

# absolute india



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## PM HAS NO TIME TO VISIT MANIPUR, GOVT TOO KEEN ON ISRAEL, SAYS RAHUL IN MIZORAM



**Aizawl** | Agencies  
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said that people have been killed for over five months in Manipur but Prime Minister does not find time to come to the state and it is amazing to see our government is so interested in what is going on in Israel.  
Gandhi while addressing an election rally in Aizawl said, "I really do not understand why PM did not travel in Manipur. It's a shame for a leader of the country."  
Referring to his visit to Manipur a few months back, he said that the national media has stories after stories on the Middle East but no more on the ethnic crisis ridden state.  
"Manipur is a symptom, you can see what happened in Manipur also reflecting other parts of India. Tribals, minorities, Dalits are feeling uncomfortable under BJP rule and this is an attack on the idea of India."  
"It is the duty of every single Indian to protect every single religion, every single culture and every single Indian

irrespective of religion," the Lok Sabha member from Kerala's Wayanad said adding that the BJP attacks "your culture, religion, your thoughts and the ruling MNF (Mizo National Front) supports BJP."  
Expressing his discontent over the drugs menaces, Rahul Gandhi said that the drugs are spreading rampantly in Mizoram and 259 young lives have been taken away by drug abuse in the state.  
He said that the young people of Mizoram are not getting jobs so they are getting frustrated, turning to drugs. In the last five years the MNF government has given only 2000 jobs, the Congress leader claimed.  
Noting that the Congress has worked for the development of Mizoram for the last many years, Rahul Gandhi said that with the signing of the Mizo peace accord in 1986 transition of violent Mizoram to peaceful Mizoram had started.  
Highlighting the Congress led government's performance in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, the former Congress President said that these

governments have been implementing many beneficial schemes from health sector to women welfare to education. Be it the social safety infrastructure in Karnataka, Rs 25L health insurance cover in Rajasthan, or the welfare of farmers and MSMEs in Chhattisgarh, our leadership in the states works with a vision, he stated.  
"Congress and the party ruled government have been protecting farmers, small businessmen, workers, poor wage-earners but BJP has been depriving and attacking them. GST has been designed to harm India's farmers and small traders."  
Urging the people to vote for the Congress, Rahul Gandhi said that the party (Congress) respects every single person irrespective of their caste, religion and creed and the party has an ambitious vision for the state of Mizoram. "We would protect your culture, tradition, language and religion. We love your diversity, perspective and your way of life and it is our most valuable asset and much more important than the buildings etc."  
"Some months ago I walked

around 4000 km from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Today (Monday) we walked two km, but the message I had to give was the same. I come here with the idea of Bharat Jodo, one India, that respects each other's culture and religion, that is tolerant and that loves itself as a whole."  
The Congress leader claimed that the BJP has been attacking this holistic idea and they attack different communities, languages and spread hatred despite this is against the idea of India. Referring to his visit to Mizoram 37 years ago, Rahul Gandhi said, "I was 16 years old when I came here with my father Late Rajiv Gandhi in 1986."  
"For long time our family has been very close to people with Mizoram. The people of Mizoram are gentle, kind and affectionate. People have a strong sense of community; they respect each other and also people with different ideas. It is something to be very proud of... you have a spirit of altruism. These are powerful values in the 21st century," Rahul Gandhi said.



## I will frequently visit Bengal to bring change: Amit Shah

Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that he will be visiting West Bengal frequently in the coming days to ensure change in the political power situation in the state.

**Kolkata** | Agencies  
He was in Kolkata to inaugurate the community Puja of Santosh Mitra Square at Lebutala Park in central Kolkata, whose principal organiser is BJP councillor in Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Sajal Ghosh.  
"This is not the occasion for making political statements. So, I will not do that now. But I will be frequenting the state more, making political statements and ensuring that there is change in the state," the Shah said.  
He also referred to the theme of the Puja committee this year which is Ram Madir

in Ayodhya. "The Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya in January next year. But before that there is inauguration of another Ram Mandir in Kolkata by the people," the Home Minister said. Besides Shah and Ghosh, also present on the occasion was BJP's state president in West Bengal and party Lok Sabha member Sukanta Majumdar and the leader of the opposition in West Bengal assembly Suvendu Adhikari.  
The inauguration of the Puja pandal was the only scheduled programme of Home Minister in Kolkata on Monday. He will fly back to New Delhi in evening.

Santosh Mitra Square, this year too, has maintained its tradition of not accepting the donation and other financial benefits offered by the state government to the community Durga Puja committees every year.  
"We have not been accepting donations for the last two years. Pujas have been organised with lots of pomp and grandeur even before. So, it will happen this year as well. But we do not want to be a party to waste money of the state exchequer and that too at a time when the state government is unable to meet essential expenditure for development or go for recruitment for the vacant posts," Ghosh said.

## Manish Sisodia bail plea: ED may name AAP as accused in Delhi liquor policy case

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday resumed hearing former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's bail plea in alleged Delhi liquor policy scam and was told that the ED is considering making the AAP an accused in the case.  
Making his submission before a bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice S.V.N. Bhatti, ASG S.V. Raju, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate (ED), said that he had been instructed to say that the ED is considering making the Aam Admi Party an accused in the ongoing investigation in the PMLA case.  
On October 4, while hearing the submissions from senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi representing Sisodia, the bench had asked the ED why the AAP was not made an accused when the whole ED case was about the party being a beneficiary.  
On the next day, the bench clarified that it had only raised a legal query. "...We want to clarify that our question yesterday was not to implicate anyone. Suppose if as per the prose-



cution if A is not being prosecuted can B or C be prosecuted?" the bench said. The court will again resume hearing the bail plea on Tuesday.

## Candidates selected on seat's caste and social structure, will convince disappointed workers to work for party: Kamal Nath

**A DAY AFTER THE CONGRESS RELEASED ITS FIRST LIST OF 144 CANDIDATES FOR THE NOVEMBER 17 MADHYA PRADESH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, STATE PARTY CHIEF KAMAL NATH ON MONDAY SAID THE ASPIRANTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED KEEPING THE CASTE EQUATION TO ENSURE SOCIAL JUSTICE.**

**Team Absolute** | Bhopal

During an interaction with media persons at party headquarters here, the veteran Congress leader said: "Around 4,000 people have applied for the tickets and they all claimed they will win the elections, but all of them can't get the ticket. We announced candidates

after taking opinions from others. There is hardly any unanimity on such things as all those who applied claimed that they would be victorious."  
Responding to the resentment of some party workers after they were denied tickets, he said he will talk to all them.  
Kamal Nath, who is the chief ministerial face of the Congress in Madhya Pradesh said: "The party's aim during ticket distribution was to do social justice and this process should fit into the caste equation."  
Meanwhile, he also informed that the party will declare candidates for the remaining seats in two-three days. Out of 144 candidates announced so far, 65 are below the age of 50 years and 19 are women.  
Asked about tickets given to leaders who recently switched over to the

Congress from the BJP and other parties, Kamal Nath said such leaders joined his party only after the consent of local party organisation.  
Several party workers from different parts of the state on Monday assembled at Kamal Nath's residence in Bhopal to express their disappointment for denial of tickets. Former Congress MLA Yadendra Singh, who was running for ticket from Nagod constituency of Satna, broke down in front of the party workers on Sunday and resigned from the party.  
He accused Kamal Nath of dictatorship in selection of candidates and joined the BSP on Monday. "I was the right hand of the Congress party, I am not saying anything right now as to how many I will dent but I will definitely teach Kamal Nath a lesson in the district," he said.



## RBI fines Mumbai housing finance firm, Gujarat co-op bank

**Team Absolute** | Mumbai

The RBI on Monday announced that it has slapped fines on Gujarat Mercantile Co-operative Bank and Mumbai-based West End Housing Finance for violating norms.  
Gujarat Mercantile Co-operative Bank was penalised as the bank had breached the prudential inter-bank gross exposure limit, breached the prudential inter-bank counterparty exposure limit, and not maintained the minimum Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) for certain days, the RBI explained.  
A monetary penalty of Rs 1.7 lakh was imposed West End Housing Finance as it failed to obtain prior written permission of NHB/RBI for change in its shareholding due to progressive increases over time, resulting in the transfer of shareholding beyond the permitted limit,



the RBI said.  
"This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customers," the RBI said.  
Smaller fines were also imposed by the RBI on three other co-operative banks. These include Nagarik Sahakari Bank, The Sevalia Urban Co-operative Bank, Makarpura Industrial Estate Co-operative Bank.

## Rs 94 cr cash, jewellery worth Rs 8 cr seized in I-T raids in four states

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

The Income Tax (I-T) Department has seized unaccounted cash to the tune of Rs 94 crore as well as gold and diamond jewellery worth Rs 8 crore in search and seizure operations against some government contractors, real estate developers and their associates during raids carried out on October 12 at 55 premises across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Delhi, according to an official statement issued on Monday.  
Further, a cache of about 30 luxury watches of foreign make were unearthed from the premises of a private salaried employee, not engaged in the business of wrist watches, the statement issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said.



Large scale unaccounted cash transactions, which are not found recorded in the books of account, have also been found during the search on the premises of assesses, sub-contractors, and associates including certain cash handlers.  
A large amount of incriminating evidence in the form of loose sheets, hard copy of documents and digital data have been seized.  
The modus-operandi of tax evasion detected indicates that these contractors were involved in reducing their income by inflating expenses by booking bogus purchases, non-genuine claim of expenses with sub-contractors and claiming ineligible expenses.

The irregularities detected in utilisation of contract receipts, has resulted in generation of huge unaccounted cash and creation of undisclosed assets.  
Evidence indicating inflation of expenses in the form of discrepancies in Goods Receipt Note (GRN) validation has been unearthed during the search.  
Evidence of huge discrepancies in documentation related to purchases booked and actual physical transport of goods have also been unearthed, with regard to bogus transactions with sub-contractors, some of whom were also covered during the search. Further, these contractors were also involved in booking expenses for non-business purposes. Evidences of claim of liaison expenses have also been found and seized.

## Corruption by KCR's family being talked about in Delhi too: Rajnath



**Hyderabad** | Agencies

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday alleged that corruption by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu's family is being talked about in Delhi too.  
He slammed KCR for what he called abuse of power and growing corruption in Telangana. "The talk of corruption by your family is not limited to Telangana alone but it has reached Delhi. I want to tell Mr KCR that there is no smoke without fire," he said in an apparent reference to the Delhi liquor policy case allegedly involving KCR's daughter K. Kavitha.  
Rajnath Singh was addressing an election rally at Jammikunta in Hyderabad constituency represented by BJP MLA and former minister Eatala Rajender.  
The BJP leader remarked that KCR's objective is family first while the people of Telangana want to see the state first.  
"There is nothing wrong in having a family but handing over the entire state to the family is not acceptable to the people and to the BJP," he said.





## WILL STAY WITH CONG TILL MY LAST BREATH: DIGVIJAYA SINGH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Days after a fake letter of senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh announcing his resignation from the party went viral, the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister said on Monday that he will stay with the party till his last breath and that the BJP-RSS keep on targeting him.



remain in Congress till my last breath."

Speaking to the media here, Digvijaya Singh said, "BJP and RSS keep targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and some of our party leaders, including me. They run fake videos, write fake letters and edit our statements, so this was as a part of that."

Commenting on the fake letter, which announced his resignation from the party, he said, "I joined the Congress party in 1971 and I shall

His remarks came a day after a fake letter went viral on social media platforms claiming to be of Singh, in which he announced his res-

ignation.

However, Singh took to X on Sunday to clarify the situation and said that the BJP was expert in lying. "I took membership of Congress in 1971. I joined the Congress not for the post but because I was influenced by the ideology and I will remain in Congress till the last breath of my life. I am filing a police complaint against this lie," he added.

The voting for the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly is scheduled on November 17 and counting of votes will take place on December 3.

On Sunday, the first day of Navratri, the Congress announced its first list of 144 candidates for the state, including Singh's son Jaivardhan Singh fielded from Raghogarh Assembly constituency.

## Situation clear on 90 seats...Candidates weaker than Shivraj, Kamal Nath, Prahlad?

▶ BJP HAS SO FAR DECLARED 136 CANDIDATES FOR THE MADHYA PRADESH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, WHILE CONGRESS HAS RELEASED THE LIST OF 144 CANDIDATES YESTERDAY.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Till now, according to the lists released by both the parties, the status of total 90 seats has been cleared. A comparative study of which candidates of BJP and Congress are facing each other in these seats has also started.

State Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan is contesting elections from Budhni, while Congress has fielded



Vikram Mastal, who played Hanuman in the serial, against him. The contest here is being considered one-sided. On the other hand, State Congress President and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath will contest elections from his seat Chhindwara.

In front of him is Vivek Bunty Sahu of BJP. Here too it is believed that Kamal Nath will have the upper hand.

BJP has fielded Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel from Narsinghpur in place of his brother Jalam Singh Patel. In front of him,

Congress has given ticket to Lakan Singh Patel. Even here the competition does not seem equal. Prahlad Patel's upper hand is said to be very heavy. BJP General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya is contesting from Indore seat number one, from here Congress has given ticket to sitting MLA Sanjay Shukla. The competition here is said to be close. Leader of Opposition Dr. Govind Singh will be the Congress candidate from Lahar, where BJP has fielded Ambrish Sharma against him. Here Govind Singh is said to have the upper hand. Congress MLA Laxman Singh from Chachoda is contesting against BJP's Priyanka Meena, here former BJP MLA Mamta Meena has left the party and joined AAP.

Another hot seat of Bhopal is Central, where current MLA Arif Masood of Congress will face former MLA Dhruv Narayan Singh of BJP. It is being claimed that this contest will be very interesting and tough.

## Cong to corner rival Narottam Mishra through RSS old guard Avdhesh Nayak

Team Absolute | Bhopal

While the Congress has executed a well planned ideological stroke by fielding Vikram Mastal -- onscreen 'Hanuman' -- against the BJP's one of strongest and the longest serving Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, it has attempted to corner the state home Minister, Narottam Mishra also through an the RSS old guard, Avdhesh Nayak.

With fielding rebel Avdhesh Nayak, a strong Brahmin face with RSS background, against Narottam Mishra, who has established himself as firebrand Hindutva leader in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress has made the Datia Assembly seat's electoral fight the most interesting.

Nayak joined the Congress in August this year in style when his convoy of around 100 vehicles reached Bhopal. He joined the Congress in the presence of Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh.

Nayak contested the 2003 Assembly election from Datia on BJP's ticket but lost to Congress' Ghanshyam Singh by 2,904 votes. The former RSS leader was then accused of fanning communal ten-



two leaders was visible in the public domain after Mishra managed to win a breathtaking contest in 2018 against Congress' Rajendra Bhat with a margin of 2,600 votes. Later during a pomp and show after the election in 2018, Avdhesh Nayak, approached Mishra in the crowd and garlanded him. Mishra, on the contrary, humiliated Nayak, pulled the garland apart and moved away.

Four and half years later, the two have become arch-rivals now. Both leaders belong to the Brahmin community and have established themselves on the same hard-Hindutva path.

Sources told IANS that Mishra has been facing the resentment of the people because of his controversial statements, growing crime against women across the state, and huge corruption. Notably, in the past three and half years, whenever, CM Chouhan government faced wrath from the opposition in and outside the Assembly, Mishra stood as a shield. Sources said that Mishra was among those BJP leaders who were found performing very poorly in the party's survey before the ticket distribution; however, he is trying to convince people by highlighting developments of Datia in the past few years, especially medical college and airport.

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## Booking full for rituals at Maa Pitambara Peeth during election season

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Baglamukhi, the mother of Pitambara Peeth in Datia, Madhya Pradesh, is considered the goddess of power along with Shatruhanta. Actually, there is a queue of politicians here throughout the year.

Chanting and rituals keep happening, but after the announcement of assembly elections, the queue of leaders has increased in the mother's court. The process of chanting and performing havan for ticket and victory has started. The booking for rituals in Pitambara Peeth is full till February. Not only Madhya Pradesh, leaders from election states Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are also present here. There are so many rituals taking place in the temple that there is a shortage of space in the peetha. Priests associated



with the temple management say that in view of Navratri and elections, pujas are being conducted in nearby hotels.

About 100 Pandits are engaged in this. Due to Navratri, each Pandit is responsible for four to five rituals daily. People associated with the temple say that about 15 ministers and 60 MLAs of Madhya Pradesh have booked for the rituals during Navratri. Some have made the booking by applying to the Trust and some

have entrusted the responsibility of performing puja and havan most of it to their known pundits.

In the event of not being able to get a place for the rituals on the Peeth, the priests have now made arrangements for the rituals of their host politicians in the hotels built around the Peeth. Apart from this, the priests and seekers associated with the Peeth in Datia have also made places of worship at their residences.

## Congress to release next list in two-three days, says Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Congress will release its second list of candidates for the November 17 Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections in the next two-three days, former chief minister and state unit head Kamal Nath said here on Monday.



take tough decisions.

The party released the first list of 144 candidates on Sunday.

The remaining 86 candidates are likely to be declared in two phases.

"Most of the candidates for remaining seats have been finalised, only a few are being discussed. All the candidates will be announced in the next two-three days," he said. Asked about those disappointed after being denied tickets, the Congress leader said he has spoken to all of them, but the party has to

"Candidates have been selected keeping the social structure of each district and the Assembly seat. There were 4,000 applications for 230 seats and all of them claimed they will win the election, but we have to see different parameters to select the candidates," Kamal Nath added. Responding to a query on his candidature from his home town Chhindwara, the veteran

leader said neither was he interested in contesting the election nor was he worried about it.

He stated that Lok Sabha MP Nakul Nath, along with him, will announce the name of Chhindwar's candidates.

"The name of Chhindwar candidates would be announced first of all in Chhindwara by Nakul Nath and then finalised by the central leadership in Delhi," he said, indicating that the candidates have been finalised. Meanwhile, he took jibe at Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan saying the Congress has fielded an actor against actor (Chouhan). "It would be interesting to see who will be a better actor. Shivraj is a seasoned actor, which is why we have fielded an actor against him," Kamal Nath added.

## SEAT SHARING BETWEEN CONGRESS-SP FACES ROUGH WEATHER IN MP

Team Absolute | Lucknow/Bhopal

The strain between the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) is finally showing through and the seat-sharing formula for the upcoming Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls has reportedly fallen through.

The two parties are now face-to-face on at least five seats so far as per the list of candidates released from the two sides.

It now remains to be seen if this development has any impact on the seat-sharing talks between the two for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, in the politically crucial state of Uttar Pradesh.

Trouble began when the Congress released a list of 144 candidates for the elections to 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly.

The list included the name of Charan Singh Yadav as party candidate for Bijawar seat (constituency number 52). In the 2018 Assembly polls, SP's Rajesh Kumar had won the seat by a margin of over 67,000 votes.

The move left the SP cadres in Madhya Pradesh restless.



Feeling the pulse of the party leaders and cadres, the SP leadership convened a meeting of office-bearers from MP at the party headquarters in Lucknow. Chaired by SP president Akhilesh Yadav, the meeting was attended by party national general secretary Shivpal Yadav among oth-

ers. After a hectic discussion that went beyond a couple of hours, the party decided to formally announce the names of candidates on nine seats.

The list included at least five seats where the Congress has already fielded a candidate. Senior SP members

said the party leadership has decided to contest the MP Assembly polls alone. "The party leadership will soon declare more names as well," he said.

Sources have blamed "lack of communication from the Congress end" as the main cause of the two parties contesting MP polls independently.

## Many leaders including Mahendra Boudh, Gautam Patel, Umesh Yadav left BJP-BSP and joined Congress

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a grand ceremony organized in the auditorium of the State Congress Headquarters, in the presence of State Congress President and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath, prominent leaders of BJP, BSP and other parties from various districts of the state, influenced by the ideology of the Congress Party, accepted the membership of the Congress Party and Pledged to form Congress Party government in the state under the leadership of Kamal Nath and make Kamal Nath the Chief Minister.

Former Minister Mahendra Boudh, former President Nagar Panchayat Sevda, Mrs. Kamala Diwakar Yadav, Shivraman Singh Rathore, Shri Ram Prakash Sharma, Ramesh Parsediya, Harish Yadav, Dashrath Singh Yadav, Kuldeep Itauria, Narendra Srivastava Sevda, Prahlad Aggarwal, Parvati Singh Yadav, Ramkumar Ahirwar. And returned home to Congress with hundreds of colleagues. Meanwhile, Niwari's senior BSP leader Umesh Yadav along with hundreds of his supporters joined the Congress Party.



## Veterans in the shelter of the RSS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A big news is coming out quoting sources. Many stalwarts of BJP reached out to the Sangh over the possibility of tickets being cut for the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh. Where the leaders have met the Sangh officials. It was told that all these leaders are trying to persuade by imposing veto to get ticket in the elections.

According to information received from sources, Bharatiya Janata Party can make many major changes in the fifth list of candidates. It is being told that tickets of 5 ministers and more than 30 MLAs can be cut. Meanwhile, senior BJP leaders took refuge in the Sangh regarding the possibility of their names being dropped. 2 ministers and 8 MLAs have secretly met Sangh officials. All these leaders are busy in

convincing the officials to get tickets in the assembly elections. The bugle for assembly elections 2023 has been sounded in the state. All political parties have geared up regarding this. Bharatiya Janata Party has released a total of 4 lists of candidates so far. In which candidates have been announced for 136 seats. It was told that the names for the remaining 94 seats will be finalized this week. Churning is going on in BJP regarding this. The fifth list will be released after the meeting of the Central Election Committee. Let us tell you that notification for the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh will be issued on October 21. Nominations will be submitted till 30th October. Nominations will be scrutinized till October 31. November 2 is the last date for withdrawal of nominations.



## EDITOR'S SPECS

## MAYAWATI IS EJECTING PEOPLE AS THE LOCAL ELECTIONS APPROACH

At a time when most political parties are busy welcoming leaders from other parties to strengthen their base ahead of the general elections, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Uttar Pradesh has thrown its exit doors wide open for its own leaders. The party has been expelling leaders at an alarming pace, creating an unexplained vacuum in leadership. The BSP recently expelled three of its leaders -- Prashant Gautam, Imran Masood and Dharamveer Chaudhary -- for indiscipline and anti-party activities. Chaudhary, a Jat leader from Ghaziabad, who had been in the party for 27 long years, was expelled for participating in media and TV debates on behalf of the party. Imran Masood, an influential Muslim leader from Saharanpur, who was inducted in the party with much fanfare by Mayawati herself in October last year, was expelled after he heaped praise on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Gautam, a senior leader from Meerut, on the other hand, had written an open letter to Mayawati, after the party's rout in the municipal polls in UP, saying that she should have campaigned for the party leaders. A former MLA said that the BSP had expelled leaders from various caste groups which led to a depletion of its vote bank. The party could manage to win only one seat in the 2022 assembly polls. According to sources, one of the several reasons for the cadres' disillusionment with the leadership is Mayawati's refusal to meet her party workers. According to them, Mayawati has a coterie of "consultants" -- most of them non-political -- whom she trusts for running the party organisation, and she is not the leader who has her own ears to the ground. This keeps her away from the first-hand feedback on the party on many occasions.

# BY SCUPPERING SAUDI-ISRAELI ACCORD FOR NOW, HAMAS DOES IRAN A FAVOUR

Sanjeev Sharma

The shocking Hamas assault on Israel has precipitated a beginning and an end for the Middle East. What has begun, almost inexorably, is the next war -- one that will be bloody, costly, and agonizingly unpredictable in its course and outcome, writes Suzanne Maloney, Vice President of the Brookings Institution and Director of its Foreign Policy program, in Foreign Affairs.

What has ended, for anyone who cares to admit it, is the illusion that the US can extricate itself from a region that has dominated the American national security agenda for the past half century, the article said.

The White House devised a creative exit strategy, attempting to broker a new balance of power in the Middle East that would allow Washington to downsize its presence and attention while also ensuring that Beijing did not fill the void.

A historic bid to normalize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia promised to formally align Washington's two most important regional partners against their common foe, Iran, and anchor the Saudis beyond the perimeter of China's strategic orbit, it added.

It was never plausible that informal understandings and a dribble of sanctions relief would be sufficient to pacify the Islamic Republic and its proxies, who have a keen and time-tested appreciation for the utility of escalation in advancing their strategic and economic interests.

Iranian leaders had every incentive to try to block an Israeli-Saudi breakthrough, particularly one that would have extended American security guarantees to Riyadh and allowed the Saudis to develop a civilian nuclear energy program, Maloney wrote.

At this time, it is not known whether Iran had any specific role in the carnage in Israel. Earlier this week, The Wall Street Journal reported that Tehran was directly involved in planning the assault, citing unnamed senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group.

That report has not been confirmed by Israeli or US officials, who have only gone so far as to suggest that Iran was "broadly complicit," in the words of Jon Finer, the deputy national security adviser.

At the very least, the operation "bore hall-



marks of Iranian support," as a report in The Washington Post put it, citing former and current senior Israeli and US officials, Maloney said.

"And even if the Islamic Republic did not pull the trigger, its hands are hardly clean. Iran has funded, trained, and equipped Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups and has coordinated closely on strategy, as well as operations, especially during the past decade.

It is inconceivable that Hamas undertook an attack of this magnitude and complexity without some foreknowledge and affirmative support from Iran's leadership", the article said. And now Iranian officials and media are exulting in the brutality unleashed on Israeli civilians and embracing the expectation that the Hamas offensive will bring about Israel's demise, it added.

Since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, however, the Islamic Republic has used escalation as a policy tool of choice. When the regime is under pressure, the revolutionary playbook calls for a counterattack to unnerve its adversaries and achieve a tactical advantage.

And the war in Gaza advances the long-cherished goal of the Islamic Republic's lead-

ership to cripple its most formidable regional foe. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has never wavered in his feverish antagonism toward Israel and the US, the article said.

"He and those around him are profoundly convinced of American immorality, greed, and wickedness; they revile Israel and clamor for its destruction, as part of the ultimate triumph of the Islamic world over what they see as a declining West and an illegitimate "Zionist entity", Maloney said.

Closer bonds among China, Iran, and Russia have encouraged a more aggressive Iranian posture, since a crisis in the Middle East that distracts Washington and European capitals will produce some strategic and economic benefits for Moscow and Beijing, the article said.

Finally, the prospect of a public Israeli-Saudi entente surely provided an additional accelerant to Iran, as it would have shifted the regional balance firmly back in Washington's favor. In a speech he delivered just days before the Hamas attack, Khamenei warned that "the firm view of the Islamic Republic is that the govern-

ments that are gambling on normalising relations with the Zionist regime will suffer losses.

Defeat awaits them. They are making a mistake", Maloney wrote.

For now, therefore, although the threat of a wider war remains real, that outcome is hardly inevitable. The Iranian government has made an art of avoiding direct conflict with Israel, and it suits Tehran's purposes, as well as those of its regional proxies and patrons in Moscow, to light the fire but stand back from the flames, the article said.

Some in Israel may advocate for hitting Iranian targets, if only to send a signal, but the country's security forces have their hands full now, and senior officials seem determined to stay focused on the fight at hand.

Most likely, as the conflict evolves, Israel will at some point hit Iranian assets in Syria, but not in Iran itself. To date, Tehran has absorbed such strikes in Syria without feeling the need to retaliate directly, it added.

international

## US ACTIVELY WORKING TO GET ASSISTANCE INTO GAZA: BLINKEN

Washington | Agencies

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday said Washington is "actively working" to ensure that humanitarian assistance can get into Gaza as the Hamas-Israel conflict continued for the 10th consecutive day.

In a post on X, Blinken said: "We stand with Israel as it defends itself. The United States is also actively working to ensure the people of Gaza can get out of harm's way and the assistance they need - food, water, medicine - can get in.

"Hamas does not care if Palestinians suffer."

Gaza is facing a critical humanitarian crisis, with shortages of water, electricity, food, fuel and medicine.

The Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, the only remaining outlet for supplies, has been closed for much of the past week.

On Monday however, Israel denied reports that it had agreed to a ceasefire in southern Gaza to allow the Rafah border crossing to open to let



aid into the Hamas-controlled enclave.

"At the moment there is no ceasefire for humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip and the exit of foreigners," The Times of Israel quoted a statement issued by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

Earlier, reports said that Israel had agreed to halt fire from 9 a.m. in a deal agreed on with Egypt and the US. Several Likud ministers are vehe-

mently opposing a reported US-brokered temporary truce to allow aid into the Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, The Times of Israel reported.

Energy Minister Israel Katz said that he "bitterly opposes the opening of the blockade and the introduction of goods into Gaza on humanitarian grounds".

"Our commitment is to the families of the murdered and kidnapped

hostages - not to the Hamas murderers and those who helped them," he said. Also objecting the move, Culture Minister Miki Zohar said: "Those who massacre children, rape women and kidnap babies do not deserve any mercy."

Meanwhile, the Hamas has also said that it did not have any information about the proposed humanitarian truce at the Rafah border crossing. Meanwhile, tonnes of vital humanitarian supplies for people in Gaza have been piling up on the Egyptian side of the border, CNN reported.

On Sunday, Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner general of the UN Relief and Works Agency, said that Gaza is rapidly running out of water and electricity, and the population faces severe shortages of food and medicine.

"Gaza is being strangled and it seems that the world right now has lost its humanity. If we look at the issue of water - we all know water is life - Gaza is running out of water, and Gaza is running out of life," Lazzarini said.

Jerusalem | Gaza | Agencies

The death toll in the raging conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip is nearing 4,000, as violence continued for the 10th consecutive day on Monday.

According to official Israeli sources, more than 1,300 people have been killed since the conflict first erupted on October 7.

The raging violence has also injured 3,621 Israelis so far, the sources added.

In Gaza, deaths have risen to 2,670, with more than 9,600 injuries reported, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry based in the Hamas-controlled enclave.

In the past 24 hours, 455 fatalities and 856 injuries were reported in Gaza, the Ministry added.

Ashraf Al-Qudra, a spokesman of the Ministry, said that rescue operations



"are facing great difficulties" as a result of the massive destruction in residential neighbourhoods and the roads leading to hospitals as a result of the unabated Israeli airstrikes.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the current death toll in Gaza has already surpassed the total number of fatalities (2,251) during the 2014 escalation, which lasted for over seven weeks.

According to the

Palestinian Civil Defence, the number of missing people, presumably trapped beneath the rubble may exceed 1,000.

As of Monday morning, an estimated 600,000 people were displaced in the densely-populated enclave, of which some 300,000 are currently taking refuge at UN Relief Works Agency designated emergency shelters.

As a result of the war, the UN said the Middle East "is on the verge of the abyss" and has asked Israel to let humanitarian aid into Gaza.

## Fiji to bring back overseas skilled workers to tackle shortage

Suva | Agencies

The Fijian government is now focusing on improving the work of the immigration department by easing the work permit process, as well as assisting the private sector, to bring back more workers for needy areas.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Biman Prasad said this while participating in the 2023 Human Capital Ministerial Conclave's plenary session during the margins of the 2023 Annual meeting for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) held in Marrakesh, Morocco, the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation



reported on Monday.

Prasad said that migration is a significant issue for Fiji.

In the last 18 months, around 10 per cent of Fiji's formal workforce has left for greener pastures in neighbouring developed countries,

reports Xinhua news agency.

Prasad said there is significant value in technical, vocational, and enterprise education and training (TVET) programs in schools and tertiary institutions in Fiji.

## Landlord stabs 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy to death in anti-Muslim hate crime

Chicago | Agencies

A landlord in Chicago, who had been agitated due to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, was charged and arrested after he stabbed his six-year-old Palestinian-American tenant 26 times because the child and his mother were Muslims, according to law enforcement officials.

In a statement on Sunday, the Will County Sheriff's Office said that on October 14 at 11.38 a.m., deputies were sent to a residence located near the 16200 block of S. Lincoln Highway regarding a stabbing that occurred involving a landlord and the tenant. The deputies found two victims with multiple stab wounds inside the residence, while the suspect -- identified as Joseph M. Czuba (71) was sitting on the ground near the driveway of the house.

The victims were identified as Hanaan Shahin (32) and her son Wade Al-Fayoume (six).

The Will County Sheriff's Office said that Shain has been transported to a nearby hospital in serious condition "and had over a dozen stab wounds



to her body".

She is currently recovering and is expected to survive this brutal attack, it added.

However, the victim was also transported to the hospital in critical condition, where he later succumbed to his injuries. The child had been stabbed 26 times throughout his body and the "forensic pathologist conducting the autopsy removed the knife from the abdomen of the boy", the Sheriff's Office said in the statement. The knife used in the

crime was a 12-inch serrated military style knife that had a seven-inch blade.

Although the suspect did not make any statements to detectives regarding his involvement in this heinous attack, personnel were able to gather enough information through interviews and evidence to formally charge him with first degree murder, attempted first degree murder, hate crime (two counts), and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, the statement added.

"Detectives were able to determine that both victims in this brutal attack were targeted by the suspect due to them being Muslim and the ongoing Middle conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis," the Will County Sheriff's Office noted.

Meanwhile, the Chicago office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago), the country's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organisation, on Sunday called the brutal attack "our worst nightmare". According to CAIR, Hanaan and her son Wade had lived on the ground floor of the house for two years with no previous notable issues with the landlord.





Los Angeles | Agencies

# Mistaken for Britney Spears by autograph seeker: Jessica Simpson

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Jessica Simpson recently spoke about an awkward encounter with a fan. She took to her Instagram, and shared that she had just been approached by an autograph seeker during an outing to the mall. However, as it turned out, it was a case of mistaken identity. "The face when someone in the parking lot at the mall asks you for your autograph, but expects you to sign it, 'Britney Spears'?" Simpson quipped, alongside a photo of her and daughter Maxwell Drew, 11, making exaggerated shocked faces for the camera, reports 'People' magazine. It's not all that surprising that a fan might get the two pop stars mixed up. They both rose to fame on the music scene around the same time in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and share a few other notable things in common, including their bright blonde hair, dark brown eyes, Southern roots and childhood stints on the 'Mickey Mouse Club'.



Forever'

As per 'People', they also both starred in reality shows with their former significant others - Simpson in MTV's 'Newlyweds' with ex-husband Nick Lachey, and Spears, 41, in UPN's 'Britney and Kevin: Chaotic' with ex Kevin Federline.

Spears even made her own nod to the duo's resemblance in a December 2022 Instagram post. "Why do I look EXACTLY like Jessica Simpson? Also my face looks so pale", she wrote alongside a throwback photo of herself sucking in her cheeks, making her look more like the 'I Wanna Love You

singer. Though the pair was often pitted against each other and portrayed by the media as rivals during their pop heyday, Simpson has openly supported Spears in recent years.



Aaron Taylor-Johnson tipped to play next James Bond

Actor Aaron Taylor-Johnson is a hot favourite to take on the role of the M16 spy, James Bond. It has already been over two years since the last 'James Bond' film was released.

Aaron broke into the mainstream with the rom-com film 'Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging' before going on to play action roles in violent comic book flick 'Kick Ass' and later played Quicksilver in the Marvel film 'Avengers: Age of Ultron', reports Mirror.co.uk.

This year he was due to play adventurer Sergei Kravynoff in the Marvel film 'Kraven the Hunter', but the film release has been delayed until August 2024. Reports have suggested Aaron will soon be announced as the next Bond - while 'Oppenheimer' and 'Batman Begins' director Christopher Nolan is hotly tipped to direct the next film in the series. An insider told the MailOnline: "Aaron Taylor-Johnson is currently the hot favourite to step into the iconic role, he's the first choice for (Bond chief producer) Barbara Broccoli - he is the one to beat." As per Mirror.co.uk, addressing the possibility of Christopher being the director, the source added: "He is extremely interested in doing something very different with the franchise. If he can get his way with producers, then he is all for it".

But the source also hinted that Christopher being director could impact Aaron's chances of being cast in the role. The movie source told the publication: "Whether Nolan coming on board will affect the casting of Aaron Taylor-Johnson is currently a grey area - as he's very particular about who he works with".

Aaron himself has, however, expressed a keen interest to be directed by Christopher - so the pairing could be a match made in heaven.

# Mischa Barton hasn't fully recovered from teenage 'trauma'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Mischa Barton thinks she is still suffering from "trauma" after shooting to fame as a teenager.

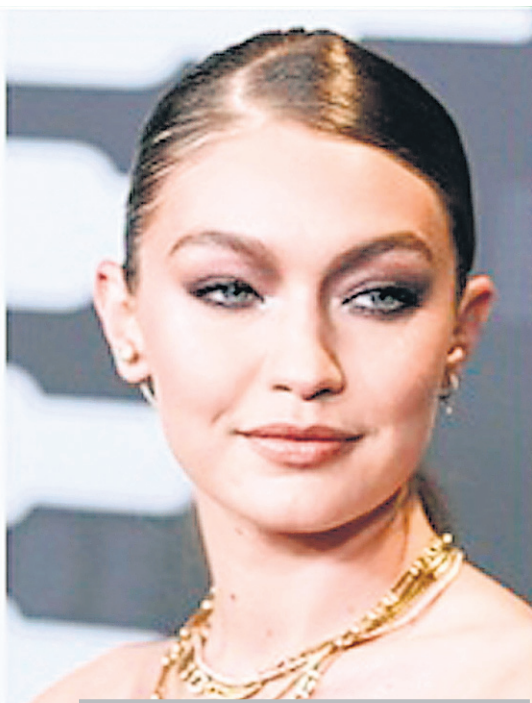
The 37-year-old actress got her big break on the hit TV show 'The O.C.' when she was just 17 and she rose to international stardom during her early 20s, but the actress believes she's still scarred from the experience of becoming famous at a young age, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"You can go to therapy every day for the rest of your life, but there's just a certain amount of trauma (from) all that I went through, particularly in my early 20s, that just doesn't go away overnight," she told The Times newspaper.

Mischa went on to insist she would rather have stayed out of the spotlight, adding: "I don't think I was fully prepared for that level of fame. Because it has never been something that I have sought out. I really would much rather be anonymous."

She also said her dating life at that time was "weird" because she was dating men much older than her when she was just a teenager. She explained: "You do look back, and you were 18 dating 34-year-olds. With hindsight, you're like, 'Yeah, that was weird.'"

Mischa compared her experiences with the paparazzi to brutal movie series 'The Hunger Games' and revealed she suffered issues with stalkers and online trolls during the rise of the internet. She added: "Nothing I did was good enough. It was the peak of cruelty about young women's bodies. It was wild. People feel so entitled to you and your body and your image. It's a strange feeling. It's strange."



# GIGI HADID, BRADLEY COOPER USE TAYLOR SWIFT'S HOME FOR SECRET RENDEZVOUS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Gigi Hadid and Hollywood star Bradley Cooper reportedly have been using singer Taylor Swift's home for their secret rendezvous.

Amid their alleged romance, the model and the actor might have attempted to keep their phase of getting to know each other away from the public's eyes with her friend's help.

Speaking to The Mirror UK, on October 14, a source said that the 28-year-old blonde beauty and the 48-year-old actor chose not to meet at their respective homes. Instead, the two allegedly have been using Taylor's mansion in Rhode Island, New York City as their 'secret love nest'.

On the reason why, the source explained, "Even though Gigi and Bradley have their own properties in New York, they wanted somewhere more private to spend time getting to know each other and Taylor was only too happy to help."

"She said the door to her home is always open for them to use."

The source went on to spill, "Taylor is a total romantic and loves playing cupid for her friends."

Gigi and Bradley sparked romance rumours after the two had a dinner date at Via Carota in New York City on October 5.

The actor was later pictured dropping Gigi, who shares Khai with singer Zayn Malik, outside her apartment on October 9. The rumoured couple

seemed to have come back from an overnight getaway at that time.

A few days later, it was reported that Bradley's former partner Irina Shayk played a significant role in his and Gigi's alleged romance.

"Gigi was introduced to Bradley through Irina and their mutual friends in the industry," a source told The Messenger on October 12.

"Gigi and Irina have been close over the years while working together, and Gigi and Bradley have hung out before, but it has always been friendly in social settings."

The source further shared about the two's current stance.

"Gigi and Bradley were in touch recently, and were bonding over their daughters, when Bradley asked her out," the source stated.

"He pursued her and she was definitely interested and excited. They have been casually seeing each other but it is extremely new."

# Chris Hemsworth's private chef shares his 'very clean' diet

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth's private chef Sergio Perera has explained how the actor adjusts his meals to suit each project that he works on.

Speaking to news.com.au, Perera said: "Obviously the guy is a big boy, requires a lot of protein for the body he has."

The chef, who has appeared on the TV show 'MasterChef Australia', added, "When it comes to building muscle, he just keeps it very clean with a lot of barbecuing - like meats and vegetables - and keeping it Mediterranean, which involves a lot of olive oil."

Perera explained how Hemsworth never snacks on anything "boxed or canned" and eats a "hearty salad" on a daily basis, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The cook recalled: "One thing I did religiously with him, was every single day he would have one very large, hearty salad that consisted of raw and cooked vegetables, fermented products, nuts, seeds, and a lot of good fats with a piece of steak or a big piece of fish."

Perera has been working with the 'Extraction' actor for more than a decade after he was contacted by the star's wife Elsa Pataky, who felt that Chris needed assistance to cope with the physical demands of his Hollywood career.

The chef said: "He had just finished the first 'Thor' movie, and he needed someone to help match his meal plan to his physical demands. And that's how I came on board. I would sit with his trainer, who is one of his closest friends, and we would all work together on figuring out Chris' goals."

Perera enjoyed working with the actor so much that he even moved to Hemsworth's native Australia. He said: "I went there thinking I was only going to be there for a few months, but I ended up staying."



# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Alex Jones





## Urvashi Rautela loses '24 carat real gold' phone, seeks help from Internet

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Urvashi Rautela, who is known for 'Great Grand Masti' and was last seen in a special performance in the Telugu film 'Agent', recently lost her mobile phone during the high-voltage India-Pakistan match which was held in Ahmedabad as a part of the ongoing ICC World Cup.

The actress took to her official X account, and shared that she lost her "24 carat real gold iPhone" at the stadium.

The match concluded on Saturday with Team India comfortably beating its neighbours, but the actress spent after hours of the match in distress and registered an official complaint with the police at 1 a.m. on Sunday.

On Sunday afternoon, she finally took to her X and put up a tweet asking for help from the netizens. She also attached a picture of the official document about the complaint of her lost phone.

Explaining the unfortunate event, she wrote on X, "Lost my 24 carat real gold iPhone at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad! If anyone comes across it, please help. Contact me ASAP. #LostPhone #AhmedabadStadium #HelpNeeded #IndvsPak @modistadium@ahmedabadpolice Tag someone who can help."

A lot of netizens swarmed to the comments and put up a myriad of responses under the tweet. While some poked fun at the actress, others mainly were supportive of the actress in her loss of the asset.

## Samantha Ruth Prabhu does grilling Sunday workout despite pain

Team Absolute | Chennai

**P**opular Tamil-Telugu actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu does not compromise on her fitness routine, be it either sickness or pain. The actress did a heavy and grilling workout on Sunday, despite the pain she has undergone due to her Myositis diagnosis, stretching herself and showcasing her toned physique.

The 'Eega' actress has a reputation for being a bit of a fitness freak and she frequently does various forms of strenuous exercises which range from cardio, rope climbing, weight lifting, stretching, and more.

Taking to her Instagram Story, Samantha posted a picture of herself working through the pain. Stretching and pushing herself to her limit, the 'Shakuntalam' actress was sporting a pink, cropped sports wear which was completed with stretching pink trousers.

Tying her hair in a bun and sporting zero make-up, Samantha was holding on to pull up bars with a bunch of other gym equipment behind her.

Holding on with closed eyes and a great deal of effort, while clearly in pain, Samantha's workout has been bearing great fruits manifested in refined musculature, toned physique, and abs. Earlier, the 'Yashodha' alum had revealed that she is suffering from Myositis, a disease which causes severe pain and weakening of limbs and muscles, as well as a great deal of fatigue. While not lethal, if untreated Myositis is very difficult to deal with, as it causes muscle inflation which



apart from swelling causes a great deal of pain and tiredness. Currently, Samantha is undergoing treatment for her disease and was medically greenlit for full recovery over time.

## Kangana Ranaut is an impeccable fit for India's first aerial action film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**K**angana Ranaut's name stands out as a powerhouse of talent, fearlessness, and versatility. In 'Tejas', an upcoming Hindi film that promises to be a tribute to the indomitable spirit of Indian Air Force pilots, the actress headlining the project is nothing short of perfect casting.

Kangana is celebrated not only for her acting prowess but also for her incredible dedication to her craft. Her ability to embody diverse characters and breathe life into them is evident in her past performances.

From the feisty Rani in 'Queen' to the fierce Jhansi Ki Rani in 'Manikarnika', she has demonstrated her ability to immerse herself in roles that demand resilience, and grit. The role of a fighter pilot in 'Tejas' is no different, as it demands a unique combination of mental fortitude and physical agility.

The fighter pilot's spirit is one of unparalleled courage. It's a world where individuals are trained to face the most challenging situations head-on, where success is often the result of split-second decisions.

'Tejas' promises to be a movie that salutes the brave women who defy the odds and shatter glass ceilings. With Kangana at the helm, this tribute is in capable hands, doing justice to the women who have chosen to soar in the skies.

As the trailer of 'Tejas' was released, Kangana's transformation into the character was nothing short of astounding, reflecting the rigorous training and preparation she underwent. Her presence on screen and the dialogues showcased in the trailer set the stage for a riveting cinematic experience.

## Salman Khan's fight gets personal in high action trailer

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**I**t's a fight between family and country in the trailer of Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif-starrer 'Tiger 3', which was released by the makers on Monday afternoon.

In the Yash Raj Films movie, Salman plays the original spy Tiger, who is torn between his family and the country.

The over two-minutes long trailer is full of punches, guns and high-octane action but this time it has a dollop of emotions too as the character of Salman torn between fighting to save the country and trying to protect his family - Katrina Kaif, who plays the Pakistani agent Zoya and son Kabir.

The impactful line said by Salman who will save both his nation and family at all cost, is: "This time, it's personal."

A surprise element of the trailer is actor Emraan Hashmi's character, who is the antagonist. He sports a salt and pepper look along with long hair and a beard. Keeping Tiger captive in Pakistan, he says: "Welcome to Pakistan."

It was also announced that the film will release on November 12. Directed by Maneesh Sharma, the film will also have a special appearance by Shah Rukh Khan.



## Rani Mukerji: 'I don't think anyone can do the romance like SRK'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Rani Mukerji, who celebrated 25 years of her cult movie 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai', shared that her co-star Shah Rukh Khan has taught her to romance. She also revealed that she was nervous about the audience accepting Rahul (SRK) falling in love with her character Tina.

Rani attended the special screening of the movie, along with director Karan Johar and SRK.

Talking about SRK, the 'Chalte Chalte' fame actress said: "SRK taught me how to romance. So when SRK says let the young people do the romance, I don't think anyone can do the romance like him."

She further said: "I started doing the films when I was 17 years old, and it just feels amazing that I have a daughter who is going to turn eight in December. So it's exactly like how my daughter was in this film." ani referred to Sana Saeed, who played Anjali Khanna in the romantic drama. Anjali Khanna is the daughter of Tina and Rahul.

The actress thanked fans for showering love on

her character. She said: "Thank you so much for loving Tina. I was a newcomer, SRK and Kajol had already done 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' (DDLJ), they were the iconic pair."

"I was very nervous that the audience would not accept Rahul falling in love with Tina, when Anjali was around. But that was all Karan's writing, what he wrote, and made it happen. The magic of 'KKHH' is the writing of 'KKHH'," Rani concluded.

Written and directed by Karan, 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' is produced by Dharma Productions.

It stars SRK as Rahul Khanna, Kajol as Anjali Sharma, and Rani as Tina Malhotra in lead roles, along with Salman as Aman Mehra in a special appearance. It also features Sana Saeed as Anjali Khanna in a pivotal role.

The plot combines two love triangles set years apart. The first half covers friends on a college campus, while the second tells the story of a widower's young daughter who tries to reunite her dad with his old best friend.

Filed in India, Mauritius and Scotland, this was KJo's directorial debut.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Priya P Variyaar

