to Maharashtra minister Deepak Vasant Kesarkar.

However, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman said the issue was not on the agenda of the GST Council meeting but raised by some states such as Goa after the meeting was over.

“It was informed to certain members that this is not retrospective and this was the law earlier. These liabilities were already existing because money online games played with bets... they were already attracting by way of betting or gambling 28 per cent GST,” Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said in answer to a question at a press conference after the meeting.

A number of online gaming companies have been issued show-cause notices for allegedly evading GST with cumulative amount adding up to whopping Rs 55,000 crore.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central government has clarified to the states that the goods and services tax (GST) on online gaming companies is not

Jerusalem | Agencies

The Palestinian armed group Hamas has launched Operation Al-Aqsa Flood against Israel in the most serious escalation since Israel and Hamas fought an 11-day war in 2021, a media report said.

Hamas said it had fired 5,000 rockets, while Israel confirmed that the group’s fighters had entered its territory.

Daniel Hagari, an Israeli army spokesman, said that the group attacked

At Gaya temple, Ukrainian woman performs ‘pind daan’ of those killed in Russia-Ukraine war

Patna | Agencies

A Ukrainian woman on Saturday performed the ‘Pind Daan’ of her parents and others who were killed in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war at a temple in Bihar’s Gaya.

Yulia Jito, a physiologist who lives in Ukraine, lost her parents and several relatives in the ongoing war. Besides offering pind daan for her parents, she also performed the rituals for the salvation of souls of those lost their lives in both the countries.

The Russia-Ukraine war is still underway and thousands of people have lost their lives so far. Yulia performed the rituals at famous Vishnupad temple located on the bank of Falgu river in the city.



Acharya Loknath Gaud helped her complete the rituals. She will stay in Gaya till October 13 and will perform all the ‘Karmakand’ for the peace of departed souls.

Interacting with the media persons, she said that this was the second time she came to Gaya for the pind daan. “It gave me immense peace last time when I performed the pind daan in Gaya. So, I came here again to perform the ritual for my parents and people of both Ukraine and Russia who lost their lives in war,” she said.

Scared of Rahul’s popularity, BJP projecting him as Ravana: D.K. Shivakumar

Bengaluru | Agencies

The BJP has projected Congress MP Rahul Gandhi as Ravana as it fears fearing his popularity and leadership skills, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Saturday.

Addressing reporters outside the Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar alleged the saffron camp has made this projection without even knowing the complete story of Ravana.

“Even in north India, Ravana is worshipped. If the BJP had known our culture, they wouldn’t have stooped so low. The Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) took shape after the Bharat



Jodo Yatra. the INDIA alliance is shaping strongly and India is uniting and it will be protected.

“The BJP is scared of Rahul Gandhi’s mega walkathon and the INDIA alliance and hence they have projected him as the 10-headed Ravana,” he said. The Deputy Chief Minister further said that the “BJP should know Puranas to understand the war between Lord Rama and Ravana”.

Delhi: Air quality likely to dip to ‘poor’ category

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The air quality in the national capital is going to dip to poor quality within two days, according to the data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR).

However, on Saturday, the city recorded the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) at 164 in “moderate category”.

The SAFAR also predicted that on Sunday, the PM 2.5 is going to reach 186 while PM 10 is expected to reach 177, both in moderate category.

The SAFAR further stated that after two days, PM 2.5 is expected to touch 239 while PM 10 can reach 205, both in



poor category. As per CPCB, on Saturday evening, Anand Vihar recorded AQI of 265 in the poor category, in Alipur, it was 235 (poor category), while in Bawana the AQI reached 305 -- in very poor category. At IGI Airport, it was observed that the AQI had reached poor category -- 211 by Saturday evening.

However, at Lodhi road the AQI was 136 in moderate category. The ITO also recorded AQI at 189 in moderate cate-

gory, and at Sirifort the AQI was at 179 in moderate category. On October 1, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai had announced the implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the national capital starting Saturday (today), anticipating a potential rise in pollution levels during the winter season.

GRAP is a central component of Delhi’s Winter Action Plan, consisting of four stages. Delhi government is working on the Winter Action Plan to reduce the pollution during the winter season. Actions will be taken in accordance with GRAP steps once the Air Quality Index (AQI) enters the “poor” category.

Monu Manesar sent to four-day police remand in attempt to murder case

Gurugram | Agencies

Haryana police have been granted a four-day remand of cow vigilante Mohit Yadav, alias Monu Manesar, in an attempt to murder case registered against him in Gurugram, an official said here on Saturday.

The Gurugram police had registered a separate case against Monu Manesar at the Pataudi police station under sections 147, 148, 149, 120B, 307, and 201 IPC earlier in February.

On Saturday, Haryana police brought Monu Manesar, who was lodged in Ajmer jail of Rajasthan, on a production warrant in an attempt to murder case in Pataudi. Gurugram Police had arrested Manesar on September 11 in connection with Nuh violence and after producing him in Nuh court, Rajasthan Police took him on



production remand in the murder case of two Muslim men Nasir and Junaid.

Since then, Monu has been lodged in Bharatpur jail in Rajasthan. The Pataudi court had ordered the Superintendent of Bharatpur Jail to produce him in the court on September 25, but by the time the warrant arrived, Monu had been transferred from Bharatpur to Ajmer Jail.

Due to this, the Haryana police could not bring Monu to Pataudi court on September 25. After this, Haryana police again sought a production warrant of Monu Manesar in the court for October 7.

NEW AI ALGORITHM CAN FORECAST EARTHQUAKE WITH 70% ACCURACY

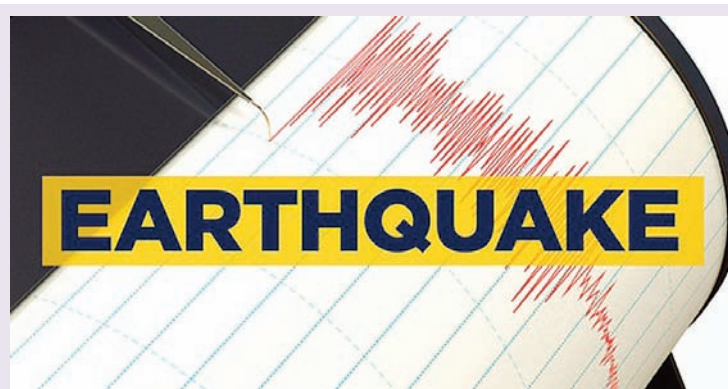
Researchers have developed a novel artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm that correctly predicted 70 per cent of earthquakes a week before they happened during a seven-month trial in China, raising hopes that the technology could one day be used to limit earthquakes’ impact on lives and economies.

New York | Agencies

The AI, developed by researchers at The University of Texas at Austin, was trained to detect statistical bumps in real-time seismic data that researchers had paired with previous earthquakes.

The outcome was a weekly forecast in which the AI successfully predicted 14 earthquakes within about 200 miles of where it estimated they would happen and at almost exactly the calculated strength. It missed one earthquake and gave eight false warnings.

It’s not yet known if the same approach will work at other locations, but the effort is a milestone in research for AI-driven earthquake forecasting. “Predicting earthquakes is the holy grail,” said Sergey Fomel, Professor in UT’s Bureau of Economic Geology.



“We’re not yet close to making predictions for anywhere in the world, but what we achieved tells us that what we thought was an impossible problem is solvable in principle.” The findings from the trial are published in the journal Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America.

“You don’t see earthquakes coming,” said Alexandros Savvaidis, a senior research scientist who leads the bureau’s Texas Seismological Network Programme (TexNet) -- the state’s seismic network.

“It’s a matter of milliseconds, and the only thing you can control is how prepared you are. Even with 70 per

cent, that’s a huge result and could help minimise economic and human losses and has the potential to dramatically improve earthquake preparedness worldwide.”

The researchers said that their method had succeeded by following a relatively simple machine learning approach. The AI was given a set of statistical features based on the team’s knowledge of earthquake physics, then told to train itself on a five-year database of seismic recordings. Once trained, the AI gave its forecast by listening for signs of incoming earthquakes among the background rumblings in the Earth.

The researchers are confident that in places with robust seismic tracking networks such as California, Italy, Japan, Greece, Turkey and Texas, the AI could improve its success rate and narrow its predictions to within a few tens of miles.



ANGRY MAHA FARMERS PELT AJIT PAWAR'S CONVOY WITH ONIONS, TOMATOES

Team Absolute | Nashik

Scores of angry farmers attempted to waylay Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's car and convoy, and pelted them with onions and tomatoes to draw his attention to their woes, here on Saturday morning.

The incident took place when Ajit Pawar was proceeding from Ojhar Airport to Dindori, and his fleet of vehicles was blocked by the irate farmers who raised slogans against the state government, and targeted the cars with onions and tomatoes.

The farmers waved black flags to the VIP convoy, demanded roll-back of the export duty on onion and a good support price for tomatoes to ensure proper livelihood for the cultivators.

"We condemn the government's policies... Farmers are dying... We want withdrawal of the export duty on onions and a suitable minimum support price for tomatoes," one of the protesters told mediapersons there.



A strong posse of police from nearby Kalwan managed to reach the spot and whisked off many of the protesters without any untoward incidents.

After the tomato prices touched over Rs 200 between May-August, now the retail rates are in the range of Rs 12-18/kg depending on the markets, hitting the cultivators badly. Similarly, the onion farmers in Nashik went on a 13-day strike by stopping wholesale trade to demand yanking off the export duty on the teary sta-

ple vegetable.

The strike was called off on October 3 after assurances by the government but the wholesale traders have given a month's ultimatum to the authorities to act, failing which they would strike afresh.

The 'onion-tomato' welcome left Pawar and his team embarrassed as they had come for overseeing the pre-election work for the Lok Sabha polls in which the breakthrough Nationalist Congress Party is expected to contest from the Nashik seat.

Govt allotted huge funds to strengthen health institutions: Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government has allotted huge funds to strengthen health institutions in the state and there is no shortage of funds to provide medical treatment to the needy, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Saturday, reported news agency.

In this year's budget, the government announced the setting up of a government medical college in each district of the state, and these institutions are being established in 14 districts and medical colleges in other districts are being modernised, Devendra Fadnavis said.

The deputy chief minister was speaking at the inauguration of a health camp at the government medical college in Akola in the presence of Revenue Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil and officials.

The super-speciality hospital will start soon in Akola with full capacity, he said.

Akola gets water from the Jigaon project, and funds to the tune of Rs 921 crore have been approved under



the Atal Amrit Yojana for the city, Devendra Fadnavis said.

Electric buses will also be operated in Akola city under the Pradhan Mantri E-Bus Yojana, he added.

At least 25,000 patients will benefit from the two-day health camp, which will have 260 doctors in atten-

dance. On Friday, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray attacked the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government over the death of several patients in some state-run hospitals in a short span of time, alleging that people were losing lives due to its corrupt governance.

Addressing a press conference, he also alleged that there was an 'outbreak of corruption' and claimed that the government has money to run its advertisements, but no funds to save the lives of people.

The former state chief minister also accused the government of procuring medicines without any tendering process, and demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into it. "If that (medicine procurement without tenders) is going to happen, then you are opening the doors for corruption. People are losing lives because of corrupt governance," Thackeray alleged.

"There should be a CBI probe wherever medicines did not reach... or is there anyone's middlemen involved there?" he asked.

Thirty-one patients, including infants, died at the Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College and Hospital in Nanded in 48 hours since September 30, while the death of 41 patients was recorded at the Government Medical College and Hospital at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar between October 2 and 3.

DREADED WOMAN MAOIST WITH RS 11 L BOUNTY LAYS DOWN ARMS

Team Absolute | Gadchiroli

A most-wanted and hardcore woman Maoist - carrying a Rs 11 lakh reward on her head - surrendered before the Maharashtra Police, a top official said here on Saturday.

The accused is identified as Rajani alias Kalawati S. Veladi, 28, from Bijapur in Chhattisgarh, said Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Neelotpal.

Barely aged 14, Rajani had joined the Red terror groups in 2009 and worked for a year with Farsegadh LOS before she was transferred to Orchha LOS till 2013.

After getting a 'promotion' as ACM, she worked in the National Park Area Doctor Team for two years and then was assigned the Sandra LOS in 2015 where she served in Chhattisgarh, till her surrender with the Maharashtra Police, said Neelotpal.

According to the police, Rajani was involved in a forest encounter with security forces in Gundam (2015), an



ambush-cum-encounter near Bejji in which 12 jawans were martyred (2017), two more gun-battles with

police in 2018-2019 in Marewada and Boramajji, all in Chhattisgarh. Rajani is also charged with burning

a government bus (2018), and a murder (2020), arson and other crimes in Chhattisgarh state, and she carried a total reward of Rs 11 lakh on her head, comprising Rs 6 lakh by Maharashtra and Rs 5 lakh by Chhattisgarh state.

SP Neelotpal said that Rajani has cited various reasons for her decision to surrender including exploitation of poor tribals by the senior Maoist leaders, discrimination against women, extortion, no independent life for married Dalam cadres, anti-Maoist operations made their lives difficult, women abandoned by the male cadres or even killed during encounters, no medical help, etc.

As per the Maharashtra government's rehab policy, Rajani will be entitled to a compensation of Rs 4.50 lakh and other benefits to enable her rejoin the social and democratic mainstream, said Neelotpal.

In Rajani's prime 'catch', Maharashtra has notched a total of 586 surrenders by active, hardcore, wanted and notorious Maoists till date.

In 2 months, Mumbai Police book bizman Rahul Yadav in another scam

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a second instance in barely two months, the Mumbai Police have booked businessman Rahul Bhoosingh Yadav, founder of 4B Networks Pvt Ltd., in a fresh case pertaining to alleged misappropriation of Rs 288-crore of investors' funds, according to officials.

Following a complaint by Info Edge, the proprietors of Naukri.com, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) is now probing the case pertaining to allegedly transferring a part of the investors' monies to another company where his wife Karishma Yadav is the co-owner and a CEO.

Info Edge had invested a total of Rs 276-crore in Yadav's company 4B Networks Pvt Ltd., and given him a Rs 12-crore loan, totalling to Rs 288-crore, and has claimed that the money was allegedly siphoned off through illegal means.

The complaint has accused Yadav of misappropriating the funds in different forms like shady transactions, loans to some former staffers, heavy deposit for an office allegedly routed via his wife's company, and vendors



purportedly transferring payments from 4B Networks to other companies of the family.

Earlier in August, the EOW had booked Yadav and his associate Sanjay Saini following a complaint lodged by Co-Founder of Interspace Communications Pvt Ltd, Vikas Omprakash Nowal, for allegedly cheating him of a total of Rs 10-crore.

Later, the EOW had raided the offices and homes of Yadav-Saini duo, a Look Out Circular was issued against Yadav, while a Mumbai Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea in end-Aug.

Fugitive member of Chhota Rajan gang nabbed after 29 years

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Persevering for 29 years, the Mumbai Police finally managed to nab a member of the Chhota Rajan gang -- absconding after being convicted in a dacoity case -- from his hide-out in Gujarat, officials said here on Saturday.

The convict has been identified as Sakir Barkali Lakhani, 59, a member of the Chhota Rajan gang, who used to live in Antop Hill in south central Mumbai.

In 1994, Lakhani and four of his associates from the same gang, swooped on a realtor's office to commit dacoity. They attacked a police team which foiled their crime and they were



arrested under various laws, including the Arms Act.

Later, a Mumbai Sessions Court had found Lakhani guilty and sentenced him to five years imprisonment, even as his three associates were gunned down in police encounters. Lakhani managed to escape from the

police clutches and had been on the run since then and the investigators made all attempts to nab him. After sustained field investigations, tips from informers and using tech-intel, the Mumbai Police zeroed in on him in Gujarat. The Mumbai Crime Branch laid a trap for Lakhani and without arousing any suspicions, successfully caught him, and brought him to Mumbai, said the officials. During the intervening period, Lakhani was involved in at least 10 crimes including dacoities, robberies, vehicle thefts, etc and was wanted by the Gujarat Police also, declared an absconder by the Odhav Police, and further investigations are underway.

Case against 30-year-old watchman for having sex with dog

Thane: A case has been registered against a 30-year-old watchman for allegedly having unnatural sex with a dog in Bhiwandi city in Thane district of Maharashtra, police said on Saturday.

The FIR was registered under section 377 (Unnatural offences) of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act against the watchman, who works at a housing complex, after a complaint was lodged by a member of the society.

The incident occurred on the night of October 5 in the security cabin of a school, police said.

Ex-MLA, 7 others injured in car-bus collision in Maharashtra

Akola | Agencies

A former MLA was among eight people injured in a collision between a car and bus on the national highway in Maharashtra's Akola district on Saturday, police said.

The accident occurred on the highway near Kurankhed village in the district around 12 pm, an official said.

Former Buldhana MLA Vijayraj Shinde (58) was travelling towards Amravati with four of his supporters when their car collided with a bus heading to Akola, he said.

The former legislator, three



of his supporters and four passengers from the bus sustained injuries in the acci-

dent, the official said, adding that the injured have been admitted to a private hospital

in Akola. The police have initiated a probe into the incident, he said.

VIEW FROM MAHA: CASTE-BASED CENSUS NEXT STEP TOWARDS MORE INCLUSIVITY

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

After the recent Bihar caste-based survey 2022 created waves, all major political parties in Maharashtra are clamouring for a similar enumeration of various communities in the state to enable more inclusivity at the social, academic, economic and political levels.

Most parties are studying in detail the Bihar survey which threw up that 112 Extremely Backward Castes comprise 36.01 percent of the state's 13-crore population, followed by 29 OBC castes accounting for 27.12 percent in which the Yadavs dominate with a 14.26 percent share, the SCs make up 19.65 percent, and the general unreserved category is just 15.52 percent.

Senior Maharashtra leaders like Congress working president M. Arif Naseem Khan, Shiv Sena (UBT) deputy leader Sushma Andhare, Nationalist Congress Party's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase and Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi president Rekha Thakur spoke their minds on the Bihar survey and the prospects for other states and the country in the long run.

"We are making a strong demand for a similar caste-based census to be conducted on a national level by the Central government... We need clarity on all the castes, communities, etc to ensure more inclusivity in the national mainstream and reach them the benefits of state-

central welfare schemes," said Khan.

Andhare said "there will be an impact of the Bihar survey on the states and national polity, but we need to wait and watch to what extent", especially since political benefits go only to those who are useful' to the establishment or for 'their nuisance value'.

"Since we can't expect the Bharatiya Janata Party to do it, I feel the national opposition India bloc can take the lead in all the non-BJP states to conduct such caste-based surveys for equality and justice," urged Andhare.

Thakur feels that the impact is already showing after the Bihar survey "threw up the actual ground realities" for the government, knocking the contradictory claims of many in the past.

"The Mandal Commission, implemented in 1990, had calculated the castes very scientifically, and the then estimates of 52 percent of the total population was labelled as 'unbelievable', and challenged in the courts," said Thakur.

Now the Bihar survey report will have massive nationwide repercussions as it points to a similar status of different castes in various states, she added.

Tapase said the Bihar figures reveal that nearly 85 percent of the population comprises EBC, SCs, STs, OBCs and other communities, which was probably not expected by most people.

"If this is the situation in just Bihar, then what

will be the status pan-India? NCP president Sharad Pawar has consistently demanded a caste-based survey in Maharashtra, but the government is reluctant to do it. Unless the government has the relevant data, how can it implement various welfare measures for the down-trodden effectively," asked Tapase.

Concurring, Khan said that India is a democratic nation and unless proper, authentic data is made available on the exact status of different castes/communities, it would be impossible to do justice to the most deprived sections.

"It's 75 years after Independence, and still a significant chunk of the population is not in the national economic or political mainstream... If needed, quotas may be enhanced, to ensure that the backwards are brought forward," urged Khan.

Hailing from a micro-OBC (Ghumanti Nomadic Tribe-B) numbering around 500,000 in Maharashtra, Andhare pointed out that since the past over 50 years, Parliament has only 545 elected (Lok Sabha) MPs, which was implemented on a population base of 65 crore, but now with the population crossing 130 crore, there should be at least 1000 MPs.

"Sadly, nobody from my minuscule community is even elected at the Gram Panchayat level in the state, nearly two-thirds of the people of my clan don't even have Aadhaar Cards. You get

political benefits if you are useful or have nuisance value, otherwise the same political families or prominent backward groups will continue to wield power and influence," rued Andhare. Thakur feels that with "Bihar lighting the lamp in the darkness", it is now up to all other states, especially those ruled by

Opposition parties, to immediately take up similar caste-based surveys, bring out the castes/communities that may have been relegated behind by the bigger groups, as in Maharashtra, where the OBC list has increased from 272 to 376 castes in the past 35 years, and provide reservations or other benefits as required to all.

"My fear is that the current rulers are scared of the implications of the Bihar survey and the sudden introduction of the Women's Reservation Bill last month was a ploy to crush the demand for caste-based quotas... However, the awareness levels are very high after the Mandal Commission and such tinkering tactics could backfire," Thakur cautioned.

The leaders are unanimous that the Bihar survey has possibly opened a political Pandora's box, and as the late Prime Minister V. P. Singh had once told (this reporter) in 2001, "the deprived castes and classes will remain a dominant factor in Indian politics for at least another 75 years", could well prove prophetic.





SHOULD I BE CHIEF MINISTER AGAIN: SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN AT DINDORI RALLY?

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the wake of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra predicting Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh's Chouhan's exit from the top post following the year-end assembly polls, the latter asked people at a rally whether he should become Chief Minister again or not.



Chief Minister again.

"PM Modi ji comes here... Nowadays he is shying away from mentioning the name of Shivraj ji... just taking his own name and asking (people) to vote for me (Narendra Modi). Now he (Shivraj Chouhan) is not going to become your CM," Gandhi-Vadra claimed.

Shivraj Chouhan, the state's longest serving Chief Minister, is seen getting emotional during public events and rallies recently. In a public event held in his home-turf Budhni held recently, Shivraj Chouhan asked people if he should contest elections or not.

At a rally in Budhni, the Chief Minister had told women that they would miss a "brother like me" when he is not around.

At an event held in Ujain on Friday, he said the path of politics was slippery and there was fear of slipping at every step, and sought the blessings of spiritual leaders attending the event to ensure he continues to "walk on the path of virtue".

Earlier, in Khargone, Shivraj Chouhan had said he had no greed for any post and that he would be happy even if his bones and flesh come of use and do good to people. Asked about the recent statements

seeking public permission about his candidature during the upcoming polls, Chouhan on Friday told reporters in Bhopal, "This means we consider (each other) brother and sisters. Mama's family, which is the people of the state, understands this. If we have to contest (elections), then we will do this only after asking people."

"This is a family relation and it takes a lot of insight to understand it," he said.

Elections to the 230-member Madhya Pradesh assembly are likely to be held at the end of the year.

The BJP has announced the names of 79 candidates, who include Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Faggan Singh Kulaste, as well as party's senior leader and Indore strongman Kailash Vijayvargiya, all political heavyweights being seen as contenders for the Chief Minister's post.

Earlier this week, Vijayvargiya said he was contesting the upcoming state elections not only to become an MLA, and added that the party would give him some important responsibility.

During a press conference in August, when asked if Chouhan would be Chief Ministerial face of the party, Union Home Minister and BJP's key strategist Amit Shah had counter-questioned the media asking why it was doing the "party's work (choosing persons for posts)".

MP Assembly Polls

140 seats discussed in Congress CEC meet; list to be announced in a week: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress will announce the names of candidates on at least 140 seats for upcoming Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections within a week, party's state chief Kamal Nath said on Saturday, adding that the names of the probables were discussed in the Congress Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting here.

Speaking to the media, Kamal Nath said: "We had a meeting of the CEC, where we discussed names (of probable candidates) and we will finalise the candidates in next five to six days... The names of candidates will be announced in next six to seven days."

"We have discussed over 140 names during the meeting and will again meet to finalise the names," the former Chief Minister added.

The CEC meeting, which went on for over one and half hour, held at the party headquarters on Saturday.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, Kamal Nath,



Madhya Pradesh Congress incharge Randeep Singh Surjewala, Screening Committee chairman Jitendra Singh and many others attended the meeting.

This was the first CEC meeting to discuss the candidates for the upcoming assembly polls in the state.

Kharge had reconstituted the 16-member CEC on September 4 with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and many others as its members.

The 16-member CEC also has veteran party leader like Ambika Soni, Madhusudan Mistry, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Salman Khurshid, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister T.S. Singh Deo,

K.J. Geogre, Pritam Singh, Mohammad Jawed, Ameer Yajnik, P.L. Punia, Omkar Markam and Venugopal as its members.

The Congress is campaigning aggressively in Madhya Pradesh with Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra leading from the front. All the three senior leaders had addressed public meetings in the state.

The Congress has also announced several guarantees in the state and is eyeing to return in power in the state. On the other hand, the BJP is also eyeing to retain the power in the state and has already announced two lists for the state.

Miner girl sexually assaulted, School Van driver arrested in Indore

Team Absolute | Indore

A four-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by the driver of a van that ferried children to a private playschool in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, police said on Saturday. Based on a complaint lodged by the parents of the child, the police arrested the van driver, identified as Sumit, on Friday evening, an official said.



The assault came to light when the mother noticed the girl's unusual behaviour, and she complained of pain in her private parts, Sanayogitaganj Police Station in-charge Vijay Tiwari said. The girl informed her mother that the accused had touched her private parts and sexually assaulted her, he

said. "The parents brought the child to the police station and she was sent for medical examination," the official said. The police collected the driver's details from the private playschool and arrested him in the evening, he said. The accused has been

booked under sections 376(3) (rape on woman under 16 years of age), 354 (assault or criminal force to any woman) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Mr Tiwari said.

Caste census is one of the primary agendas of Congress: Surjewala

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said on Saturday that at the meeting of the Central Election Committee (CEC) of the party, caste census was also discussed as it is one of the top priorities of the party to ensure justice for the OBC, SC and ST communities.

The CEC meeting chaired by party President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday was attended by Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi, among other senior leaders.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Surjewala, who is also the in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, said the CEC meeting discussed the political situation in the poll-bound state.

"We discussed how the BJP and the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government has brought the state to a situation where government jobs are sold, where women and daughters are not safe... Madhya Pradesh has a number of alleged scams," he said.



"We briefed the CEC that the state needs to change and there is also a wave of change. This is

the reason why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stopped taking the name of Shivraj Singh Chouhan. He is also not discussing his works in the last 18 years in the state," the Congress leader said, adding that there is no such scheme that the Prime Minister can mention.

"The CEC also discussed the candidates for the Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh. We have decided to meet again," he said.

When asked if caste-based census was discussed at the meeting, Surjewala said, "Caste census is one of the primary agendas of the party. OBC, SC and ST communities should get justice, and it is the priority of the Congress in Madhya Pradesh. The matter was discussed and Kamal Nath said that this will remain our primary agenda."

The Congress is campaigning aggressively in Madhya Pradesh with Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra leading from the front.

All the three senior leaders have addressed public meetings in the poll-bound state.

Congress did nothing for backward classes, opposed reservation for them: Jyotiraditya Scindia

Team Absolute | Gwalior

Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has hit out at the Congress, accusing it of not doing anything for backward classes during the 70 years of its rule, and alleged that it also opposed reservation for people from this community.

The Civil Aviation Minister made the allegation while talking to reporters in Gwalior on Friday.

His remark comes in the wake of the 'Jitni abaadi, utna haq' (rights proportionate to the population) pitch made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi following the Bihar government's caste survey report, which revealed that the Extremely Backward Classes and the Other Backward Classes constitute 63 per cent of the state's population. Replying to a question about



Bihar's caste survey and the Congress's reaction to it, Scindia said, "This party (Congress) did not do anything for the backward classes in 70 years." "When the report of a commission

(on backward classes) was submitted during the tenure of prime minister Morarji Desai, the Congress opposed it. When the government led by V P Singh implemented reservation for backward classes, the Congress

opposed that as well," Scindia said.

But Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes, and 60 per cent members in his cabinet belong to these communities, he added.

It is the government led by PM Modi that gave 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs, he said.

"The Congress is trying to rake up a new issue at the time of elections, but it never did anything for these communities during its long rule," Scindia, who was earlier with the grand old party but joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2020, said.

The Union minister, expressed confidence that the BJP would form a government in Madhya Pradesh after the assembly elections due to be held soon.

CM Chouhan plants Banyan, Belpatra, Moulshree, Gulmohar and Peepal saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Banyan, Belpatra, Moulshree, Gulmohar and Peepal in the Smart Garden located at Shyamla Hills. Along with CM Chouhan, officials of the Public Relations Department planted saplings and expressed gratitude towards him for the prompt implementation of the announcement of handing over the charge of senior posts in the department.

It is noteworthy that for the first time in the Public Relations Department, a large number of officers and employees have been given the charge of senior posts in each cadre. Chief Minister Chouhan greeted and extended good wishes to the officials of the Public Relations Department. Public Relations Commissioner Manish Singh was also present. CM Chouhan also hailed the working methodology of the officers for providing information about the policies, development programmes and welfare



schemes of the state government to the people and for doing outstanding publicity work.

Mobile Deendayal Rasoi Kendra will provide full meals to poor and needy people in 4 cities for just Rs 5

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today flagged off 10 mobile Deendayal Rasoi Kendras from Smart Park. These mobile centers will go to those places in Bhopal and three other cities and provide full meals to workers and other needy people for just five rupees where such people work. Mobile centres will also be operated in other cities of the state.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay considered the poor as God. He believed that if you served the deprived then it would be considered that you have worshipped God. Accepting this mantra of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, many schemes are being conducted in Madhya Pradesh to serve Dairida Narayan or the poor who is like God. One of these schemes is Deendayal Rasoi Yojana. CM Chouhan said that there are two main objectives of launching this scheme. One is that poor people can get food at concessional rates, second is that migrant workers and other needy citizens can get the facility of a full meal near their work-



place. With this system, such labourers who come from village to city to earn their living will be able to get fresh meal at their place of work without spending much money and time.

The centres operated earlier were located at one place only. The mobile kitchen centres will provide food at the cost of only Rs 5. When laborers went to other places for food, their wages were spent on food. The workers used to spend their hard-earned money just for food. State government has made arrangements to give subsidy at the rate of Rs 10 per person under the scheme.

TAKE A PLEDGE TO SERVE WILD ANIMALS FOR ALL 365 DAYS: GOVERNOR 98 winners of various competitions awarded in the ceremony. State level Wildlife Week concludes and prize distribution ceremony held

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the human species is the most powerful among nature's creations. He has amazing powers of intelligence and speech. It is the duty of man to take the responsibility of serving forests and wild animals. He has appealed to the citizens to take a pledge to protect, conserve and serve forests and wildlife 365 days. He extended his best wishes for the bright future of the award winners. He hoped that they should step forward in the society with enthusiasm and sense of responsibility and lead forest and wildlife conservation efforts.

Governor Patel was addressing the state level Wildlife Week closing and prize distribution ceremony organized at Van Vihar National Park on

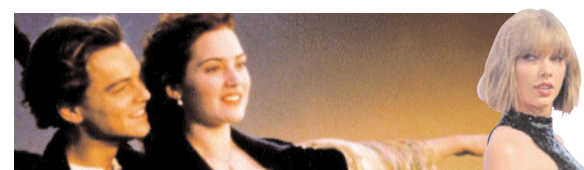


Saturday. In the programme, 98 winners of various competitions organized in Van Vihar National Park were awarded. Satpura Tiger Reserve Coffee Table Book, Butterfly, Van Vihar National Park Butterfly Survey Report and Vananchal, a quarterly magazine on the activities of the forest department were launched.

Governor Patel said that his association with forests and wild animals is very old. He has long experience of working as Forest Minister in Gujarat.

He said that the share of human species in the entire world is very small, there are innumerable species of fauna and flora all around us. The delicate balance between these different species and our human race constitutes the ecological system in which biodiversity plays an important role. Thousands of years ago, our sages, through their penance, sacrifice and sadhana, had given the message of goodwill among the living beings for the conservation of the ecological system. This is the reason why forests and wildlife have a special place in Indian culture. The vehicles of various gods and goddesses are these wild beings. Trees and plants are worshipped. He explained about the prakasha of the forest, the Navgrahas, the cultural significance of plants for each of the 12 zodiac signs and 27 constellations. Mentioning the

environmental usefulness of forests as well as the effects of forests on health, Governor Patel said that the tribal community of Dang district of forest-depleted Gujarat is not affected by the genetic blood disorder sickle cell, whereas tribal communities across the world are less affected by sickle cell. The absence of disease in the tribal community of Dang can also be considered an indication of the benefits of forests on their health. He said that Giloy, which is important in immunity from Corona pandemic, is also a contribution of forests. Describing the organization of Wild Life Conservation Week as an initiative to strengthen the knowledge of the new generation regarding wild animals and public participation in conservation, the Forest Department has been described as deserving of gratitude and congratulations.



Angelina Jolie had dark fashion sense as teen



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie revealed she was a teenage punk who used to cut up her clothes and burn holes in them.

She talked about her "dark" style choices when she was younger as she launches her own fashion brand Atelier Jolie which will open a shop in New York in November to provide tailoring and upcycling services as well as made to measure pieces.

"I was quite dark when I was young. I was a punk, not the popular kid -- going to thrift stores, cutting things up, burning little teeny cigarette holes into things, that was me as a teenager, and I wouldn't trade it for the world," Angelina admitted she was a particularly rebellious fashion lover when speaking about her previous looks to Vogue magazine, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Her shop will also boast a gallery and a cafe and will provide a made-to-measure clothing service as well as repairs as part of a commitment to sustainability.

Hand-painted patches will cost around \$10 to apply and Angelina has been looking into a way to get a person's tattoos imprinted on the fabric which will be used to repair their clothing.

She said, "We're trying to see if we can take photographs of tattoos and turn them into patches -- the idea is to make your clothing your own, instead of simply getting rid of it."

The project has also allowed her to create a capsule collection with fashion house Chloe which is inspired by Angelina's Hollywood style and 84 per cent of the range is made using sustainable and ethical materials.

Mad Mikkeleson says he forgot 'Casino Royale' script, improvised his performance

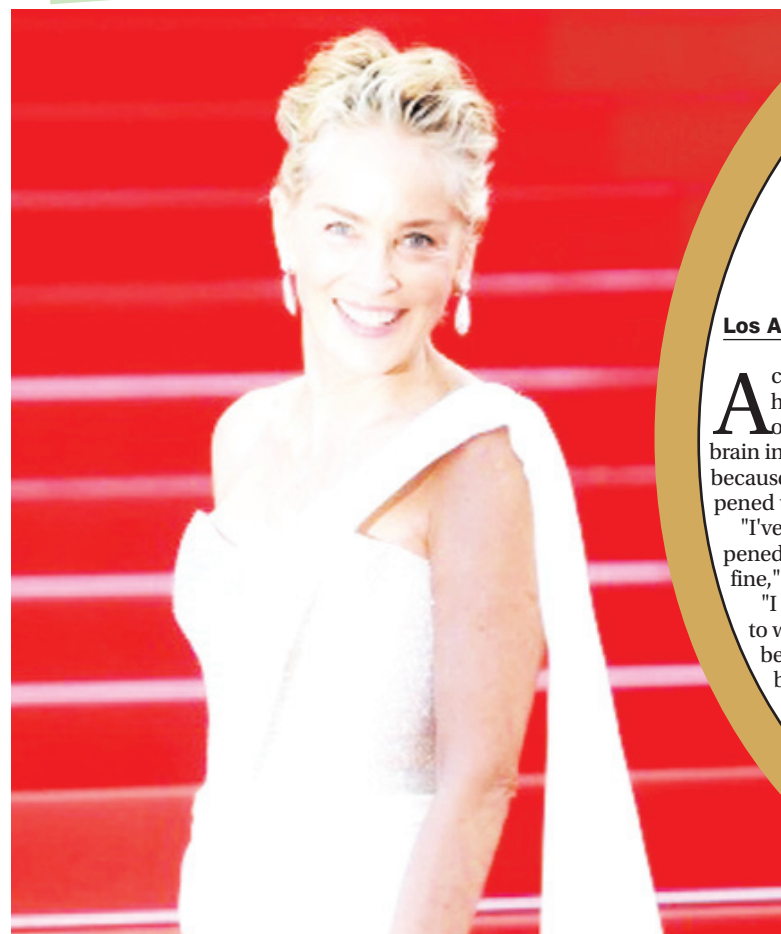
Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Mad Mikkeleson is known for his sinister and tough persona portrayals with one of his best known films being 'Casino Royale' where he played the main villain Le Chiffre.

While attending the Zurich Film Festival to promote his feature 'The Promised Land', the Danish actor told audiences that he had in fact forgotten the script and instead improvised for a great duration of the movie, with his partner-in-crime being James Bond actor Daniel Craig in an ironic twist. Talking to the audience at the Zurich Film Festival, he detailed the incident and said: "Casino Royale" was the first screenplay with my name on every single page. Which also means that if you lose it, it's on you. I got on a plane, started to read it and I fell asleep. Then I got out and just left it there."

He added: "I was lucky some cleaning person threw it away and didn't know what it was. That could have been the end of my career, right then."

The 'Rogue One' actor also revealed that he was completely unfamiliar with James Bond when he applied for the role. Adding on to this, he said: "I had never watched a Bond movie up to that point and of course I lied about it. I only knew that guy with metal teeth (Jaws)."



Sharon Stone requires 'eight hours of uninterrupted sleep' after brain hemorrhage

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Sharon Stone requires eight hours of sleep a night so she doesn't have seizures. The 65-year-old actress only had a one per cent chance of making it through alive after she suffered a nine-day bleed on her brain in 2001, and she admitted she doesn't "get hired a lot" these days because of the way she needs to manage the ongoing effects of what happened to her.

"I've become more comfortable with publicly saying what's really happened to me (now). For a long time I wanted to pretend that I was just fine," she told People magazine, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I need eight hours of uninterrupted sleep for my brain medication to work so that I don't have seizures. So I'm a disability hire, and because of that I don't get hired a lot. These are the things that I've been dealing with for the past 22 years, and I am open about that now."

Following her hospitalisation, the "Basic Instinct" star was "stuttering" and not "seeing correctly," as well as suffering from memory loss, but it wasn't only her health issues and the lack of work opportunities that rocked her.

Co-worker accuses Bryan Fuller of sexual assault on movie set

Los Angeles | Agencies

Screenwriter and producer Bryan Fuller, best known for creating shows such as 'Hannibal' and 'American Gods', faces a bunch of charges by his fellow co-worker related to sexual harassment on the set of his latest feature 'Queer For Fear'.

In addition, Fuller has also been accused of making constant and bizarrely perverted references to topics related to masturbation, engaging in casual bullying, and creating a hostile work environment.

Plaintiff Sam Wineman alleged that Fuller also repeatedly held him from behind to "crack his back," during which he would press his genitals against Wineman's buttocks as per Deadline.



The former complaint filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court states: "Defendant Bryan Fuller cultivated and maintained a hostile work environment as a result of harassment, discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault and retaliation from the years 2020 to 2022."

"Mr. Fuller sexually assaulted plaintiff several times throughout the Steakhaus Production of 'Queer for Fear' for AMC defendants and their streaming service Shudder," Wineman and his Good Gustafson Aumais LLP and Atkins & Associates lawyers add in the September 28 dated complaint, which is seeking a jury trial.

A director on the project along with Fuller, Wineman is also gay and has collaborated with him before but then went on to claim that after he reported his co-worker's alleged "abuse...unlawful behaviour and comments" and "preoccupation with masturbation" to Shudder VP Nick Lazo and others, he was axed from 'Queer for Fear' in August 2021.

Gwyneth Paltrow has had 'successful and unsuccessful' experiences with Botox

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow has shared what works and doesn't work for her beauty regimen. The 'Iron Man' actress took some time out of her schedule to do a brief social media Q&A with her supporters as she prepared for a television appearance. As fans flooded her messages, Paltrow, 51, revealed she has a love-hate relationship with botox. After being asked if she'd ever tried the injectable, she admitted that she has, reports People magazine. "God yes. Both successfully and unsuccessfully I'm afraid," Paltrow responded on her Instagram Story. In the next Q&A post, a fan commended the 'Avengers: Endgame' star for shooting a closeup photo with the New York Times. The individual then asked, "How does your skin look so good?" Paltrow thanked the person and assured them that her healthy glow comes from her being "diligent with my skin care." As per People, she also shared her current skincare routine which consists of products from her company Goop including Microderm, a peptide serum, and a once a week overnight peel pad. Paltrow previously spoke to People about another wrinkle-reducing injectable that she'd given a shot, Xeomin.



Kim Kardashian talks about her acne struggles

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has opened up about her acne struggles, revealing that she has "really sensitive" skin.

The 42-year-old beauty has previously spoken about her skin troubles, but Kim thinks she manages to conceal it "really well" using make-up.

She told Refinery29: "It's (concealed) really well under that I had that experience."

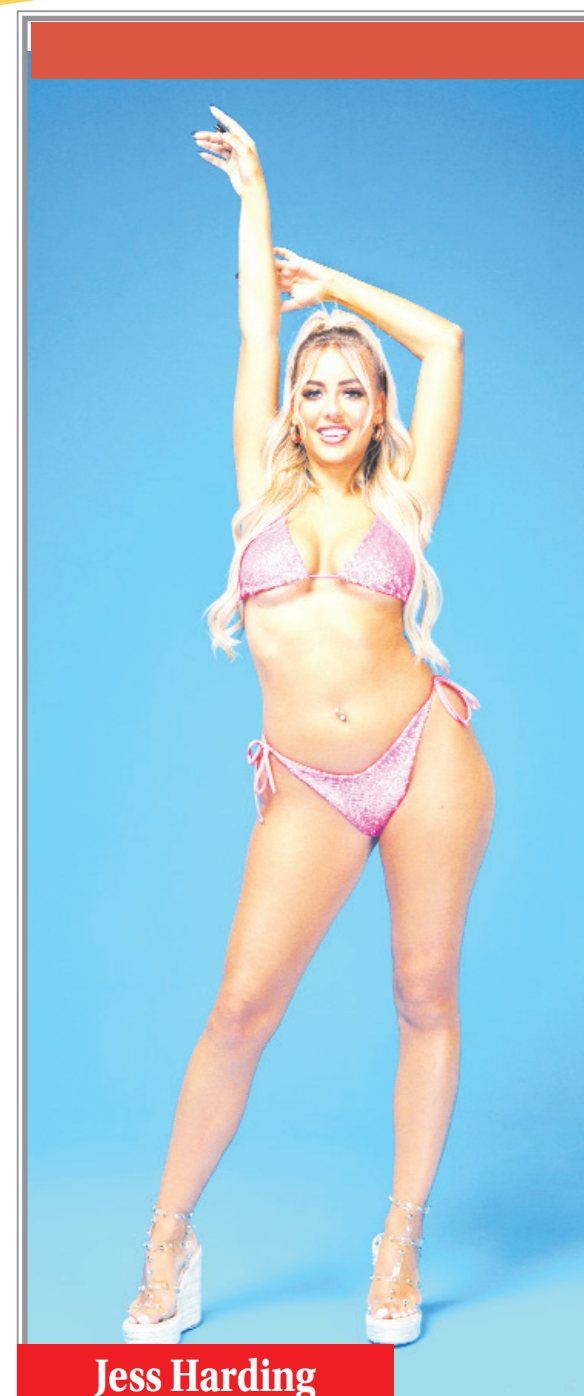
Kim admits that her skin can be "really sensitive" and she's surprised that she's continued to struggle with acne into her 40s, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The reality TV star said: "I'm like, should I stop using oils if I have acne? Then realising, no, to stop using oil hasn't been helpful. It could be hormonal or a change in supplements. Every time I change the way that I eat or try different foods -- I guess my skin has gotten really sensitive."

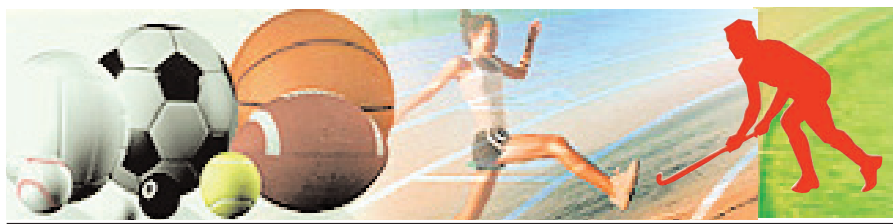
"It's been really interesting to try new products and figure out what works for different skin that I never thought I would experience in my 40s."

Kim also suffers from psoriasis, a skin disease that can cause itchy, scaly patches to appear.

However, the reality star isn't entirely sure what triggers it and she's "given up on trying to figure it out".



Jess Harding



Asian Games

INDIAN MEN'S CRICKET TEAM BAGS GOLD IN RAIN ABANDONED MATCH

Hangzhou | Agencies

Indian Men's cricket team bagged a gold medal after rain abandoned the final match against Afghanistan at the Asian Games, here on Saturday.

Team India, by virtue of having a higher seeding, won the gold medal.

Earlier, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led Women's team scripted history by winning the first cricket Gold in the Asian Games, and now Ruturaj Gaikwad's side brought double glory to home.

In the grand final, Afghanistan batted first after Ruturaj Gaikwad decided to field first.

The start was not convincing for them as they lost three wickets early in the innings.

Zubaid Akbari was the first batter to get dismissed by Shivam Dube on 5. Then Arshdeep Singh dismissed Mohammad Shahzad on 4. Noor Ali Zadran, the number three batter got run out on 1.

For India, Ravi Bishnoi was the star bowler bowling at an economy of 3 per over and taking a wicket. Arshdeep Singh, Shivam Dube, and Shahbaz Ahmed shared three wickets between them.

The decision in the end went in India's favour as they are a highly ranked team in the ICC Rankings as compared to Afghanistan.

India captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, after India



INDIA @ AG 22
MEN'S CRICKET
won the gold medal by virtue of their higher ICC world ranking after their match with Afghanistan was abandoned due to rain didn't seem pleased and stated, "It was pretty much disappointing. Obviously, we would

INDIA BAGS SILVER MEDALS IN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAM CHESS

Hangzhou: The Indian men's and women's teams won silver medals in their respective sections to restore some pride for a nation that is challenging the world order, as chess returned to the Asian Games after a gap of 12 years. On Saturday, Iran blanked the Republic of Korea 4-0 while India defeated Philippines 3.5-0.5 -- Praggnanandhaa, a Grandmaster with a rating of 2727, losing the half-point after being held to a draw by an International Master rated 2434. Uzbekistan took third place with 14 Match Points after blanking Thailand 4-0 in the ninth and final round.

In the women's section, China, who were already assured of gold, finished with 17 points while India ended second with 15. Kazakhstan took the bronze medal with 13 points.

ARCHERS JYOTHI, OJAS ENJOY SIMILAR LUCK WITH THREE GOLD HAUL

Hangzhou: They come from different backgrounds but on Saturday, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Ojas Pravin Deotale were perched atop the same pedestal as India's most successful athletes at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou -- each having won three gold medals in compound archery. Jyothi is from Hyderabad in Telangana, born to a former kabaddi player, who now is a veterinary doctor in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh and a housewife.

Ojas is from Nagpur in Maharashtra, born in a middle-class family with his father in the property business and his mother working as principal of a school.

They do have a lot of similarities too -- both are compound archers, and both won the Team, Individual and Mixed Team gold medals in the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou.

have loved to have a full game and get a result through the full game, but it's a thing we cannot control. The match officials came and told us around 5 p.m. I think we pretty much knew by then because the rain was getting heavier."



INDIA BAG GOLD IN MEN'S KABADDI

Hangzhou: In a highly intense thriller amid referee's goof-up, India clinched yet another gold at the Asian Games after defeating Iran 33-29 in the kabaddi men's final, here on Saturday.

Indian team was trailing by three points (6-9), before the halfway stage of the first half, however, India, after going down 9-12 at one point, came back strong to finish 17-14 at the end of the first half against Iran.

With just over a minute remaining, and scores tied 28-28, in the match, Pawan Sehrawat from the Indian team was forced to go in for a do-or-die raid.

Men's ODI World Cup

South Africa's Markram scripts history, smashes fastest ODI World Cup century



Team Absolute | New Delhi

South Africa batter Aiden Markram smashed the fastest ODI World Cup hundred, scripting history in a mere 49 balls, here on Saturday.

The 29-year-old reached the three-figure mark off 49 deliveries against Sri Lanka in their ODI World Cup 2023 opener match. The previous record was held by Ireland's Kevin O'Brien (50 balls against England in the 2011 World Cup).

Markram ended his inning on 106 off 54 deliveries, comprised of 14 boundaries and 3 maximums.

South Africa's tremendous batting performance was just outstanding, as they reached 428 for 5, which is now the biggest total in World Cup history. Quinton de Kock and Rassie van der Dussen set the stage with a stunning 204-run partnership for the second wicket, then Aiden Markram blasted out the remaining 20 overs with the fastest World Cup century ever-a 49-ball score.

It was also the first time that three batters have made 100s in a World Cup innings, and the first time any team has managed it since England toured the Netherlands back in 2022.

SATWIK/CHIRAG ADDS GOLDEN CHAPTER TO INDIA'S BADMINTON HISTORY

Hangzhou: While answering questions from the media after HS Prannoy had bagged a bronze medal in the men's singles, India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand said that his top doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty can go all the way to the final.

The Indian pair were yet to play the doubles semifinal against a strong Malaysian combination of Aaron Chia Teng Fong and Soh Wooi Yik, who were ranked fifth in the BWF Ranking while the Indians were placed ninth.

Also, Shetty and Rankireddy were not in the best of conditions going into the match -- while Shetty has still not recovered from viral fever he caught on his way here, the duo had very indifferent form this season including a first-round exit in the China Open and a quarterfinal defeat at the World Championship preceding the Asian Games.

So, Gopichand's prediction that "I think Chirag and Satwik could go all the way in men's doubles" was met with scepticism. But the ace men's double pair made history on Saturday as it claimed the first gold medal for India in the Asian Games badminton competition, beating the Republic of Korea's Choi Solgyu and Kim Wonho in straight games in the final, winning 21-18, 21-16 in a match that lasted three minutes short of an hour.

Deepak Punia wins silver medal in disappointing wrestling campaign

Hangzhou | Agencies

Former World Junior Champion and 2019 World Championship in senior category, Deepak Punia salvaged some pride for Indian wrestling at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou by winning a silver medal in the Men's Freestyle 86Kg wrestling here on Saturday.

Punia, who missed a bronze medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, fought superbly to reach the gold medal match but bowed down to Iran's Hassan Yazdaniharati, the Rio Olympic Games gold medalist who claimed a silver in Tokyo in 2021 and a three-time World Champion in the 86kg.

The Iranian defended the



INDIA @ AG 22
WRESTLING: FREESTYLE 86KG
DEEPAK PUNIA
gold he had won in the 2018 Games in Indonesia by beating Punia Victory by technical superiority - without any point scored by the opponent, 3 minutes 31 seconds into the six-minute bout.
Punia was totally overpowered by the Iranian wrestler who won eight technical points in the first period of the bout and then added two more points as Punia was cautioned and shown a yellow

low card for not making enough effort in the bout.

Among the other wrestlers in action on Saturday, Yash lost in the quarterfinals in men's freestyle 74kg, Sumit lost to a Kazakhstan grappler in the first round of men's freestyle 125kg while Vicky lost to Kazakhstan's Alisher Yergali in men's freestyle 97kg bout.

Punia had started his campaign with some dominant wins in the preliminary rounds. He defeated Uzbekistan's Javrail Shapiev, winning a close bout 4-3 VPO1 (victory by points with points scored by the opponent).

India team coach Sujet Maan was happy with Punia's performance saying the wrestler had some injuries last year.

Indian women's hockey team beat Japan 2-1 to win Bronze medal at Asian Games

Hangzhou | Agencies

The Indian Women's Hockey Team on Saturday registered a brilliant 2-1 win over Japan to clinch the Bronze medal at the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022. This is India's fourth Bronze medal in Women's Field Hockey at the Asian Games. Deepika (5') and Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam (50') scored a goal each for the Indian team, while for Japan, Captain Yuri Nagai (30') netted the lone goal.

For their impressive performance and the podium finish, Hockey India announced a prize of R 3 Lakh to each player of the Indian Women's Hockey Team and R 1.50 Lakh to each support staff.

The match started with Japan prioritizing ball possession, whereas India immediately went on the offensive. This aggressive approach paid off as they earned a penalty stroke,



expertly converted by Deepika (5') thus granting her team an early advantage. India also managed to secure three penalty corners within the first 15 minutes, but unfortunately, they couldn't capitalize on them. As the first quarter concluded, India

held a 1-0 lead.

The second quarter witnessed Japan increasing the frequency of their attacks in order to find an equaliser, while India shifted their focus on keeping possession and counter-attacking to keep the pres-

sure on Japan. While India's strategy worked to some extent, it was Japan who somehow managed to bounce back in the game with their Captain Yuri Nagai (30') scoring through the penalty corner in the very last second of the second quarter to put her team on level terms as the score was tied at 1-1 at the halftime break.

Desperate to take lead in the game, India began the fourth quarter on an attacking note and also won an early penalty corner but Vice Captain Deep Grace Ekka's shot was saved by Japan's goalkeeper Eika Nakamura. However, the Indian team continued to keep the pressure on Japan by attacking relentlessly and it paid off when India came up with a superb variation after winning a penalty corner and Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam (50') smartly placed the ball inside the goal after receiving a pass from Deep Grace Ekka to give India a 2-1 lead.

Arya Singh takes opening day honours in round 2 of National Racing Championship 2023

Coimbatore | Agencies

Arya Singh of Dark Don Racing completed a grand double winning both the blue riband LGB Formula 4 races, on the opening day of round 2 of National Racing Championship 2023, here on Saturday.

Arya began the day on an imperious note winning the opening race. Starting from P3, the Kolkata racer quickly exerted his dominance and sneaked into the lead in the first lap itself while overtaking his senior teammate T.S. Diljith. But Diljith kept up the pressure and got the lead back in the next lap only to hand it back to Arya.

However, with the safety car out in the fourth lap, it was expected the one behind the leader would make up lost ground and press hard to narrow the gap. But, Arya drove with guile and precision to keep his nose ahead.

Diljith kept the pace but could not find a way past and eventually had to rest content with the



second spot. Championship leader Tijil Rao of Dark Don Racing looked good to secure a third-place finish but his joy was short-lived as Ruhaan Alva of MSPORT took him by surprise in the final corner for a place on the podium. The second race turned out to be an anti-climax; it was a safety car finish due to a collision in the penultimate lap. It was Diljith who was at his fiery best and led the pack till the eighth lap before the safety car came out for the first time. The introduction of the safety car shorted his momentum and Arya took his chance to shoot into the lead. Diljith just could not recover after the safety car incident and despite giving his all he could not overtake Arya. And with just over a lap remaining, the safety car came out again which slowed down the pace helping Arya register his second win of the day.

Diljith finished behind him, while Ruhaan Alva of MSPORT overtook Tijil and others in front of him before the yellow flag was waved to finish third.

Biles wins historic gold to record sixth world all-around title

Antwerp | Agencies

Simone Biles of the United States capped her stunning return by winning the sixth world all-around title here on Friday at the 52nd FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Championships.

The occasion took place in the Antwerp Sportpaleis, the same arena where she won her first world all-around title 10 years ago. The 26-year-old earned 58.399 points to secure the gold with powerful dominance, ahead of 2022 world champion Rebeca Andrade (56.766) from Brazil and her US teammate Shilese Jones (56.332), reports Xinhua.

Biles showed a solid Cheng vault for the top score of 15.100 and performed steadily on uneven bars for 14.333. She collected the highest scores from balance beam and floor exercise as well.

It came 26 months after Biles made global headlines



by withdrawing from most of the finals at the Tokyo Olympic Games to protect her physical and mental health after struggling with the "twisties" in training and competition.

With the historic gold, Biles combined 34 world and Olympic medals, surpassing the Belarusian gymnastic legend Vitaly Scherbo to become the new record holder with the most medals.



Comeback Saga



In the year 1986, the action drama Hollywood film 'Top Gun' was released in theaters all over the world. The film was a phenomenal success. The film starred Tom Cruise and Callie Magills as heroine and was directed by Tony Scott. The hero's aviator sunglasses, bike, jacket, airplane, which were shown on the poster of this movie, fascinated the youth of that time. The poster of this movie was very impressive. In the form of this film, the youth got a film that represented them. The hero's clothing and fashion style, the adventure scenes of the film made the youth of that time crazy. Then in 2022 i.e. about 36 years after the first part, the second part of this film 'Top Gun: Maverick' was released. In Maverick, the audience got to see the progression of the plot of the first part. Even the hero of the film had not changed. Even the characters were not changed. The director of the first episode, Tony Scott, died in the interim, so directing Maverick fell to Joseph Kosinski. The team that wrote Maverick's story was also in the first episode, Jim Cash and Jack Epps Jr. The movie Maverick had to face many crises like Covid and Lockdown during its production. Therefore, its production period was prolonged. Also, with such a long gap between the release of

the first and second parts, the audience might have forgotten the magic of the first part, some experts strongly advised the makers not to release it in theaters to avoid loss and embarrassment.

The movie Gadar Ek Prem Katha was released in the year 2001. The plot, set against the backdrop of the partition of India and Pakistan, featured Sunny Deol, Amisha Patel and child actor Utkarsh, son of Amrith Puri, Lillette Dubey, Vivek Shouk and director Anil Sharma in lead roles. Anil Sharma was the director. Screenplay was written by Shaktiman Talwar. Gadar was a super-hit despite being released alongside Lagaan. Its second part Gadar 2 released on August 11 this year. The story of the first film was taken forward in the second part. The second part shows that Sunny Deol's younger son in the film is now grown up and gets arrested after he goes to Pakistan. The success of this film is still blowing in all directions and this film has become the second highest grosser of this year and the 6th highest grosser of all time in Hindi cinema. The film has grossed over Rs 524 crore till date.

In Gadar 2, we see the return of actors, plot, characters, director. Audiences love the first part of such films so it is natural that they have high expectations from the comeback films.

Few films succeed by standing true to this test of audience. Tom Cruise's Top Gun Maverick and Sunny Deol's 'Gadar 2' have proved this. The film career of both these actors, who have crossed the line for age, has taken a new turn with the comeback film. That is, we can say that his first part of this film was Hukmi Ekka. Making a comeback is not a new thing for people working in the film industry. So far, many actors, directors, technicians have taken a break from their work for a few years. The reason can be anything personal or professional. It can be said that Shah Rukh Khan has also made a comeback as a Pathan in a way. Because after the film 'Zero' released in 2018, his 'Pathan' came after almost 5 years.

Mrs. Madhuri Dixit, who stayed away from films after settling in America, made a comeback with 'Aaja Nachle'. But the film did not perform as expected. Some films with such comebacks work while others flop. Sushmita Sen made her comeback with the web series Arya and her work was appreciated. Bobby Deol also made a comeback with 'Class of 83'. Sridevi also made a successful comeback with 'English Vinglish' and 'Mom'. Rani Mukherjee also made a comeback with Mardaani and Hichki. The return of these actors was much talked about.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Taking a stroll down the memory lane, actress Bhumi Pednekar recalled a memory of accidentally getting on a roller-coaster ride in London's festive fair called Winter Wonderland, revealing that she is scared to sit on the amusement park rides.

This weekend, the talent-based reality show, 'India's Got Talent' season 10, sees Bhumi Pednekar, Shehnaaz Gill, Kusha Kapila, Dolly Singh, and Shibani Bedi as the guests.

Not only will they enjoy the performances but also add their

Bhumi Pednekar is not 'adrenaline junkie'; shares her fear of roller-coaster ride

enigmatic charm to the show. Featuring a larger-than-life swing as their prop, 'The ART' (Abhishek from Uttar Pradesh, Rahul from Jaipur, and Tejas from Mumbai) will impress one and all with their sizzling act on 'Lahu Munh Lag Gaya'.

The song is from the 2013 romantic action drama 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela', written and directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The film stars Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh in lead roles, with Priyanka Chopra making a special appearance in the song 'Ram Chaha Leela'.

The track 'Lahu Munh Lag Gaya' is sung by Shail Hada, Osman Mir, Shadab Faridi, and Altamash Faridi.

Amazed by their act, Bhumi goes on to share an interesting memory, as she said: "I'm not an adrenaline junkie and I get very scared when I sit on amusement park rides. And when I was watching this act, it reminded me of the day I accidentally got on a roller coaster for the first time."

"I was so scared that day, and I felt the same way today. I don't know where this coordination, confidence, and courage come from, but obviously, you guys look great, you're extremely fit, and there's no denying that. But genuinely, in your performance, there was so much energy. I didn't see a moment of doubt or fear on your faces; it was perfect, and I thoroughly enjoyed it," shares the 'Durgamati' fame actress.

Ali Fazal has a wonderful range: Vishal Bhardwaj

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj, who has recently collaborated with actor Ali Fazal for the spy thriller 'Khufiya', shared how he was fascinated by the latter's previous performances, saying he was looking for an opportunity to work with him. Ali is best known for his role of Guddu Pandit in the action crime thriller web series 'Mirzapur'. Apart from Ali, it also stars Pankaj Tripathi, Shweta Tripathi Sharma, Divyendu, Vikrant Massey, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Rasika Dugal, Harshita Gaur and Kulbhushan Kharbada in pivotal roles. The actor is also known for his work in projects like '3 Idiots', 'Fukrey', 'Sonali Cable', 'Milan Talkies', amongst many others. In the Vishal Bhardwaj directorial 'Khufiya', Ali plays the character of Ravi Mohan. Talking about casting Ali in the film, the National Film Award-winning director told IANS: "I have been seeing him for such a long time. Everyone has seen his work in 'Mirzapur'. Entire country loved his performance. I saw him in 'Fukrey'."



"I also saw him in a film, which unfortunately has not been released, and don't know when it will be released. It is directed by Shujaat Saudagar. So when it was sent to me during the pandemic - it was a story of two people, who are trapped in a home, riots are

going on. One of them is Hindu, the other is Muslim. So that is such a beautiful performance by Ali. I saw a very different layer of Ali in that. It was very different from his image of Guddu bhaiya from 'Mirzapur'," shared the 'Maqbool' director.

Aishwarya Rai trolled for her pictures in black outfit

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former 'Miss World' and actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who had recently drawn mixed reactions for walking the ramp at the Paris Fashion Week, was once again trolled for her recent outfit and looks, with fans calling out at her photoshopped pictures.

The beautiful actress keeps her fans updated with her life events on Instagram. She enjoys a following of 12.9 million followers on the photo-sharing application. Her account is a vibrant diary of her personal and professional updates.

Recently, the 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam' fame actress took to her account and dropped a new set of pictures, wherein she can be seen donning a black outfit, with a sweetheart neckline. The all black outfit had pearl embroidered sleeves, and some embroidery work at the bottom of the dress, making it a distinct piece of ensemble.

She opted for her signature bold red lips, and minimal makeup look. Aishwarya kept her hair open and styled it in a wavy manner. She completed the look with black pointed toe heels.

Aishwarya captioned the post with three heart emojis. However, the pictures didn't go well with the netizens, and they flooded the comment section, saying: "This is definitely air brushed on multiple levels. This isn't her figure or her face anymore. Why don't ppl embrace gaining weight positively with age? I mean such an educated woman I wouldn't expect to fall for beauty brushes", "How much photoshopped is too much photoshopped?"

The fans further wrote: "Too much photoshopped you're pretty accept yourself the way you are."



Radhika Seth