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FAKE BIRTH CERTIFICATE CASE: AZAM KHAN, WIFE & SON CONVICTED, GET 7-YR PRISON TERM

A COURT IN UTTAR PRADESH'S RAMPUR ON WEDNESDAY PRONOUNCED A SEVEN-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE TO SAMAJWADI PARTY (SP) LEADER AZAM KHAN, HIS WIFE TANZEEM FATIMA AND THEIR SON ABDULLAH AZAM KHAN AFTER FINDING THEM GUILTY IN THE FAKE BIRTH CERTIFICATE CASE. THE THREE WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AFTER THE VERDICT.



Rampur | Agencies

The matter pertains to the issuance of Abdullah Azam Khan's birth certificate twice. Abdullah Azam Khan is accused of obtaining a passport and foreign tours based on a first birth certificate

and using a second certificate for government-related purposes.

Both the certificates were issued through fraudulent means and as part of a pre-planned conspiracy.

A first birth certificate, issued on June 28, 2012, by Rampur Nagar Palika, showed Rampur as Abdullah Azam

Khan's birthplace.

In January 2015, a second birth certificate issued showed Lucknow as his birthplace.

BJP MLA Akash Saxena had filed a case against Abdullah Azam in 2019 for having two birth certificates.

Azam Khan and his wife Tanzeem Fatima were also named as accused.

The development comes as a fresh setback to Abdullah Azam, who was disqualified as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly earlier this year after being convicted and sentenced to two-year imprisonment in a 15-year-old case. The Supreme Court, last week, refused to give an interim stay on Abdullah's conviction in the case.

A case was lodged against Abdullah Azam Khan and his parents under sections 420, 467, 468 and 471.

Wednesday's judgment is yet another case where Azam Khan and his son have been convicted. Both were convicted in a 2019 hate speech case by a court in Rampur. Earlier, Azam Khan and Abdullah had represented the Suar Assembly constituency in Rampur district before being disqualified due to a number of cases against them.

HAMAS ATTACK IS LIKE 9/11: BIDEN

Tel Aviv: US President Joe Biden in his message has said that any state or hostile actor thinking of attacking Israel is "don't, don't, don't", media reports said.

He said that the attack on Israel has been described as its 9/11, but he says for a nation as big as Israel it was like 15 times more than 9/11, BBC reported.

He said that the attack have caused Israelis "shock, pain, rage" that "I and many Americans would understand."

Justice must be done, he said, adding, that Israelis must not be consumed by rage.

Talking about 7 October incidents, he said that the Hamas attack makes one remember the worst ravages of IS. He said there was "no excusing the violence" and "the brutality would cut deep anywhere in the world." "Seventh of October became the deadliest day since the Holocaust" for the Jewish community, he said. "The world watched then, it knew. The world did nothing." "We will not stand by and do nothing - not today, not tomorrow, not ever," BBC reported US President as saying. "Those who are waiting desperately to learn the fate of a loved one," he said, referring to those who had been taken hostage, "you are not alone." "We are pursuing every avenue to bring home those being held by Hamas".

Delhi L-G enhances eligibility criteria for obtaining AMR to Kashmiri migrant families

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a major relief to Kashmiri migrant families in the national capital, L-G VK Saxena has approved the enhancement of eligibility criteria for obtaining Adhoc Monthly Relief (AMR), being paid to these families, from Rs 10,000 per month to Rs 27,000 per month.

According to a release from the Raj Bhawan, this enhancement in eligibility will increase the number of beneficiaries being covered by about 70 per cent. "Now, beneficiaries earning upto Rs 27,000 per month rather than the previous amount of Rs 10,000 per month will be eligible for AMR," it said. This enhancement comes after a long gap of 16 years, when the eligibility for AMR was doubled from Rs 5,000 per month



to Rs 10,000 per month, in 2007. In 1995, the GNCTD had fixed the eligibility for AMR amount at Rs 5,000 per month. The LG also approved bifurcation or addition of names in the Kashmiri Migrant Cards issued by GNCTD to facilitate, grown up and married children of migrants, to get their own cards made and accordingly become entitled for AMR as separate units or families. The registered Kashmiri migrant families will now be allowed to declare their family and allow splitting of the family due to increase in size, it said, adding that birth to a couple in the migrant family would lead to

addition in the family and death of a member would lead to deletion of that member.

"Apart from this, a non-migrant girl marrying into a migrant family will be added as a member of the Kashmiri migrant family," it said. It also said that there shall be mandatory Aadhar seeding of data relating to the family members eligible for AMR. Also, the payment of relief to the migrants will be only through Aadhar Payment Bridge System or PFMS, which will be as per the extant norms. AMR is provided to the J&K migrants under the "Security Related Expenditure (Relief & Rehabilitation)" introduced by the Central Government in 1989-90, for supporting the relief and rehabilitation of those who were uprooted from the Kashmir valley during the militancy.

Obnoxious: Rats 'feast' on passenger food in Mumbai-Madgaon Express pantry car

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Several mice were allegedly found tasting and feasting on food meant for passengers in the pantry car of the long-distance 11099 Mumbai Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Madgaon Express, Goa, sparking outrage on social media, on Wednesday.

A passenger Mangirish Tendulkar, who was travelling on October 15 on the train that night, said he was shocked to see at least 6-7 rats in the pantry car having a feast on the food intended to be served to the passengers. He clicked videos of the rodent menace in the pantry car and posted them on social media, as many reacted with furore, and raised questions on the hygiene standards of Indian Railways and passengers health concerns.

Tendulkar said that after filming he complained to a RPF constable there who reportedly asked him to "look on the tracks below, there are 500-600 rats there, if some 5-6 have entered inside, why do



you feel so upset?"

Shaken by the response, the angry passenger called up the Assistant Station Manager who in turn called the Pantry Manager -- and the latter reportedly expressed helplessness that "there are too many rats in the pantry, what can we do?"

Frustrated, Tendulkar also lodged a complaint on the Rail Madad App where an executive reverted saying they would penalise the IRCTC, though the response of Central Railway and other concerned officials to the

incident and the viral videos is not known.

Tendulkar's revealing videos show the rats virtually owning the place, with a mouse climbing onto an uncovered utensil and grabbing some food, another dunked his face inside the foodstuff before running away, some mice were seen running around the pantry platform where freshly chopped vegetables were kept open, and other packets of food and ingredients, dishes and utensils are also visible on the pantry shelves.

Rs 900cr black money trail detected in I-T raids in TN, Puducherry

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has unearthed a black money trail of Rs 900 crore following the search and seizure operations carried out on two groups primarily engaged in running educational institutions and a distillery in the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry region, an official said on Wednesday.

The Income Tax officials have seized unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 32 crore and gold bullion worth Rs 28 crore in the raids carried out on October 5. These groups have been also carrying out other businesses such as pharmaceuticals, hospitals and hotels, etc. About 100 premises were covered during the search action in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The preliminary analysis, so far, has resulted in collecting evidence for unaccounted fee receipts of more than Rs 400 crore by the educational institutions and incorrect claim of disbursement of scholarship to the tune of Rs 25 crore.

Congress CEC meets for 2nd time in day to finalise candidates for MP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, along with several senior leaders, on Wednesday evening held the Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting to finalise the rest of the candidates for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections.

Kharge, Gandhi, General Secretary, Organisation K.C. Venugopal, state in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, state unit chief Kamal Nath, Screening Committee chairperson for Madhya Pradesh Jitendra Singh, P.L. Punia, Ambika Sonia and many others arrived at the party headquarters for the second time in the day to finalise the candidates for Madhya Pradesh, where polls are due on November 17.

Earlier in the day, the CEC had met to discuss the candidates for Madhya Pradesh.

After the meeting, Kharge wrote on X: "This time Madhya Pradesh will not fall under the influence of BJP. Public anger will teach a lesson to this useless, tyrannical and corrupt government. Justice and commitment will rise in the lives of every section of Madhya Pradesh, because the public will take an unprecedented decision in favor of



Congress. Today an important meeting of the Central Election Committee was held regarding Madhya Pradesh".

A party source said that the CEC will be finalising the candidates for the rest of the seats in the state while emphasising on the winability of the candidates.

The Congress had released its first list of candidates for the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections on Sunday, which included the names of Kamal Nath from Chhindwara assembly seat, and 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 Shivraj Singh Chouhan from Budhni seat, while

Sanjay Shukla will be contesting the election against BJP's national General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya from Indore 1.

Leader of Opposition Govind Singh has been fielded from Lahar Assembly seat and former LoP Ajay Singh (Rahul) from Churhat in Sidhi district.

The Congress has fielded Advhes Nayak against the state Home Minister Narottam Mishra from Datia seat, and senior party leader Ramkishor Dange against state Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel from Dhar.

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.

NHRC registered 18 human rights violations cases during violence in Manipur

Imphal | Agencies

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) registered 18 cases of rights violations during the violence in Manipur in the last few months.

The NHRC has received Action Taken Reports (ATRs) from the Manipur government in all, except eight cases. Reminder notices have also been issued for reports in the remaining cases.

Further reports were called from the Centre and the Manipur government asking them to clearly spell out the steps taken for bringing peace in the state, an NHRC statement said.

It said that reports also sought measures for relief, rehabilitation, food, schooling, education, health and mental health care services for the violence-affected people.

The NHRC, quoting the Manipur government's ATRs, said that many steps have been taken relating to the incidents of violence in the state, including reinforcements in law and order machinery and security, setting up of relief camps and a peace committee, relaxing curfew, reinstating the internet and banking services in a measured manner, announcing ex-gratia for the families of the dead, compensation packages for the injured, rebuilding of damaged houses.



It has also been informed that the Centre has constituted a Commission of Enquiry to arrive at the causes of the conflict and that six FIRs have been transferred to the CBI for investigation independently.

It has also been noted that a large number of relief camps are operational in the affected areas. At least

180 people were killed, 1,120 others injured and 32 were missing in Manipur since ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities broke out in the state over five months ago.

According to the police, 4,786 houses were set on fire and 386 religious structures were destroyed or vandalised. In view of the ethnic strife

in Manipur, approximately 70,000 men, women and children belonging to different communities have been displaced and are now sheltered in 350 camps set up in schools, government buildings and auditoriums in Manipur.

Several thousand sought refuge in neighbouring states, including Mizoram.

PM Modi to inaugurate Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor, 2 stretches of Delhi metro on Oct 20

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut rapid rail transit system (RRTS) corridor at Sahibabad RapidX station in Uttar Pradesh on October 20.

He will also flag off the RapidX train connecting Sahibabad to Duhai Depot, marking the launch of RRTS in India.

At around 12 noon, PM Modi will preside over a public programme in Sahibabad where he will address the gathering on the occasion of launch of RRTS in the country. The 17 km priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor that will be inaugurated, will connect Sahibabad to Duhai Depot; with stations at Ghaziabad, Guldhar and Duhai on the way. The foundation stone for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor was laid by the Prime Minister on March 8, 2019. With a design speed of 180 kmph, RRTS is a transformational, regional development initiative, which is designed to provide high-



speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes, which can go up to a frequency of every five minutes as per requirement. A total of eight RRTS corridors have been identified to be developed in NCR, out of which three corridors have been prioritised to be implemented in Phase-I including Delhi - Ghaziabad - Meerut Corridor; Delhi - Gurugram - SNB - Alwar Corridor; and Delhi - Panipat Corridor. The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS being developed at a cost of more than Rs 30,000 crore,

and will connect Delhi to Meerut in less than an hour of travel time going through the urban centres of Ghaziabad, Muradnagar, and Modinagar. He will also dedicate to the nation two stretches of east west corridor of Bengaluru Metro. The two metro stretches that will be formally dedicated to the nation by PM Modi, connect Baiyappanahalli to Krishnarajapura and Kengeri to Challaghatta in Karnataka. These two metro stretches were opened for public service from October 9.



PREZ DROUPADI MURMU LAUNCHES 4TH AGRICULTURE ROAD MAP OF BIHAR

► PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU ON WEDNESDAY INAUGURATED BIHAR'S FOURTH AGRICULTURE ROAD MAP AIMED AT ENHANCING AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION.

Patna | Agencies

On her arrival, the President was welcomed by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his Deputy Tejeshwi Yadav and other ministers and bureaucrats at the airport.

From the airport, President Murmu reached Bapu Sabhagar at Gandhi Maidan and inaugurated the fourth agriculture road map of the state. Notably, Bihar has 93.60 lakh hectares land of which 79.46 lakh hectares land is being used for the agriculture purpose.

Around 74 per cent people of Bihar



are dependent on agriculture which contributes to 19 to 20 per cent in the GDP of the state. Besides agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries have a 6 per cent contribution in GDP of the state prompting Nitish Kumar

government to launch the agriculture road map in Bihar.

In the first agriculture road map in 2007, the state government came with the plans to increase the production of food grains and the farm-

ers were highly successful in the paddy farming. The budget of the first agriculture road map was small. The second agriculture road map was brought in in 2012 where 18 departments of state government were involved and an agriculture cabinet was formed. After the second agriculture road map, Bihar won the Krishi Karman prize in 2012 in the production of rice and same prize was won in 2013 for wheat production. In Maize production in 2016, the state government won the Krishi Karman prize. The third agriculture road map was introduced in 2017 and was extended for one year due to pandemic period.

The Bihar government focused on organic farming and providing electricity to the farmers. The state government was focused on developing green stretches in the state and managed to formed 15 such green stretches and aimed at supplying water to every farming land. However, it has not achieved it yet. The Bihar government is expecting to achieve it till the end of 2025.

PM Modi failed to control inflation, people are ready to give him retirement: Congress

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress on Wednesday slammed the BJP-led central government over the soaring inflation saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has failed to control inflation and people are now going to give him retirement.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said, "Despite all the artifice of the Prime Minister's figures, news of Modi-made inflation is coming out every day. During the festive season, the prices of the things which are needed the most are skyrocketing. There is also a possibility of inflation increasing further." "The Prime Minister is completely failing to control inflation during his tenure. People are now going to give him retirement. Only then will the people of the country get relief from inflation," Ramesh added. He also attached a



news report which highlighted the prices of several items that have skyrocketed in the last eight months, including wheat. Being critical of the government over the issue of

inflation, the Congress has on many occasions slammed the government for failing to control the skyrocketing prices of the essential items.

'Poor illiterate fellow': Assam CM's fresh jibe at Rahul Gandhi

Guwahati | Agencies

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday reacted sharply to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark over dynasty politics aiming at Home Minister Amit Shah's son.

He termed Rahul Gandhi "poor and illiterate fellow". Speaking to reporters here, Sarma said: "First of all, Rahul Gandhi needs to understand what is meant by dynastic politics. While Rahul Gandhi's entire family is in the Congress, Amit Shah's son is not a member of the BJP."

"Rahul Gandhi thought that the BCCI is a wing of the BJP. Poor illiterate fellow," he added. Sarma even said he could not



understand how Amit Shah's son came into this debate of dynastic politics.

"He (Rahul Gandhi) criticises everything without realising that he is the root cause of everything." Earlier on Tuesday, Rahul Gandhi said in poll-bound Mizoram: "What does Amit

Shah's son do? What is he doing exactly? What does Rajnath Singh's son do? Last I heard Amit Shah's son is running Indian cricket. So please be objective.

Look at the leaders of the BJP and ask yourselves what their children are doing."

CONGRESS PROMISES ELECTRIC SCOOTERS FOR GIRL STUDENTS IN TELANGANA

Mulugu (Telangana) | Agencies

The Congress party has promised that if voted to power in Telangana, girl students above the age of 18 years will be given electric scooters while SC ST families will be provided financial assistance of Rs12 lakh.

Party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi made the announcements at a public meeting here on Wednesday while launching the party's campaign for next month's assembly elections. She announced some promises which are in addition to the six guarantees unveiled by the party last month.

Under the Ambedkar Abhaya Hastham scheme, an assistance of Rs12 lakh each will be provided to SC ST families.

This appears on the lines of Dalit Bandhu scheme of the BRS government, under which it claims to be providing a grant of Rs10 lakh to every Dalit family.

Priyanka Gandhi announced that reservation for SCs will be increased



to 18 per cent and for STs to 12 per cent. Under the Indiramma Pucca House scheme, landless SC and ST families will get land and Rs 6 lakh for building houses. Every Adivasi gram panchayat will be provided an assistance of Rs 25 lakh.

She reiterated that 2 lakh job vacancies will be filled within a year while the unemployed will be paid Rs 4,000 monthly allowance. A government job will be provided to families of Telangana martyrs.

The Congress leader said a special

Gulf Cell will be created to help youth secure employment opportunities in the Gulf countries. She appealed to people to cast their vote wisely to give a good future to their children and to realize the dreams for which Telangana state was created.

Recalling BRS party's promise of Bangaru Telangana, she said the party had failed to fulfill the people's aspirations.

"Where is social justice? Three out of 18 ministers are from the Chief Minister's family and they hold 13

ministries," she said. The Congress leader said while backward classes are more than 50 per cent of the population, there are only three ministers from BCs.

Referring to the issue of caste survey, she pointed out that the survey done in Bihar revealed that OBCs, Adivasis and SCs are 84 per cent of the state's population but they don't have equal representation

"This is true of the entire country. We want a survey but they are silent. They don't even want to count the numbers. They are afraid of counting, not to talk about giving rights," she said.

Stating that the Congress party has prepared a roadmap and vision for Telangana, she referred to the guarantees already announced by the party. She claimed that the dream of Telangana was a dream of development, jobs and social justice. "You trusted BRS in the previous elections and hoped that you will get jobs within your own state, have a secured future and there will be inclusive development," she said.

FORMER MADHYA PRADESH 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 decision 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.

Mishra is likely to join the Congress again, sources told IANS, adding that he is most likely to contest the election on the party ticket either from Rewa or Semaria.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day, former Speaker Srinivas Tiwari's grandson Siddharth Tiwari joined the BJP after he was denied ticket by the Congress. Siddharth's family has been associated with the Congress for the last 50 years. His father Sundarlal Tiwari was also a Lok Sabha MP from Rewa.

Congress releases 2nd list of 53 candidates for Chhattisgarh, Motilal Vora's son fielded from Durg city

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Wednesday released the second list of 53 candidates for the Chhattisgarh assembly polls.

The party has fielded Chhaya Verma, a former member of the Rajya Sabha, from Dharsiwa seat while Arun Vora, son of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Motilal Vora, has been given a ticket from Durg City.

Some other prominent candidates who have been named in the second list are Khelsai Singh from Premnagar seat, Atal Srivastav from Kota, Baleshwar Sahu from Jajjaipur, Mahant Ram Sundar Das from Raipur City South and Devendra Yadav from Bhillai Nagar.

The party fielded sitting MLA Vikas Upadhyay from the Raipur City West assem-



bly seat and Pankaj Sharma from Raipur Rural assembly constituency.

It has named Jitin Jaiswal from Jagdalpur and Shailesh Pandey from Bilaspur.

On Sunday, the Congress announced a list of 30 candidates for Chhattisgarh, with Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel fielded from Patan assembly seat, his deputy and senior party leader TS Singh Deo from Ambikapur assembly seat, Tamradhwaj Sahu from Durg rural assembly seat.

Chhattisgarh will go to polls in two phases on November 7 and 17.

SC notice to Air India over plea for more compensation for Kerala plane crash

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice on petitions filed by the affected passengers seeking compensation for their losses in the tragic Air India Express Flight IX-1344 crash at the Karipur International Airport, Kozhikode in 2020.

The bench of Justices C.T. Ravikumar and Sanjay Kumar heard the petition filed by aggrieved passengers against a division bench judgment of the Kerala High Court which had dismissed their compensation claims.

The petitioner submitted before the court that Air India Express offered only a nominal compensation to the affected parties through negotiating agencies. The petitioner accepted the compensation thinking that it was just an interim settle-



ment. The top court along with issuing notice, also tagged the case along with other civil appeals pending on similar issues arising out of the Mangalore air crash in 2010. Earlier, the Kerala High Court dismissed the writ petition saying that the reliefs sought were private and that respondent Air

India was no more a public functionary after the Center's disinvestment from the airline. In 2020, an Air India Express flight with 190 passengers on board flying from Dubai skidded off the runway and split into two while landing at the Kozhikode airport amid heavy rain. At least 18 people died in the crash and many were injured.

Delhi govt to start campaign against industrial pollution on Oct 20

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said that the city government is going to start a one-month-long campaign against industrial pollution in the national Capital from October 20 onwards.

Rai's statement came after a review meeting at the Delhi Secretariat regarding industrial pollution with officers of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), the Environment Department and the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC).

According to the minister, the campaign will run till November 20. Under this campaign 66 teams of the DPCC and the DSIIDC have been constituted for continuous inspection of industrial units in Delhi and



1,753 registered industrial units of Delhi have been converted into Piped Natural Gas (PNG).

"In order to address the issue of

pollution during the winter season, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal declared a Winter Action Plan comprising 15 focus points on September

29. The Winter Action Plan has initiated efforts to enhance air quality in Delhi through monitoring of industrial pollution and its waste management," said Rai.

"Under the Industrial Pollution Campaign, it has been decided to deploy patrolling teams to monitor the dumping of industrial waste in the whole of Delhi. Total 66 teams of the DPCC and DSIIDC have been deployed for continuous inspection of industrial units.

"The teams will oversee all industrial units in Delhi and implement immediate measures to curb industrial waste and pollution," he said.

"Periodic reports will be submitted to the Environment Department based on their findings. The DPCC team has been instructed to take strict action against any violation of environmental regulations by industrial units," said Rai.



MP Assembly polls

CONG & BJP'S CHANGED STRATEGY ON CM FACE, CHOICE OF CANDIDATES AFTER 3 DECADES



Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

As the BJP and Congress get ready for a bipolar battle in Madhya Pradesh scheduled for November 17, both present a contrasting strategy in the context of deciding the leadership role in their state units and the process in selecting candidates.

For the first time in the past three decades or more, the ruling BJP is contesting the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh without declaring the chief ministerial face despite having the strongest leader and the longest incumbent CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

In 2003, the BJP had announced firebrand Hindutva leader Uma Bharti as the party's CM face nearly a year ahead of the elections. In the next three consecutive elections -- 2008, 2013 and 2018, the saffron party never shied away from projecting Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the CM face and gave him free hand in deciding candidates and campaigning. However, after getting defeated in 2018, the BJP's central leadership seems to have changed its strategy and decided to contest the 2023 election directly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On the other hand, the BJP also kept the race for CM's post open with fielding several contests, including the Union Ministers and national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya.

Senior journalist N.K. Singh said the BJP has always followed the ideology of collective leadership and does not promote individualism. But, the things have changed a lot and for the last two decades, no other leader could establish himself to challenge the incumbent CM

Chouhan. "Whoever tried to challenge CM Chouhan, either has been sidelined or departed from the state's politics. But, when the BJP lost in 2018, the BJP's central leadership (PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah), which was very different from in previous time (Atal Bihari Bajpayi and L.K. Advani) seems to have taken full command in Madhya Pradesh's politics," he added.

Singh further stated that at present, MP BJP is facing high factionalism, but except Shivraj Singh Chouhan there is no other leader who can bring the majority or challenge the central leadership. "Narratives have always played a crucial role in Assembly elections, especially states like Madhya Pradesh where more than half of the population are struggling to meet basic needs, which is the reason, BJP has decided to face-fatigue Shivraj Singh Chouhan."

On the other hand, the situation is quite a contrast in the Congress, which has declared state unit chief Kamal Nath as the chief ministerial face. Political observers said it was the first time after 1998 or 2003, the Congress had declared its chief ministerial face months before the elections. Veteran journalist Law Kumar Mishra said after completing the first tenure of Digvijaya Singh's government (1993-1998), the factionalism was high in the Congress and Digvijaya Singh had to face challenges from his party colleagues -- Motilal Vora and Arjun Singh.

Mishra claimed, in 1998 election Digvijaya Singh was obviously leading the party campaign, but it wasn't clear if he would win the second tenure as there were two other big leaders -- Arjun Singh and Motilal Vora who were also

racing for the CM's post.

"But, when the counting started and by 2 p.m., it was clear that BJP's big leaders, including Kailash Joshi lost the election, and around a dozen independent candidates had won the election. In that situation, Congress leadership tasked Digvijaya Singh to bring all Independent MLAs to support the Congress. He did it and then he was declared the CM face," Mishra recalled.

The Congress lost the election in 2003, and in the next two elections -- 2008, 2013 -- the grand old party continued to suffer because of high factionalism of its regional leaders and growing individualism which gave opportunity to the BJP to become more stronger in Madhya Pradesh.

Mishra further said, but in 2018, Kamal Nath, who has a strong backing of the Gandhi family, took charge of Madhya Pradesh Congress and reestablished the party. "The Congress managed to defeat the BJP after 15 years in 2018, but the CM face was decided after the intervention of the central leadership," he added.

Similarly, the contrast for the selection of candidates are also visible in the BJP and the Congress. The BJP's candidates were selected from the state leadership, and then the central leadership used to give approval for the same, while in Congress, the situation was quite in contrary.

"But, this time the situation is very different and it is because of a change in central leadership. The Congress' central leadership is not the same as it used to be earlier, while the BJP's central leadership has put Atal-Advani's liberal policy aside," Mishra added.

KHARGE CHAIRS CEC MEET TO FINALISE REST OF MP CANDIDATES, SAYS PUBLIC WILL TEACH LESSON TO CORRUPT GOVT

Team Absolute | New

Delhi/Bhopal

Three days after releasing first list of 144 candidates for the Madhya Pradesh, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday again chaired meeting of the Central Election Committee (CEC) to finalise the rest of the candidates for the assembly election in the state.

The meeting of CEC on Madhya Pradesh took place after the party leadership first held deliberations over the candidates for the Rajasthan.

The meeting of the CEC for Madhya Pradesh was attended by Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, party general secretary (organization) KC Venugopal, Madhya Pradesh in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, state unit chief and former chief minister Kamal Nath, Screening Committee chairperson for



Madhya Pradesh Jitendra Singh, PL Punia, Ambika Sonia and many others.

After the meeting, Kharge and wrote on X: "This time Madhya Pradesh will not fall under the influence of BJP. Public anger will teach a lesson to this useless, tyrannical and corrupt government."

Justice and commitment will rise in the lives of every section of Madhya Pradesh, because the public will take an unprecedented decision in favor of Congress. Today an important meeting of the Central Election Committee was held regarding Madhya Pradesh." According to party

leaders, the CEC will meet again on Wednesday evening to put a stamp on the final list of candidates. Sources said that, during the CEC, the names of the candidates were discussed in detail and soon the party will release its second list for the November 17 polls.

SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN TAKES 'POWER OF ATTORNEY' DIG AT KAMAL NATH, DIGVIJAYA SINGH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a dig at Kamal Nath after his 'tear clothes' remark caused a flutter and triggered speculation of rift in Congress, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said Nath had earlier given a similar power of attorney to his colleague Digvijaya Singh to run the government.

Mocking Nath, Chouhan also said Congress leaders are amazing as they give the "power of attorney" to others even for taking abuses.

The trigger for the talks of a "rift" between Singh and Nath ahead of the assembly polls was a video of Nath telling agitated supporters of a ticket aspirant to "go and tear clothes" of Singh (over the denial of the ticket).

Nath, who heads the MP Congress unit, and Singh, a former chief minister, later



made light of the episode and put up a united face.

"Kamal Nath has revealed that he had given a power of attorney to Digvijaya Singh to take abuses on his (Nath's) behalf which is valid till now," Chouhan said.

He was speaking to reporters in the Madhya Pradesh BJP office after Congress leader Siddharth

Tiwari, grandson of former assembly speaker late Srinivasa Tiwari, a stalwart from the Vindhya region, joined the saffron party.

Nath has made such an arrangement that even if abuses are hurled at him, someone else should receive them on his behalf, Chouhan said.

"Nath had given a similar

power of attorney to Digvijaya Singh to run the state government (after the Congress came to power in December 2018). Earlier also 'bantadhar' (spoilsport) happened and now also 'bantdhar' (a term used by the BJP for Digvijaya Singh) is happening," the chief minister alleged.

When Digvijaya Singh was the chief minister of the state (before 2003), Madhya Pradesh suffered badly and people are fully aware of it, the BJP leader said.

The Congress formed a coalition government under Kamal Nath after the 2018 assembly elections with the support of Independents, and MLAs from SP and BSP. However, the government collapsed after 15 months in March 2020 when several MLAs loyal to Jyotiraditya Scindia quit the party and joined BJP.



KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA GOT INTO TROUBLE AFTER BEING LURED WITH A REWARD OF RS 51,000

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP's National General Secretary and Indore Assembly Number-1 BJP candidate Kailash Vijayvargiya seems to be in trouble for luring a reward of Rs 51 thousand. In this speech matter of Kailash, the Central Election Commission had called for a report from the State Election Commission, which has been sent to the Election Commission.

Kailash Vijayvargiya had announced in the ward conference organized in his assembly constituency that, I will give a cash reward of Rs 51 thousand to the president of the booth where Congress will not get a single vote.

Citizens for Justice and Peace, an organization working for civil rights, had filed a complaint with the Election Commission with all the evidence regarding BJP candidate Kailash Vijayvargiya's statement about luring voters. In its complaint, the organization had cited election related rules and complained to the Election Commission that the speech

of BJP candidate Kailash Vijayvargiya is luring and alluring to the voters.

His speech is a violation of Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act 1951 of the Election Code of Conduct. For this, strict action should be taken against Kailash Vijayvargiya. Along with this, in the complaint, the organization had demanded the Election Commission to give notice in this regard to the National President of BJP and the President of Madhya Pradesh BJP.

According to the information, after this the Central Election Commission had sought a report on some points from the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission in this matter. In which the State Election Commission has sent it to the Election Commission. However, what decision the Election Commission takes in this matter will be known only later. But due to the action of the Election Commission, Kailash Vijayvargiya seems to be in trouble.

Woman strangles two-year-old niece for not allowing her to sleep

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

A woman allegedly strangled her two-year-old niece to death for not allowing her to sleep in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, the police said on Wednesday. The incident occurred in the Hanumantal police station limits and the accused has been arrested, officials said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Priyanka Shukla Jabalpur said the victim, daughter of one Sakil Mansoori, went missing on Monday afternoon. The family members of the girl filed a missing person report, he said, adding that the police recorded statements of relatives of the girl. Upon finding discrepancies in their statements, police

searched the house and found the girl's body under a sofa in the drawing room, SP Shukla added. After a detailed investigation, police interrogated, Afsana, the girl's aunt. "She confessed to her crime and told the police that the girl had come to her room on Monday afternoon," SP Shukla said. "I asked her to go out of my room and slapped her. She started to cry loudly. I covered her mouth and nose with my hand to silence her. Fearing her dead, I hide her body under the sofa," the accused told police. The accused has been taken into custody, SP Shukla said, adding that they were waiting for a post-mortem report following which a case of murder will be registered against her.



SC Collegium recommends nine names for judgeship in Madhya Pradesh HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, has recommended the appointment of four advocates and five judicial officers as judges of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

The recommendation for appointment of advocates Vinay Saraf, Vivek Jain, Ashish Shrotri and Amit Seth as judges was made on November 11 last year by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues.

Similarly, recommendation for appointment of judicial officers Rajendra Kumar Vani, Pramod Kumar Agrawal, Binod Kumar Dwivedi, Devnarayan Mishra, and Gajendra Singh was made on May 11 and August 9 this year.

In relation to judicial officers, the Chief Minister and the Governor have concurred with the recommendations while the SC Collegium has taken note of the views of the constitutional functionaries placed in the file about the suitability or otherwise of these advocates.

"For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinised and evaluated the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as the complaints received,"



said the SC Collegium.

It added that it has consulted colleagues conversant with the affairs of the Madhya Pradesh High Court to ascertain the fitness and suitability of these advocates for elevation.

"The Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Vinay Saraf, (ii) Vivek Jain, (iii) Ashish Shrotri, and (iv) Amit Seth, Advocates be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. Their inter se seniority be fixed as per

the existing practice," read the statement uploaded on the website of the apex court late on Tuesday. Another statement said: "The Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Rajendra Kumar Vani, (ii) Pramod Kumar Agrawal, (iii) Binod Kumar Dwivedi, (iv) Devnarayan Mishra and (v) Gajendra Singh, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. Their inter se seniority be fixed as per the existing practice."

Ladli Bahna Yojna:

LOKAYUKTA CAUGHT EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT TAKING RS 500

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP government's ambitious scheme Laadli Behna has also become a victim of corruption. For this, employees are taking bribe and brokerage is also going on. A case has come to light in Dindori. Lokayukta Jabalpur arrested the employment assistant of Saraswahi Gram Panchayat of Shahpura Janpad Panchayat area from the bus stand for taking a bribe of Rs 500 in the name of filling the housing form under Ladli Brahmin Yojana.

Lokayukta Inspector Rekha Prajapati told that Savitri Bai, wife of Ashok Temre, resident of Sarswahi Gram Panchayat, had filled the form of Ladli Brahmin Housing Scheme, for which Employment Assistant Nan Singh Masram had demanded Rs 500.

RUCKUS IN REWA, LATHI CHARGE

Rewa: As soon as the information about knife fight and chakkajam was received in Dhehka Tiraha, Civil Line Police reached the spot. Where first the injured worker was asked to be sent to the hospital and the jam was opened but the workers did not listen to anything. They made the injured person lie down in the middle of the road and blocked the road. The police resorted to lathi charge and in retaliation the workers resorted to stone pelting and many policemen were injured.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohan Lal Vishwakarma, Resident of H.No. 30, MES Housing Society, Lal Ghati, Bhopal (MP)- 462030 hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Rishika Vishwakarma to RISHIKA VISHWAKARMA. Now, she will be known as RISHIKA VISHWAKARMA in all the official and unofficial documents in future.



EDITOR'S SPECS

RAHUL, PRIYANKA TO BOOST CONGRESS CAMPAIGN IN TELANGANA

The Congress campaign for next month's Assembly elections in Telangana is set to get a boost with party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi participating in the bus yatra from Wednesday. Both the leaders will arrive in Telangana in the evening and will visit Ramappa temple in Mulugu constituency. They will participate in 'Vijay Bheri Yatra' from the temple to Ramanujapuram, where they will address the public meeting. Rahul Gandhi will participate in the bus yatra from Mulugu town to Bhupalapally, covering a distance of 35 km. He will subsequently participate in the padyatra in Bhupalpally. The Congress leader will walk with unemployed youth to know their problems. Congress leaders said while Priyanka Gandhi will participate in the bus yatra only on the first day, Rahul Gandhi will continue his visit till October 20. The bus yatra will be held in three phases. In the first phase till October 20, Rahul Gandhi will cover a distance of about 190 km covering five Assembly constituencies in Mulugu, Warangal, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad districts. State Congress chief A. Revanth Reddy said Rahul Gandhi will address public meetings, undertake padyatra and also interact with various sections of people. This will be the first visit by the party's central leaders to Telangana after the announcement of election schedule last week. The Congress camp is already upbeat after last month's massive public meeting in Hyderabad where the party announced six guarantees. The entire top leadership of Congress had attended the public meeting held on September 17 at the end of two-day meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC). The party is confident that six guarantees will help it repeat its Karnataka performance and storm to power after missing it twice despite claiming credit for carving out Telangana state.

Cycle of violence, Security Council deadlock prevent UN action on Palestine

Arul Louis

Exasperated by the cycle of violence that has marked the Palestine-Israel relations, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has advised the Palestinians to follow Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence.

After returning from a visit to Raj Ghat "to pay tribute to Gandhi" in India last month, the UN chief had said: "Let's not forget the example of Gandhi. I do not think that it is with violence that the Palestinians will be able to better defend their interests."

Barely a month later, violence shook Palestine and Israel after Hamas launched the deadly attack on Israel on October 7.

Guterres's is sage advice, but wishful thinking for the history of the Israel-Palestine crisis is written in blood with the UN as a spectator, but a vociferous one issuing stern statements and pious resolutions while running benevolent relief programmes for the Palestinians.

The General Assembly and the Security Council have each passed more than 200 resolutions relating to Palestine.

In the case of the Security Council, the US and the Soviet Union or Russia had to agree to the resolutions or at least abstain to avoid vetoes while more than 50 critical of Israel have been vetoed by the US since 1972.

The Soviet Union and later Russia have also vetoed resolutions against the perceived interests of the Palestinians or the Arab neighbours.

When Hamas attacked Israel last week leaving a trail of over 1,200 dead and capturing over 100 hostages, the paralysis that has plagued the UN most recently in the Ukraine War was in full display again and the Council could not even agree on a symbolic statement condemning the attack because of Moscow's recalcitrance.

A two-state solution is universally accepted: Almost every speaker at the high-level General Assembly session, including US President Joe Biden has supported a two-state solution, creating a sovereign Palestine nation alongside Israel.

But getting it off the ground is an impossibility for now for a variety of reasons.

While deploying peacekeepers to force a two-state solution is out of question, the only possible actions that the Council could take to force a two-state solution would be economic sanctions, but that too is a pipe dream.

Neither the US nor the Western nations would stand for it. It would also not be practical either given Israel's economic strength and its international standing.

But Israel isn't the only barrier to a two-state solution.

Then there is the issue of the ability to self-govern credibly: After Israel pulled out of the Gaza Strip, the Palestine Authority, the nominal government of a possible Palestine state could not keep control of it and an Islamist terror group took over and showed that the territory could not have a reasonable governance.

But deeper is the basic Arab refusal to accept a Jewish state in their midst.

That has led to the self-defeating violence for which Guterres suggested the antidote of Gandhian non-violence.

The three major wars between Israel and its neighbours, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan ended in victories for Israel, which captured the Gaza Strip and the West Bank - and with them the con-



tinuing problems of today.

While various forms of truce have been reached between Israel and Egypt and Jordan and there is a standoff with Lebanon and Syria, Palestinian elements have continued the nihilistic policy of totally eliminating Israel, the Hamas attack the latest manifestation, sabotaging the possibility of a two-nation solution.

Meanwhile, the Palestinians have also made headway at the UN, the Palestine Authority gaining observer status in 1974.

It allows the PA to participate in UN meetings like member states, though not vote, and its leaders to speak on par with heads of state.

With his trademark red kaffiyeh head scarf the late Palestine Authority President Yasser Arafat addressed the General Assembly for the first time in 1974 and followed with other appearances alongside presidents, prime ministers and potentates.

The UN also runs its largest humanitarian programmes with an

annual budget of \$1.6 billion for Palestinians.

Employing 30,000 people - 13,000 in Gaza - the UN Relief and Works Agency runs schools and health centres, provides food assistance and has development programmes for Palestinians.

The UN also has three peacekeeping operations in Israel relating to peace-keeping: the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) headquartered in Jerusalem that was set up in 1948 after the first Arab-Israel War, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) created in 1978 to supervise the border after Lebanon withdrew from Lebanon (India has 894 personnel in the operation, and the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) mandated in 1974 to oversee the ceasefire between Israel and Syria (with 208 Indian personnel).

international

ISRAEL MILITARY POSTS VIDEO OF GAZA HOSPITAL BLAST, SAYS IT WAS DUE TO FAILED ROCKET LAUNCH

Jerusalem | Agencies

The Israel Defense Forces on Wednesday posted a video on social media which included multiple shots showing the deadly Gaza hospital explosion, saying it was caused by a "failed rocket launch" and not an airstrike.

The IDF posted the 30-second video on X and said: "A failed rocket launch by the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization hit the Al Ahli hospital in Gaza City."

"IAF (Israel Air Force) footage from the area around the hospital before and after the failed rocket launch by the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization."

Using images showing fire damage to several vehicles in the hospital parking lot, the IDF video suggests that a fire broke out at the hospital as the result of the failed rocket launch, reports CNN.

The IDF added that there were no visible signs of craters or significant damage to buildings that would result from an airstrike.



Speaking to CNN on Wednesday, IDF spokesperson Jonathan Conricus said the "first packet of information" was "evidence that clearly supports the fact that it could not have been an Israeli bomb".

"There was no collateral or significant damage to the buildings around it. No crater, and nothing that is similar to locations where Israeli bombs have struck."

Conricus also acknowledged that

the IDF was slow to release information because it took hours for the Israeli military to "investigate and get to the bottom of the situation".

The Islamic Jihad movement however, has denied Israel's assertions that a failed rocket launch was responsible, claiming that it does not use public facilities such as hospitals for military purposes.

In a statement published on Wednesday, the group called the

Israeli accusations as "false and baseless".

The Al-Ahli Hospital was sheltering thousands of displaced people when it was bombed on Tuesday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said in a statement.

Many victims are still under the rubble, it added.

While Hamas said that some 500 people were killed, the Ministry said the fatalities ranged from 200 to 300.

It was one of 20 hospitals in the north of the Gaza Strip facing evacuation orders from the Israeli military.

Out of 35 hospitals in the Hamas-controlled enclave, four are inoperable because of significant damage and direct targeting. Gaza has a population of roughly 2 million and the raging conflict has displaced some 600,000 people, many of whom have sought safety in hospitals which are already overwhelmed with rising casualties and deaths. The UN said that essential supplies such as food, water, and vital health medications are depleting in Gaza.

Mexico City | Agencies

Mexican authorities have arrested 315 suspected human traffickers so far this year for smuggling undocumented migrants towards the US border, the National Migration Institute (INM) said.

The suspects were apprehended between January 1 and October 15 in 13 of Mexico's 32 states as part of a coordinated effort between the INM and state authorities in the country, Xinhua news agency quoted the institute as saying in a statement on Tuesday.

According to estimates by the UN Refugee Agency and the Mexican government, between 3,000 and 6,000 migrants have arrived daily at the US-Mexico border since August, overwhelming migrant shelters, cities on the migration route and immigration facilities.

Officials also seized 339 vehicles traffickers used in the crime, including "dry box trailers with makeshift false floors or other features to prevent the contents of the containers from being seen through X-rays", said the INM.

In recent years, the flow of migrants fleeing poverty in South and Central America and



southern Mexico has spiked, leading to an immigration crisis at the US-Mexico border.

According to the US Department of Homeland Security, Border Patrol apprehended more than 200,000 migrants crossing the country's border with Mexico unlawfully in September, marking the highest so far this year.

September's tally was also the highest since December 2022, when more than 222,000 migrants were apprehended.

Mexican authorities arrest 315 suspected migrant traffickers

Israeli's invasion of Gaza can trigger wider conflict, Russia & China may support Iran: UK expert

London | Agencies

The stand-off over between Israel-Hamas war has the potential to drag US, Russia and China into the conflict, a military expert warned on Wednesday, media reports said.

Professor Justin Bronk said that if Iran attacks Israel in retaliation for invading Gaza, Moscow and Beijing will be compelled to step in and the war could escalate.

He pointed out that Iran and its Hezbollah proxies in Lebanon provide a potential second front, with the US warning Hezbollah and Iran to stay out of the war, Daily Mail reported.

Professor Bronk, a senior research fellow at London's Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), added that Russia and China have been relatively restrained so far.

But if Iran gets involved,



then Russia might support it -- and the war could include the US if Iran or its proxies attack Israel over the coming weeks.

Israel has now bombed areas of southern Gaza where it told Palestinians to flee ahead of an expected invasion, killing dozens of people.

Violence along Israel's bor-

der with Lebanon has also led to concerns over a widening regional conflict that diplomats have been working to prevent, Daily Mail reported. It comes after historian Niall Ferguson wrote in the Sunday Times that the situation had a 'unpleasant 1930s feeling', asking: 'Will there be a World War Three?'

Japanese bullet trains to nix smoking rooms

Tokyo | Agencies



Smoking rooms will no longer be provided on Japan's bullet trains running on the Tokaido, Sanyo and Kyushu Shinkansen lines in spring 2024, their operators said on Wednesday. As of next spring, smoking rooms will be replaced with areas to store drinking water for emergencies, Central Japan Railway Co., West Japan Railway Co. and Kyushu Railway Co. said. The operators said the move was implemented due to growing health consciousness and declining smoking rates, reports Xinhua news agency. The move, which will affect the Tokaido Shinkansen line that connects Tokyo and Osaka as well as the Sanyo and Kyushu lines in western Japan, will allow faster response time during disasters and other emergencies, the operators added. Smoking has already been banned on most local trains in Japan, as well as on Shinkansen operated by Tokyo-based East Japan Railway and Hokkaido Railway.

Jerusalem | Agencies

The Israeli government is in discussions with Elon Musk's SpaceX to roll out Starlink internet services for communities near the conflict zone.

Israel Minister of Communications Shlomo Karhi said that an activity is taking place to coordinate the company 'Starlink' in Israel, so that it will be possible to operate satellite communication terminals of Space-X, which will allow connection to broadband Internet in Israel.

"Also, under the guidance of the minister, the ministry promotes the purchase of these satellite devices for the benefit of mayors and heads of settlements in the conflict line settlements," Karhi posted on X.

"At the same time, a readiness test of the companies for an emergency in the northern region is carried out; cel-



lular communication sites and fixed communication to the Internet," the minister informed.

Starlink is not available in Israel as of now. The satellite-based internet provides a critical edge during conflicts or wars.

However, Musk refused to activate the service when Ukraine requested it prior to a planned attack on Russia's navy.

The X owner later said that he never authorised it to be used, and, "If I had agreed to their request, then SpaceX

would be explicitly complicit in a major act of war and conflict escalation".

In the ongoing Israeli-Hamas war, the death toll on both sides of the war has surpassed 4,000 -- about 2,800 in Gaza -- and more than 10,000 are wounded.

At least 30 Americans have been killed in Israel.

Israel has advised Palestinians in northern Gaza to head south ahead of a ground offensive, prompting concerns that other Middle East adversaries could join the conflict.



Maha Police: 'Mystery deaths' of 5-member family were cold-blooded murder by poison brought from Telangana

Quaid Najmi | Gadchiroli

In a shocking revelation, the Gadchiroli Police probing the purported 'mystery deaths' of a five-member family have unravelled a sinister murder plot by two close women relatives for vendetta and an old property dispute in the clan, officials said here on Wednesday. The deaths of different persons from the Kumbhare family were reported in a span of barely three weeks from Mahagao village in Aheri region of the district, according to Superintendent of Police, Neelotpal. The unexplained serial deaths of so many from a single family had created a wave of fear and suspicions in the village and surrounding areas in September-October, but after a quick bout of investigations, the police nabbed the two accused women on Wednesday. The pattern was similar -- the family members suddenly fell ill, their condition became critical and though they were rushed to hospitals in Nagpur and other places for treatment, they died during treatment, confounding the medics. The first to be affected on September 20 was Shankar P. Kumbhare and his wife Vijaya, who abruptly fell ill and collapsed. They were rushed to an Aheri hospital, then Chandrapur and later even Nagpur for advanced treatment. However, owing to lack of proper diagnosis of their afflictions, Kumbhare succumbed on September 26 and his wife Vijaya the next day on September 27. Even as the stunned family was trying to come to grips with the situation, the deceased couple's daughter, Varsha Udade, staying nearby, another daughter Komal Dahagaonkar, and their brother Roshan Kumbhare, both living in Gadaheri, also were hit by the strange illness. Despite various types of treatments, there was no improvement and they succumbed in quick succession. Komal Dahagaonkar died on October 8, her sister Varsha Urade passed away on October 14, and their brother Roshan Kumbhare breathed



his last on October 15. Meanwhile, their eldest brother, living in New Delhi, had rushed to Mahagao on hearing of his parents demise, and after the last rites he returned to the capital, where his health was seriously affected, and he was admitted to a Delhi hospital. Simultaneously, the family's driver Rakesh Madavi, who had rushed the senior Kumbhare couple to a Chandrapur hospital for treatment, also fell ill and was admitted to a hospital there the following day, where his condition started deteriorating. A relative from Nagpur who came to pay a condolence visit to the family also reported seriously ill and was rushed to a hospital the next day. However, after long treatment, the health of all three victims has improved and they are stable, said the police, which was monitoring the entire dance of death in the Kumbhare family. All the victims had reported identical symptoms -- severe pain in the head and lower back, tingling sensation in the limbs, a heavy tongue and blackened lips, pointing to possibility of poisoning, as per the medics treating. However, there was no specific information or evidence available on the likely poison that they may have ingested, puzzling the medics and the police. Taking strong cognizance, Neelotpal, along with Additional SP Yatish

Deshmukh, Sudarshan Rathod and other officials set up four separate teams to probe the serial family deaths in Mahagao village. The teams went to various districts of Maharashtra and Telangana and learnt of the direct involvement of two close relatives -- Sanghamitra Kumbhare, the daughter-in-law of the deceased Shankar P. Kumbhare, and his sister-in-law, Rosa Ramteke. The Gadchiroli Police quietly monitored their activities, gathered sufficient evidence to pounce on them on Wednesday and placed them under arrest, said Neelotpal. The two women have confessed to the sensational crime for various reasons, including vendetta and property disputes. Sanghamitra had married the deceased Roshan Kumbhare against her family's wishes that resulted in her father committing suicide five months ago, and she was allegedly harassed and ill-treated by her in-laws (the targeted Kumbhare family), etc. On the other hand, Rosa Ramteke had her own separate agenda arising from an ancestral property dispute of four-acre land that led to her poisoning the members of the Kumbhare family, relatives and the driver. The duo revealed how they had travelled to Telangana last month and obtained a certain type of poison which they had mixed with the food and water of the deceased whenever they got a chance which claimed five from the Kumbhare clan. While rushing the Kumbhare couple to Chandrapur hospital, the driver Madavi had unwittingly consumed a bottle of the toxic water kept in the car which almost killed him. Armed with all the evidences, statements of the three survivors and other witnesses, the Gadchiroli Police have registered murder cases against the two women, said Neelotpal. "We are probing further to find out who supplied them the poison, what kind of a toxin it was, how it was transported from Telangana to Gadchiroli, the involvement of any other persons with the two accused women, etc," said Neelotpal.

Congress, VBA urge PM to rush aid to Palestine, snap trade with Israel

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Opposition Maharashtra Congress and Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi on Wednesday called upon the Centre to immediately suspend bilateral trade ties with Israel and send prompt aid to the besieged people of Palestine. Congress state Working President Naseem Khan and VBC President Prakash Ambedkar issued separate statements on the current crises afflicting Palestine and Israel, a day after the bombing of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital which killed hundreds of civilians. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Khan reminded him of the relationship India enjoyed with Palestine since decades, right from former PMs Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the former Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman the late Yasser Arafat. "So far the Israel-Hamas war has claimed over 3,000 lives and left more than 10,000 injured... India has always had very good relationship with the leadership and people of Palestine and we have



always stood with them in the hour of need on humanitarian grounds," said Khan. Ambedkar rued that "the difference in support for Palestine by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bharatiya Janata Party-RSS is problematic", and asked if Modi was trying to appease the BJP-RSS by not sending humanitarian supplies for the Palestine children and women. "The support and admiration displayed by the goons of the BJP-RSS for the bombings, collective punishment against Gaza residents by Israel is putting India into an awkward and embarrassing position on an international stage," pointed out Ambedkar. The VBA chief pointedly demanded that if India's longstanding and consistent policy on Palestinian state has truly remained unchanged, "then what is stopping Modi from sending medical and humanitarian aid to Palestine for Palestinian children, women and civilians, who have been caught in this conflict?" "The way in which Israel has bombed Gaza with banned bombs killing innocent kids, women and thousands of people, especially yesterday, is a highly condemnable and shameful act," added Khan. The Congress leader demanded an immediate stop to all bilateral trade with Israel and help to the people of Palestine grappling with shortages of food, medicines and other relief materials in Gaza. Ambedkar also recalled how India always spoke loudly at various international fora in support of Palestine, but the country's current soft stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict is a total inversion of the principled stance of all the former PMs of India.

PM to launch Pramod Mahajan rural skill development centres in Maha today

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 511 Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras in Maharashtra on Thursday evening via video conferencing. These Kendras are being established across 34 rural districts of Maharashtra. The Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras will conduct skill development training



programs across various sectors to provide employment opportunities to rural youth. Each Kendra will train about 100 youngsters in at least two vocational courses. The training is being provided by empanelled industry partners and agencies under National Skill Development Council. Establishment of these Kendras will help the region attain significant strides towards developing a more competent and skilled manpower, official sources said.

17-year-old drowned at Mahim beach

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 17-year-old youth drowned in the Arabian Sea off Mahim beach here on Wednesday afternoon, the BMC Disaster Control said.

The incident occurred around 2 p.m. when the youth, later identified as Piyush Oberoi, was reported missing in the sea water. The Mumbai Fire Brigade and Mahim Police teams rushed to the spot and started a rescue

effort in the vicinity, behind the famed Mahim Dargah. After a search operation of over three hours, the body of the youth was recovered. He was rushed to the Sion Hospital, but was declared dead on admission.

Delhi court convicts five in Soumya Vishwanathan murder case

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

In the 2008 murder case of TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan, a Delhi court on Wednesday convicted four accused under MCOCA provisions and one for helping in receiving stolen property. Additional Sessions Judge Ravindra Kumar Pandey of the Saket Court pronounced the judgement after having it reserved on October 13. Four accused -- Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Ajay Kumar and Baljeet Malik -- have been convicted under Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) provisions and Ajay Sethi for receiving stolen property. The matter has now been fixed for sentencing on October 26. On October 13, the judge had given time for additional arguments or clarifi-



cations since both the defence and prosecution completed their arguments earlier this month. The court had also directed all the accused to be present in court when the judgment is pronounced. On September 30, 2008,

Vishwanathan was shot dead on the Nelson Mandela Marg while returning home from work in her car. The accused were arrested in connection with the murder and have been in custody since March 2009. The police had attributed the motive for her killing to robbery, and had invoked the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against the accused. Malik, Kapoor and Shukla were previously convicted in the 2009 killing of IT executive Jigisha Ghosh. In Ghosh's murder, the trial court sentenced Kapoor and Shukla to death and awarded a life term to Malik. Subsequently, in the following year, the high court commuted the death sentences of Kapoor and Shukla to life imprisonment while upholding Malik's life term in the Ghosh's murder case.

Maharashtra Politics "Ugly", parties in power are also in opposition: Raj Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray today deplored the "ugly" politics in the state, saying factions of the Shiv Sena and NCP are in power and also in opposition. "In Maharashtra, the parties which are in power are also in the opposition. Such a scenario exists only in our state, and nowhere else in the world. I have never seen such an absurd and ugly political situation. Factions of the Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party are in power and the remnants are in the opposition," he said. Raj Thackeray was addressing a meeting ahead of the registration of voters for the graduates and teachers constituencies' elections. The Shiv Sena split last year when senior leader Eknath Shinde and the bulk of MLAs rebelled against the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray. Shinde later joined hands with the BJP to become Chief Minister. In July this year, senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar and eight MLAs joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government after rebelling against NCP founder Sharad Pawar. Ajit Pawar had told the Election Commission that a majority of MLAs support him. Raj Thackeray also condemned the collapse of a girder of an overbridge which was being constructed on a section of the Mumbai-Goa highway in Chiplun city on Monday.



Mumbai Police get 5-day custody of Pune drug don

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Asconder drug don Lalit Patil, who had fled from Sassoon Hospital in Pune two weeks ago, and was nabbed by a team of Mumbai Police from Bengaluru, was sent to five-day police custody till October 23, here on Wednesday. Patil was brought to Mumbai early in the day and produced before an Andheri Magistrate Court which granted Mumbai Police his custodial remand, said a lawyer. The Mumbai Police Prosecutor said that Patil was an accused in the Nashik drugs factory bust in which he was getting raw materials from a Mumbai-based supplier, who has also been arrested. In order to investigate further into that case, including possible foreign links, other associates and how far the tentacles of the narcotics ring were spread, the Mumbai Police sought his remand. During the remand hearing, Patil claimed that he had not 'fled', but was allegedly 'abducted', and that he feared for his life from Pune Police, the lawyer informed mediapersons. The Mumbai Police had earlier busted his illegal narcotics manufacturing



unit in Nashik, and the Pimpri-Chinchwad Police had destroyed his multi-crore rupees MD (mephedrone) racket in October 2020. At that time, Patil was arrested and had been cooling heels in prison since then. But in June he was admitted to the Sassoon Hospital for treatment of TB and hernia. On October 2, Patil managed to hoodwink the police and sneaked out of their clutches while being escorted for an X-ray, sparking off a huge political uproar.



The incident attracted sharp criticism from Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sushma Andhare, Congress' Balasaheb Thorat, Pune Congress MLA Ravindra Dhangar, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MLC Eknath Khadse and MLA Rohit Pawar, plus others who alleged the involvement of a ruling alliance minister in the drug don's shock escape from the hospital. The Opposition demanded a probe into the incident, narco-test of Patil and action against those responsible for his escape from the hospital.

'She is India' celebrates triumph of Mrs Universe India Madhuri Patle as Mrs Universe Empowered 2023

Team Absolute | Nagpur

'She is India', the premier platform dedicated to celebrating the remarkable essence of women beyond societal labels, proudly announces the extraordinary achievement of Madhuri Patle, who has been crowned Mrs Universe Empowered 2023 and Mrs Universe Face 2023. Speaking of her victory, Madhuri Patle said: "She is India platform has proved a turning point for my life. When I was crowned Mrs. Universe India 2023 by she is India, I not only gained the limelight but also an opportunity of a lifetime to represent India at the biggest international platform. She added: "The theme by She is India Brave, Bold and Beautiful enabled me to showcase my commitment for the society and came as perfect matchmaking with my life's biggest dream project which I named Abadha Foundation." The journey to this prestigious title has been an incredible one for Madhuri



Patle, representing India at the Mrs Universe pageant held in Manila, Philippines. Founded in 2016 by Richa Singh, 'She is India' has been the official franchise for Mrs Universe in India since its inception. The platform's ethos is perfectly captured by its tagline, "Brave Bold Beautiful," and it continues to empower women to embrace their true potential, showcasing the unbridled strength of the feminine spirit in all its glory. Tapping into the theme of Women's Empowerment

Madhuri Patle's remarkable journey culminated with her success in the competition, and she emerged as an embodiment of grace, strength, and empowerment. Richa Singh, Founder and Director of 'She is India', expressed: "She is India' congratulates Madhuri Patle for her incredible success and hopes she keeps She is India's legacy alive by being the voice of Power for Change." "The platform remains dedicated to empowering women and offering a stage for them to showcase their limitless potential. The success story of Madhuri Patle is itself a milestone in our journey. Looking ahead, 'She is India' is gearing up for the 2024 edition, which promises to be an unparalleled celebration of the Bravest, Boldest, and most Beautiful women of India. This forthcoming event, scheduled for the first half of the year, is set to be a "Never Like Before" experience that will continue to shine a spotlight on the incredible potential of Indian women on the global stage.



Britney Spears was terrified about performing with snake

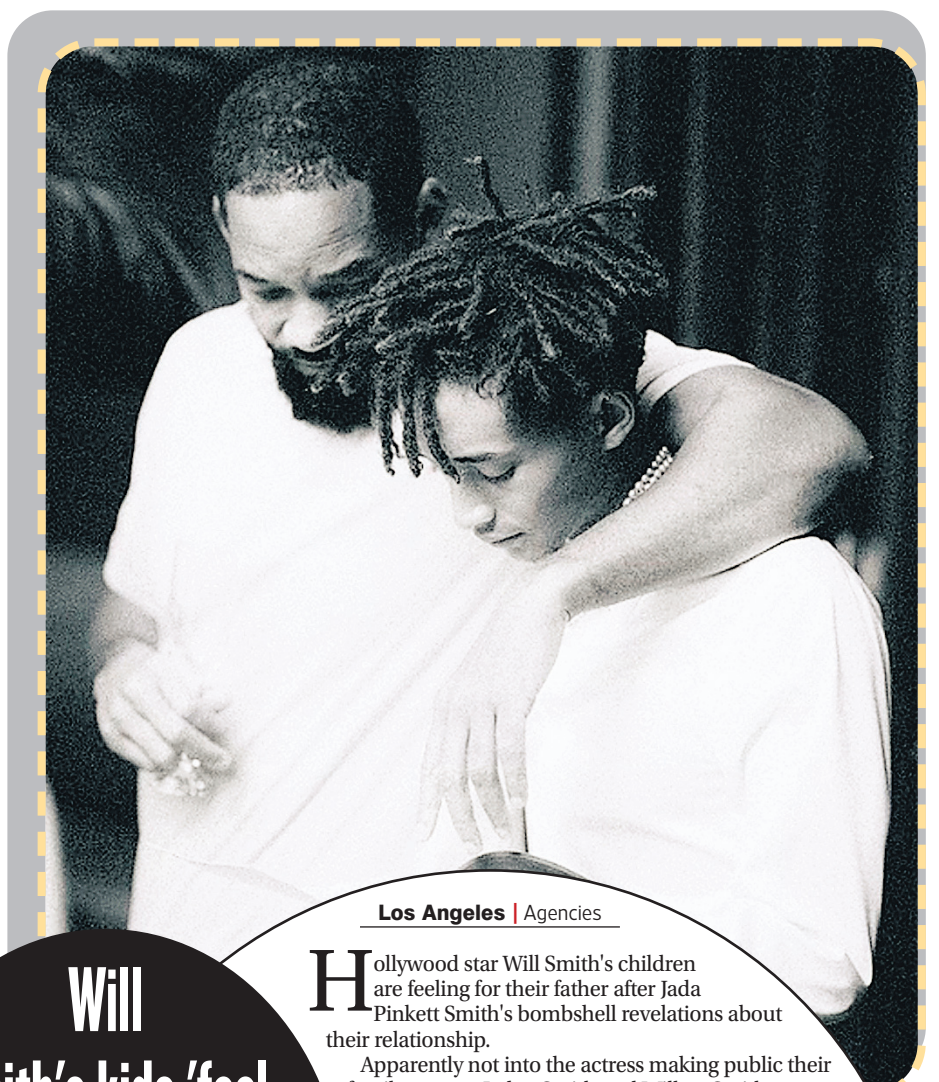
Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Britney Spears famously performed with a snake at the 2001 event but while fans will always remember the moment, she said she hid how scared she felt and was scared to look the creature in the eye. In an excerpt from her upcoming memoir 'The Woman In Me' obtained by People magazine, she wrote: "The plan was for me to sing 'I'm a Slave 4 U', and we decided I would use a snake as a prop. It's become an iconic moment in VMAs history, but it was even more terrifying than it appeared. "All I knew was to look down, because I felt if I looked up and caught its eye, it would kill me."

And while Britney was scared ahead of the performance, her fear grew while they were on stage and the snake began "hissing" in her face, reports femalefirst.co.uk. She continued: "In my head I was saying, Just perform, just use your legs and perform. But what nobody knows is that as I was singing, the snake brought its head right around to my face, right up to me, and started hissing. "I was thinking, Are you f***** serious right now? The f***** goddamn snake's tongue is flicking out at me. Right. Now. Finally, I got to the part where I handed it back, thank God."

In 2002, the 'Gimme More' singer made her movie debut opposite Zoe Saldana and Taryn Manning in 'Crossroads' and she didn't find the shoot "easy" because she struggled to separate herself from the character she was playing.

She wrote: "The experience wasn't easy for me. My problem wasn't with anyone involved in the production but with what acting did to my mind. "I ended up walking differently, carrying myself differently, talking differently. I was someone else for months while I filmed 'Crossroads'. Still to this day, I bet the girls I shot that movie with think she's a little...quirky. If they thought that, they were right. That was pretty much the beginning and end of my acting career, and I was relieved."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Will Smith's kids 'feel bad' for him after Jada Pinkett's bombshell revelations

Hollywood star Will Smith's children are feeling for their father after Jada Pinkett Smith's bombshell revelations about their relationship.

Apparently not into the actress making public their family secrets, Jaden Smith and Willow Smith reportedly "feel bad for their dad with all the recent headlines about their parents."

A source tells ET about the Smith kids, which also include Trey Smith, whom the 'Emancipation' actor shares with his ex-wife Sheree Zampino: "They know he has been going through a lot lately and this isn't helping." The source added: "They wish some of their family's private matters remained private."

As for how Will is handling the matter, the source says the 55-year-old star is "trying to stay busy and has been hanging out with his good friends and his kids."

The informant further dishes: "He's trying not to let any outside noise impact him."

Confirming Will's continuous support for Jada, the source claims, "Will loves Jada and feels like he has always had her back and always will. He has been trying to be supportive, while also taking care of himself."

Jada shocked everyone when she revealed in a sit-down with 'Today' host Hoda Kotb that she and Will have been separated since 2016.

When Hoda said: "It was not a divorce on paper, but it was a divorce," the 'Red Table Talk' host agreed, adding that she and the 'King Richard' actor "live separately."

How Millie Bobby Brown manages her mental health amid public scrutiny

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Millie Bobby Brown attends therapy sessions and writes journals to keep her mental health in check.

The 'Stranger Things' actress is determined to focus on her self-care and hates the way the world views her in terms

of her looks.

"I go to therapy, I journal, I take self-care days. I think self-care is so focused on doing a facemask and putting a scrunchie in but actually, it's lighting a candle and taking a moment to yourself, and counting your blessings and embracing your true inner self and nurturing that," she told Glamour magazine in a video chat, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Millie also recounted a recent incident where she felt abused over her looks in public.

She said: "The other day I was in a restaurant and I was asked if I could take a picture with this man, and I said, 'No. I'm really not feeling like I want to today.' And he said, 'Well, you're not looking that great anyway.'"

"So, I feel like things like that and those examples and those day to day challenges are the things I've struggled with the most - just not being able to see the interior of who I am and maybe the fact that I was just struggling that day, or not able to. Making it about the exterior and my looks is kind of what I'm fighting against."

Millie has been named one of Glamour's Women of the Year 2023, alongside 39-year-old actress America Ferrera, and each have their own cover of the title in a special edition of the magazine.

The actress, who shot to fame playing Eleven in Netflix's 'Stranger Things', revealed in an interview to mark the honour she felt "penalised" for talking too loudly when she shot to fame.



Owen Wilson reveals about his character in 'Loki Season 2'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Owen Wilson spoke about his character of Mobius in 'Loki Season 2'.

Talking about Mobius coming to terms with a new reality, Wilson said: "Mobius is afraid to find out what his real life might have been because what if it's something that was so heartbreakingly good that it makes it hard to continue with the life that he's living in the TVA."

Adding further, he said: "Everybody can feel that a little bit in their life, to sort of peering

down the road not

taken and wondering what if."

"There are some people who really want to go down that road and there are other people who don't even want

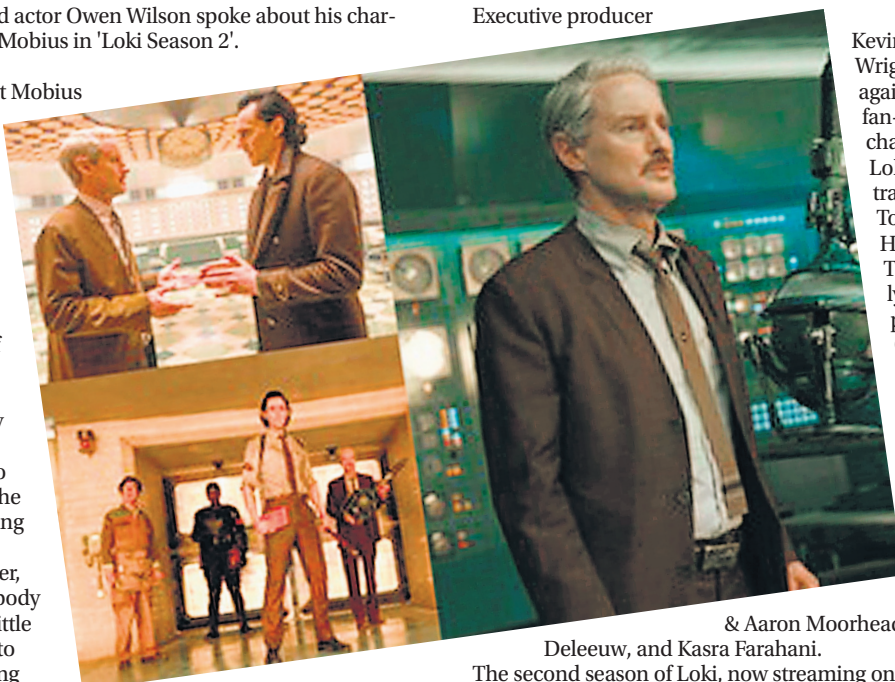
to give it a second glance. It's an issue for Mobius to resolve in Season 2." Executive producer

Kevin R. Wright once again revives fan-favourite character Loki, portrayed by Tom Hiddleston. The highly-anticipated Original live-action series is directed by Justin

Benson

& Aaron Moorhead, Dan DeLeeuw, and Kasra Farahani. The second season of Loki, now streaming on Disney+ Hotstar, delves into the aftermath of the shocking season 1 finale, with Loki embroiled in a struggle for the soul of the Time Variance Authority (TVA).

'Loki Season 2' will air on Disney+ Hotstar.



IDRIS ELBA TO PRODUCE AND NARRATE WW2 DOCUMENTARY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Idris Elba wants to highlight the unsung heroes of World War Two in his new National Geographic documentary series.

The project, which will be produced by October Film and the actor's Green Door Pictures, will cover unsung heroes of colour at Dunkirk, Pearl Harbor and D-Day during the Second World War, and the 51-year-old star is looking forward to shining a spotlight on their stories, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Speaking to Deadline, Elba, whose grandfather fought in the War, told how he was pitched the documentary when October showed him a photo of soldiers from the war and asked "What do you think is missing from these pictures?"

The 'Luther' actor replied: "The answer of course was people of colour and I realised I didn't know any stories about them from World War Two. So this felt like a genuinely fresh and original way into a perennial subject."

Each episode of the programme will focus on three specific people via premium dramatisation, character portraits and archive material.

Elba will also highlight how their experiences of war directly influenced the post-war movements for freedom and equality for people of colour all over the globe.

Previously, the 'Molly's Game' actor had worked with National Geographic for 2013's 'King of Speed', which showed the history of underground racing, and how the need for speed impacted the modern motorsport world.

Meanwhile, Elba recently revealed he has been in therapy for a year because of his obsession with work.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Lily Allen



MEN'S ODI WC: NEW ZEALAND BRUSH ASIDE AFGHANISTAN TO KEEP PERFECT RECORD

Chennai | Agencies

Half-centuries from Tom Latham and Glenn Phillips followed by an impressive bowling display from Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson, New Zealand defeated Afghanistan by 149-run in their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match here at MA Chidambaram Stadium on Wednesday.

Batting first, New Zealand were in a spot of trouble at 110/4 after three quick wickets derailed a solid start. But Glenn Phillips (71) and Tom Latham (68) stitched 144-run stand and helped New Zealand up to a challenging total of 288-6, aided by some sloppy fielding from Afghanistan.

In reply, Afghanistan were restricted to 139 in 34.4 overs as New Zealand's pace bowlers got among the wickets, with Mitchell Santner also starring both with the



ball and in the field.

Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi won the toss and elected to bowl first, and his side spilled an early chance when Will Young was dropped off the bowling of Fazalhaq Farooqi, the first missed opportunity of many, ICC reports.

Conway was trapped lbw by Mujeeb Ur Rahman in the seventh over for 20, and Afghanistan bowled with discipline and kept the New Zealand scoring rate under check until the end of the first Powerplay.

Positive batting from Young and Rachin Ravindra helped the Black

Caps pick up pace, and they added 66 runs over the next 10 overs, taking 26 runs from Mohammed Nabi's three overs in this period.

New Zealand's smooth run was rocked by a brilliant double-wicket charge from Azmatullah Omarzai. Rachin Ravindra tried to go across the line and had his middle stump uprooted off Azmatullah's second ball. And the very last ball of that over saw the other set batter, Young, fall to a brilliant diving take from the Afghanistan keeper, Iram Alikhil. New Zealand had barely recovered when Rashid Khan Daryl Mitchell and Afghanistan were well and truly in the game. Then, Latham and Phillips settled in to build the innings' decisive partnership, taking the game into the final ten overs before unleashing a number of big shots.

The pair put on 144 in a game-turning contribution, although Afghanistan gave the two New

Zealand batters a number of extra lives thanks to some particularly average efforts in the field.

Naveen-ul-Haq struck to remove both in the 48th over, but finisher Mark Chapman stepped up to smash 25 from 12 balls at the death to boost New Zealand's total up to 288/6. Chasing 289, Afghanistan's got off to a steady start as the two openers attempted to see off the big threat of Trent Boult and Matt Henry in the Powerplay.

But just as the pair looked to be getting set, two wickets fell in the space of three balls, with Henry cleaning up the key batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz for 11, and Boult having Ibrahim Zadran caught for 14.

The chase suffered another blow when Santner pulled off a brilliant catch to remove the skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi for a conservative 29-ball 8.

There are no big teams in World Cup, whenever you start focusing only on bigger teams, an upset happens, says Virat Kohli

Pune | Agencies

Indian cricketer Virat Kohli spoke on the qualities of Bangladesh captain Shakib Al-Hasan ahead of their match at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, here and added that "there are no big teams" in the mega sporting spectacle.

"Over the years, I've played a lot against him. He's got amazing control. He's a very experienced bowler. He bowls very well with the new ball, knows how to deceive the batsman, and is also very economical," Kohli told Star Sports. "You have to play your best against all these bowlers, and if you aren't able to, these bowlers are able to create pressure and increase the chances of getting you out. There are no big teams in the World Cup. Whenever you start focusing only on bigger teams, an upset happens."

For the records, on Tuesday, the Netherlands stunned South Africa and last week, Afghanistan shocked defending champions.



Meanwhile, Bangladesh cricketer Shakib Al-Hasan spoke on the value of Virat Kohli's wicket. "He's a special batsman, probably the best batsman in the modern era. I think I'm lucky to get him out 5 times. Of course, it will give me great pleasure, taking his wicket. "India all-rounder Hardik Pandya also spoke about the value of Shakib Al-Hasan. "He is a very street-smart cricketer, has been carrying Bangladesh on his shoulders for the longest years. "The bowling coach of the Bangladesh cricket team Allan Donald spoke on how the team is preparing for Kohli. "I think Virat Kohli is the guy for me that you think about the night before, or two days out because that's how we value his scalp."

Messi double fires Argentina past Peru

Lima | Agencies

Lionel Messi scored two first-half goals as Argentina eased to a 2-0 away victory over Peru in their FIFA World Cup qualifier here.

Messi gave his side the lead just after the half hour mark by thumping a first-time effort into the top-right corner after Nicolas Gonzalez's cross, reports Xinhua. The reigning world champions made it 2-0 on the stroke of halftime after Julian Alvarez let Enzo Fernandez's cross pass



through his legs and Messi rifled home a low finish from 16 yards.

The result at Estadio Nacional in Lima keeps Argentina's perfect start to

the South American zone qualifiers intact. Lionel Scaloni's men now have four wins from as many matches and hold a five-point lead over second-placed Uruguay.

Peru is ninth in the 10-team standings with just one point so far.

Elsewhere in South America's qualifying group on Tuesday, Uruguay won 2-0 at home to Brazil, Ecuador was held to a goalless home draw by Colombia, Paraguay clinched a 1-0 home win over Bolivia, and Venezuela cruised to a 3-0 home win over Chile.

Men's ODI WC: DRS needs more transparency, says David Warner

Australia opening batter David Warner called for more transparency with the DRS, especially in terms of the ball-tracking system.

Lucknow | Agencies

Warner was frustrated after he was given out LBW in Australia's chase of 210 and the opening batter expressed his disappointment with an animated reaction after his review also did not overturn on-field umpire Joel Wilson's decision, during the ongoing ICC World Cup match against Sri Lanka, here.

"I've never had Hawk-Eye come in

and explain to us how the technology actually works, it's just for the TV, if they could come in and explain to us how it works, then sometimes we might (choose) not to refer or to refer," Warner said, as quoted by cricket.com.au. "In England, the ball bounces and it actually moves once it's bounced, not just off the seam but in the air it can move," he added.

"So there's just little things that as a player you get frustrated because there's no explanation ... but there has

to be some accountability."

Warner explained his chat with umpire Joel Wilson and what led to his frustration after seeing the replays on the big screen. "The umpire said the ball was swinging back so to his credit, if he thinks that then that's why he's given a decision. But then when you see the replay of how it unfolded you get a little bit annoyed, (but) that's out of our control. I just sprayed out loud in frustration pretty much just (to) myself," he added.



Men's ODI WC: Hoping for complete game with bat and ball against India, says Bangladesh coach Hathurusingha

Pune | Agencies

Tough India have dominated their head-to-head series, Bangladesh had some success recently against the World Cup hosts, having got the better of the World No.1 ODI team thrice in the last 12 months.

Bangladesh beat India 2-1 in an ODI series earlier this year and also in a match in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

On the eve of their crucial clash against India in the ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium in Pune on Thursday, Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha said past record would not be a factor and what would matter more is that his team had a "complete game" against the hosts.

"We have had success in the recent past against India, but then when you come to the World Cup it's a very different game altogether. As I said, we are hoping that we will have a complete game against them, that we need to perform to our potential and India is probably the in-form team this World Cup and if they have not so good game and if we play to our potential, I think it's going to be a good game



for us and we are capable of doing that. We have proved that confidence and that memory are going to serve us well to start [well] at the start. So, we need to start well," said the

Bangladesh coach of Sri Lankan origin.

Hathurusingha, who said they have a plan against India and would probably go with "a different combination according to the wicket

as well as the opposition", said his team has not been able to put up a complete performance with the ball and bat so far.

"We haven't put up a complete batting performance, or to that matter, complete performance with the ball and bat so far. So, we are expected to do a complete performance. And we know that when we play as a team and we perform to our capabilities and we have beat big teams. We have done well in the past. So, I think fingers crossed, we are due for one of those days," he added.

Asked whether his team's win against India in the 2007 World Cup and the 2016 T20 World Cup would inspire them for Thursday's match, Hathurusingha said playing for Bangladesh is an inspiration in itself for his players. "We are all motivated to win every game from now on. Because of what happened in these recent last two weeks, or last week or so (upset wins by Afghanistan and Netherlands), in this World Cup, it's really open. So, we are all inspired by that. And then we have six games to go. And we still think that we can win those six games. That's the motivation and then the inspiration for us to come tomorrow," said the coach.

DHARWAD ITF TENNIS: MADHWIN, SURAJ CONTINUE DREAM RUN, EASE INTO PRE-QUARTERFINALS

Dharwad: The first

round of the singles in the Dharwad Men's World Tennis Tour witnessed some long matches as all the seeded players breezed through to the pre-quarterfinals of USD 25,000 event, here on Wednesday. Top seed Nick Chappell of USA overcame Korean

Woobin Shin in straight sets 6-3, 6-3 while second seed Bogdan Bobrov quelled the challenge of qualifier Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-2, 6-4.

Sixth seed Florent Bax of France, who had won the last leg of the ITF 15K in Ahmedabad three days, was leading 6-2, 2-0 (2nd set) when his opponent Stijn Pel from Netherlands threw in the towel. Fourth seed Ramkumar Ramanathan showed some stiff resistance from qualifier Faisal Qamar before prevailing 7-6 (3), 6-2. Meanwhile, qualifiers Madhwin Kamath and Suraj Prabodh continued their dream run winning their opening round matches. While Madhwin was a 6-3, 6-4 winner over wild card entrant Manish Ganesh, Suraj played out the longest match of the day in outplaying another wild card Raghav Jaisinghani 6-4, 6-4 in two hours and 20 minutes.



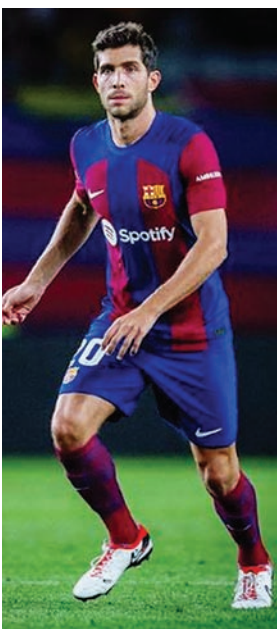
Barca suffers another blow from Roberto's injury

Madrid | Agencies

FC Barcelona's injury crisis worsened on Wednesday as club captain Sergi Roberto has suffered a muscle injury to his left calf.

The injury means he will miss this weekend's game at home to Athletic Club Bilbao, next week's Champions League tie with Shakhtar Donetsk and the 'Clasico' against Real Madrid the following weekend, and is a doubt for the visit to play Real Sociedad on November 4.

The injury comes at the worst possible time for Barca coach, Xavi Hernandez, who already has Pedri, Frenkie de Jong, Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Jules Kounde out injured, while Alejandro Balde and Lamine Yamal are also slight doubts, although



both participated in a part of Barca's Wednesday training session.

Maharashtra, Assam, CBSE schools complete quarterfinal line-up of Subroto Cup Junior Boys U17

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sanjeevan Vidhyaniketan, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, Bampather Bengenabari H.S.S, Aideobari, Assam and Amenity Public School, Rudrapur, Uttarakhand reached the quarterfinals of the Subroto Cup Inter School International Football Tournament, here on Wednesday.

The three teams have joined M.I.C English Medium H.S, Athanikal, Malappuram, Kerala, Govt. Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 37 B, Chandigarh, T.G English School, Bishnupur, Manipur, Govt. Haulawang High School, Haulawang, Lunglei, Mizoram and Mother International School, Zahir, Brambey, Ranchi, Jharkhand in the last eight.

The quarterfinals will take place on October 20 at the Ambedkar Stadium, Delhi Gate.

M.I.C English Medium H.S, Athanikal, Malappuram, Kerala will face Govt. Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 37 B, Chandigarh in the first quarterfinal while T.G English Medium School, Bishnupur will meet Sanjeevan Vidhyaniketan, Kolhapur, Maharashtra in the second quarterfinal.

The third quarterfinal will be played between Govt. Haulawang High School, Haulawang, Lunglei, Mizoram and Mother International School, Zahir, Brambey, Ranchi, Jharkhand and the last quarterfinal will see Bampather Bengenabari H.S.S, Aideobari, Assam and Amenity Public School, Rudrapur, Uttarakhand face off against each other.



On the final day of group stage matches, Bampather Bengenabari H.S.S blanked P.M Shri GSSS Gangwa, Hisar, Haryana 11-0 to qualify from Group G ahead of Tripura Sports School, Badharghat, Tripura on goal difference.

In Group D, Sanjeevan Vidhyaniketan, Kolhapur drew their last match 1-1 with fellow contenders Assam Rifles Public School, East Khasi Hills, Shillong, Meghalaya to book their places in the knockouts.

Amenity Public School, Rudrapur, Uttarakhand who are representing CBSE got the better of Sudarshanpur Dwarika Prasad Uchh Vidyachakra, Raiganj, West Bengal 3-0 to qualify

for the quarterfinals from Group H.

In other matches of the day at the Ambedkar Stadium, Mamta Modern School, Vikaspuri, New Delhi played an exciting 3-3 draw against Kamla Devi Public School, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. In the other match of the group, Air Force Bal Bharti School beat Army Public School, Samba, Jammu & Kashmir 5-0 to end the tournament with a win. In Group F at the Ambedkar Stadium, D.A.V Inter-College, Dehradun, Uttarakhand beat Don Bosco Vaduthala, Kochi, Kerala 5-0 and Govt. Senior Secondary School, Namchi, South Sikkim, Sikkim beat Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Maheshpur, Pakur, Jharkhand 4-0 to end their tournament in a high.

At the Thejas Football Ground, Sainik School, Chhingchip, Mizoram played out a 1-1 draw against Vasant Rao Dempo H.S.S of Arts, Science & Commerce, Cujira, Goa while in Group H, Guru Gobind Sports College, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh ended their tournament with a 2-0 win over Kendriya Vidyalaya, Lokra, Shonitpur, Assam.

At the Subroto Park Football Ground in Group C, Ramkrishna Mission Vivekanand Vidyalay, Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh blanked Inventure Academy, Bengaluru 5-2 while Shri Sainik Awasiya Mahavidyalaya, Bhaktapur, Nepal and NCC, Kolkata, West Bengal played out a 1-1 draw.

In the final match of Group D, Khajaman H.S.S, Trichy, Tamil Nadu thrashed Navy Children School, Mumbai 10-0 to finish the group stages of the tournament."



GEETANJALI MISHRA EVOKES PERFECT FESTIVE VIBE WITH TRADITIONAL OUTFIT, ACCESSORIES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Geetanjali Mishra, who plays Rajesh in the sitcom 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan', shared a glimpse of her festive wardrobe, and revealed how she cherishes experimenting with outfits for festivities.

Navratri festivities are in full swing, and the thrill of dancing to Garba songs in vibrant attire

while ensuring you look your best at the venue can indeed pose a challenge.

Talking about the same, Geetanjali shared: "In this series on Navratri colours, I like to colour code all these nine days. Along with the rituals, fasting and festive mood, I somehow manage to take time to get decked up every day in a particular colour."

"During the Dandiya night, I seize the opportunity to showcase traditional elegance with a touch of style. I firmly believe

that while creating this timeless look, it is crucial to select the right fabrics and trending colour combinations," said the 'Naagin 3' fame actress.

The 'Balika Vadhu' actress further said: "Whether it's a Ghagra choli adorned with intricate mirror work or a simple black or white kurta paired with a bandhani dupatta and Kamar patta, I strive to evoke the perfect festive vibe."

"Experimenting with my outfits during this season is some-

thing I truly cherish. I also believe that accessorising my attire thoughtfully can elevate my look," she added.

Geetanjali went on: "I plan to pair my traditional jewellery, including jhumkas, bangles, and necklaces, to complement my outfits. This is the ideal time for me to mix and match my collection, aiming for a graceful appearance."

Geetanjali is currently seen in 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan', which airs on &TV.



AMITABH BACHCHAN'S NOSTALGIA: SNEAKING INTO THEATRES ON A BUDGET

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan recounted the memories of his college days, and shared how he bunked the classes and went to movies with his friends.

Born to Hindi poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan, and social activist Teji Bachchan, Big B did his schooling from Sherwood College in Nainital and graduated from Kirori Mal College at University of Delhi in 1962.

Amitabh, who is currently seen as the host of season 15 of the quiz-based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', welcomed Mousumee Paul to the hot seat in episode 47 of the show.

During the game, the contestant asked the thespian: "Sir you said that you used to give proxy attendance. Was that in school or college? You have mentioned that you used to bunk school."

To this the actor replied: "No! I was in boarding school. So, we could not do any mischief there. But I did bunk lectures in college."

The contestant said: "Sir...What did you do after bunking college?"

The 'Sholay' fame actor said: "I used to jump the wall and go to watch a film. I didn't have the money to watch a film. Someone would recommend us to watch a film because there is a good song and the actor has acted well."

"So, we used to wait outside the theatre. There is a man in the theatre who shows you your seat. We used to ask him to let us in for a few minutes. We had to request him before he would let us in. He would ask us to leave after listening to the song. And we used to leave. This has happened many times," shared Big B.

Amitabh Bachchan made his acting debut in 1969 with the movie 'Saat Hindustani', for which he had bagged the National Film Award for Best Newcomer.

Meanwhile, the actor next has 'Ganapath', 'The Umesh Chronicles', 'Kalki 2898 AD', 'Butterfly', and 'Thalaivar 170' in the pipeline.

SALMAN KHAN: HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE FILMS IN MY CAREER THAT HAS GIVEN ME A LOT OF LOVE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is thrilled with the positive response to the trailer of 'Tiger 3' and said that he has been fortunate to have movies in his career that have given him a lot of love.

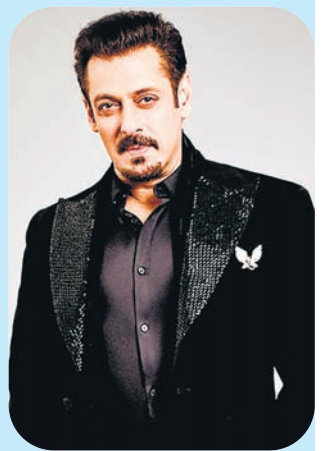
Salman said: "I think what we are witnessing today as a response to the Tiger 3 trailer is simply outstanding. I have been fortunate to have films in my career that have given me a lot of love. But to get this volume of appreciation and to see this amount of frenzy after a trailer launch, is truly special and a rare feeling."

He added: "I'm happy that our trailer has hit all the right notes and people are supremely excited to watch Tiger 3 in cinemas! I'm also really touched by how people have reacted to seeing Katrina and me back as Zoya & Tiger."

"I'm aware that these two super-agents hold a special place in the hearts of the audience and I'm glad that we have lived up to their expectations with the Tiger 3 trailer. I think people will be very happy seeing both of us in action, taking on our enemies shoulder to shoulder."

Salman's co-star Katrina Kaif too is happy with the response the trailer has got. Katrina said: "It is incredible to see the reaction that the trailer of Tiger 3 has got! It is simply phenomenal to have all this love come our way because the entire team has given their all to make Tiger 3 an action spectacle."

"This is the third film of the Tiger franchise and I'm well aware of the massive expectations that people have from Tiger 3. I'm happy that the trailer is getting unanimous love and it brilliantly sets the tone for the Tiger 3 campaign till release."



Kirti Kulhari says feeling of making an international debut is 'still sinking in'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kirti Kulhari, who will be seen in 'Sach is Life', says the feeling of making an international debut is still sinking and shared a little details about the upcoming film.

The actress said: "The feeling of making my international debut is still sinking in! I feel very blessed and grateful that I am getting to meet so many people and explore so much. It's a film about a mother's determination to not only save her son but give him a life that defies logic, science and is no short of a miracle."

Kirti added: "It's a story about rising above our circumstances, unleashing the power of unconditional love and celebrating human spirit and always holding on to that little thing called hope."

Written and directed by Harsh Mahadeshwar, who is a music video veteran, 'Sach is Life' is based on the

real life story of the Munshi family.

It will tell the tale of a couple, who are determined to provide their three-year-old son, diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, the life that he rightfully deserves, regardless of his



condition, reports Variety. 'Sach is Life' is produced by Romila Saraf Bhat and Rahul Bhat for New Jersey-based Red Bison Productions. The film, which is due to commence principal photography in April 2024, will be shot in Kashmir, Delhi, New Orleans, New Jersey and New York.

MANISHA ARORA ELEVATES HER FESTIVE LOOK WITH A BLEND OF HALTER AND SHARARA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

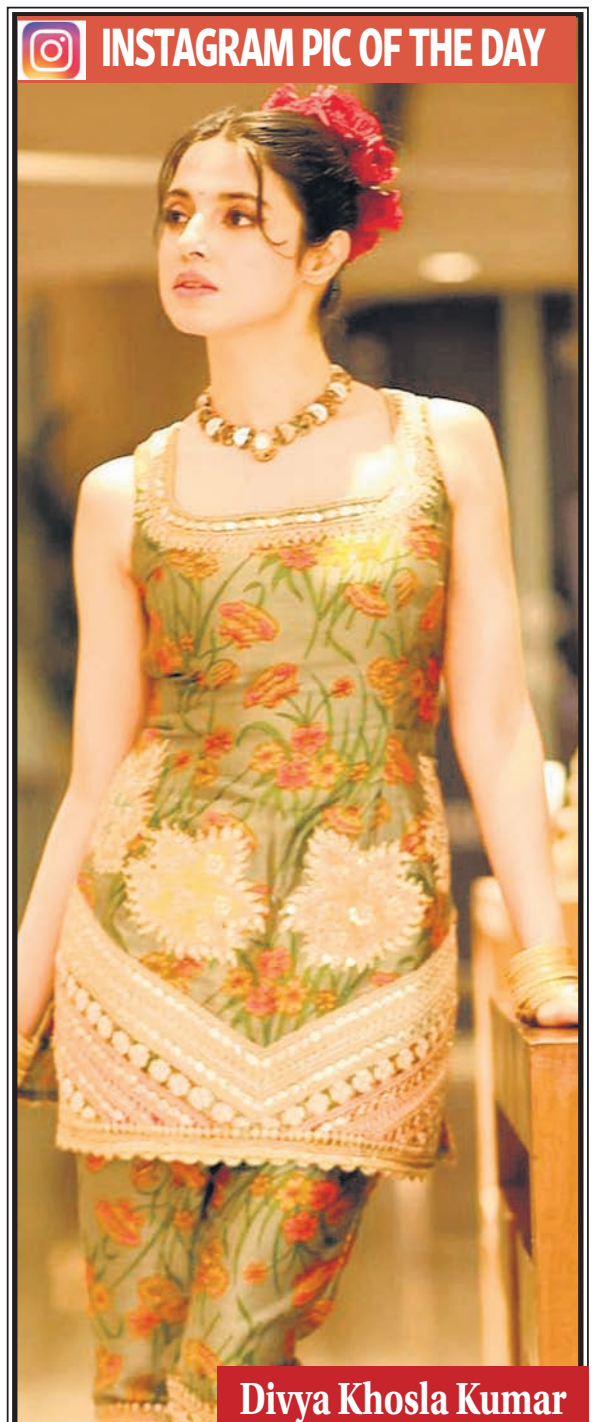
Actress Manisha Arora, who plays Mahua in the show 'Doosri Maa', shared she has planned to opt for a stylish Indo-western outfit for the Navratri festivities this year. Giving a sneak peek into her festive wardrobe, Manisha shared: "I find Indian attire, such as a chaniya choli, to be the perfect choice for showcasing your dance moves. Adding mirror work to the outfit enhances both the dress and the overall look, making it an apt during Navaratri."

She said: "Stylish Indo-western outfits, in my opinion, bring out elegance and a special charm to my personality." The actress said: "Moreover, this fusion style offers limitless possibilities for combining and experimenting with various outfit styles. This year, I plan to pair a stylish halter or turtleneck crop top with an elegant sharara for a refined and chic appearance."

"Additionally, opting for a kurta with dhoti-style pyjamas not only looks great, but also ensures comfort during play, without the inconvenience of heavy lehengas or sarees," she concluded.

Meanwhile, in the current track of 'Doosri Maa', Dadaji (Sunil Dutt) gets a heart attack during a heated argument with Arvind (Mayank Mishra). Malti (Anita Pradhan) implores Arvind to help get him to the hospital, but he callously declines.

In her desperation, Malti reaches out to their neighbours, and they manage to take Dadaji to the hospital. Meanwhile, Randheer (Darshan Dave) falsely accuses Shamsheera (Swatantra Bharat) of involvement in drug-related activities.



Divya Khosla Kumar