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DEMAND FOR SKILLED INDIAN YOUTH GROWING GLOBALLY, SAYS PM MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the demand for skilled Indian youth is growing internationally owing to the increasing age profile in the demography of many countries around the world.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Referring to a study which found that 16 countries have planned to provide employment to around four million skilled youth, PM Modi said that India is preparing skilled professionals not for itself but also for the world.

Inaugurating online 511 Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras (PMGKVK) spread across 34 districts in Maharashtra, the PM said that these Skill Centers will prepare the local youth for global jobs in construction, modern farming, electronics, media and entertainment.

PM Modi also emphasised the need to provide training in soft skills like basic foreign language using Artificial Intelligence tool for language interpretation which will make the Indian youth more attractive for foreign recruiters. The PMGKVK will conduct skill development training programs across various sectors to provide jobs to the rural youth to help them contribute to nation-building.

Under the scheme, PM Modi said



that more than 1.30 crore youth have been provided training under multiple traits while hundreds of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras have been set up in the country.

PM Modi also explained how skill development can bolster social justice and contribute to the upliftment of the Dalits, backwards and tribals whose landholdings were meagre,

and now these sections are among the highest beneficiaries. Recalling the reformer Savitribai J. Phule's contributions to starting women's education, the PM said that Swayam Sahayata Samuhs have imparted training of different types to more than three crore women in the country under the Women Empowerment Programme.

Present at the virtual inauguration were Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar among other dignitaries. Each of the PMGKVK launched on Thursday will train around 100 youth in at least two vocational courses with a panel of industry partners and agencies under the National Skill Development Council



Rahul Gandhi promises caste census in Telangana

Bhupalpally | Agencies

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday promised that once voted to power in Telangana, the party will undertake a caste census in the state.

Addressing corner meetings during Vijayabheri Yatra in Bhupalpally district on Thursday, he described caste census as the biggest issue in the country and questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao on the issue.

Rahul Gandhi, who was campaigning in Telangana for the second day, said the caste census will be like an X-ray which will determine if the population of backward classes is only five per cent in the country. "OBCs have control of only five per cent of India's budget. I want to ask if the OBC population in the country is only five per cent," he asked.

The Congress leader said the party has already ordered caste census in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Karnataka. "If our party comes to power in Telangana, the first thing we will do here will be Telangana's X-ray," he said



and promised that Congress will provide a government of the poor, farmers and workers.

Rahul Gandhi said that the 'X-ray' will also reveal how much money of people of Telangana was looted by the family of the Chief Minister.

The Congress MP alleged that there is rule of only one family in Telangana. He also stated that Telangana has the highest corruption among all states in the country. He remarked that the Telangana model of corruption is being exported to other states.

He said during the movement for Telangana state people had hoped that the new state would usher in people's rule but after formation of the state Chief Minister distanced himself

from people. "You had the dream of people's rule but you found one family ruling you," he said.

He said if CM KCR was really fighting against the BJP, why there was no inquiry by CBI, ED or any other central agency against him.

"BJP intimidates opposition with cases. Since I fight the BJP, they booked 24 cases against me. They cancelled my Lok Sabha membership and snatched my house. It makes no difference to me. My fight is an ideological fight against the BJP and the RSS," he said.

Stating that the next month's assembly election is a fight between 'raja' and 'praja', he predicted that BRS will be defeated in the next month's elections.

Modi speaks to Palestine President, condoles loss of lives in Gaza hospital bombing

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke to President of Palestine Authority, Mahmoud Abbas and conveyed his condolences over the killing of 470 people in the bombing of a hospital in Gaza.

Modi also told Abbas that India will continue to send humanitarian aid to Palestine, while reiterating its long standing position on the Israel-Palestine issue, that of having direct negotiations on establishing a two-state solution.

"Spoke to the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas. conveyed my condolences at the loss of civilian lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. We will continue to send humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people. Shared our deep concern at the terrorism, violence and deteriorating security situation in the region. Reiterated India's long-standing principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue," Modi posted on X.

Earlier referring to the hospital bombing in Gaza, external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said, "We have also expressed our concern at the civilian casual-



ties and the humanitarian situation. We would urge strict observance of international humanitarian law." While the Hamas group has blamed Israel for the hospital's bombing, Tel Aviv has put the blame on the group.

BOMBAY HC JUNKS MPCB'S CLOSURE ORDER ON NCP MLA ROHIT PAWAR'S FACTORY

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Thursday set aside the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's order directing the closure of a factory controlled by Nationalist Congress Party MLA Rohit Pawar, the grandnephew of NCP President Sharad Pawar.

A division bench of Justice Nitin Inamdar and Justice Manjusha Deshpande has asked the MPCB to reconsider its September 27 notice to Baramati Agro Ltd., a sugar factory run by Rohit Pawar, on various grounds.

While the order served in the night of September 27-28, the MPCB asked the factory to shut down its manufacturing facility for the distillery unit within 72 hours, which Rohit Pawar challenged in the high court, contending that it was issued to build political pressures on him as he belonged to the Sharad Pawar group. On September 29, the high court ordered the MPCB not to execute its directives till the next hearing of the matter. In the plea filed through lawyer Akshay Shinde, the Baramati Agro Ltd., which started operations in 2007-2008, said it was granted environmental clearance in 2007. However, during a recent inspection, the MPCB detected some alleged irregularities and ordered closure of the 15-year old factory, which the factory challenged.



Don't punish Raje due to me: Rajasthan CM Gehlot to BJP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said that his bete noire and former chief minister and BJP leader Vasundhara Raje should not be punished by the saffron party because of him, as it would be "injustice" to her.

The chief minister made the remarks at a press conference at the party headquarters here while answering a question about the BJP delaying the name of the CM nominee for Rajasthan. Gehlot said, "It is the BJP's internal matter. She (Vasundhara Raje) should not be punished due to me. This would be injustice to her."

While referring to the 2020 rebellion by his deputy Sachin Pilot, Gehlot men-



tioned the Vasundhara episode. "I remember an incident where then Chief Minister Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was abroad for bypass surgery and his Speaker in Rajasthan spoke of toppling the government which I opposed as state Congress chief. I even told then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao that this would not be correct. Recently, when my govern-

ment was in crisis, an MLA close to Raje met me and said she also holds the same opinion that duly elected governments shouldn't be toppled, and this is all I said in Dholpur," Gehlot said defending Raje who has been increasingly sidelined in the BJP amid signals of her closeness to Gehlot.

Raje was in the eye of a storm recently when Gehlot said at a Dholpur rally that she had helped save his government. He also sounded a note of caution to Pilot on the latter's CM ambitions and said, "In the Congress it is best not to be a CM candidate because the one who is the candidate never becomes CM. We will accept what the high command decides and I have been trusted by the Gandhis.

MODI SPEAKS TO PALESTINE PRESIDENT, CONDOLES LOSS OF LIVES IN GAZA HOSPITAL BOMBING

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Court rejects Delhi Police's plea to keep electronic devices seized from The

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court has dismissed a revision petition by the Delhi Police against a magisterial court's order, directing it to release electronic devices confiscated from the editors of the news and opinion website -- The Wire.

Additional Sessions Judge of Tis Hazari Courts, Pawan Singh Rajawat upheld the September 23 order of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), saying that the order was purely "interlocutory" in nature.

The essential attribute of an interlocutory order is that it merely decides some point or matter essential to the progress of the case or collateral to the issue sought but not a final decision or judgement on the matter in issue.

The judge rejected the police's argument that in view of Section 76 of IT Act, the confiscation of electronic devices of respondents was validly done as said devices are suspected to have been used in the commission of offence, saying that the stage of Section 76 IT Act arises only after conclusion of trial as mandated in Section 452 CrPC.

The court also rejected the argument that CMM's order is not an interlocutory order, stating that the order of release of electronic devices to respondents being owners of such devices was made after having noted



that mirror imaging of the devices have been done and custody of the same is no more required to be with Investigating Officer.

The court stressed the vital role of the Press as the "Fourth Pillar of our great Democracy". It said: "The Press is considered the Fourth Pillar of our great Democracy and if it is not allowed to function and operate independently, it would cause serious injury to the foundations of our Democracy."

It noted that the continuous seizure of electronic devices is not only causing undue hardship to the

editors but is also encroaching on their fundamental rights to freedom of profession, freedom of speech, and expression. The CMM had previously stated that there were no reasonable grounds for withholding the devices from The Wire's founding editors, including Siddharth Varadarajan, MK Venu, Sidharth Bhatia, deputy editor Jahnvi Sen, and product-cum-business head Mithun Kidambi.

While rejecting the Delhi Police's revision petition, the court affirmed that the editors were working for a news portal and the electronic devices were essential tools for their work.

"The Wire which is engaged in disseminating news and information ... the electronic devices were being used for their work," it said.

The court stated that the order protected the editors' interests and ensured they were responsible for keeping the devices secure from tampering. The court also highlighted that the order did not decide any rights but focused solely on the interim custody of the devices.

"The impugned order not only safeguarded the interest of the respondents but has also ensured that respondents are duty bound to keep the devices safe from tampering and in case they notice any anomaly with the devices, the same shall be immediately notified to the IO," the court said.

States and UTs must ensure that district officers appointed under anti-sexual harassment law: SC



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Women and Child Department in every state and Union Territory to ensure appointment of district officers under the anti-sexual harassment law within a period of four weeks. A bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta was considering a plea filed by NGO Initiatives For Inclusion Foundation, seeking directions for implementation of the provisions of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

"The concerned Principal Secretary of the State/UT Ministry of Women and Child (or any other Department...), will personally ensure appointment of a district officer in each district within their territorial jurisdiction," the bench ordered.

Delhi overnment increases minimum wages for workers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi government issued an order on Thursday to increase the minimum wage of labourers working in the national capital.

Delhi Labour Minister Raaj Kumar Anand issued an order to increase the monthly wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers of Delhi. Employees of the clerical and supervisor class will also benefit from this move to increase the minimum monthly wage threshold.

Employees with non-matriculation, matriculation and graduation degrees will also be covered under this. The new rates will be applicable from 1 October.

The Labour Minister has also directed to ensure payment to all workers and employees with the enhanced rate. "The government takes substantial initiatives to provide relief to the underprivileged and the working class in Delhi who are grappling with the challenges of inflation," the Minister said. "Lakhs of Labourers in Delhi will get relief from inflation," he added. The government has announced a new minimum wage by adding dearness allowance. The minister fur-



ther said that the minimum wage given to Labourers in Delhi is the highest as compared to any other state in the country. According to the new rate of minimum wage increased by the Delhi government, the monthly wage of skilled workers has been increased from Rs 20,903 to Rs 21,215. The monthly salary of semi-skilled workers has been increased from Rs 18,993 to Rs 19,279. And the monthly wages of unskilled labourers has been increased from Rs 17,234 to Rs 17,494.

The monthly salary of non-matric employees has been increased from Rs 18,993 to Rs 19,279. Similarly, the monthly salary of matriculation pass and non-graduate employees has been increased from Rs 20,903 to Rs 21,215 an increase of Rs 312. On the other hand, the monthly salary of graduate employees and Labourers with higher educational qualifications has been increased from Rs 22,744 to Rs 23,082.



GADKARI INAUGURATES HIGHEST NATIONAL FLAG OF 418 FEET AT INDIA-PAK BORDER

Amritsar | Agencies

Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday inaugurated the highest national flag of 418 feet at the Attari-Wagah international border near here in Punjab. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was present at the event. After inaugurating the flag, Gadkari said, "It is the golden day of my life. I have come to the Attari-Wagah border for the first time. NHAI has installed the tallest national flag here. This is a place that inspires you to be patriotic."



high one India had installed at the same location in March 2017. In response, Pakistan had erected a 400-foot tall flag. The Attari-Wagah international border is around 30 km from Amritsar and 22 km from Lahore in Pakistan.

The flag-hoisting, ceremonial drill and Beating Retreat are daily events at the Attari-Wagah joint check post of India and Pakistan. The border guards stomp their feet and raise them high, besides shouting.

Yogi govt to set up 'Digital Doctor Clinics'

▶ THE UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT WILL ESTABLISH 'DIGITAL DOCTOR CLINICS' IN RURAL REGIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS OF THE STATE.

Mumbai | Agencies

These 'Digital Doctor Clinics' will function like primary health centres, where not only consultation of doctors will be available through online video conferences, but also medications along with laboratory facilities.

Currently, this Digital Doctor Clinic is part of a pilot project and will be opened soon in a total of 20 centres in Lucknow and Bulandshahr. After this, it will be expanded across the entire state.

According to the government spokesman, the state government is undertaking this initiative through private investments. The government aims to improve healthcare in remote rural areas so that people can receive medical advice, medications, and



pathology testing at concessional rates for serious illnesses.

The Yogi government has signed an MoU of Rs 350 crore with Obdu Group for this project. The Obdu Group will establish this project even before the Ground Breaking Ceremony.

According to the founder and CEO of the Obdu Group, Sanjai Kumar, five doctors have been hired for this, while 10 other doctors are being lined up. The CEO also mentioned that they are in talks with some other investors regarding the startup, and their goal is to scale this MoU up to a size of Rs

1,000 crore.

A Digital Doctor Clinic is a primary health centre that combines both telemedicine branches (consultation centre and specialty centre).

It is designed to improve rural healthcare by providing not only online video conferencing but also a qualified health care assistant who will take care of the patient and facilitate communication between the doctor and the patient.

Using blockchain and artificial intelligence technology, the best MBBS doctors will reach patients in villages and remote rural areas

through technology, and will provide the right treatment and necessary medicines. During treatment in Digital Doctor Clinic, all types of medicines will be made available to the patients at very low rates inside the clinic itself.

Additionally, blood test will be done in just 3 to 5 minutes on consultation by doctors costing only Rs 30 to 40. This test includes various fever profiles like malaria, dengue, chikungunya, liver function, jaundice, sugar, and more. Furthermore, keeping the income of people in rural and remote areas in mind, selected Digital Doctor Clinics will also offer ultrasound services, which will cost between Rs 200 to 300.

Each Digital Doctor Clinic will have a health care assistant who will help patients log in to the digital doctor clinic using their mobile phones.

After that, based on the patient's illness, they will connect the patient to the best MBBS doctor through an online video conference.

Necessary tests will also be conducted in 3 to 5 minutes as per the consultation and the results will be shared with the doctors using AI. This will help the doctors accurately diagnose the patient's illness and suggest the necessary medications.

Judiciary, my list of properties will expose BJP's conspiracy: K'taka DyCM Shivakumar

Bengaluru | Agencies

Hours after Karnataka High Court quashed his petition seeking dismissal of CBI proceedings against him in a disproportionate assets case here, DyCM D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said the judiciary and his list of properties will expose BJP's conspiracy against him.

While interacting with reporters at the Bengaluru airport, Shivakumar said the probe agency has claimed that it has completed 90 per cent of the investigation.

"My wife, family members and me will have to explain about the properties owned by us. Strangely, without calling us and inquiring, how could they finish 90 per cent of the probe I fail to understand," he stated.

"We had filed an appeal in the court that the FIR lodged by the CBI in this regard is wrong. The case was handed over to the CBI with ill intention during the tenure of former CM B.S. Yediyurappa government," he stated.

Shivakumar further expressed his complete faith on the courts. "I will give suitable answers at an appropriate time. Whatever may be the cause, I will



probe against him. A bench headed by Justice K. Natarajan directed the CBI to complete the probe in three months. The development is considered to be a serious setback to Shivakumar who has been aggressively taking on the opposition parties BJP and JD(S) in the state. The CBI had filed a criminal case under the Sections of 13 (2) and 13 (1)(E) of the Prevention of Corruption Act alleging that Shivakumar had amassed assets disproportionate to his income between 2018 and 2023.

Shivakumar had appealed against the case in the high court.

The high court had earlier issued a stay on the case and extended the stay order many times.

According to sources, the CBI will now move to the court seeking cancellation of bail of Shivakumar.

Former CM H.D. Kumaraswamy and BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel had stated that Shivakumar would land up in Tihar Jail once again. Shivakumar had replied that Kumaraswamy and Kateel are not judges to send him to the prison. The Congress party had maintained that Shivakumar's family had been tortured every day.

Gujarat crackdown: 851 raids, 105 arrests & 27 licenses revoked in statewide illicit spa operations

Gandhinagar | Agencies

In an operation aimed at eradicating human trafficking under the guise of spa services and hotels, the Gujarat Police undertook simultaneous raids on 851 establishments across the state, following a directive from the Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghani.

The large-scale operation, initiated on October 18, resulted in 103 FIRs filed against 152 individuals, leading to the arrest of 105 suspects. Moreover, the authorities have initiated proceedings to cancel the licenses of 27 spa centers and hotels associated with these illicit activities, the officials said.

Earlier, on October 17, Sanghani had organised a video conference with senior police officers across the



state, emphasising a coordinated effort to counter illegal spa operations and human trafficking. In a notable operation in Vadodara, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, along with the Zone 2 Local Crime Branch, executed a raid on Old Padra Road. Four women were rescued, and legal actions were initiated against two spa operators for violating regulations. Surat witnessed meticulous

planned operations based on tip-offs about illegal activities within spas, resulting in over 50 cases registered in just one day.

Rajkot's police units, conducting joint raids on city spas, have sent a clear message to spa managers about intensified monitoring. Sources said that the authorities plan to sustain the heightened vigilance with continuous operations.

Nitish Kumar appreciates PM Modi for sanctioning central university in Motihari

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning the Mahatma Gandhi Central University in Motihari.

"I will respect him (Modi) till he is alive," the Chief Minister said while addressing the convocation ceremony of Mahatma Gandhi Central University in presence of President Draupadi Murmu.

"In 2007, UPA II had taken the decision of having a central university in states of the country and asked for the lands. They again passed an act in 2009 for the same. We had requested them to make one central university in Champaran and another in Gaya. We also told them that Mahatma Gandhi had also visited the place. But they didn't sanction it. I told them



that Congress is forgetting Mahatma Gandhi," the Chief Minister said. He said that in 2014 Modi took the decision to build a central university in Motihari. "I thank him for fulfilling his promise," Kumar said. "I will respect him until I am alive. Our prestige is connected with Champaran.

Modi sanctioned it in 2014 and its construction started in 2016. They (BJP leaders) are my friends and our friendship would not end," Kumar said. Speculations about Nitish Kumar changing his political goal post again from Mahagathbandhan towards NDA are ripe in the state.

CBI SEARCHES 76 LOCATIONS TO DISMANTLE CYBER FINANCIAL CRIMES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a massive crackdown against organised cyber financial crimes, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday carried out searches at 76 locations across the country and seized several digital devices under Operation Chakra II.

A CBI official here said that the agency sleuths carried out searches at 76 locations in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

"We have seized several digital devices including laptops, hard disks, sim cards, server images. We have also busted nine call centres," he said.

The official said that the action is in the wake of five cases registered.

The official said that out of five, in three cases, one complaint was from Microsoft, while another one is from Amazon as some people masquerading as claiming to be from the technical support team duped them.

He also said that there was another case of Crypto Ponzi Scheme, in which input was given by FIU Indian team.



"The Indians were targeted and over Rs 100 crore fraud was committed with them," he said.

The official said that the action is based on the complaint to fight against transnational organized Cyber Crime Networks under Operation Chakra-II, with an aim to combat and dismantle infrastructure of organised cyber-enabled financial crimes in India. This operation was conducted in collaboration with national and international agencies,

alongside private sector giants. Giving the breakup of the seizures, the official said that the agency has confiscated 32 mobile phones, 48 laptops or hard disks, images of two servers, 33 SIM cards, and pen drives and numerous bank account frozen.

The CBI also seized a dump of 15 email accounts, illuminating the intricate web of deceit spun by the accused, they said.

The official said that two instances of International Tech Support Fraud

Scam came to light.

"The accused, operating nine call centers across 5 states or UTs, systematically preyed on foreign nationals, masquerading as Technical Support Representatives," the CBI said.

"The CBI's relentless pursuit of justice ensures that those responsible for this reprehensible act will face the full force of the law," the agency said.

Based on evidence gathered during Operation Chakra-II, law enforcement agencies internationally are being notified of the details of identified victims, shell companies, identified money mules, identified proceeds of crime, details of co-accused or support elements for comprehensive action to dismantle these criminal networks.

The official said that the CBI is working closely in the spirit of international police cooperation with its international counterparts, including Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the US, Cyber crime Directorate and IFCACC of INTERPOL, the National Crime Agency (NCA) in the UK, Singapore Police Force and BKA of Germany to notify further leads.

Have advocated for tickets of even those who disrespected high command, says Sachin Pilot

Jaipur | Agencies

Congress leader and former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Thursday said that he welcomed all proposals from the winning contenders with an open heart.

"Some people were accused of indiscipline in the party. But, I welcomed all proposals from the winning contenders with an open heart. Even if someone had insulted Sonia Gandhi at that time, still I said: Whoever is in the party's interest should get the ticket. I did not oppose even a single contender and there could be no greater proof of love than this," he told media persons in Kandoli town of Dausa district.

His reference was to the "rebellion" by some party lawmakers in September last year.

Pilot was in Kandoli on Thursday evening to take stock of preparations for Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi's meeting which will be held on Friday here.

Asked about the CM Ashok Gehlot remembering the Manesar issue, when Pilot and his supporters has mounted their "rebellion" in



2020, he said: "The Chief Minister has said that the love and affection between us has become an example." On Congress' CM face, he said: "When elections are held in any state of the country, there is collective leadership and after the elections, the Congress high command decides the leader of the house.

Congress has also made it clear that they will contest the elections together. After the elections, the MLAs and the high command will decide who will become the CM in 2023."

Questioned on CM's statement in the press conference held in Delhi when Gehlot said that he wanted to leave the post of CM, but it

is not leaving him and will not leave him too, he said: "I am not aware of this conference. But, who sits on which post and when is decided by the Congress leadership."

"Congress President (Mallikarjun Kharge), Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi will decide which leader will work on which post in the government or organisation. Whatever decision the party leadership takes, it will be accepted by everyone."

"In 2018, I was the President of the State Congress. All the party leaders worked hard together and formed the government. Even today all the leaders are contesting elections together. There is a lot of nervousness within the BJP regarding this. There is mutual conflict and tussle," he said.

"BJP has distributed only 40 tickets, but 80 fights have taken place. This makes it clear that a lot is going on internally in BJP. I do not want to comment on it, but the Congress is going to contest the elections completely united. All the leaders have discussed and selected the candidates in a positive atmosphere, the list will also be revealed very soon," he added.

HARYANA CM HIKES STIPEND OF ASHA WORKERS

Chandigarh | Agencies

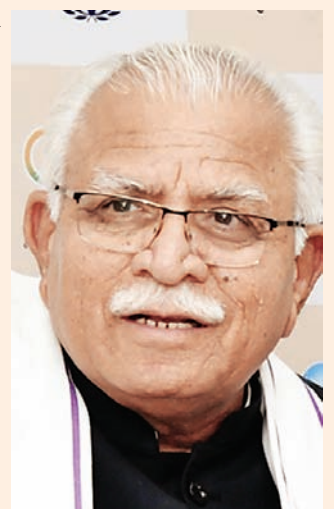
Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, while giving pre-Diwali gift to Asha workers, on Thursday announced an increase of Rs 2,100 in the monthly stipend, taking it to Rs 6,100.

He also announced a retirement benefit of Rs 2 lakh for them.

Khattar made this announcement at a meeting with Haryana ASHA Workers' representatives.

The Chief Minister said that a letter will be written to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to augment the incentive amount for ASHA workers.

Notably, ASHA workers are already provided with Rs 3 lakh in case of their demise during service.





X186 MLAS ARE CROREPATIS IN MP, 107 FROM RULING BJP: REPORT



Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

Out of 230 sitting MLAs in Madhya Pradesh, 186 are crorepaties and 107 out of these MLAs are from the ruling BJP, a report claimed. Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Madhya Pradesh Election Watch analysed the criminal, financial and other background details of all 230 sitting MLAs. The report said that out of 230 sitting MLAs analysed, 186 (81 per cent) are crorepaties. It said that 107 (83 per cent) out of 129 MLAs from BJP, 76 (78 per cent) out of 97 MLAs from Congress and all three independent MLAs have declared assets valued more than Rs one crore. The report said that the average of assets per sitting MLA in Madhya Pradesh is Rs 10.76 crore. It said that the average assets per MLA for 129 BJP MLAs analysed is Rs 9.89 crore, 97 Congress MLAs analysed is Rs 11.98 crore, one BSP MLA analysed is Rs 96.95 lakhs and three Independent MLAs have average assets of Rs 11.98 crores. The report said that BJP's MLA from Vijayraghavgarh Sanjay Satyendra Pathak has declared assets to the tune of Rs 226.17 crore, while Chetanya Kasyap from Ratlam City assembly seat has assets worth 204.6 crore. The report also highlighted that Ram Dangore, a BJP sitting MLA from Pandhna (ST) assembly seat has assets worth Rs 50,749. The report also highlighted that 38 MLAs have declared liabilities of Rs 1 crore and above with Congress Betul MLA Nilay Vinod Daga who has assets worth Rs 127.6 crore has liabilities worth Rs 54 crore. While BJP MLA from Khuraj Bhupendra

Singh is with high income as declared in ITR worth Rs 97.63 lakh. The report also highlighted that 62(33 per cent) MLAs have declared their educational qualification to be between 5th and 12th standard while 158 (64 per cent) MLAs have declared having an educational qualification of graduate or above. Four MLAs are Diploma holders, while five MLAs have declared themselves to be just literates and one MLA has declared himself illiterate. The report further said that 96 (42 per cent) MLAs have declared their age to be between 25 and 50 years while 134 (58 per cent) MLAs have declared their age to be between 51 and 80 years. Out of 230 MLAs analysed, 20 (9 per cent) MLAs are women, the report added. The polling for the 230 member assembly us scheduled on November 17 and counting of votes will take place on December 3.

93 out of 230 sitting MLAs in MP face criminal cases

At least 93 out of 230 MLAs in Madhya Pradesh have criminal cases against them, out of which 52 are from the Congress and 39 from the ruling BJP, a report claimed on Thursday. Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Madhya Pradesh Election Watch analyzed the criminal, financial and other background details of all 230 sitting MLAs. The report mentioned, "Out of 230 sitting MLAs analysed, 93 (40 per cent) sitting MLAs have declared criminal cases against themselves out of which 47 (20 per cent) sitting MLAs have declared serious criminal cases. It also said that one sitting MLA has declared cases related to murder under IPC section 302. The report also highlighted that six sitting MLAs have declared cases related to attempt to murder under IPC section 307. Highlighting the cases against MLAs related to crimes against women, the report said sitting MLAs have declared cases under IPC Section-354. It also said that 39 (30 per cent) out of 129 MLAs from BJP, 52 (54 per cent) out of 97 MLAs from Congress, the only MLA from BSP and one (33 per cent) out of three Independent MLAs have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. The report said that 20 (16 per cent) out of 129 MLAs from the ruling BJP, 25 (26 per cent) out of 97 MLAs from Congress, the lone MLA from BSP and one out of three Independent MLAs have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

CONG'S DENIAL OF TICKET TO SIDDHARTH TIWARI FUELS RIVALRY BETWEEN POLITICAL FAMILIES IN MP'S VINDHYA REGION, BJP HAPPY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Siddharth Tiwari's shifting to the BJP after being denied ticket from Rewa's Teonthar Assembly seat by the Congress has brought an end to over five decade-long association of his family with the grand old party, but has increased enmity between two politically strong families of Madhya Pradesh's Vindhya region. The young politician joined the Congress on Tuesday.

The state leadership of the Congress maintained that Siddharth Tiwari was denied ticket because of two reasons, one that his performance was found poor in the survey, and the second that the party had



to select the candidates to maintain the caste equation to justify the Congress' central leadership's new strategy for OBC. Sources aware of this entire political development told IANS that Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee President Kamal

Nath and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, who has taken the responsibility for all those seats the party lost two or more times consecutively and to keep the rebels intact with the party, tried to convince Tiwari. Tiwari waited for a week and after the

Congress declared Ramashankar Patel as candidate from Teonthar seat, he knocked the door of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who shifted into the saffron party in March 2020. Sources also claimed that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has made several attempts to bring Siddharth into the party through a senior BJP leader; however, he had denied the proposal as he wanted to pursue his political career with the Congress.

Congress faces this setback at a time when it is making efforts to revive its fortunes in the 30-seat Vindhya region of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, where the BJP had won 24 seats in 2018.

DAY AFTER MARATHON MEETING OF CONGRESS' CEC, KAMAL NATH MEETS KHARGE TO DISCUSS CANDIDATES

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

A day after Congress' central election committee (CEC) held deliberations for over five hours in two rounds, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and state unit chief Kamal Nath met party chief Mallikarjun Kharge to give a final shape to the list of candidates. According to party sources, Kamal Nath arrived at the residence of Kharge at 10 Rajaji Marg here. The source said that both the leaders were holding deliberations over deciding the second list of the party for the November 17 polls.

The meeting of the two leaders comes a day after Kharge chaired a meeting of the CEC in two rounds to finalise the candidates for the crucial Assembly election in the state. The source said that most of the seats were discussed during the two round meeting on Wednesday, however, some more names were left to be discussed.

The Congress has already named 144 candidates for the 230-member Assembly on Sunday, which included the names of Kamal Nath from Chhindwara Assembly seat, senior party leader Digvijaya Singh's son Jaivardhan Singh from Raghogarh Assembly seat.

The Congress has fielded actor Vikram Mastal, who played Lord Hanuman's role in Anand Sagar's 2008 TV show Ramayana, against CM Chouhan from Budhni seat, while Sanjay Shukla will be contesting against BJP's national general secretary Kailash



Vijayvargiya from Indore 1.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) Govind Singh has been fielded from the Lahar Assembly seat and former LoP Ajay Singh (Rahul) from Churhat in Sidhi district. The Congress has fielded Avdhes Nayak against the state home minister, Narottam Mishra from Datia seat.

The Congress has fielded senior party leader Ramkishor Dange against state

agriculture minister Kamal Patel from Dhar Assembly constituency. Former minister Jitu Patwari has been given ticket from Rau seat of Indore district, while the party has fielded former Union Minister Kantilal Bhuria's son Vikrant Bhuria from Jhabua seat. Out of 144 candidates in the first list, the Congress has fielded 47 general candidates and 39 OBC candidates.

World Food Day celebrated by students

Team Absolute | Bhopal

World Food Day was celebrated all over the world on 16 October 2023. Packets of raw food material were distributed by the students of MSB Educational Institute, a school located in Gandhinagar, Bhopal. Food items were collected by the students themselves and distributed in the slum areas. Launching this campaign, Waqf Board CEO Syed Shakir Ali Jafri encouraged the students. At the beginning of the campaign, school head Shaikh Hussain Sabir Bhai, Principal Munira Boltwal, school teachers and a large number of students were present. This school, run by the Dawoodi Bohra community, actively participates in social work from time to time. Media in-charge Ibrahim Dawoodi told that such events always happen in the school.



Two months after 'ghar-wapsi', former MLA, wife quit BJP again



Team Absolute | Bhopal

With less than a month left for the high-octane Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, former MLAs Abhay Mishra and his wife Neelam Mishra on Wednesday resigned from the BJP - just months after being re-inducted into the ruling party. The couple from Rewa district had joined the BJP barely two months back -- making a "ghar-wapsi" after they left the saffron party before the 2018 Assembly

polls and contested elections on the Congress ticket. Both the Mishras had been elected MLAs at different times on BJP ticket. The couple's "ghar-wapsi" was showcased by the BJP as a major setback to the Congress just three months before the elections. However, rifts left the Mishra couple with no choice but to leave the party again. The Mishra couple's return to the BJP was facilitated by state BJP President V. D. Sharma and Home Minister Narottam Mishra. However, the party's deci-

sion annoyed party leader Rajendra Shukla and he had then expressed his disappointment to the party's central leadership. As a sop, Shukla was made cabinet minister in the last minute cabinet expansion. Rewa's Semaria assembly constituency is being mooted the reason behind the conflict between Shukla and Mishra. Shukla is favouring his loyalist MLA K.P. Tripathi from Semaria. In the last elections, Mishra had contested against Shukla in the seat, but had lost with a big margin.

PCC President is Hindu only in Chhindwara: Union Minister Prahlad Patel

Team

Absolute | Chhindwara

In the stronghold of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, Union Minister Prahlad Patel fiercely attacked Congress before the start of the election campaign. Prahlad Patel targeted Kamal Nath and described him as having a tired face. He further said that, this time BJP will win all the seats in the district on the lines of 2003. Union Minister Prahlad Patel said that Kamal Nath has been in Chhindwara for so long, but he does not belong to tribals, youth or anyone. He has created a model to benefit people associated with him with government money. Prahlad Patel further said that it has been 6 years since Kamal Nath has been the state president, but he has not taken any meeting of the organization in any district of the state. Even, he did not participate as a worker or MLA



in any urban ward of Chhindwara. I believe that the Nath family has encroached on Chhindwara like the Ishta India Company, which has caused damage to the local leadership. Kamal Nath is a Hindu only in Chhindwara and does not talk about Hindus outside.

Prahlad Patel said, this time on the lines of 2003, BJP will win all the seven seats of Chhindwara. Kamal Nath used to say that he would announce the ticket six months before the elections, but in the list that came 32 days before the elections, there was a flurry of resignations of Congress leaders.

Who will become the Chief Minister if BJP government is formed?

On this Prahlad Singh Patel said that this is not a very important question. This time we declared the ticket three months in advance whereas the Congress was talking about declaring the candidate six months in advance, which happened a few days before the elections.

The comparison should be on this. Kamal Nath is still shaking. There is a tired and weak leadership in Congress. That's why he is unable to take a decision.



Animal training centre staff kills dog by hanging it on the gate

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a horrifying incident in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal, a dog was killed by the employees of a dog training centre. The two employees hanged the dog at an entry gate and pulled it by the chain around its neck from one side, officials said. Operator Ravi Kushwaha and the two employees -- a man and a woman -- have been arrested in the case. They also allegedly tried to delete the CCTV footage, which caught the distressing incident. Nikhil Jaiswal, a businessman from Shahapur in Madhya Pradesh, bought the dog around two years back and sent it for training in Misrod in Bhopal in May. The centre charged him a fee of Rs 13,000 per month, with the training set to conclude in September. However, on October 9, Ravi told Nikhil that the dog died as he was unwell. The incident came to the fore after Nikhil filed a police complaint after suspecting something wrong.

During the police investigation, the CCTV footage was also retrieved with the help of a cyber cell.

Bets ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 50 thousand

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Mahadev online betting app has spread rapidly across the country. Along with cricket matches and other games, betting has also started on the upcoming assembly elections in five states Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram. In the app, there is an option to bet on the seats won by BJP, Congress, AAP and other political parties. An amount ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 50 thousand can be invested in it at one time.

In this, the number of seats of Congress and BJP has also been approximately fixed. In MP, Rs 100 out of 100 is being given for winning less than 103 seats, while Rs 100 out of 100 is being given for winning 106 or more seats. At the same time, in Rajasthan, the value of 114 seats to 116 seats has been fixed for BJP and 69 to 71 seats for Congress. Apart from this, in Chhattisgarh and Telangana, the price of Rs 98 and Rs 100 has been fixed



according to the even or odd seats of BJP and Congress. Let us tell you that the main operators of Mahadev App, Saurabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal, residents of Bhilai, are in Dubai. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also issued an arrest warrant against him.

It is noteworthy that apart from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the police of other states are taking action against the operators of Mahadev Satta

App. They conduct betting by taking ID. After transactions worth crores came to light, ED also started investigation in the case. Chhattisgarh has arrested four accused, who were involved in betting operations and sending handover money from here to outside, and sent them to jail.

Saurabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal are wanted in money laundering case. Both of them are residents of Bhilai, Chhattisgarh. A success party was organized in Dubai on September 18, 2022. Some Bollywood stars were paid Rs 40 crore to attend that party in a seven star luxury hotel. For the wedding, which took place in February, a private jet was hired to fly the family members from Nagpur to Dubai. Bollywood celebrities, wedding planners, dancers, decorators all left for Dubai from Mumbai. Atif Aslam, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Ali Asgar, Vishal Dadlani, Elli Avram, Bharti Singh, Bhagyashree, Kriti Kharbanda, Nusrat Bharucha, Krishna Abhishek were present as performers in the wedding.



EDITOR'S SPECS

RAJASTHAN POLLS: MONEY POLITICS DEEPENS AHEAD OF TICKET DISTRIBUTION IN BJP, CONG

As the Congress and BJP gear up to release their lists of candidates in Rajasthan for the November 25 Assembly polls, allegations and counter-allegations are flying thick and fast with many contenders in both the parties accusing the leaders of accepting money for their self-sustaining goals. In Congress, three contenders have jointly opened a front against the last candidate and Social Welfare Board Chairperson Archana Sharma from the Malviya Nagar Assembly seat of the capital Jaipur. Sharma's two-month old video accusing party leader Rajiv Arora of conspiring to defeat her by striking a Rs 40 crore deal with a BJP MLA, has further deepened the crisis. After the video surfaced, Arora also hit back at Sharma without naming her. Demonstrations were held in Delhi AICC against Sharma for two days under the leadership of MP Welfare Board Chairman Mahesh Sharma and former Law Cell Chairman Sushil Sharma. In the video, Archana can be heard saying, "To defeat me, the opponents have struck a deal for Rs 40 crore." After the video emerged, Congress contender from Malviya Nagar Rajeev Arora launched a veiled attack on her on his X account. Similarly, a purported video is going viral on social media regarding BJP's Organization General Secretary and co-in-charge Somkant. It is being directly alleged that Rs 30 lakh in cash and a car has been demanded for the ticket from Fatehpur Assembly constituency. In the viral video, the person making the allegation is heard saying that this amount was demanded through Raj Choudhary, who lives in Sanganer, who is employed in Fatehpur Assembly and it was said that the work on the house of co-in-charge Somkant is going on. For this, the first installment of Rs 15 lakh was given. It has been said that the remaining amount will be paid in installments.

Court's Same Sex Marriage Decision: A Victory for Indian Culture

Lalit Garg

The issue of legal recognition to same sex marriage has been a topic of hot discussion in Indian life for a long time. The Supreme Court has given a truly historic decision by refusing to recognize same sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act. If seen, this decision by the five-judge bench of the Supreme Court is a victory for Indian culture, Indian traditions, life values, values, ideals and Indian-ness. The Supreme Court has also refused to give same-sex couples the right to adopt children. The court's decision not only re-affirms the sentiments and values of the Indian people, but also warns the foreign forces who are conspiring to spoil the social and family character of India by blurring and hurting Indian values, culture and ideals. Certainly, this commendable decision by the Supreme Court is a unique initiative to keep intact and strengthen India's past marriage tradition and culture.

The Supreme Court has made it clear that it cannot make laws, it can only interpret them. It is the job of Parliament to make changes in the Special Marriage Act. Certainly, this comment by the Supreme Court is worth noting. Respected and learned judges have accepted that persons having homosexual or lesbian tendencies should be given the rights that they have as citizens, and they should also be given equal fundamental rights, like other citizens in the social sphere, but as far as their relations with each other are concerned, if it is a matter of marriage, then this matter should be looked into by the elected representatives of the people sitting in the Parliament. By the way, those who stood or still stand in favour of legalizing same sex marriage should understand that marriage has a deeper meaning in Hinduism, marriage, also called marriage, is a social union between two people of opposite sex. Or a religiously recognized union that establishes rights and obligations between those people, as well as between them and any resulting in biological or adopted children and grandchildren.

Marriage is a very important practice or sociological institution of human society. It is the core of the smallest unit that makes up society - the family. It is also the main biological means of maintaining the continuity of the human species. Marriage is not just an opportunity to enjoy sexual pleasure, but also a medium to carry forward the lineage. In Indian tradition and culture, through marriage, responsible tasks like maintaining physical relations, creating progeny, nurturing them properly, carrying forward the family tradition and making the progeny useful citizens of the society are also done. Whereas getting legal recognition of gay or lesbian marriages would mean attacking the ancient high and ideal values. It is not surprising that the support for such traditions has increased among the general public, as soon as it has entered the country like a storm from western countries, hence in reality there have been two types of perceptions regarding gay or lesbian marriages in the country. A large section of the country has been opposed to recognizing it at the legal and socio-religious level. That is also because such a free, unruly and arbitrary lifestyle is not allowed anywhere in Indian society. Anyway, wherever it comes to making laws, there must be an expectation that culture and traditions should not be ignored. Yes, a few people may also be in favour of legalizing gay or lesbian marriages. Now the Supreme Court has handed down the issue to the Parliament, but the important question is whether the Parliament will take initiative in this direction and make such a



law? Parliament should chart the way forward considering Indian tradition and cultural values in the broader context. The current government's stance on this question is hopeful, because the government argues that gay or lesbian marriages cannot be recognized, because husband and wife are defined biologically in the law. Accordingly, both of them also have legal rights. Legalizing gay or lesbian marriages will create a lot of complications in issues related to adoption, divorce, maintenance, inheritance etc. All statutory provisions relating to these matters are based on marriage between a man and a woman. The responsibility of taking a decision regarding legal recognition of this complex subject, which is entangled in ancient and modern thinking, now rests on the shoulders of the country's legislature. It can be expected that before making any law on this subject, special care will be taken of the public sentiments and socio-religious beliefs.

India is a country with unity in diversity. There is opposition to same-sex marriages in almost all religions and sects. Recently such clear voices have been heard in the Sikh community. Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh said that there is no place for same-sex marriages under Sikh principles. The Akal Takht has disqualified the priests from conducting religious services at the Bathinda Gurudwara after conducting same-sex marriages last month. The decision was announced by Jathedar of the Akal Takht, the highest secular body of the Sikhs, after a meeting of the 'Panj Singh Sahiban' (five Sikh clergy) in Amritsar a day before the Supreme Court announced its verdict.

Supreme Court has declared same-sex as a non-criminal act in 2018 itself; and inspired by this, many pro-gay organizations had filed petitions before the Supreme Court to legalize their marriages, which were opposed by the Central Government. How can the marriage of gays and lesbians be considered perfect? It may not be a marriage, it may be a mutual relationship, but how can it be given the recognition and all the rights of natural marriages?

Therefore, considering the social structure of India, if the Central Government opposes the recognition of gay and lesbian marriages, then it cannot be held wrong in any way. Even though such examples have been found in ancient times in India itself or there are many such examples mentioned in religious texts which point towards homosexual relationships, Indian society has always considered such relationships to be sexual, against nature and against social norms, placed in the category of sexual disorder. The sexual relationship between man and woman keeps nature dynamic. The meaning of home and family is the broader form of the results arising from the relationship between man and woman. The relationship between man and woman is the great journey of love and the child born from sexual relationship between these two is the basis for taking the family and lineage forward.

Man-woman relationships are not dependent on any religious belief rather they are a person's own scientific need. For new creation, union of opposite sex is natural, otherwise it is distortion. We cannot corrupt our culture and tradition in the name of blind imitation of the West. Even though times are changing, there are radical changes in traditions and new definitions of human relationships are being created, in India too two adult men and women live together without marriage in the form of live-in relationship. Therefore, if two people of the same sex want to live together, then the society can allow it by respecting their privacy; and their civil rights can also be protected. But as far as the Special Marriage Act is concerned, it can happen only between two people of opposite sex. Amending it would mean changing the conditions of marriage as well as destroying the concept of family.

(Lalit Garg is a Delhi based Writer, Journalist, Columnist. Views expressed are personal.)

international

US PUSHING ISRAEL NOT TO INITIATE WAR WITH HEZBOLLAH



Tel Aviv | Agencies

The Biden administration has privately been urging Israel not to launch a military campaign against Hezbollah, as Washington works to keep the current war from spreading beyond Gaza, media reports said. The US recognises that Israel must respond to the increased targeting of its northern border by Hezbollah since the shock Hamas onslaught on October 7 in which over

1,400 Israelis were killed, the officials clarified. But the repeated attacks by the Lebanese group and the fact that Israel failed to anticipate the brutal assault by Hamas from Gaza have led to the intensification of discussions about whether Israel must be the one to initiate a battle against Hezbollah to maintain the upper hand. Such talk has been cause for concern for the US, which has been privately and publicly warning Hezbollah and Iran

not to open a war on Israel's northern front, the officials said, Times of Israel reported. The US has cautioned Israel to be careful in its military responses to Hezbollah fire, explaining that an IDF mistake in Lebanon could spark a much larger war, the officials added, the report said. Biden officials have indicated to Israel in recent days that

if Hezbollah initiates a war against Israel, the US military will join the IDF in fighting the militant group, the officials said. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday following his brief solidarity visit to Israel, US President Joe Biden claimed that it "was never said" that the US would join in the event of a front with Hezbollah.

UK stands with you, Sunak tells Israel

Visiting British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Thursday reiterated that the UK stands with Israel and condemned the unprecedented October 7 Hamas attack on the Jewish nation as an "unspeakable, horrific act of terrorism". Sunak made the remarks while addressing reporters outside the airport in Tel Aviv. He is the third world leader to visit the war-torn nation after US President Joe Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday made day-long trips on Tuesday. "I'm very much looking forward to my meetings later with the Prime Minister and President and I very much hope they'll be productive meetings," the BBC quoted Sunak as saying. Shortly after his arrival, he said in a post on X: "I am in Israel, a nation in grief. I grieve with you and stand with you against the evil that is terrorism. Today, and always." In a separate post, Sunak added: "To have a child taken from you is a parent's worst nightmare. This morning I heard from families going through this unbearable agony. Working with our partners, we're determined to secure the release of the hostages taken by Hamas terrorists." According to the Israeli military, the Hamas has taken some 203 people as hostages since the conflict erupted. Sunak will meet his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu and President Issac Herzog in Jerusalem later in the afternoon.

Jordanian King travels to Cairo, to meet Egyptian President

Amman | Agencies

After a four-way summit between the US, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt was cancelled in the wake of the Gaza hospital bombing, Jordan's King Abdullah II on Thursday embarked on a visit to Cairo where he will meet President Abdel Fattah El Sisi and discuss the raging Israel-Hamas conflict, an official statement said. "His Majesty King Abdullah II departs on a short visit to Cairo, during which His Majesty will meet with Egypt President Abdel Fattah El Sisi to discuss means of ending the Israeli aggression on Gaza," CNN quoted Jordan's Royal Court as saying in a social media post. The monarch was set to welcome US President Joe



Biden to Amman on Wednesday, along with other Arab leaders. But Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority canceled the planned meeting with Biden less than 24 hours before he was set to arrive for the four-way summit. The cancellation followed a blast in Gaza City's Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital. While Palestinian officials accused Israel of hitting the hospital with an airstrike, Israel laid out evidence that it said shows a misfire by militant group Islamic Jihad caused the blast.

Russian FM Lavrov in N. Korea as follow-up to Kim-Putin summit

Seoul | Agencies

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said his ongoing visit to Pyongyang will mark an opportunity for "substantial results" for implementing agreements reached between their leaders, the North Korean state media said on Thursday.

Lavrov arrived at in Pyongyang on Wednesday at the invitation of North Korea's Foreign Ministry "amid the enthusiasm of friendship growing higher than ever", the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a report. The visit is a follow-up to the rare September 13 summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin, as the two countries move to strengthen military ties amid speculation over their suspected arms deal, reports Yonhap News Agency. Speaking at a reception on Wednesday evening, Lavrov said his visit would serve as a "significant occasion of bringing substantial results" for the implementation of the agreement made at the recent summit, according to the KCNA. He added that Russia "fully supports" all of North Korea's policies adopted to defend its national interests, calling North Korea a gen-



uine independent state "unfazed by any pressure of the US and the West". Lavrov also thanked Pyongyang for supporting its "special military operation" in Ukraine. Russia calls its ongoing invasion of Ukraine "special military operation". North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui expressed expectation that the "comprehensive and constructive relations" between the two countries would be expanded on a higher level during Lavrov's visit. Lavrov and Choe are expected to discuss ways to bolster bilateral cooperation, including preparations for Putin's possible reciprocal visit to Pyongyang.

Italy to impose border controls with Slovenia amid heightened tensions

Rome | Agencies

Italy has temporarily suspended the European Union's Schengen rules for open travel, reactivating dormant border controls with Slovenia amid heightened tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

As of late Wednesday, some other European Union (EU) states also announced similar moves, due to concerns over extremist violence and migration, reports Xinhua news agency.

On the border between Italy and Slovenia, controls will begin on October 21 and last for at least 10 days.

The Italian government said the goal is a "rapid return" to control-free border crossings, but the measure could nevertheless be extended.

The move is officially aimed at monitoring cross-border movements of people and freight, and it comes



during a period of instability related to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. "The suspension of the Schengen Treaty on free movement in Europe was necessary due to the worsening situation in the Middle East, the increase in

migratory flows along the Balkan route, and above all for reasons of national security," Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on social media. Slovenian Interior Minister Bostjan Poklukar has been informed of the decision.

Court employee arrested for disrupting proceedings at Trump's civil fraud trial

New York | Agencies

A New York court employee was arrested after trying to approach former US President Donald Trump at a Manhattan courtroom, where he made another appearance in his civil fraud trial. On Wednesday, the woman was stopped by court officers before she got near Trump and no one involved in the trial was in any danger, Xinhua news agency quoted a statement from the Office of Court Administration as saying. The unnamed woman was charged with contempt of court in the second degree for disrupting a court proceeding. She has been placed on administrative leave and prohibited from entering any



state court facilities. Trump was at the courtroom on Tuesday and Wednesday for the third week of the trial, after he attended the first three days of the trial when it got underway earlier this month. New York Attorney General Letitia James has accused Trump and his company of inflating the value of their assets to obtain more favorable business deals and

boost Trump's net worth. The former President and his attorneys have strongly denied the allegations. Before the trial began earlier this month, Judge Arthur Engoron ruled Trump and his company liable for fraud, saying they provided false financial statements for nearly a decade. The trial is expected to continue until mid-December.



Supriya Sule vs Himanta Sarma over Sharad Pawar's Palestine remark

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Responding to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's statement over NCP stalwart Sharad Pawar's remark that Indian Prime Ministers have historically been known "to help Palestine", his daughter and party MP Supriya Sule on Thursday said the BJP needs to hear his speech carefully.

Addressing workers of the NCP faction that he leads, in Mumbai on October 15, Pawar said, "Historically, (former Prime Ministers) Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee had all articulated positions that favoured helping Palestine amid the conflict with Israel. For the first time, the Prime Minister of our country (Narendra Modi) came out openly in support of Israel. The stand of the NCP is clear. We stand by the people, who are original inhabitants of that land," Mr Pawar said in Mumbai.

Hitting out at the NCP patriarch over his statement, the Assam Chief Minister said, "I think Sharad Pawar



should send Supriya (Sule) to Gaza to fight for Hamas."

Hitting back, Sule said on Thursday, "I am surprised at Himanta Biswa Sarma's remarks as he has the same DNA as me. He was previously with the Congress like myself. He and I share the same Congress DNA. We all know how the BJP is disrespectful towards women. I had expected better from Himanta Biswa Sarma. I am surprised at this change in him. Perhaps, it is a case of the BJP's core

beliefs and practices rubbing off on him since he left the Congress. The BJP's IT cell needs to understand and hear carefully what Sharad Pawar said. I would request them to hear his entire statement," Sule said.

Pawar's statement was roundly condemned by the BJP, with Union Minister of State Prahlad Patel saying that the position that PM Modi articulated in this matter was an extension of the country's foreign policy. "I object to this statement. A coun-

try's foreign policy is determined by the central government and it is on the basis of our officially articulated positions and policies that the Prime Minister or the External Affairs Minister puts forward their opinions. His statement should be condemned. What the PM has said on this matter is an extension of the country's foreign policy," Patel said.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena UBT leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Sanjay Raut, stoked a major controversy on Thursday after equating the BJP with terrorist organisation Hamas.

Reacting to the Assam Chief Minister's remark on Sharad Pawar's comment, Raut said the party that the former belongs to is no less than 'Hamas'.

"The party he (Assam CM) belongs to is no less than Hamas, it is misusing central agencies and destroying the Opposition. He should first read and understand history. He is a part of the BJP now and should be aware of the position articulated by former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the Israel-Palestine conflict," Raut said.

Man who snatched mobile phone and jumped into Mahim Creek found dead

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 23-year-old Danish Mustakin Ansari was found dead after an incident in which he snatched a mobile phone and leaped into Mahim Creek on Friday. His body was recovered late at night on Tuesday, October 18 from the Cuff Parade area.

The Cuff Parade police filed an Accidental Death Report (ADR) and transferred the case to the Bandra police station for further investigation.

Ansari, a wanted accused, had remained missing following the mobile phone snatching incident on October 13. Police suspect that Ansari drowned in the Mahim Creek. Ansari's body traveled approximately 15 kilometers through sea routes and reached Cuff Parade.

The Bandra Police, in their investigative, relied on CCTV footage from the Bandra signal to identify Ansari, who resided in Nayanagar on Mahim Sion Link Road, during the inves-



tigation, the police also found out that Ansari was a proficient swimmer. He had previously been arrested for mobile snatching and assault cases, on two separate occasions in 2016 and 2017.

The incident unfolded around 2:30 PM on Friday when Ansari snatched a mobile phone from a 20-year-old college student who was traveling in an autorickshaw. The victim immediately gave chase, attracting the attention of passersby. Fearing capture, Ansari discarded the stolen phone by hurling it against the wall of

the Mahim Creek before making a daring leap from the Mahim Causeway bridge into the creek's waters.

While he attempted to swim from one side of the bridge to the other, he succumbed to the strong currents. A resident informed the incident to Bandra police, prompting a response operation by the Mumbai Fire Brigade. However, Ansari remained elusive. The police identified him through CCTV footage, registered a First Information Report (FIR) based on the victim's statement, and confirmed his identity.

"The body of the accused, Danish Ansari, was recovered from the Cuff Parade area after he drowned in the Mahim Creek. The body has been sent for postmortem and will be handed over to the family for final rites," said Senior Inspector Sanjay Marathe of the Bandra police station.

The depth of the Mahim Creek ranges from 20-25 feet, which can increase to 30-35 feet during high tide.

Jalna man commits suicide on Mumbai flyover for Maratha quotas

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A man from Jalna allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a flyover in the Bandra Kurla Complex to press for Maratha community reservations, early on Thursday, activists and police said.

The man is identified as Sunil Baburao Kawle, 35, from Ambad village of Jalna, close to the place where the new community icon Manoj Jarange-Patil also hails from, said an activist.

A police team which rushed there recovered a mobile, and a purported suicide note from his belongings in which he has sought forgiveness from all for the decision to end his life.

As per preliminary information, Kawle arrived here from Jalna, via Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar late



on Tuesday and last night he went to a location on the flyover in Bandra east and hanged himself.

Maratha Kranti Morcha Convenors Virendra Pawar and Vinod Patil expressed grief over Kawle's death and have appealed to the community folks "not to get disheartened and resort to such extreme measures like suicide, leaving the reservations battle half-way".

"It's a very sad development. We have sent our activists to the spot to inquire and also collect details of his family members in Jalna. We are trying to ascertain what work he was doing and the reasons that may have provoked him to end his life," Pawar said. Kawle's body has been sent to Sion Hospital for an autopsy while his family members, who were informed of the tragedy, are coming to Mumbai later in the day.

NCP Lawmaker, BJP MP daughter-in-law fined 137 crores for soil excavation

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Government authorities in Jalgaon district of north Maharashtra

have issued a notice to NCP legislator Eknath Khadse and his daughter-in-law and BJP MP Raksha Khadse, directing them to pay Rs 137 crore fine for allegedly excavating soil without permission from their land. The tehsildar of Muktanagar taluka in Jalgaon issued the notice to them on October 6.

The notice said that 1.18



lakh brass of murum (fragmented weathered rock) and black stone was illegally excavated by them and "no additional permission" was taken by them from the authorities for this.

The land, where the excavation took place, belongs to Eknath Khadse, his wife Mandakini Khadse, daughter

Rohini Khadse and daughter-in-law Raksha Khadse, it added.

The fine amount of Rs 137,14,81,883 should be paid within 15 days from the date of the issuance of the notice, it added. Eknath Khadse, who was with the BJP for around four decades, quit the party and joined the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in 2020. He is currently a member of the Maharashtra legislative council. His daughter-in-law Raksha Khadse represents Raver Lok Sabha seat.

Pune cops nab two women accomplices of drug don Lalit Patil

Team Absolute | Pune

The Pune Police have swooped on two locations in Nashik and arrested two women associates of the drug don, Lalit Patil who was arrested by Mumbai Police from a place near Chennai, officials said here on Thursday.

The women were nabbed from their homes on the night of Wednesday-Thursday and then brought to Pune, where they will be produced before a Magistrate Court for remand this afternoon.

They are identified as Pragya Kamble and Archana Nikam, and Patil is said to have kept his ill-earned wealth in safe custody with them in cash, silver and gold jewellery.

The Pune Police's feat came even as it faced flak for the alleged 'escape' of Patil



from the Sassoon Hospital here on October 2 and was on the run in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for 15 days before landing in the Mumbai Police's net early on Wednesday.

A police officer told mediapersons that as per the preliminary information, the two Nashik-based women,

described as his 'girlfriends', were in constant touch with Patil during his cross-country drive dodging Mumbai and Pune police teams hot on his pursuit.

While on the run for two weeks, Patil, a widower, spent a day with Archana Nikam, and then took Rs 25 lakh cash from both the women for his on-road expenses.

Later, he zoomed from Pune to Nashik to Dhule to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar via the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway, then entered into Surat in south Gujarat, from there to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

En route, Patil, sent to Mumbai Police custody till October 23, was helped by a network of his narcotics mafia contacts, and the police said they will track and probe them in the case which has triggered a huge political row in the state.

Mumbai woman on wheelchair carried up stairs at registrar office, Devendra Fadnavis apologises

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Viral Modi, a disability rights activist, and India's first wheelchair-using model, took to X on Wednesday to share her disappointing experience at a registrar's office in Mumbai. The activist revealed that she went to get married at the Registrar's Office in Khar, Mumbai on October 16 but the office was on the second floor with no access for disabled people. With no lift available, she had to be carried up two flights of stairs for the process. More so, the stairs were steep and railing was loose and rusty and no one offered any help to her.

Her tweet read, "PLEASE RT! I am disabled and I got married at the Registrar's Office in Khar Mumbai on 16/10/23. The office was on the 2nd floor WITHOUT a lift. They wouldn't come downstairs for the signatures and I had to be carried up two flights of stairs to get married." She also shared pictures showing her marriage certificate.

She went on to reveal that her agent who was handling her marriage registration paperwork was aware of her disability.

Her viral tweet caught the attention of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who said that he would personally take cognizance and corrective and appropriate action. "First of all many congratulations on the new beginnings and I wish you both a very happy and beautiful married life! Also, I really am sorry for the inconvenience caused to you. I have personally taken cognizance and will take corrective and appropriate action," he wrote.



Women's World Banking, NABARD ink MoU for Jan Dhan Plus program

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development and Women's World Banking have signed an MoU to promote the Jan Dhan Plus program through Regional Rural Banks, here on Thursday, officials said. The partnership will enhance the usage and adoption of basic financial services for over eight crore Jan Dhan accounts, including 5.45 crore women account-holders, in the country.

This will elevate financial inclusion by adopting and improving use of services like savings, micro-insurance, pensions and facilitating access to credit for women and Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs).

The new tie-up will scale up the Jan Dhan Plus program leveraging the network of 57,563 business correspondents, BIRD centres, Financial Literacy Centres and RRBs to reach some of the most underserved individuals in mofussil areas.



Besides, NABARD and WWB will devise a Gender Intentional Index to foster greater gender responsiveness among RRBs. The GIIN, initially leveraging supply-side data like accounts, RuPay cards, deposits, social security schemes, loans/credits, workforce statistics and agent networks is expected to revolutionize gender-focused financial inclusion strategies. The project has received support from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, and later the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation joined in the initiative. NABARD Chairman Shaji K.V. said that the part-

nership goes beyond mere account access and will enhance use of financial services along with fostering enterprise development for women and SHGs. "Designing and working with a gender-inclusive approach not only benefits individual women but also has a ripple effect on our households and communities at large. The introduction of the GIIN is expected to spark healthy competition among RRBs and automate the collection and reporting of gender-disaggregated data," noted Shaji. Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs Head of Macroeconomic Support

(Ms) Franziska Sporri hailed the Financial Inclusion Fund of NABARD as "among the largest, supporting low-income segments" that will boost women's participation in accessing formal financial services. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Program Officer Prabir Borooah said that the Jan Dhan Infrastructure is a prime example of usage of Digital Public Infrastructure in financial inclusion and the RRBs play a pivotal role in driving its products through the SHGs in rural areas. The Foundation will support the program by targeting to build capacity of 43 RRBs and 3 BIRD centres for the purpose. WWB Regional head Kalpana Ajayan said that Jan Dhan Plus has gained global recognition and featured in the World Bank DPI Report recently endorsed by heads of state. The GIIN, a unique initiative for India would redefine and realign financial inclusion action plans and programs particularly within the context of RRBs.

IIT Bombay's device to detect viral & bacterial pathogens in wastewater

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have developed a low cost, portable device designed to detect DNA in wastewater and other water bodies to aid in the early detection of viral and bacterial pathogens.

The sensor is highly sensitive to any DNA present in a sample and was shown to be able to detect the presence of pathogens, such as E. coli bacteria and bacteriophage phi6 virus, in sewage and water bodies.

It functions by detecting colour changes in samples created by the interaction of DNA with methylene blue (MB) dye. Intercalation is the process by which molecules, such as methylene blue, insert themselves in between bases of DNA. This causes a change in the property of the material to absorb light of different wavelengths, thereby causing a change in its colour.

In a sample prepared for testing, this leads to a change in the colour of the sample. The colourimetric sensor system is designed around an indigenously



built circuit, called a phase-sensitive detection circuit, which detects this change in colour. The sensor consists of a sample holder connected to the colourimetric sensor.

Once a sample is placed in the sample holder, the sensor picks up any colour change in the sample due to DNA, which is then converted to a voltage signal for measurement and recording. The team has also developed a mobile application that can read this voltage signal via bluetooth and display the information on a smartphone.

The phase-sensitive detection circuit, which was completely designed and built at IIT Bombay, is constructed from low-cost semiconductor integrated circuit components and a low-power LED

light source. Methylene blue is a widely used dye -- easy to obtain and inexpensive. These factors have allowed the researchers to keep the cost of manufacturing and operating the sensor low.

"The technology developed in our work holds promise for the realisation of a truly cost-effective solution for wastewater-based epidemiology," said Prof. Siddharth Tallur, from the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Bombay.

The sensor is, however, not without its limitations. The use of methylene blue dye means reduced specificity of the device.

According to Prof. Tallur "It (methylene blue) will bind with any DNA present in the sample to which it is added, and therefore the overall specificity of the sensor is determined by purity and choice of the primers used for target amplification in PCR (chemicals added to target DNA of a specific pathogen)."

The research team envisions that with advancements like other dyes with higher specificity, target-specific probes and robust microfluidic chips, the system can be enhanced for improved sensitivity, specificity, and robustness.



Harry Potter star Evanna Lynch's stunning hair transformation

Los Angeles | Agencies

She shot to fame as dreamy Luna Lovegood in the Harry Potter film franchise. But Evanna Lynch now looks completely different after undergoing a dramatic hair transformation. The actress, 32, began her career in Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix in 2007, when she was cast as fan-favourite Luna. She shot to fame as dreamy Luna Lovegood in the Harry Potter film franchise.

But Evanna Lynch now looks completely different after undergoing a dramatic hair transformation.

The actress, 32, began her career in Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix in 2007, when she was cast as fan-favourite Luna.

Evanna bleached her hair light blonde for the role, from her natural dark blonde locks and kept the colour for several years. However, she recently took to her Instagram to reveal she had decided to change things up.

She shared a stunning new selfie, showing she had chopped her tresses shorter and dyed them black, after being inspired by her dreams.

Captioning the gorgeous new snap, she wrote: 'Big mood shift lately. Here is my new look!'

'I do feel blonde suits me better but lately in all my dreams I was consistently sporting these glamorous shiny raven locks for some reason.'

'I felt I was being stalked by my dark and shadowy twin so I had to become her! I so want to cut it to a bob again but will wait for further dream guidance...'

She was flooded with compliments from her followers, including her Harry Potter co-star Bonnie Wright, who played Ginny Weasley, who commented a slew of heart-eyed emojis.

Evanna beat 15,000 other girls to get the role of Luna in the later Harry Potter films and was already a huge fan of the books and character.



Martin Scorsese's Western dream

SCORSESE TALKS ABOUT FINALLY VENTURING INTO THE REALM OF A "WESTERN" WITH "KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON."

Los Angeles | Agencies

Killers of the Flower Moon, inspired by true events, delves into the unlikely love story of Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Mollie Kyle (Lily Gladstone). It's an epic western crime saga, intertwining genuine love with unimaginable betrayal, featuring Robert De Niro and Jesse Plemons. Directed by the Academy Award winner himself, Martin Scorsese, and co-written by him and Eric Roth, the screenplay is based on David Grann's best-selling book.

At the turn of the 20th century, oil brought a fortune to the Osage Nation, who became

some of the richest people in the world overnight. The wealth of these Native Americans immediately attracted white interlopers, who manipulated, extorted, and stole as much Osage money as they could before resorting to murder.

Opting the rights to Grann's manuscript in 2016 before publication, DiCaprio's team brought the project to director Martin Scorsese for a potential sixth collaboration after such triumphs as "Gangs of New York," "The Departed" and "The Wolf of Wall Street."

Says Scorsese, "When I read David Grann's book, I immediately started seeing it - the people, the setting, the action - and knew I had to make it into a movie. And I was excited to be reuniting with

Leo to bring this story to the screen." The director remembers being intrigued by Grann's title, and by the possibility, that this could finally be his "western." Scorsese is effusive in his love of the genre, cherished since boyhood. He adds, "I always wanted to make a western, but I never did. I loved many of the westerns I saw when I was growing up and I still do love them - that includes the Roy Rogers films, which were basically made for children, and the more complex films that came in the late 40s and 50s."

Produced by Paramount Pictures, a Viacom18 Studios release in India, "Killers Of The Flower Moon" is all set to hit the theatres on Oct 27.

DRAKE'S 6-YEAR-OLD SON ADONIS MAKES RAPPING DEBUT WITH 'MY MAN FREESTYLE'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Drake's six-year-old son Adonis has followed his father's footsteps and has made a debut in the world of music with the music video of 'My Man Freestyle'.

The proud father posted the music video which has Adonis credited as the main writer, on his Instagram page for his 143 million followers, reports dailymail.co.uk.

'Happy birthday my son...MY MAN FREESTYLE OUT NOW,' Drake star captioned the video.

In the video, Drake's mini-me raps like his famous dad as he plays a basketball game, with the Jimmy Cooks rapper making a short appearance halfway through the reel.

Model Winnie Harlow shared her support for Adonis' first solo song, commenting under the video 'My my my my man...whole chorus goes in, singing that all week.'

Along countless other birthday wishes for the aspiring rapper was a comment from Canadian pop star Avril Lavigne, who wrote 'Yesss' with several fire and clapping emojis.

Several fans joked that they hoped Adonis got a new iPad, after the mini rapper waxed poetic in his verses that he "Was waiting for this moment to arrive / I was driving in the car and I smash my car / I was playing in on my iPad and I broke my iPad," among other lyrics Adonis' actual sixth birthday was on October 11.



Where are Big Brother's most iconic couples now?

London | Agencies

Big Brother is finally set to make its return to screens on Sunday, five years after it was taken off air. The upcoming series - the first to air on ITV2 - will be the 20th iteration of the show since it first debuted in 2000.

Over the years, housemates fell in love with one another, with many going on to marry and have kids after leaving the iconic mansion.

Meanwhile, others ended in blazing rows, with some exes still taking jobs at each other now, all those years on from their fling.

Here, MailOnline takes a look at what happened to Big Brother's most memorable couples. Grace and Mikey met while in the Big Brother house during series seven in 2006, alongside the likes of the late Nikki Grahame and winner Pete Bennett. The loved-up couple got engaged four months after the show ended and tied the knot in 2009. Grace and Mikey welcomed son Atticus in January 2022, and with the couple already being parents to Georgiana, 11, Spencer, seven, and Allegra, four. They announced their pregnancy in September 2021, when they revealed that,

although they were actively trying for another baby, who was due on January 8, they were shocked at how fast the pregnancy came.

Grace and Mikey recently revealed they're more in love than ever since welcoming their fourth child - but admit they struggle to spend time together.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jennifer Lopez

Feature doc to showcase Israel's site of massacre Supernova Music Festival

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Israeli music festival in which hundreds of young people were killed by Hamas, providing the spark to the ongoing conflict, is to be spotlighted in a documentary.

Bad Boys studio Sipur has acquired exclusive material from participants and key people at the festival as it seeks to honour the scores of young victims, and the as-yet-untitled feature will air on Israeli broadcaster Hot Channel 8 and HSCC.

The October 7 massacre at the Supernova Music Festival in Re'im Kibbutz by Hamas has been called 'Israel's 9/11', kicking off one of the darkest weeks of a generation for the international community and killing an estimated 260 civilians, reports Deadline.

The documentary will present an in-depth look at the festival before, during and after the horrific event.

It will include interviews with investigators, soldiers and journalists shocked by the carnage they have witnessed, as well as unseen footage gathered from the festival-goers.



Yariv Mozer, who helmed Sipur award-winner The Devil's Confession: The Lost Eichmann Tapes, is directing the feature.

"Nothing prepared me for the harsh images I have seen in the remains of the massacre that took place at the Nova music festival," said Mozer.

"I see it as my duty as a documentary filmmaker to bring to the world the testimonies and horrific stories from the survivors of this slaughter. Young women and men whose only sin was their desire for music, and the passion to celebrate free love, spirit and freedom."



India vs Bangladesh, Cricket World Cup 2023

VIRAT KOHLI SNIFFS AT SACHIN TENDULKAR'S RECORD AS INDIA BEAT BANGLADESH BY 7 WICKETS



Pune | Agencies

The legend of Virat Kohli continued to grow exponentially as he reached within handshaking distance of Sachin Tendulkar's world record of 49 hundreds during India's walk-in-the-park seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in a World Cup game in Pune on Thursday. Kohli, who plans 50-over chases with a precision of a surgeon, remained unbeaten on 103 off 97 balls as India knocked off the 258-run target with as many as 51 balls remaining. India have now made it four wins out of four games and one more win would virtually put them in semi-finals.

While Kohli hit six fours and four sixes, it was his exemplary running between

the wickets in pursuit of his 48th hundred that would be etched in the memory for the longest time.

But credit should also go to Ravindra Jadeja (2/38 in 10 overs) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/41 in 10 overs), who were exemplary covering all bases in absence of Hardik Pandya, who hobbled off the field after twisting his left ankle.

"Sorry for stealing it (the player of the Match award) from Jaddu. I wanted to make a big contribution. Have made fifties in World Cups, wanted to finish it off this time," Kohli said after the match.

with which he shares an intimate relation.

If Rohit rattled the Bangladeshis with an all-out attack, Kohli bled them with thousand cuts, running those twos in the 90s with effortless ease, another testimony to his fitness.

Earlier, as has been the case with each of India's opponents in the World Cup so far, scoring runs against arguably the best bowling attack in the competition proved a big ask for Bangladesh too, who managed a modest 256/8 on a batting-friendly surface.

In fact, Bangladesh squandered a terrific start which had them placed formidably at 90 for no loss after 14 overs, but India's bowling once again came to fore on a feathered here.

Hardik Pandya taken for scans as India sweat on his ankle injury in Pune



Pune | Agencies

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya was taken to the hospital for scans after he twisted his ankle and fell heavily in his follow-through before the key allrounder hobbled off after bowling three deliveries in his first over in the match against Bangladesh at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium in Pune on Thursday.

"Hardik Pandya's injury is being assessed at the moment and he is being taken for scans," the BCCI informed in a post through its official handle on X, formerly Twitter.

Pandya twisted his left ankle and fell heavily in his follow-through after bowling the third delivery of the team's ninth over.

Pandya, who came in as the first change after Jasprit Bumrah and Mohd Siraj had bowled four overs each, was struck back-to-back fours by Litton Das in the second and third deliveries. He had some treatment from the physio on the ground, got up for his next delivery but then decided to leave the ground. He was still limping as he went off to the dressing room. Former India captain Virat Kohli bowled the remaining three balls to complete the over, giving away just two runs as Bangladesh raced to 47 for no loss at the end of nine overs. With Hardik's out of action, skipper Rohit Sharma will have to juggle his bowlers around to prevent Bangladesh from putting up a big score, which looks likely considering the start they have had.

Sindhu beats Indonesia's Gregoria, enters the quarters of Denmark Open

Odense | Agencies

PV Sindhu entered the quarterfinals of the BWF Denmark Open 2023, beating Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung 18-21, 21-15, 21-13 on Thursday.

Having lost a close first game against the tournament's seventh seed, Sindhu, the reigning Olympic bronze-medallist, fought back strongly in an hour and 11-minute match to take the next two games and book a place in the last-eight clash.

She will meet Thailand's Supanida Katthong for a place in the semifinals after the latter beat India's Aakrushi Kashyap 21-18, 21-8. Sindhu snapped a 2-match losing streak to the higher-ranked shutter and extended her head-to-head record to 9-2.

In the first game, Sindhu



went behind 6-12 but managed to pull the score close before letting the Indonesian shutter escape. In the second game, blazing her way to a 13-4 lead in a commanding run of play. The Indonesian quickly scored eight straight games to tie the score at 14-14, but Sindhu went on the offensive and took advantage of Tunjung's long shot to earn six game points and pull ahead thanks to two flick serves. After having returned from the Asian Games in

Hangzhou without a medal, Sindhu reached the semi-final of the Arctic Open Super 500 tournament in Finland last week, and now reaches the quarters of the Denmark Open. It was disappointment early in men's singles as Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth were shown the door early while the World No. 1 doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty withdrew from their first-round match on Tuesday.

Batting well in middle-overs important for making big scores, says Shubman Gill

INDIA OPENER SHUBMAN GILL SAYS PLAYING THE MIDDLE OVERS WELL IS THE KEY TO GETTING BIG SCORES IN THE ICC MEN'S ODI WORLD CUP 2023, AND THE TEAM CAN DO THAT ONLY BY NOT LOSING EARLY WICKETS EARLY IN THE MATCH.

Pune | Agencies

Teams have found negotiating the middle overs a bit tough in this World Cup.

In the match against India, Pakistan were cruising along at 155/2 before losing wickets in a heap and being all out for 191. Ditto for Sri Lanka, who were 152/2 against Australia before a collapse leading to 209 all out. Afghanistan were 112/2 before getting bundled out for 156 against Bangladesh.



"It is very important to play the middle-overs well. If you don't lose too many wickets, then you can capitalise and put up a big score," Gill told the official broadcaster on Thursday.

Gill, who made his World Cup debut against Pakistan on October 14, said he will have to stick to his basics to continue to succeed as a batter.

"It is very important to stick to my basics and do what I regularly do, especially leading up to the match. Have a good mindset and that is what I am doing," he added.

The 24-year-old said he had a great experience playing his first match against arch-rivals Pakistan. "My World Cup experience was great, played my first match against Pakistan. It was a big match for us. We have the right momentum with us, hopefully, we can keep it going," he said.

He is also enjoying his opening partnership with skipper Rohit Sharma and said he does not have to change his batting style much to make the combination. "It does not change much the way I play. He (Rohit) is an aggressive batter and he has done so well for India in the World Cup. He plays how he feels on that day and plays on his instinct," he said.

VENUS WILLIAMS TARGETING A COMPETITIVE RETURN IN MARCH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The former World No.1 tennis player Venus Williams has no intentions of calling time on her tennis career just yet as the American revealed that she's 'targeting a return' to competition in March next year.

Williams said this week that the first-round loss she suffered at the hands of Elina Svitolina at the Wimbledon not only disrupted her plans for the fourth quarter of 2023, but also the start of 2024.

But in a recent interview with Tennis.com, the 43-year-old said she's now targeting a return next spring.

"I tried my best to recover for the US Open. I did not reach my form so now I am just resting until I get back. I am targeting March, that's when the tournaments go back to the States, so my goal is to be up and running when tournaments come back to the U.S."



Williams said. Williams played three events after that fateful slip at Wimbledon. She

lost in the first round in Montreal, and beat Veronika Kudermetova in the opening round in Cincinnati for

her first Top 20 win in four years before losing to Zheng Qinwen.

Her last match of the season was a 6-1, 6-1 loss to Belgian Greet Minnen in the first round at the US Open. It was Williams's most lopsided US Open loss in 100 career matches at the tournament.

Williams played seven events in 2023, as her schedule was interrupted for nearly six months as a consequence of an injury she suffered at the year's first event, the ASB Classic in Auckland. In 2023, Williams participated in seven events and posted a 3-7 record, but her competitive schedule was significantly disrupted due to an injury she sustained at the ASB Classic in Auckland, which sidelined her for nearly six months.

She returned to action for the grass-court season, where she notably beat Camila Giorgi in a 3-hour, 17-minute epic in Birmingham. She's currently ranked No. 408.

Four Indians enter quarterfinals at ITF Dharwad Men's WTT

Dharwad | Agencies

All the seeded players lived up to their billing as they entered the quarterfinals of the ITF Dharwad District Lawn Tennis Tour 2023.

The fancied players' march into the last eight of the USD 25,000 event was led by top seed Nick Chappell of the USA who quelled a spirited fight from Karan Singh winning the tie 6-4, 6-4 at the Dharwad District Lawn Tennis Association courts here on Thursday.

Amongst the seeded Indians, third seed Digvijay Pratap Singh, fourth seed Ramkumar Ramanathan, Sidharth Rawat (No.7) and SD Prajwal Dev (No.8) also made it to the quarterfinals.



Ramkumar, who had won the ITF Futures at the same venue nearly a decade ago found the going tough against the talented Ishaque Eqbal as the latter went 4-1 up with a break in the fourth game. However, the 28-year-old Indian Davis Cupper bounced back to level at 4. The games went with the

services until the set was decided in the tie-breaker which was contested fiercely and was settled at 8-6 in favour of the fancied player.

The second set saw Ramkumar continue in the same vein breaking his opponent's serve in the second set to go 3-0 up. Thereafter both the players held their respective serves with Ramkumar serving out for the match in 1 hour and 28 minutes.

In another interesting duel, Karan Singh of India put up a stellar fight against the southpaw Chappell. After having sent Malaysian Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong home in a gruelling first round match in the morning, Karan didn't show any signs of tiredness as he took on the top seed.

National Games kicks off in Goa, to be formally inaugurated on Oct 26

Panaji | Agencies

The 37th National Games began in Goa with Badminton tournament taking place on Thursday, much before its formal inauguration.

On Thursday morning, Badminton tournament kicked off in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Sports Minister Govind Gaude and others at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, here.

The 37th National Games will be formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 26 at 6.30 p.m. in Goa.

"This is a dream we have harboured for the past 10 years and immense efforts have been placed to host the event here. This edition of the National Games will be a great success. I hope it will



serve as the perfect platform for all athletes to shine in the future at the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and the Olympics," Sawant said. "Though Goa is renowned for its sea and sand, we aspire for it to be equally celebrated for its sporting ability," he said. Govind Gaude said that

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has got a great vision and encourages each athlete for taking India ahead in the field of sports. "In line with that, we are marching ahead with the 37th National Games Goa. We are certain this tournament will be a great success," he said.

16 races for final round of National Motorcycle Racing championship

Chennai | Agencies

The 2023 season of the Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship reaches its climax and conclusion at the Madras International Circuit here this weekend (Oct 20-22) with the fifth and final round that will identify a fresh crop of champions across various categories, but not before they overcome strong challenges.

A card of 16 races has been framed with the two Pro-Stock Open categories - 301-400cc and 165cc - headlining the three-day event. The card also has competitions in the Novice (Stock 165cc) and Girls (Stock 165cc) categories, besides a support race in the 301-400cc Novice class.

"It has been a long season with its shares of highs and lows. This weekend will see the conclusion of the Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2023. There are still a few titles up for grabs and as such, there will be no let-up in the intensity of competition that has been a feature all through the season. The introduction of electric motorcycles by TVS has been one of the high points and possibly, a pointer to the future. The MMSC is grateful to the title sponsors MRF Tyres, the com-

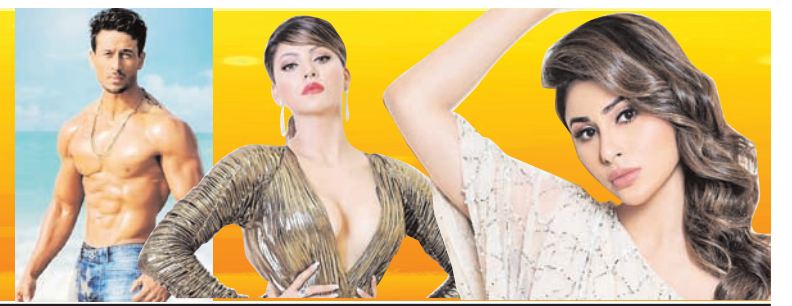


petitors and the Media for the support extended to the championship," said Ajit Thomas, MMSC President. The Petronas TVS One-Make Championship has races in three classes - the 301-400cc Open (RR 310), Girls (RTR 200) and Media (RTR 200), besides two rounds of 'Time Attack' for the TVS electric motorcycles, while the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup will showcase races in the NSF 250R category that contains a clutch of talented young riders.

The titles in three of the four National championship categories are more or less decided. Chennai's Rajiv Sethu (RACR Castrol Power1) in the PS 301-400cc Open, Vignesh Goud (Race's Motorcycle Club) from Hyderabad in the Novice and Puducherry's Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR Castrol Power1) in Girls categories enjoy unassailable leads in the respective points table. The championship is still wide open in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open class with several riders in the hunt for the title.

Chennai's Kavin Quintal needs only as few as six points to annex the crown in the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (NSF 250R). Going into the final round, he leads Rakshit Dave, also from Chennai, by 45 points with a maximum of 50 on offer over the weekend.

In sharp contrast, Bengaluru's Chiranth Vishwanath and Alwin Sundar (Chennai) occupy the top two spots in that order in the Petronas TVS Open category with just seven points separating the two. Another Bengalurean, Nithila Das is virtually assured of the title in the Girls (RTR 200) category with a 33-point advantage and a maximum of 25 to be had.



ARIJIT SINGH TO SING FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR SALMAN KHAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

It seems the feud has been put to rest as singer Arijit Singh will be lending his vocal prowess for song picturised on superstar Salman Khan for the upcoming film 'Tiger 3'.

YRF honcho Aditya Chopra has roped in Arijit to sing two songs for 'Tiger 3'.

While the first Arijit song, Leke Prabhu Ka Naam that drops on Monday, is a dance number featuring Salman and Katrina Kaif,

the second song is a romantic track that will touch the hearts of audiences and fans alike!

Director Maneesh Sharma said: "We can't wait for Leke Prabhu Ka Naam to drop next week! It's an out and out party track and having Arijit's voice on top of Salman's swag, is the cherry on top! Katrina's ethereal beauty and the chemistry between the two makes it the perfect formula to have everyone dancing!"

"We had a lot of fun filming in

Cappadocia, Turkey, and this will be another huge dance chartbuster to add to the already enviable list of successes that Salman and Katrina have had together."

Music director Pritam added: "It was a collaboration that was waiting to happen. Salman Khan is one of the biggest superstars and Arijit Singh, our generation's top singing sensation. These two stalwarts coming together for a song was long overdue and we are thrilled that it is happening for Tiger 3!"

Isha Sharma: Shooting in Kashmir added extra layer of motivation

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Isha Sharma, who is set to play the titular role in the upcoming drama 'Pashmina-Dhaage Mohabbat Ke', shared how shooting for the show in the breathtaking location of Kashmir Valley was like a dream come true, adding that every aspect of the experience felt entirely fresh and exhilarating.

The show presents a mesmerising love story set and shot in the magical valley of Kashmir.

In this captivating narrative, Isha steps into the shoes of Pashmina, a vibrant and spirited young girl who believes in the idea of love and dreams of experiencing a unique love story for herself.

Born in Kashmir, Pashmina is filled with enthusiasm, positivity, and a warm smile, and she helps her mother, Preeti (Gauri Pradhan), run a houseboat business for tourists visiting Kashmir.

Isha candidly shared her portrayal of Pashmina, offering insights into the character's unique qualities and the captivating journey that lies ahead for the audience.

Talking about the shooting in the beautiful Kashmir Valley, Isha said: "Pashmina, being my first foray into television, shooting in such a breathtaking location feels like a dream come true. It adds an extra layer of motivation to deliver my scenes to the best of my abilities."

"The stunning backdrop of Kashmir enhances the realism



of our storytelling, aligning perfectly with the essence of our show. We

aim to

bring our viewers an authentic and immersive experience, and the picturesque setting contributes significantly to achieving that goal," she said.



Anupam Kher set to roar in the South with back-to-back biggies

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Anupam Kher has been entertaining the Indian film audience without fail for a long time. And even today, the prolific actor keeps reinventing himself with the enthusiasm of a newcomer, finding new avenues. The proof of it reflects in his filmography down South and with his 2 upcoming back-to-back big films there, the actor is set to strengthen his hold over the South market.

Last year, Kher appeared in the successful Karthikeya 2 in the South cinema. Even with a brief appearance, the actor left a huge mark, delivering an impressive performance. And now, he is extending that hold in the South market with two back-to-back biggies.

First up is the Kannada language action heist thriller, Ghost. Kher stars alongside superstar Shiva Rajkumar, Jayaram, Prashanth Narayanan, Satya Prakash and Arachan Jois.

Directed by MG Srinivas, Ghost marks the beginning of a new cinematic universe. It will have a Dussehra release worldwide on October 19, 2023.

Post that, just a week later, Kher is also starring in Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja led Tiger Nageswara Rao. The big-budgeted pan-Indian film also marks Nupur Sanon's theatrical debut. It also stars Gayathri Bharadwaj and Jisshu Sengupta. The period action thriller is directed by Vamsee and releases on October 27, 2023.

While Kher is going strong in the South, his filmography in Hindi boasts of even bigger names. The actor has several films in different stages of production. He has had 3 impressive releases this year with Shiv Shastri Balboa, IB 71 and the recently released The Vaccine War. Up next, he has Emergency, Vijay 69, Chhota Bheem and The Curse of The Damyaan, Kaagaz 2 and The Signature in his kitty.



KRITI SANON INJURED HERSELF WITH NUNCHUCKS FOR ACTION SCENES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Kriti Sanon, who is currently riding high on her big win at the 'National Awards', has opened up on her upcoming flick 'Ganapath', and shared how she was badly hurt while performing the action sequences in the movie.

On Tuesday, Kriti was bestowed with the National Award for the 'Best Actress' at the 69th National Awards held in New Delhi, for her performance in 'Mimi'.

The actress was in the national capital on Wednesday for the promotion of 'Ganapath', along with the lead star Tiger Shroff. She looked gorgeous in a white short-sleeved dress, and completed the look with matching thigh high boots.

Kriti left her short hair open, and opted for a minimal makeup look - glossy lips and kohl-rimmed eyes.

Talking about her preparations for her role, Kriti said: "Nothing is really easy when you are doing it for the first time. I have never done action before this film. My first film was with Tiger, so I wished to do action films in life."

"My character Jassi uses nunchucks, which I don't think anyone has done here. So to learn that, you have to make it a part of your body, so I started learning nine months before the shoot. It was not easy. I had ripped and hurt myself a lot on my head and elbow everywhere," said Kriti.

She further said: "But it's nice to be finally practicing until you really get it, and then you see it on the screen come alive. So I would really love to do a lot more action. We shot in Ladakh, where the oxygen level was so low. So doing action scenes there is actually tougher than even doing it normally anywhere. But it's all worth it."

The premise for 'Ganapath' is something very different from traditional Bollywood as it sees Hindi cinema step into the realm of cyberpunk styled sci-fi films. The concept of a chosen one liberating people from an oppressor is an age-old story, though setting it in a dystopian 'Blade Runner' style feature with a bleak texture while retaining Hindi cinema's colourful aesthetic is something new.



Adah Sharma reunites with 'The Kerala Story' makers

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The makers of 'The Kerala Story' -- producer Vipul Amrutlal Shah, director Sudipto Sen, and actress Adah Sharma are now gearing up for their next project titled 'Bastar: The Naxal Story'.

The trio commenced the shoot with a Muhurat puja, followed by a first-day shoot at the location.

Vipul, Aashin A Shah from Sunshine Pictures, Sudipto and Adah Sharma were present at the puja.

Just after the puja, Adah gave her first shot at the location. The actress delivered her first dialogue for the film, and she was seen donning military pants, a black commando t-shirt, and a commando-like bandhana. This has indeed piqued the excitement to watch the film.

In June, the makers had made an official announcement of the movie, and wrote on social media: "Hidden truth that will take the nation by a storm.. Bastar".

Produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah and co-produced by Aashin A Shah, 'Bastar: The Naxal Story' is directed by Sudipto Sen and is made under the banner of Sunshine Pictures, in association with Last monk media.

It will be released on April 5, 2024.

Meanwhile, Adah has gained wide acclaim for her performance as Shalini Unnikrishnan and Fatima Ba in the movie 'The Kerala Story'.

The plot follows a group of women from Kerala, who are coerced into converting to Islam and joining the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).



Mouni Roy