



NATION

> 02

Rahul Gandhi will again contest Lok Sabha polls from...



HOLLYWOOD

> 06

Helen Flanagan recalls one night stand, man who 'ruined' her...



SPORTS

> 07

BCCI announces contracts extension for head coach Rahul...

CONGRESS WILL FULFILL GUARANTEES MADE TO PEOPLE OF TELANGANA: PRIYANKA



A day ahead of the crucial Telangana Assembly elections, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday hailed the women power saying that her party will fulfill the guarantees made to the people of the state.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a post on X, Priyanka Gandhi said, "When women take a resolution, they die only after completing it. We will come to Telangana and fulfill the guarantees. We will create history by following the path of truth, honesty and righteousness with the public." She also attached over 38 seconds long video in which she is heard saying "When I was speaking to my mother Sonia Gandhi, and she asked me what do I speak in my public meetings in Telangana and I replied I speak the truth". Priyanka Gandhi in the video said that as a mother Sonia Gandhi told her that the promises made to the people must be hon-

oured. "I told her that all the party leaders have taken a pledge to complete the guarantees made to the people in the state," she said. Polling for the 119-member Assembly is scheduled on November 30 and the Congress is eyeing to wrest power from the ruling BRS. The Congress has already announced six guarantees to the people of the state. Meanwhile, the ruling BRS is seeking a third consecutive victory in the state. At least 2,290 candidates are in the poll fray in the southern state. Counting of votes will take place on December 3 along with the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram.

MUMBAI PRESS CLUB'S REDINK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT FOR NEERJA CHOWDHURY

Mumbai: The Mumbai Press Club will confer its RedInk Award for Lifetime Achievement on veteran journalist-author Neerja Chowdhury for her contribution to media for over four decades, as per an announcement here on Wednesday. The RedInk Journalist of the Year-2022 shall be shared by Dhaniya Rajendra and Sharad Vyas, besides 28 other media winners in 12 different categories of the awards. This year, the awards shall be presented by the 99-year-old freedom fighter Dr. G.G. Parikh as the chief guest and former Additional Solicitor-General of India, Indra Jaising, at a function scheduled in the Royal Opera House, here on December 2. As he reaches the 'century' of his life on December 30, Parikh -- who was jailed as a student while protesting during the Freedom Movement -- shall also be felicitated for his long services to the country through social reforms. The Mumbai Press Club instituted the RedInk Awards in 2011 to accord peer recognition to good investigative journalism and feature writing and to raise the bar of the media in the country.

UP court issues NBW against Jaya Prada in 2019 case

Moradabad | Agencies

An MP-MLA court in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad has issued a Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Jaya Prada in connection with a case dating back to 2019. The case stems from a felicitation ceremony at Habitat Muslim Inter College in Moradabad, where derogatory remarks were made against Jaya Prada by Samajwadi Party (SP) MP S.T. Hasan. Veteran SP leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam who were also present at the event, have been named as accused in the case. Special public prosecutor Mohanlal Bishnoi said: "A case was registered by the police in Moradabad. In this case, Jaya Prada was called several times for testimony, and bailable warrants were issued to her. Today, her application was rejected, leading to the issuance of a Non-Bailable Warrant against her in the Moradabad court." He informed that there are six accused persons in the case including Azam Khan, Abdullah Azam, ST Hasan, Hazar Khan, and Arif Hassan. The alleged objectionable remarks



were made at an event organised to honour Azam Khan after he defeated Jaya Prada, a former party colleague, in the 2019 parliamentary elections where she contested the polls on a BJP ticket. The FIR in the case was filed at the Katghar police station under IPC sections 354-A (sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment) and 509 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman). Similarly in October, an MP-MLA court in Rampur issued a non-bailable warrant against former MP Jaya Prada in a case related to the violation of the Model Code of Conduct during the 2019 Lok Sabha election. In this case too, the NBW was issued as she failed to appear personally in court for the hearing. In a separate legal episode, the actress-turned-politician faced legal consequences earlier this year.

Constitution, parliamentary democracy in danger; we will emerge stronger when we sort out differences: Kharge

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said that both the Constitution and parliamentary democracy were in danger in the country. He said this was because the people, who were in power, were those who do not believe in the Constitution, India's flag, parliamentary democracy of governance and they were waiting for the right time to change all these things and bring their own Constitution. Speaking at the launch of a book on his 50 years in politics, Kharge said, "This is a very happy and emotional event for me. I entered the Karnataka Assembly in 1972 and I completed 50 years in politics last year." Apart from Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, RJD leader Manoj Jha, CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury were also present during the book launch. He said that the book was to be released last year but due to various reasons it kept getting delayed and "we have gathered here today for its release by Sonia Gandhi."



He also thanked Sukhdev Thorat and Chetan Shinde for putting their hard work into the book. Kharge said leaders from all parties had written very warm

messages for him in the book. "Even if I do not agree with them ideologically or politically, on a personal basis I wish them all well too. But I also cannot ignore that today both the Constitution and parliamentary democracy are in danger in our country." It is because the people who are in power are those who do not believe in our Constitution, our flag our parliamentary democracy of governance and they are waiting for the right time to change all these things and bring their own Constitution," Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, said. "I have seen many challenges to the country over the last 50 years and the country has tried to address those challenges and will continue to overcome new challenges. To emerge stronger, it will happen only when we are able to sort out our differences and come together boldly," he said. Recalling the hard work of the book's authors, Kharge said, "They spent many hours, each time to come to Delhi to record my views. I would like to thank them for the love and affection they have shown to me through this book. I would like to thank all the people who have written for me in this book."



Bollywood Actor Randeep Hooda and Indian Model/Actress Lin Laishram tied knots in a Small and Beautiful Traditional Wedding Ceremony in Manipur.

A day before polling in Telangana, seizures mount to Rs. 745 crore

Hyderabad | Agencies

A day before polling for Telangana Assembly elections, the cumulative seizure of cash, gold, liquor and freebies in the state mounted to Rs 745 crore. This is said to be the highest seizure among all the states which went to polls this month. The enforcement agencies seized cash, precious metals, liquor and other items worth Rs. 8.07 crore in the last 24 hours, pushing the cumulative figure to Rs 745.37 crore since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into effect on October 9. In the 2018 elections, the total seizure of cash, liquor and other items was only Rs. 103.89 crore. During the 24-



hour period ending 9 AM on November 29, the agencies seized Rs.3.78 crore in cash. With this the seized cash since October 9 has gone up to Rs.305.72 crore. The agencies also seized Rs.2.66 crore worth of liquor during the 24-hour period. With this the overall value of liquor seized so far has mounted to Rs.127.55 crore. The authorities have seized more than 2.63 lakh litres of liquor. The enforcement agen-

cies seized narcotics worth Rs. 27.94 lakh during the last 24 hours. They have so far seized drugs/narcotics worth Rs. 40.14 crore. The seized material includes 10,086 kg Ganja. The cumulative value of the seized gold, silver, diamonds etc has risen to Rs. 187 crore. This includes 303 kg gold, 1,195 kg silver and 19,297 Carat diamonds. Since the MCC came into force, the authorities have seized various other items worth Rs.84.94 crore reportedly meant for distribution among voters as freebies. The seized items include 2.98 lakh kgs rice, 9,207 cookers, 89,329 sarees, seven two-wheelers, ten four-wheelers, 18,566 clocks and 72,473 mobile phones.

BENGAL'S CORRUPTION HAS GIVEN THE COUNTRY A BAD NAME: AMIT SHAH

Kolkata | Agencies

The Trinamool Congress and the current state government in West Bengal have not just shamed the state but the entire country by indulging in and encouraging corruption, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Wednesday. "The numerous cases of corruption like school jobs, ration distribution, coal and cattle smuggling encouraged by the ruling party and the state government has not only shamed West Bengal but is also a matter of shame for the country. Besides the cases of corruption, political violence and illegal infiltration in West Bengal has also skyrocketed during the Trinamool Congress' regime," Amit Shah said while addressing a rally of BJP workers in central Kolkata. The rally was held as a mark of protest against the irregularities in the implementation of the 100-day job scheme under MGNREGA. He also accused the state government of encouraging illegal infiltration from across the borders to enrich its vote bank. "Once, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, as the erstwhile Opposition leader, used to be extremely vocal about her stand against illegal infiltration. Now her



government is not only encouraging illegal infiltration, but also helping them in getting identity proofs like voters' ID and Aadhaar cards," Shah said. He also challenged the chief minister to suspend Bengal ministers, legislators and Trinamool Congress leaders arrested in connection with scams.

"Can she dare to suspend Jyotipriya Mallick, Anubrata Mondal and Partha Chatterjee? She cannot dare to do that. She is now constantly praying to Devi Durga so that they do not name the 'nephew' in the matter," Shah said. According to him, if the BJP government has to come to power in West Bengal after the 2026 state Assembly elections, its seeds have to be sown in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "So I give a call to the people of West Bengal to ensure the victory of the maximum number of BJP candidates in West Bengal in 2024 and make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of the country again for the third-consecutive term. Remember, the development of West Bengal is the prime focus of the Prime Minister," he said. Speaking on the occasion, Amit Shah also criticised the Congress for surrendering to the Trinamool Congress. "Neither Trinamool Congress nor the Communists can ensure development of West Bengal. And what can I say about the Congress who has already surrendered to the Trinamool Congress," Amit Shah said. Speaking on the occasion, he also resurrected the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and said that however the Chief Minister might oppose it, the CAA will be implemented at any cost.

Daughters found living with mother's decayed body for nearly a year in Varanasi

Varanasi (UP) | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a 27-year-old woman named Pallavi and her sister Vaishvik (18) were found living with the decomposed body of their mother Usha Tiwari (52), who had died almost a year ago on December 8, 2022, in a house in the Maderva Chittapur area under the Lanka police station in Varanasi. The incident came to light when the local police cops broke into the house after getting no response from inside on Wednesday. The Inspector of Lanka police station, Shivkant Mishra, said the decayed body of the woman has been sent for postmortem. During initial investigation, the police did not find any criminal angle in



this episode. Usha's daughters informed the police that she had died on December 8, 2022 due to illness. However, they did not respond when asked why they avoided informing the police. On keeping the body inside their home, the daughters said they had no money or other resources. The police also said that the daughters were not mentally stable. On being asked how they managed despite foul smell, the duo said that they used to cover the body and go on the roof of the house to consume food.

ECONOMISTS SEE INDIA'S GDP GROWTH SLOWING IN SECOND HALF OF FY24

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While India is expected to maintain its status as the fastest growing economy in the world, some economists expect the GDP growth rate to slow down in the second half of the current financial year. The Indian economy is considered a global bright spot and has delivered a strong performance in the first half of FY24 with the GDP growth print in Q1FY24 high at 7.8 per cent year-on-year. This is set to be followed by another solid 6.8 per cent growth in the second quarter, going by the data on high-frequency indicators. Both the consumption and the investment drivers were in action in H1 FY24; while economic activity has continued to be spearheaded by public investments in the infrastructure sector, India has also seen a robust consumption demand. "Although we don't expect any significant moderation in the intensity of public capital expenditure, persistent headwinds on the export front, higher interest rates along with a tighter funding environment for consumer loans and weaker agricultural output due to the El Nino phenomenon can pose risks to the overall growth trajectory in the second part of FY24," said Suman Chowdhury, Chief Economist and Head of Research at Acuité Ratings & Research.



"We expect 5.0-5.5 per cent growth in H2FY24 and hold on to our base forecast of 6.0 per cent for FY24," he told IANS. However, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth is optimistic on the growth outlook. "We expect a good number. Early indicators show good momentum in the second quarter," he said on Wednesday. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had also said recently that the July-September growth rate could spring a positive surprise. The

quarterly GDP figures are likely to be released on Thursday. The resilience in urban demand is clearly one of the primary drivers of the current momentum in the Indian economy. Urban demand has reportedly been strong as reflected by a step up in passenger vehicle sales, on-line food deliveries, airline traffic and hotel occupancies which has particularly translated into a stronger than anticipated momentum in the services sector. While India didn't win the ICC Cricket World Cup, the event surely did its bit to also push up consumption demand in the months of Oct-Nov'23 along with the regular festivities. Nevertheless, the rural engine is running on a slightly different track. There are indications of a weaker rural demand due to the El Nino phenomenon, the estimated shortfall in the kharif crop and the risks to the current rabi crop. Having been on a path of mend over the last three quarters, rural consumption recovery was however punctured in Q2 FY24 owing to a confluence of adverse macroeconomic and seasonal factors including high inflation in Q2 and the irregular monsoon. Some of the high-frequency data points have validated the Q2 FY24 slowdown in rural demand. On a FYTD basis (Apr-Oct), domestic tractor sales have contracted by 4 per cent on an annualised basis. Most FMCG companies recorded a slower volume growth in rural markets in Q2 FY24 versus Q1 FY24.



BAN ON BS III PETROL & BS IV DIESEL VEHICLES REVOKED, DELHI GOVERNMENT CLARIFIES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi government has clarified that a ban on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel Light Motor Vehicles, or LMV (four wheelers), plying in the national capital has been revoked with immediate effect till further orders.

The development comes after the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Sub-Committee issued an order on Tuesday revoking the Stage-III actions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) with immediate effect in Delhi and its peripherials.

The decision, made in response to the prevailing air quality conditions by CAQM, rescinds the order issued on November 2.

"The Sub Committee for invoking actions under the GRAP, in its order dated 28.11.2023 has directed to revoke the order issued vide dated 02.11.2023 for actions under Stage-III of the GRAP with immediate effect. However, actions under Stage I & II of the GRAP shall remain invoked," read the order issued by the Deputy Commissioner (Pollution Control Department) Yogesh Sharma late Tuesday night.

"In view of the above, the restrictions imposed for plying of BS III, petrol and BS IV, diesel LMVs (four wheelers) in



the jurisdiction of NCT of Delhi are hereby revoked with immediate effect till further orders. The air quality in the

national capital continued to remain under the 'very poor' category on Wednesday morning with the overall

AQI at 318, according to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research.

MCD passed resolution for 6,589 new jobs, says Delhi CM Kejriwal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said that the MCD in the national Capital has passed a resolution for 6,589 new jobs, which will include 2,949 posts of security guards and 3,640 of cleaning personnel.

In a post on X, Kejriwal said, "Today there is more good news for the people of Delhi. Today we have passed the proposal for 6,589 new jobs in Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). These new jobs will include 2,949 security guards and 3,640 cleaning personnel."

The AAP national convener said that the MCD schools will now have separate sweepers and security guards.

"Like the Delhi government, we are also working on education on a priority basis in the Municipal Corporation. These new jobs will also provide employment to many of our youth. Our aim is to prepare the coming generation and provide them a better environment. We will not



allow any shortcomings in the field of education at any level," Kejriwal added.

The AAP made to power in the MCD in the national Capital last year by defeating the BJP."

THOSE WHO TURNED INDIANS INTO BEGGARS ARE NOW LABELING TMC THIEVES: MAMATA

Kolkata | Agencies

At a time when Union Home Minister Amit Shah was launching a scathing attack on the Trinamool Congress and the West Bengal Government during a BJP rally in central Kolkata on Wednesday, the state's Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee made a counterclaim in the Assembly. She said that those who turned the people of the country into beggars are now labeling her party leaders as thieves.

"The BJP has purchased everything. They have sold a number of Public Sector Units. They are denying legitimate funds to the state government for the various centrally-sponsored schemes. The Union Government is accumulating huge amounts in the form of the Goods and Services Tax from West Bengal and still they are denying our dues."

"Before the elections, the BJP sends central teams alleging political vio-



lence and after the polls it sends central agencies to the houses of Trinamool Congress legislators," the Chief Minister said.

Speaking on the occasion, she also issued a note of caution for the BJP legislators. "We are keeping a watch on who all are hiding their ill-gotten wealth and where they are hiding it. You are in power in New Delhi and hence you can use central agencies against us. But when you will be out of power you will have to pay for the tortures inflicted on the common people," she said.

The chief minister also made it amply clear that the state government was not in a position to pay Dearness Allowance (DA) to the state government employees at par with the central government employees and arrears accrued on it. "Payment of DA is not mandatory on part of the state government. It is an option. The state exchequer is being drained because of repaying the accumulated dues left back by the previous Left Front regime. But we compensate that with additional annual leaves for the state government employees," she said.

Female actors demand to drop Goa minister from Cabinet for 'insulting' women

Panaji | Agencies

Alleging that Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude has insulted women from the fields of art, culture and literature over the issue of conferring state awards, noted female actors in Goa have demanded to drop him from the Cabinet.

Gaude invited the wrath of the people after the announcement of the names of the 12 recipients of the prestigious Goa State Cultural Awards, with all them being male.

Filmmaker-actor Jyoti Kunkolienkar along with acclaimed actor Suchita Narvekar and activist Auda Viegas on Wednesday addressed a press conference demanding to drop Gaude from the

Cabinet for 'insulting' women. "Initially, we reacted by expressing what we felt over this issue. Subsequently, the minister (countering us) reacted to our statement and said that there were no 'capable' women who would deserve the award. He also questioned whether there is any rule that awards should be given to women," Kunkolienkar said, questioning whether there is any rule that awards should be given only to men.

She also rubbished the alleged statement of the minister that thousands of applications were received



for the awards. "A maximum of 120 applications can be received. Not more than that," she said. "I request Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to come clear over the issue and declare the names of those who had applied for the awards," she added.

According to Narvekar, Gaude also said that it is not a panchayat election with 33 per cent reservation for women when it comes to deciding on awards. "We are not asking for 33 per cent reservation for women for state awards. We are speaking on this issue because women too deserve

these awards," Narvekar said.

Narvekar also questioned if there was not a single woman in 'those thousands of applications' who could have deserved an award.

"I request Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to drop such a minister who doesn't know how to respect women. One should not forget that in the past, agitation by women had forced one minister to step down," Narvekar said, adding that Gaude should not blame them if he is dropped from the Cabinet. Meanwhile, Gaude had clarified that a selection committee was appointed to confer the awards and the decisions were taken by the panel.

"Awards are given on the basis of merits," he said.

Centre has power to extend tenure of Delhi Chief Secretary by 6 months: Supreme Court

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that the Centre has the power to extend the services of incumbent Chief Secretary of Delhi Naresh Kumar for a period of six months.

"We have come to the conclusion that at this stage...the decision of the Union Government to extend the services of incumbent Chief Secretary for a period of six months, cannot be construed to be violative of law or constitutional distribution of power between the Union and the government of NCT of Delhi,"



noted a Bench presided over by CJI DY Chandrachud in its order. The Bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, clarified that its analysis is limited to the "prima facie evaluation of the case at the present stage" without entering into any conclusive determination of the issues which are pending for adjudica-

tion before the Constitution Bench.

The top court said that prima facie it will be "far-fetched" to postulate that the Centre is divested with the power to appoint the Chief Secretary of Delhi in view of the provisions contained under Section 45A (d) of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court had asked Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta to show the provisions or rules empowering the Union Government to extend the tenure of Kumar - Delhi's top-most bureaucrat - who is due to superannuate on November 30.

Need high-quality military systems to deal with future challenges: Rajnath

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that there is a need to produce high-quality, reliable & safe military systems for Armed Forces to deal with future challenges.

He also called upon the Indian defence manufacturers to create a culture of quality in defence production, terming it as a prerequisite to compete in the international market.

Addressing the plenary session of DRDO Quality Conclave on the theme 'Quality Odyssey for Self Reliance in Defence Products' in New Delhi, he stated that only quality products create global demand, and it will help in realising vision of making India a global manufacturing hub and a net defence exporter.

The Defence Minister pointed out that those countries, which manufacture quality products, export their equipment to countries across the globe. He added that due to the good quality, the prices of these



platforms are quite high; but it should be kept in mind that importing countries are ready to pay even the highest prices for state-of-the-art products.

Stressing that top-quality products bring credibility to the domestic defence industry, Singh said that manufacturing such equipment within the country will generate increased global demand and bolster India's reputation in the international market. He also underscored the importance of cost control while manufacturing quality defence products.

The minister said, "Cost control should be given utmost importance; however it should not be at the expense of quality. We have to be globally cost-competitive, but it has to be done by remaining in the top-

quality segment. We must move forward with this idea."

He underscored the need to manufacture high-quality military systems which are effective, reliable & safe and can enable the Armed Forces to accomplish the missions successfully.

He also presented System for Advanced Manufacturing Assessment and Ranking (SAMAR) certificates to the representatives of qualified industries.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman - DRDO, Dr Samir V Kamat reaffirmed DRDO's commitment towards delivering quality systems. He requested all stakeholders to have firm resolve and synergise towards self-reliance in high-quality indigenous military systems.

The Ministry of Defence said that the conclave was also attended by DRDO Director General, Directors, Quality heads of DRDO Laboratories, experts from industry and other stakeholders.

KARAN SINGH DISTILLS HIS UNDERSTANDING OF HINDUISM OVER 70 YEARS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The statesman and philosopher, Dr Karan Singh, was in full flow at the India International Centre not to launch someone else's book, as he's wont to do, but his very own.

"The Eternal Religion: Glimpses of Hinduism" (Speaking Tiger) is a collection of essays and experiences of Karan Singh that are made available conveniently, seven decades since the time when, as a 22-year-old, he wrote his first newspaper article that was published in installments by a national daily.

Karan Singh's shorter popular pieces are available and easily accessible, but his elaborate compositions seemed difficult to lay hands on, until the publication of this book. Sharing his thoughts and interpretations at this particular point of time is also significant at a time when religion and politics are mixed to make a deadly cocktail.

Singh's endeavour has always been to rescue a faith that is as pluralistic and inclusive as Hinduism from distortion by politicians. Hinduism, he says, is an 'eternal religion because of both its antiquity and inclusiveness.'

He explained that Hinduism is a



"multi-faceted, extraordinarily diverse" system that even gives its followers the freedom to worship without a physical representation of a god or goddess being around.

"It is a great tragedy that people rush through life without once looking inward. That is the essence of Hinduism -- looking inwards," Singh said.

"In my view, it is the only religion that allows for multiple paths to the divine," he summed up, emphasising that "this choice that Hinduism offers is unique, so putting it in a single mould would be doing injustice to it."

Joining Karan Singh in the discus-

sion centred around the book was the former diplomat and Rajya Sabha MP, and celebrated author, Pavan Varma. Pertinently, he brought up the recent inflammatory remarks of Udayanidhi Stalin, the DMK's youth wing leader and Tamil Nadu's Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, on Sanatan Dharma.

Singh said he was "shocked beyond belief" at the comment of "responsible ministers and MPs" (referring to Stalin) and added how appalled he was at the young leader's statement, especially given that Tamil Nadu is replete with significant temples and is home to a rich cultural legacy. "It is very rare that I

get angry, and this got me angry," Singh said, referring to Stalin's much-criticised remark that Sanatan Dharma is like "leprosy" and should be "eradicated". He pointed to the possible consequences if such a remark were made against Islam. "Kya bhattami hai, sahab (it is most uncivilised)," he said.

Karan Singh agreed that "there are terrible things like untouchability" associated with Hinduism, likening it with ancient Greece, where the culture was based on slavery. He called it an "abomination".

"An abiding disaster in Hinduism is untouchability. It is an insult and a disgrace to Vedanta and the Upanishads," Singh said.

He, however, pointed out that "you cannot speak against casteism -- it is not just legalised but also constitutionalised!" Varma queried if provocative remarks, as often seen floating about, are responsible for the "weaponisation of Hinduism".

Singh reiterated that "India has been subjected to barbaric invasions", and has seen its temples and cultural heritage damaged. Does this, however, create the ground for a backlash?

"Yes," he said, "But it has got to be a measured and mature backlash, not one that is wild."



CM Chouhan Calls Cabinet Meet today Ahead Of Vote Count; Congress Calls It Move To 'Influence' Results

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has called the last cabinet meeting of his fourth term in office today at 11.15 am at Vallabh Bhawan. Along with all the ministers, senior officials have also been called to the cabinet meeting which apparently has no agenda. The opposition Congress party has raised questions regarding the sudden meeting three days ahead of the state assembly election results.

Former minister and Congress leader PC Sharma alleged that this as an attempt by BJP to influence



vote counting. "The purpose of calling a meeting without an agenda is that the situation is bad. How to put pressure on officers and employees? BJP can use pressure to influence the counting of votes," he said.

Highlighting the alleged Balaghat postal ballot tampering case, Sharma further said, "In Balaghat, they are trying to rig the postal ballot by sorting it before the date. Government employees have not voted for BJP, hence offi-

cial are alert. However, they will not be able to do anything. Our agents are on alert 24 hours in the strong room."

10 years since cabinet met ahead of vote count

Notably, there has been no cabinet meeting in the last 10 years barely 3 days before counting of votes.

While the Model Code of Conduct is in force, the Chief Minister can call a cabinet meeting, but cannot take any policy decision. Hence, there are speculations that the meeting has been called regarding the departure of Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains. Bains' term of second extension is ending on November 30.

Digvijaya Singh Demands Removal Of Bhind Collector Over 'Gross Irregularities'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Wednesday demanded the removal of the Bhind collector accusing him of depriving eligible service voters of their right to franchise by not issuing postal ballots to them in the Madhya Pradesh assembly elections.

In a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Singh alleged that "gross irregularities" took place at Lahar assembly seat in Bhind district where over 500 service voters were not issued postal ballots.

Leader of Opposition Dr Govind Singh is the Congress candidate from the Lahar seat, while the BJP has fielded Ambrish Sharma.

Assembly elections were conducted in Madhya Pradesh on November 17 and votes will be counted on



December 3.

Singh said that as per the rules for the conduct of elections, "The government servants who were deployed in election procedures had to be issued postal ballots. It must be brought to your notice that over 500 such government servants who had applied under Form-12, have not been issued postal ballots." A complaint was made regarding the same on November 11, but no action was taken as a result of

which over 500 government servants were deprived of casting their votes." The Rajya Sabha member shared a copy of his letter with the media.

He also alleged that on the day of voting, polling agents belonging to the Congress were not allowed inside the polling booths and at some booths where they were inside, they were forced out by the presiding officers and the security forces. Singh said the same can

be seen from the video footage of the cameras that were installed at the booths and termed it a violation of the rules mentioned in the "Handbook for Returning Officers". The Congress leader demanded that strict action be taken against the Bhind collector and he be transferred from there.

Additional arrangements should be made for the counting day for the Lahar seat, he said. As per an election agent of the Congress candidate, Singh alleged, the postal ballots kept on the ITI campus were found to be "tampered with and the seal of the boxes in which they were stored were found to be broken". Madhya Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan told PTI that he has asked the district returning officer (collector) to submit a report on the matter and he will act on the issue accordingly.

Sudha Murthy Visits Sanchi Stupa, Lauds Staff For 'Amazing Maintenance'

Team Absolute | Sanchi

An Indian educator, author and philanthropist, chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, Sudha Murthy visited the historic Sanchi Stupa. She was amazed to see the architecture and lauded the officials for the great maintenance. It was a joy to be here," she said on her visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sanchi.

Sharing the excitement on Murthy's visit, Madhya Pradesh tourism posted pictures on Instagram account, captioning, "hosting such a prominent personality and history enthusiast in the heart of India is truly an honour. We eagerly anticipate your return to Madhya Pradesh for more enriching experiences."

Murthy was seen in maroon sari, admiring the beauty of



UNESCO World Heritage site Sanchi. In the feedback book she praised the guide and maintenance of the historical monument.

Farmer Shot At Over Refusal To Sell Land To Accused's Friend

Team Absolute | Indore

A farmer was shot at by two persons following an argument over land in Gautampura area, police said. The accused wanted the farmer to sell his land to one of their friends and the farmer refused, leading to the altercation.

According to police, the incident took place in Chambal village under Gautampura police station jurisdiction on Sunday night. Ishwar Giri, a resident of Nagawadi village in Ujjain district got critically injured in the incident. Ishwar informed the police that he owns about 27 bighas of land in Nagawadi. He along with his three friends met accused Mahadev, Pankaj and Vijay in Chambal village.

They told Ishwar to sell his land to one Lokendra. When Ishwar refused, the trio started an argument and also abused him. When he tried to stop them, one of the accused took out a pistol and opened fire. One of the bullets hit his legs. Later, another accused fired a bullet at Ishwar. It is said that the police have detained two accused and started a search for the remaining accused.

Township representative threatens residents association vice-prez

The vice-president of Treasure Town Residents Association was threatened by the representative of the township when she and other residents opposed the installation of a high-tension line above a garden in the township. The residents also alleged that the colonizer had constructed a road on a portion of the garden in another colony. Police said that based on the written complaint, they are investigating the case.

Association vice president Renu Mehta Soni along with other residents reached the police station and lodged a complaint against the representative, who threatened her over phone. She informed the police that it was a covered township located in Bijalpur. Three new colonies are being developed by



breaking its boundary walls. In another township, road construction is being done in about 20,000 square feet of area earmarked for a garden.

They alleged that Banwari Meghwal, a representative of Treasure Town Private Limited, threatened Renu Mehta Soni, the vice president of the association when the residents' association sought to see the official permission to build a road and plans for taking the power line from above the garden. They alleged that Rajendra Nagar police station in-charge refused to register an FIR in the matter.

However, TI Siyaram Gurjar informed the Free Press over phone that a written complaint has been taken from the residents and further investigation is being done into the case.

Renu informed the Free Press over phone that the residents would gather at the clubhouse for discussion on the issue on Wednesday, and they would meet the commissioner of police as well.

Foggy Mornings In Several Districts; Sun Out Of Sight In Bhopal, Indore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Dense fog enveloped several districts of the state including Indore, Bhopal, Sagar, Gwalior, Jabalpur on Wednesday morning. The visibility remained up impacted for to 1 Km. After 10 o'clock the fog cleared a bit, however there was still a slight haze.

According to the Meteorological Department, a new Western Disturbance will be active from the night of November 29. Due to this, the rainy season is expected to start again. The day temperature has dropped to 8 to 9 degrees. In view of the cold, the timing of classes from nursery to fifth has been changed in Bhopal, Indore, Dindori-Sagar. Classes were held here from 9 am on Wednesday.

Dense fog remained in Indore from Wednesday morning till 10 am. Because of this it was difficult to see up to two hundred metres away. The drivers had to drive with headlights on.

There was dense fog in Bhopal on Wednesday morning. Even after 10 am the fog did not clear completely. It remained cloudy. It is expected that the last month of the year i.e. December may also start with rain.

Senior meteorologist Vedprakash Singh said that a new western disturbance will be active again from the night of November 29 and it will start raining. It will rain the most in the Indore-Ujjain division. On November 30, rain with thunder and lightning is expected in other districts including



Dewas, Sehore, Shajapur, Dhar, Indore, Ujjain, Rajgarh, Bhopal. The weather will remain changed in the state on December 1.

Advisory issued regarding lightning Meteorologist Dr. Singh said that

there is a possibility of lightning during the activity of the system, hence an advisory has been issued. People should not stand under trees during thunderstorms. Keep animals in a safe place.

Jain Monk Denied Entry In Scindia School Temple, Spotted Performing Rituals Outside Main Gate

Team Absolute | Gwalior

A Jain monk, on Wednesday, was spotted chanting mantras outside the Scindia School gate in Gwalior after the security guards denied him the entry to the historic temple located inside the school campus. This led to a dispute between the members of the Jain community and the Scindia School, run by the family of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

On Tuesday Jain Acharya Bibudha Sagar Maharaj, who was going for darshan in the temple situated inside the school premises, was barred from entering it after which his devotees became angry and sat on a fast outside the gates of the temple.

The school management is in talks with the Jain community to solve the matter.

There are many ancient Jain statues around Gwalior Fort, while there is a temple inside the fort which is currently in the premises of Scindia School. The Jain community claims it as their own



while the Scindia school management has taken it inside its campus and has put a gate outside. Controversy has arisen many times in the past regarding darshan in this temple.

At present, Jain monk Bibudha Sagar Maharaj is visiting Gwalior these days. While the monk wanted to go inside the temple and see the idols, the school's guard asked him to have darshan from outside only. The matter also reached the police

after the school management called them. The police tried to talk to the monk to resolve the matter but he was adamant at entering the temple. After he was denied permission, he sat in front of the school's gate and took a vow of silence. The talks could not continue any further.

The police officials are not ready to say anything on camera however, the talks may resume today after the monk breaks his silence vow.

8-year-old Hearing & Speech Impaired Girl Raped By Govt Hostel's Watchman In Damoh

Team Absolute | Damoh

An eight-year-old girl with hearing and speech challenges was raped allegedly by the watchman of a government girl's hostel, where she was living, in Damoh district, the police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday at the center for girls with speech and hearing issues, according to the police.

The hostel's guard for the preceding five years, Om Prakash Tiwari, is the



accused, according to City Superintendent of Police Abhishek Tiwari.

He was placed under arrest upon the discovery of the suspected offense, according to the police officer.

The official states that the accused is the subject of a rape complaint brought under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Inquiry into the matter is still ongoing.

Couple Jumps In Front Of Vande Bharat Train In Ujjain-Bhopal Line, Both Dead

Team Absolute | Shajapur

In a heart-wrenching incident, a young couple committed suicide by jumping in front of Vande Bharat train in Shajapur. The identity of the deceased woman was recognized through a phone number written on her palm. Maksi police station in-charge Bhim Singh Patel said that the deceased was identified as Rashmi Sahu from Mayana village in Guna district. She left her home early on Tuesday, allegedly stating she was headed for coaching



classes. However, a couple jumped in front of Vande Bharat train on the Ujjain-Bhopal railway line, just a kilometer away from Maksi railway station around 10 pm on Tuesday. Upon receiving the distressing information, Maksi Government Railway Police (GRP) and police reached the spot. The jurisdiction

for investigation became a point of contention between GRP and Maksi Police with each citing different reasons for their authority in handling the case. However, police recognized identity through a contact number found on her palm and called her sister. However, the young man's identity remains a challenging task due to the severe condition of body. Maksi police transported the bodies to Shajapur district hospital for post-mortem which would be conducted on Wednesday. Maksi police have launched an investigation into the case.

3 Killed, 4 Injured After Trucks Collide Due To Fog In Anuppur

Team Absolute | Anuppur

Three persons were killed and four others injured after a vehicle collided with a truck due to low visibility caused by fog in Anuppur district of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday, police said.

According to an officer, the incident happened early in the morning on Venkatnagar-Jaithari Road.

"Fog caused a mini truck and a truck to collide, resulting in three immediate deaths and four injuries. The district hospital is treating them," stated Prakash Chandra Kol, the in-charge of the Jaithari police station.

Munni Rathore, 55, a lady, was one of the three people who died, he added. The other two fatalities were Praveen Mishra, 44, and Mohammed Salim, 50.



According to him, an investigation has been started after a case was filed. The state received its first winter showers in the past few days which caused the temperature to drop significantly. On Wednesday morning intense fog was visible at Indore Bypass resulting in slowed down traffic.

Roads in several districts also turned deadly after the rains. In a viral video that came to the fore from Indore, the commuters' vehicles were seen skidding on the marshy ground at the main road of Bhanwarkua. Rainfall in the city has turned roads muddy and wet, making them vulnerable to accidents.



EDITOR'S SPECS
Stomach cancer cases are rising in India

Eating junk food, stress, unhealthy lifestyle and genes explain the major reason behind increase in stomach cancer cases in India, says experts. Stomach cancer, also known as Gastric cancer, is the fifth most common cancer among males and seventh most common cancer among females in India. It is also the second most common cause of cancer death globally. Over the past decade, the incidence of stomach cancer in India has exhibited a gradual increase. Compared to many Western countries, stomach cancer rates in India are relatively high. It is due to unique dietary practices, notably a preference for spicy and preserved foods, and alcohol intake, according to doctors. "Stomach cancer predominantly affects individuals after the age of 50 years, with the average age at diagnosis being around 60. There's a slightly higher prevalence among men compared to women, with men exhibiting a higher risk due to lifestyle factors like higher rates of smoking and alcohol consumption," said Dr Puneet Dhar, HoD, Gastrointestinal Surgery, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad. Symptoms of stomach cancer include persistent abdominal pain or discomfort, unexplained weight loss, loss of appetite, difficulty swallowing, nausea, vomiting, and blood in the stool. While early-stage stomach cancer may not exhibit noticeable symptoms, the doctors emphasised the importance of regular screenings for high-risk individuals. The health experts called for improving the dietary habits along with avoidance of preserved food and healthy lifestyle change to curb the incidence of stomach cancer. They also stressed the need for eating a balanced diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables, minimising processed and preserved foods, quitting smoking, moderating alcohol intake, and scheduling regular medical check-ups, particularly for those with a family history or concerning symptoms.

Heritage week gone, but Agra remains indifferent to its precious cultural wealth

Brij Khandelwal
For a whole week, the monumental heritage pieces that draw millions of tourists around the year from all over the world were in focus but the local population of Agra remained largely indifferent to the city's precious cultural wealth. Though the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) organised a series of programmes to sensitise people and create a better understanding of the importance of heritage, the locals stayed away, struggling against air and water pollution, traffic jams and poor civic amenities. People in Agra lack interest in their rich heritage. Rather they look at these grand Mughal monuments as major impediments to development as all kinds of restrictions have been imposed on economic activities, explained Rajiv Gupta, president of LokSwar. "The state and the union governments are also to be blamed. So far there is no clarity over whether Agra has to be recognised as a heritage city or a Smart city," says environmentalist Devavish Bhattacharya. "Three decades after the Supreme Court intervened to save the Taj Mahal from environmental pollution, through a series of directions and a package of restrictions, the government agencies have miserably failed to arrest the high pollution level in the eco-sensitive Taj Trapezium Zone. The Yamuna, the lifeline of the Braj Mandal, has been reduced to a sickly stream carrying toxic pollutants from Delhi and upstream industrial clusters. The air pollution level remains alarmingly high," Bhattacharya adds.

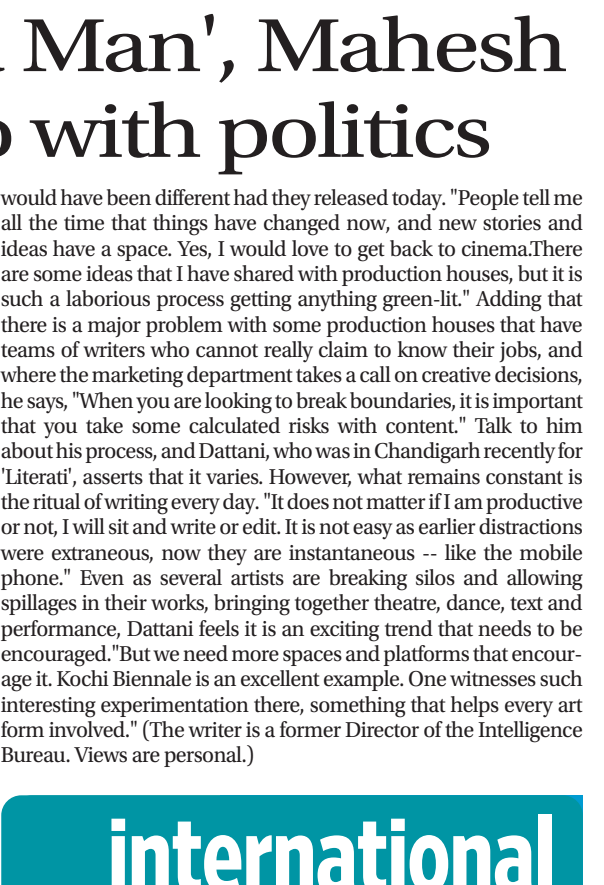
Sukant Deepak
With real and extraordinary in tandem with each other, exploring hushed-up conversations, bringing forth everyday conflicts -- with self and the collective, playwright Mahesh Dattani's works have the extraordinary ability to make reader/audience take a long hard look at himself. Action precipitates as much with words as with pauses. The first playwright in English to be awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Final Solutions', Dattani, who debuted with 'Where There is a Will' (1988), is now all set to write a sequel to his much-performed 'Dance Like a Man'. While the original one dealt with identity, patriarchy and strained relationships between the members of the family when the son decides to pursue a career in Bharatanatyam, the sequel, set 30 years later, revolves around the appropriation of art by political ideologies. Stressing that art is a response to one's time and place, the playwright said, "It reacts and responds to what is around us. Whenever things change, they will find its mirroring in the arts. My work is no exception. As a creative person, I derive from things that take place around me." Dattani, whose works raise issues, including communal tension, same-sex love, child abuse, patriarchy and alienation, is just back from the US where he directed a collection of short stories from the Puranas. "They were received extremely well as they dealt with a host of contemporary issues like climate change and androgyny, among others," he says. In times when there is a dearth of new young voices in theatre writing, he feels the problem persists not just in English and Hindi, but

Sikandra is the mausoleum of Akbar. It has a perfect blending of Hindu, Christian, Islamic, Buddhist, and Jain themes. Itmad-ud-daula, the first tomb to be built in white marble, marks the departure from the red sandstone buildings of Mughal architecture, according to the official website of Agra city. Another unique addition to Agra's rich cultural heritage is Soami Bagh, which opened three years ago after 114 years of construction work. Many consider Soami Bagh, the samadhi of the founder of the Radhasoami faith, as an architectural rival to the Taj Mahal because of its intricate inlay work and carvings. The samadhi, with gothic-style pillars flanking the sides, harmoniously synthesises several architectural styles. The 193-foot-tall structure of white marble rests on a foundation of 52 wells, while the gold-plated pinnacle (Kalash) weighs 5.5 tons. "Agra deserves the heritage city tag, to protect its identity. The haphazard urban growth is a huge threat to historical monuments. Encroachment around monuments and mushroom growth of colonies should be discouraged," said Gopal Singh and Mukul Pandya of the Agra Heritage Group. Though the tourism industry in Agra is the direct beneficiary of Heritage preservation, the captains of the hospitality sector have done nothing concrete to make tourism everybody's business or to get the locals involved in the promotion of cultural tourism, laments Braj Mandal Heritage Conservation Society secretary Sonal M Singh. (The writer is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau. Views are personal.)

With the sequel to 'Dance Like a Man', Mahesh Dattani will explore art's tango with politics

Sukant Deepak
With real and extraordinary in tandem with each other, exploring hushed-up conversations, bringing forth everyday conflicts -- with self and the collective, playwright Mahesh Dattani's works have the extraordinary ability to make reader/audience take a long hard look at himself. Action precipitates as much with words as with pauses. The first playwright in English to be awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Final Solutions', Dattani, who debuted with 'Where There is a Will' (1988), is now all set to write a sequel to his much-performed 'Dance Like a Man'. While the original one dealt with identity, patriarchy and strained relationships between the members of the family when the son decides to pursue a career in Bharatanatyam, the sequel, set 30 years later, revolves around the appropriation of art by political ideologies. Stressing that art is a response to one's time and place, the playwright said, "It reacts and responds to what is around us. Whenever things change, they will find its mirroring in the arts. My work is no exception. As a creative person, I derive from things that take place around me." Dattani, whose works raise issues, including communal tension, same-sex love, child abuse, patriarchy and alienation, is just back from the US where he directed a collection of short stories from the Puranas. "They were received extremely well as they dealt with a host of contemporary issues like climate change and androgyny, among others," he says. In times when there is a dearth of new young voices in theatre writing, he feels the problem persists not just in English and Hindi, but

would have been different had they released today. "People tell me all the time that things have changed now, and new stories and ideas have a space. Yes, I would love to get back to cinema. There are some ideas that I have shared with production houses, but it is such a laborious process getting anything green-lit." Adding that there is a major problem with some production houses that have teams of writers who cannot really claim to know their jobs, and where the marketing department takes a call on creative decisions, he says, "When you are looking to break boundaries, it is important that you take some calculated risks with content." Talk to him about his process, and Dattani, who was in Chandigarh recently for 'Literati', asserts that it varies. However, what remains constant is the ritual of writing every day. "It does not matter if I am productive or not, I will sit and write or edit. It is not easy as earlier distractions were extraneous, now they are instantaneous -- like the mobile phone." Even as several artists are breaking silos and allowing spillovers in their works, bringing together theatre, dance, text and performance, Dattani feels it is an exciting trend that needs to be encouraged. "But we need more spaces and platforms that encourage it. Kochi Biennale is an excellent example. One witnesses such interesting experimentation there, something that helps every art form involved." (The writer is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau. Views are personal.)



160 bodies recovered in Gaza within 24 hours



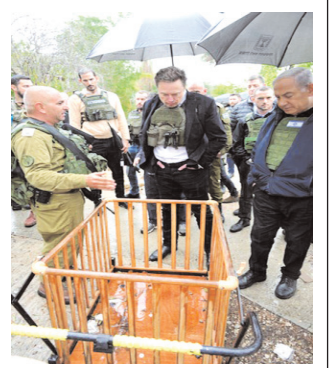
Gaza | Agencies
At least 160 bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes were retrieved by rescue teams in the Gaza Strip in the past 24 hours, the Hamas-run Government Media Office (GMO) said. The GMO said that the bodies were recovered from various locations in the besieged coastal enclave, using manual and rudimentary tools, reports Xinhua news agency. Since the ongoing humanitarian pause entered into force on November 24, airstrikes, shelling and ground clashes have largely ceased in Gaza. The office also stated that, since the start of hostilities on October 7, more than 15,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, including about 6,150 children and 4,000 women. The GMO has been reporting casualties since the Ministry of Health in Gaza stopped doing so on November 11, following the collapse of services and communications at hospitals in the north. As reportedly agreed upon by Israel and Hamas, the initial four-day pause has been extended for an additional 48 hours starting on Tuesday. On Tuesday, 10 Israelis and two foreign nationals, held as hostages in Gaza, and 30 Palestinian detainees, held in Israeli prisons, were released. The freed hostages included nine women and one girl. Among the Palestinian detainees were 15 women and 15 boys. Since the start of the pause, 180 Palestinians, 61 Israelis, and 20 foreign nationals have been released. Israel said that the Hamas attack killed about 1,200 people while more than 200 people were taken as hostages.

Kidnapped Israeli child forced to watch Oct 7 atrocities: Family

The family of 12-year-old Eitan Yahalomi, who was freed from Hamas captivity as part of the ongoing humanitarian truce in Gaza, said that the child was witness to the gruesome scenes of the militant group's October 7 assault on the Jewish nation. Eitan's aunt, Deborah Cohen told reporters here that the captors did not treat the hostages well and added that the child was beaten up by each and every one as soon as he reached Gaza as a hostage. "We thought that the hostages, especially children were treated well. But we were mistaken, they were not treated well and now I am worried as Eitan's father is now still there in captivity," she added. The videos that Eitan was forced to watch were filmed by Hamas men using helmet cameras as well as from the phones of the dead victims. The videos were live-streamed on social media platforms that subscribe to the view point and ideology of Hamas. Eitan's father Ohed Yahalomi is still in the captivity of Hamas after he was injured in a gun battle with the terrorists on October 7. Since the truce was implemented on November 24, Hamas has released a total of 81 hostages, primarily women and children. Meanwhile, Israel has freed 180 Palestinians from prison -- mainly women and minors -- many of whom were detained but never charged. According to Israeli authorities, 153-166 people remain captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals.

Hamas now invites Musk to Gaza to see 'extent of destruction' by Israeli attacks

Following Elon Musk's visit to Israel, the tech billionaire has now been invited by Hamas to Gaza to witness the destruction of the besieged enclave territory under Israeli attacks. According to The Guardian, Musk was invited by a senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan, during a press conference in Beirut on Tuesday. "We invite him to visit Gaza to see the extent of the massacres and destruction committed against the people of Gaza, in compliance with the standards of objectivity and credibility," Hamdan said. However, in response to a post about the news inviting him, Musk stated that the situation "seems a bit dangerous there right now." "Seems a bit dangerous there right now, but I do believe that a long-term prosperous Gaza is good for all sides," he wrote on X. Musk on Monday visited the Kfar Aza in Israel, which was one of the first places to be attacked by the Hamas militant group when it launched its unprecedented attack on October 7.



Indian-origin man charged in triple murder of family members in US

New York | Agencies
A 23-year-old Indian-American man has been arrested and charged in connection with the murder of three of his family members in the US state of New Jersey, police said. Om Brahmbhatt, of South Plainfield in New Jersey, was taken into custody for alleged murder of Dilipkumar Brahmbhatt (72), Bindu Brahmbhatt (72), and their son Yashkumar Brahmbhatt (38) on Monday. The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office said in a statement that authorities responded to a residence on Coppola Drive in South Plainfield following the report of shots fired at approximately 9 a.m. on Monday. Upon their arrival, officers located three victims as well as Om, who resided with the victims. Dilipkumar and Bindu Brahmbhatt sustained gunshot wounds and were pronounced dead at the scene. Yashkumar Brahmbhatt, sustained multiple gunshot wounds and was transported to the hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead. The South Plainfield Police Department complaint said that the suspect confessed to shooting his grandparents while they slept in their bedroom. He then went to a back bedroom where he shot his uncle several times, the complaint said, adding that the crime was committed with a handgun Brahmbhatt says he



purchased online. Om was charged with three counts of first-degree murder and three counts of second-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose. He is currently being held at the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Center and made an appearance in the court on Tuesday. According to ABC7 news channel, Om had a seemingly calm demeanor during his court appearance. The news channel said citing police that Om was the one who called 911 after the murders, and when asked about who did it, Om told the officers, "It might be me".

US military aircraft with 8 aboard crashes off Japanese island

Tokyo | Agencies
A US Osprey military transport aircraft carrying eight people crashed off Japan's southwestern island of Yakushima in Kagoshima prefecture on Wednesday, local media reported. The Japan Coast Guard received an emergency call about the crash at 2.40 p.m. after the Osprey departed from the Iwakuni US base in the Yamaguchi heading for the Kadena base in Okinawa, public broadcaster NHK said, citing local authorities. The aircraft disappeared from radar at 2.40 p.m., Xinhua news agency quoted the Defence Ministry as saying. Japan Coast Guard



spokesperson Kazuo Ogawa said the coast guard has dispatched patrol boats and aircraft to the site for search and rescue operations but it had no further details of the

crash, including the safety of those onboard. Weather officials said the skies over the Yakushima area were mostly clear during the day, and the wind speed at 2.30 p.m. was 6.84 km per hour. No advisories or warnings were issued at the time. The tilt-rotor Osprey aircraft, which can fly both like a helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft, has a track record of accidents and mishaps both in Japan and abroad. In August, a US Osprey crashed off the coast of northern Australia, killing three crew members. Another crash-landed in the ocean off Japan's southern island of Okinawa in December 2016.

Woman sues US township, its Indian-American mayor over car crash

New York | Agencies
A woman has filed a lawsuit against a township in the US state of New Jersey and its Indian-American mayor for a 2022 car crash that left her with "severe, serious and permanent injuries". Edison Mayor Sam Joshi, who was traveling eastbound in a township vehicle, struck Sobia Qaiser as she was moving south on Talmadge Road on December 9, 2022, the lawsuit claimed. Qaiser alleged that Joshi was "negligent and careless" and the Township should not have entrusted the vehicle to Joshi, news platform Patch.com reported on Monday. Qaiser said she suffered "severe, serious and permanent injuries" due to the crash, and is seeking damages, interest, cost of the lawsuit, a trial by jury, and any insurance agreements or policies that may be liable. "She was caused to incur medical expenses and will, in the future be caused



to incur medical expenses; she has been and will in the future be disabled and prevented from attending to her necessary affairs and business," the lawsuit said. A spokesperson for the Township told Patch that Mayor Joshi "publicly disclosed" that he had been in a minor car accident

immediately after it occurred last year. "He used it as a teachable moment to encourage residents to drive safely during the busy holiday season," the spokesperson added. He said that the Township attorneys are reviewing the lawsuit and will "respond appropriately in order to reach an outcome that is fair and equitable to all parties and protects Edison taxpayers". Elected as the Township's first Indian-American Mayor, Joshi hails from Gujarat and was born and raised in Edison. He was elected as an at-large councilmember at 27-years-old, making him the youngest elected official in Edison's history. Since joining the Edison Township Council in 2017, Joshi has worked to keep taxes low, help women and minority owned businesses get on their feet, and promoted green energy throughout the township, according to his website profile.





EX-MUMBAI MAYOR DALVI HELD FOR SLUR ON EKNATH SHINDE, GETS 14 DAYS' JC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a strong action, the Mumbai Police arrested former Mayor Datta Dalvi, a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader, for allegedly using abusive language against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, here on Wednesday. A team from Bhandup Police station swooped down on Dalvi's residence in Vikhroli, following a complaint by a ruling Shiv Sena activist Bhushan Palande. He was produced before a Magistrate Court which remanded him to 14 days' judicial custody on Wednesday afternoon. Soon afterwards, Dalvi's legal team moved a bail application which was not allowed and he will be lodged in the Thane Central Jail after undergoing a mandatory medical check-up. Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders including MP Sanjay Raut and MLA Sunil Raut flayed the government for the 'illegal' arrest of Dalvi, alleging that it was carried out due to 'pressure from above' from the Mumbai Police. The police have charged Dalvi -- who was the Mayor between 2005-



2007 -- under various sections of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly making derogatory references to the CM. Sunil Raut, who went to the Bhandup Police Station, later warned that on Thursday, the Shiv Sena(UBT) activists will stage road blocks in the city to protest against the arrest of Dalvi, a senior citizen who is suffering from various ailments. He said that there are many ruling party leaders like Minister Abdul Sattar or the Rane siblings, who also use bad language against the Opposition leaders, but the police never target them in such a manner. On November 26, there was a meeting of the party's Konkani unit office-bearers where Dalvi reportedly made some objectionable statements against the CM with reference to one of his recent election campaign speeches in Rajasthan. Palande filed a complaint with the Bhandup Police Station, accusing Dalvi for publicly making objectionable remarks against a person (CM) who is occupying a constitutional post.

Salman Khan receives threat again; his security reviewed



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The security of Bollywood actor Salman Khan has been reviewed after the superstar received another threat on Tuesday, this time through Facebook, Mumbai Police said on Wednesday. Salman currently has Y plus security. "Bollywood Actor Salman Khan received a threat through a Facebook post after which his security has

been reviewed," Mumbai Police said. A Facebook account claiming to be of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi issued a threat to Salman Khan on Sunday, the police said. The post was directed at Punjabi singer Gippy Grewal, that said, "You consider Salman Khan a brother, but now it's time for your 'brother' to come and save you," read the Facebook post addressed to Gippy Grewal. "This message is also for

Salman Khan - don't be in the illusion that Dawood will save you; no one can save you. Your dramatic response to Sidhu Moose Wala's death did not go unnoticed. "We all know the kind of person he was and the criminal associations he had. You've now landed on our radar. Consider this a trailer; the full film will be released soon. Flee to any country you wish, but remember, death doesn't require a visa; it.

our of family hurt in Mumbai house crash, 11 rescued

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least four persons of a family were injured in a house crash triggered by a gas cylinder explosion in Chembur, north-east Mumbai around dawn of Wednesday. According to BMC Disaster Control, 11 persons were rescued from the crash debris after the explosion that rocked the vicinity around 7.30 a.m. The Disaster Control said that the blast took place in the old neighborhood near the Golf club in Chembur Camp area, which brought down 4-5 one-storied structures there. Around half-a-dozen people were stranded on the upper storey but were removed by the Mumbai Fire



Brigade, police and others who rushed there. After the rescue, four of the injured victims from a single family have been taken to Shatabdi Hospital, Govandi for treatment. They are identified as: Vikas Ambhore, 50, Ashok Ambhore, 27, Savita Ambhore, 47, Rohit Ambhore, 29.

"What wrong did he say? Sanjay Raut after ex-Mumbai mayor Dalvi arrested for 'objectionable' language against Shinde

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday slammed the Eknath-Shinde-led NDA government in Maharashtra after police arrested former Mayor of Mumbai Datta Dalvi for allegedly using 'objectionable' language against the Maharashtra Chief Minister. "Former Mayor of Mumbai and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Datta Dalvi has been arrested for allegedly using objectionable language against Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde," an official of the Bhandup Police station said. Following his arrest, workers of the UBT faction staged a protest outside the Bhandup police station. Raut also visited the Bhandup police station and spoke with media-persons. Asked whether the arrest of Datta Dalvi was a reaction to Uddhav Thackeray's reported "Nalayak" remark against the Chief Minister, Raut said, "If he (Uddhav Thackeray)



called him (Eknath Shinde) "nalayak," what wrong did he say?" "Is there censorship in this country? Is there a dictatorship or an emergency?...It is not an unparliamentary word..."

"Calling him (Eknath Shinde) 'Hinduhridayamrat' is an insult to Veer Savarkar and Balasaheb Thackeray. For this insult, an FIR should be registered against him (Shinde)...Datta Dalvi objected to the

remark..." he added. He also mentioned that State Agriculture Minister Abdul Sattar "abused" NCP MP Supriya Sule, Narayan Rane and "his Nepali son." "No action was taken against them but against our leader," Raut added. Raut further alleged, "No matter how many atrocities you commit against us, you all will go to jail in 2024." The action was taken following a case registered against the leader at the Bhandup Police Station under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). "A case against Dalvi was registered under 153A(1)(a), 153B(1)(b), 153A(1)(C), 294, 504 and 505 of the IPC," the police officials said. According to Bhandup Police, a meeting was organized by the Uddhav Thackeray faction near Bhandup Police station on Sunday where Dalvi allegedly used objectionable language against Shinde. "After that, a case was registered against Dalvi by the people of the Shinde faction," Bhandup Police said.

After 20 years, actress Pooja Bedi, aunts win 'fake will' case and properties worth crores

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Pooja Bedi and her maternal aunts have won a 20-year-old case involving a 'will' through which the entire estates of her late uncle would be transferred to a charitable trust controlled by two unknown persons named as its 'executors'. The properties, estimated to be worth crores of rupees, comprise a flat in an art deco building at Marine Drive, a flat in Mahim, a two-acre land in Panchgani hillstation, bank deposits, investments, etc., which were claimed by Bedi and her two maternal aunts, Monica Ubero and Ashita Tham. Bombay High Court's Justice Milind Jadhav has junked the authenticity of the purported will of her late maternal uncle, Bipin Gupta on various grounds, and dismissed the petition filed by one of the two executors, Vasant Sardal. These grounds included: the signatures of the deceased (Gupta) on the pages of the document did not tally, there was no evidence about who drafted the prepared the 3-page will when Gupta was admitted to a hospital, the abnormality of the document in which half the second page was blank and the execution portion was on the third page, and there were no close relatives. Justice Jadhav's order clears the path for Bedi,



53, and her two aged aunts to claim one-third share each in the late Gupta's estate and dispose of them off as they deem fit. It was in 2004 that the executor Sardal approached the high court seeking probate of the will allegedly executed on June 20, 2003 by Gupta when he was admitted to Bombay Hospital for a hip fracture and kidney failure, and died after three months in September 2003. The will named Sardal and Behram Ardeshir, who later renounced his executorship, was signed by Sardal's son, police official Anil Sardal, and lawyer Santosh Raje as a witness. As per the will, a trust proposed to be formed in the name of Gupta's wife, 'Pushpa Gupta

Charitable Trust' which would inherit all of his estates - comprising a flat in Firdaus Building on Marine Drive, a flat in Neel Tarang Building in Mahim, a two-acre plot in Panchgani hillstation, bank balances, investments in shares-bonds and other movable assets owing by him. As the will stipulated the executors would be the trustees, they were indirectly authorised to control Gupta's entire estate worth a fortune. Rejecting the probate plea, Justice Jadhav noted that the will makes "an unnatural and obscure bequest" to a charitable trust to be controlled by the two executors who are complete strangers and third parties, not even closely related to the testator (the late Gupta), though he had three sisters and their children. The judge also said that there was an indirect bequest in favour of the (two) executors and one of the witnesses, Anil Sardal, who appears to be "the mastermind of the entire conspiracy". Here, the court took note of the second and former executor Ardeshir's statement that the Sardal father-son duo had a "clear intention of usurping" the estate of the late Gupta, and how in May 2018, another judge had removed Sardal as an executor finding him to be too old and weak to function in that capacity, and how the son Anil Sardal was taking all the decisions.

Maharashtra legislature's winter session to be held from Dec 7-20 in Nagpur

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra legislature's winter session is scheduled to take place from December 7 to December 20 in Nagpur, the state's second capital, stated an agency report quoting officials. According to the report, on Wednesday, an official from the Vidhan Bhavan, the state legislature complex in Mumbai, mentioned that the session would consist of 10 working days. The official told the media that during the session, opposition parties are anticipated to raise concerns over various matters including Maratha reservation, unseasonal rains, state investments and other issues. Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Neelam Gorhe also confirmed the discussion of the Maratha reservation issue during Maharashtra's legislature's winter session. The reservation topic gained prominence last month when activist Manoj Jarange went on a hunger strike to push for Maratha community reservation in government jobs and educational institutions. The agitation for quota turned violent in certain parts of the state. Speaking further on the quota issue, Gorhe said that the reservation issue would be deliberated upon in both houses during the winter session although no resolution to this effect was passed. She



expressed hope for a lasting resolution to be found. Preparations for the session are underway, including arrangements for the safety of police officers and government employees, as well as provisions for food, lodging, and child-care. Manoj Jarange, an activist, accused Maharashtra Minister Chhagan Bhujbal of inciting communal strife by opposing the Maratha community's inclusion in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. Jarange demanded blanket OBC caste certificates for Marathas and gave the government until December 24 to address their reservation demand.

Pneumonia outbreak in China: Maharashtra health department issues advisory to all hospitals

Pune (Maharashtra) | Agencies

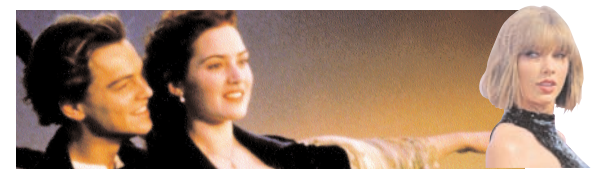
In the wake of increasing respiratory illness among children in China, the Maharashtra public health department has instructed all the hospitals in all districts and municipal corporations to ensure that their COVID infrastructure and systems, which include the number of beds, oxygen plant cylinders, ventilators, etc., are in good working condition. The health department also directed the hospital to start registering cases related to respiratory problems like severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) and sending their samples to RTPCR labs for testing. They should also ensure that the stock of medicine used for these type of cases was sufficient in the hospital. Health dept also advised the use of a PPE kit, mask, and hand sanitizer regularly while treating patients with contagious diseases. Dr. Pratap Singh Sarnikar, the Joint Director of Maharashtra Health Department said, "The state's advisory has come after the Centre issued an advisory on Sunday asking states to review preparedness. Accordingly, districts and municipal corporations have been asked to tighten surveillance in hospitals and follow the advisory." Earlier, on Sunday, the Union Health Ministry issued an advisory to all states and Union Territories, urging them to immediately review the public health and preparedness of hospitals in view of the latest public health scare in China. The Health Ministry stated that the situation, at present, is not alarming, adding



that it was closely tracking events in the neighbouring country. "In view of the recent reports indicating a surge in respiratory illness in children in northern China in recent weeks, the Union Health Ministry has proactively decided to review the preparedness measures against respiratory illnesses as a matter of abundant caution. This is noted to be important in view of the ongoing

influenza and winter seasons that result in an increase in respiratory illness cases. The government of India is closely monitoring the situation and has indicated that there is no need for any alarm," the Health Ministry stated in an official release. The Union Health Secretary also wrote to states and UTs, advising them to immediately review public health and hospital preparedness. "All States and Union Territories have been advised to implement 'Operational Guidelines for Revised Surveillance Strategy in the context of COVID-19', shared earlier this year, which provides for integrated surveillance of respiratory pathogens presenting as cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI)," the Ministry added in its release. The media and ProMED reported on November 21 clusters of undiagnosed pneumonia in children in northern China. According to CNN, hospitals in Beijing and northern China are grappling with a rise in respiratory illnesses among children as the country enters its first winter after easing stringent COVID-19 restrictions nearly a year ago. Chinese authorities from the National Health Commission, at a press conference on November 13, reported an increase in the incidence of respiratory diseases in China. An official at the Beijing Children's Hospital said earlier that the current average of more than 7,000 daily patients "far exceeds the hospital's capacity," CNN reported, citing state media. On Saturday, the largest paediatric hospital in nearby Tianjin broke a record as more than 13,000 children came to outpatient and emergency departments, CNN reported, citing a local state-run outlet.





Kim Kardashian SHARES CANDID PHOTOS OF DAUGHTER CHICAGO



Los Angeles | Agencies

Kim Kardashian shared some sweet snaps of her look-alike daughter Chicago. In a series of photos posted to Kardashian's Instagram, Chicago, 5, wore a bright pink unicorn onesie and ate ramen.

Kim seemingly took the candid photos while her youngest daughter laughed at something outside of the frame, reports People magazine.

Fans have seen many photos and videos of Kardashian's kids on her social media lately. On Friday, she shared a

video of her and eldest daughter North, 10, lip-syncing to Kanye West's song.

As per People, matching in all-white, the mother-daughter duo sang on their joint TikTok account, "I'm tryna perfect, And ay ay we made it to Thanksgiving, So ay, maybe we can make it to Christmas," from West's song 'Bound 2', which features Kardashian in the music video.

The pair also posted a video dancing to Justin Bieber and Mariah Carey's 2011 duet of "All I Want for Christmas Is You," as they celebrated the start of the holiday season. Kardashian sported a long white dress with a chunky diamond

chain choker necklace, while North wore a white velvet blazer and sunglasses.

Kardashian shares her four kids - Psalm, 4, Chicago, 5, Saint, 7, and North - with ex-husband Kanye West.

The reality television star said she consults with a child psychologist when it comes to her kids. "I tried a little bit before my marriage ended," Kardashian said of therapy. "I do have a therapist that only deals in child psychology that I talk to to get parenting tips and advice. Sometimes I feel challenged by parenting".

HELEN FLANAGAN RECALLS ONE NIGHT STAND, MAN WHO 'RUINED' HER MENTAL HEALTH

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Helen Flanagan has been opening up about life as a single woman and dishing details about her love life. The former 'Coronation Street' actress, 33, revealed all to her fans on social media about her dating woes throughout 2023, reports Mirror.co.uk. She admitted to being ghosted by one potential love interest, having a one night stand and experiencing one possible suitor ruining her mental health.

Helen, who recently announced details of an upcoming acting role, split from footballer Scott Sinclair in July last year. Scott and Helen share three children together Matilda, 7, Delilah, 4, and son Charlie, 1.

As per Mirror.co.uk, they first started dating in 2009, with the footballer proposing in 2018. However, after 13 years together the couple called it quits on their relationship with Helen adapting to being a single woman for the first time in her adult life over recent months.

Taking to social media earlier this week, 'I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here' star Helen looked back on her quest to find a new partner this year.

The mum-of-three shared a light-hearted video on TikTok introducing "the men of 2023" to her followers, including screenshots of how she saved her dates' phone numbers in her contacts list.

Some of the cheeky nicknames Helen gave the past love interests included: "Too obsessed with their dog, ruined my mental health. My ghoster. Dead chat. Complicated X. Dead chat 2 and My One Night Stand".

An optimistic Helen captioned the candid update: "After 13 years of being married, I've spent this year trying to find myself and start dating again. Let's just say it's been an experience... In conclusion we're hoping for a better 2024."



TIMOTHEE CHALAMET JOKES IT WAS 'A LOT OF AUTO-TUNE' SINGING IN 'WONKA'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Timothee Chalamet developed some new skills while filming 'Wonka'. The actor, 27, shared that performing the film's dance numbers was "a great learning experience."

The actor chatted with 'Extra' at the film's London premiere, and said "I loved it. My mom is a dance teacher and my grandmother was a dancer, my sister is a dancer, so I was always sort of around it but it's a big difference between being around it and having to do it", reports People magazine.

As for the singing, he joked that it involved "a lot of auto-tune." Chalamet told People on the red carpet that he also had to learn how to "live and love the tone" of the film.

"I realised everything I've worked on (has had a) grounded seriousness to it, and here I had to loosen up and play, kind of like I did in high school, but I hadn't done in 10 years or something. So, that was the learning curve," he said. "But once it was in full swing, then it felt like we were cooking."

As per People, the film serves as the prequel to Roald Dahl's 1964 novel 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', with Chalamet as Willy Wonka. While Chalamet has expressed that he had a learning curve he had to go through in the film, Wonka director and co-writer Paul King previously said how he was impressed by the actor's performance.

"I think what's so remarkable about his performance is not only that he is funny and mischievous and quite mysterious, as well - just like the Willy Wonka that people will know - but also, he brings such heart to the role and he's a brilliant actor," said King.

The director also said that fans can expect to see Willy Wonka's "energy" shine during the musical numbers.



Dolly Parton reacts to Keanu Reeves telling he once wore her Playboy costume

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Dolly Parton recalled meeting Keanu Reeves before he became an actor and responded to him saying that he once wore an iconic costume of hers for Halloween.

Singer-songwriter Dolly Parton recalled meeting Keanu Reeves before he became an actor and responded to him saying that he once wore an iconic costume of hers for Halloween.

She spoke about her connection to the actor, 59, whilst on the 'Drew Barrymore Show' earlier this week, reports Mirror.co.uk.

She discussed Keanu's mother Patricia Taylor having been a costume designer for her decades ago.

She said that Patricia had even worked on the outfit that was modelled by Dolly on the cover of Playboy in 1978, which she's since recreated. The outfit showcased in the magazine included a black bustier, bunny ears and a bowtie.

As per Mirror.co.uk, Dolly told host Drew Barrymore, 48, during the interview on Monday: "She did a lot of sewing for me. She did a lot of my clothes." She went on to recall having met Keanu when he was younger due to her connection to his mother Patricia.

The Grammy Award winner said: "I remember Keanu when he was just little and she would bring him over to my house when we were (doing a) fitting." Dolly suggested she'd also been around him at the shop where the designer worked.

Mirror.co.uk further states that Dolly then said that years ago Keanu approached her at a show. She said he was already famous by then and shared: "(He) said 'do you remember me? I'm the little boy that used to sit at your feet while my momma was (working)'."

"I knew he had become a star but it didn't connect to me that that was who that was," she explained whilst on the talk show this week. Dolly later described Keanu as "great," adding that the actor is "the sweetest guy".

Drew added: "I heard that he wore [the costume] actually for Halloween one year. He wore this exact outfit and he said it's his favourite Halloween costume he's ever worn." Dolly seemed surprised, saying, "Aww, did he? That's sweet."

Taylor Swift 'moves in' with Travis Kelce to spend 'quality time together'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift is said to be moving in with Travis Kelce for a couple of weeks before contin-

ing her world tour.

The singer, 33, and the NFL player, 34, have attracted much attention over their relationship in recent months, reports Mirror.co.uk.

They have been spotted spending time together on occasions, whilst having both been busy with work commitments. It has now been reported that Taylor is moving into Travis' mansion in Kansas City, Missouri, for a few weeks whilst on a break from the Eras Tour.

As per Mirror.co.uk, the latest leg concluded last week and she isn't set to go back on tour until February next year. It has been reported this week that Taylor and Travis are preparing to spend their first extended period of time together. A source told the Daily Mail that she's "smitten" and said they are now set to spend "weeks at a time" together.

The source commented: "She realises that the hard work in their relationship is about to start as they will be spending weeks at a time together. Up until now it has been time snatched as they both have had such busy schedules."

The source said that the activities the pair have done in recent weeks - including her watching him play for the Kansas City Chiefs and appearing on Saturday Night Live - aren't typical for the first few months of a relationship.

It was further stated that for now Taylor and Travis can "try to be as normal" as their lives allow them to be. The source went on to add to the outlet: "They finally have the time and opportunity to spend some real quality time together."

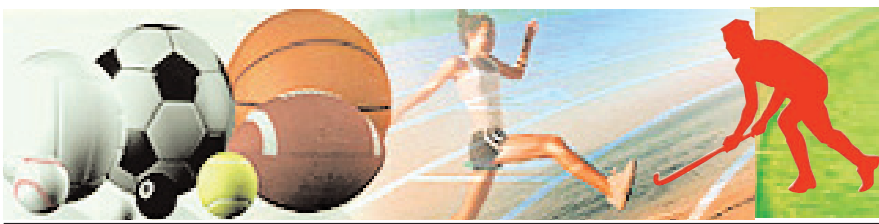
It's previously been reported that Travis recently bought a new home in the area. It's been suggested that the mansion, which is rumoured to be worth \$6 million, offers more privacy than his previous residence.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Sami Sheen



WOODS AND THE WORLD'S ELITE READY TO TEE OFF AT 2023 HERO WORLD CHALLENGE

Albany | Agencies
Tiger Woods teed off in his first semi-competitive round at the Pro-Am ahead of the 2023 Hero World Challenge.
The field of 20 elite stars includes World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, who wants to end his run of two successive second places behind the Norwegian star, Viktor Hovland, who bids to become the first player to win the Hero World Challenge three times in a row.
Woods returns to action for the first time since he withdrew after the second round of the Masters in Augusta this April.



Playing without a limp, that has often been seen in Woods' walk, the 15-time Major winning legend, played his Pro-Am round with Dr. Pawan Munjal, the Executive Chairman of Hero MotoCorp. It was clearly a moment to cherish as Woods, plagued by injuries, was teeing off at his own event for the first time since 2019. Woods is a five-time winner of the tournament. Marking the tenth year of their association with the event, though the edition in 2020 was cancelled due to Covid, Hero MotoCorp have raised the prize pool to \$ 4.5 million from the erstwhile \$ 3.5. The winner picks a cool \$ 1 million. The purse will swell to \$ 5 million in 2024.

It is one of the most star-studded fields in a non-Majors in the entire year and it included a dozen Major champions, who among them have won 3 Majors, including 15 by Woods, who feels he still has some more Majors in him. He won his 14th Major in 2008 and the 15th in 2019 at the Masters. The same year he added a 82nd PGA Tour title at Zozo Championships in Japan.
The field includes the current World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler and five others who at some stage have held World No.1 ranking. The club includes Woods, who has been World No. 1 for a record 683 weeks and the others are Jordan

Spieth, Justin Thomas, Justin Rose and Jason Day.
Hovland is coming off a great year. When he won his second HWC title, he was 10th in the world, now he is No. 4. He had a great Ryder Cup with the winning Europe team and won three times at the Memorial, the BMW and the Tour Championships. He was also the FedEx Cup champion for 2023.
Scottie won the Phoenix Open and was in the Top-10 no less than 17 times and made the cut in each of his 23 starts. His amazing consistency has been his hallmark. Jordan Spieth, recalling his debut at the HWC in 2014 and

how well he played that week for 26-under, admitted that it was the "best week of his career." That was fun. I was 21, so I don't think flying across the world and playing a few days later was that big of a deal to be honest. But it was a cool two-week stretch of Australia and then at the Hero World Challenge at Isleworth," said Jordan. "That Isleworth week I would put that up there as maybe the best golf I've played in my life. I don't think I've ever played better for four days than I did there. I still think about how it felt swinging the club that week and how the ball was coming off and how easy the game was," he added.
Justin Thomas and Collin Morikawa, both two-time Major champions, have fallen out of Top-10. Thomas is as low as 27th, but is hoping that this week's HWC will show him a better direction for 2024. There are three debutants, including two major winners. They are the 2023 US Open champion Wyndham Clark and The Open champion, Brian Harman. Then there is Will Zalatoris, who will also be making his first competitive start, since being forced to pull out 30 minutes before teeing off at Augusta this year. The 2017 winner Rickie Fowler is another one looking to get set for 2024 after this week, as he resumes his walk to Top-10 in the world.

Cristiano Ronaldo facing lawsuit over promotion of Binance

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A Nasser club and Portugal footballer Cristiano Ronaldo is facing a class action lawsuit in the US over his promotion of Binance, the largest cryptocurrency exchange in the world, said reports.

According to OkayBeary the plaintiffs, Michael Sizemore, Mikey Vongdara, and Gordon Lewis and claimed that they suffered losses because Cristiano Ronaldo promoted the exchange.

The said lawsuit was filed on November 27 in a Florida district court, accusing Ronaldo of active participation in the cryptocurrency exchange firm's business drive. The lawsuit filing stated, "Plaintiffs file this Complaint on behalf of themselves, and all other similarly situated consumers who purchased unregistered securities offered or sold by Binance, 1 against Defendant, Cristiano Ronaldo, who promoted, assisted in, and/or actively par-



ticipated in the offer and sale of unregistered securities in coordination with Binance.
The said lawsuit says that Ronaldo - with his access to investment knowledge and expert advice - should have known that Binance was selling unlicensed securities. Hence, plaintiffs want compensation for their losses.
"Binance's partnership with celebrities like Ronaldo was

clearly designed to use the positive reputation associated with specific celebrities to convince consumers that Binance was a safe place to buy and sell cryptocurrency," it further added.
Ronaldo's collaboration with Binance started in 2022. Since then, thanks to the player's enormous social media presence - over 850 million across platforms - Binance saw a 500% increase in online searches.

Arthur Fils beat Flavio Cobolli in three straight sets

Jeddah | Agencies

Frenchmen Arthur Fils defeated Italian Flavio Cobolli 4-1, 4-2, 4-2 in 59 minutes on Wednesday to improve to 2-0 in Green Group play at the Next Gen ATP Finals, here at King Abdullah Sports City.



The Frenchman came out firing his first Lexus ATP Head2Head meeting with the Italian, out maneuvering Cobolli with his weight and depth of shot to improve to 2-0 in Green Group play. Fils undertook the "SIU" celebration, associated with football star Cristiano Ronaldo, following his win.

"I played very nice today," said Fils. "I served very good, and I was moving well on the court, so I am very happy about

it. Tomorrow I have a good match against a great opponent. He already beat me once this year, so let's see what I can do." Fils, who defeated Luca Nardi in five sets in his opening match, will meet Dominic Stricker in his final round-robin clash. Stricker and Cobolli both hold 1-1 records going into their final matches. Italian Cobolli faces countryman Nardi, who is 0-2, on Thursday.

Fils is aiming to become the sixth champion at the 21-and-under event, joining Top 10 stars Carlos Alcaraz, Jannik Sinner and Stefanos Tsitsipas. Earlier this year the 19-year-old Fils lifted his maiden tour-level title in Lyon, while he reached the title match in Antwerp. He is playing at a career-high No. 36 in the Pepperstone ATP Rankings this week.

Learnings from playing under great leaders will help a lot in IPL, says Gill on getting Gujarat Titans captaincy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India opener Shubman Gill believes the learnings he has received from playing under great leaders are going to help him a lot when he leads Gujarat Titans in the 2024 season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Gill was recently announced as captain of Gujarat, the IPL 2022 winning team, after his predecessor for the last two seasons, Hardik Pandya was traded back to five-time winners Mumbai Indians. Captaining Gujarat in IPL 2024 will be Gill's first major assignment as a leader in senior men's cricket.

"We all know captainship comes with a lot of things, and commitment is one of them. Discipline is one of them. Hard work is one of them. Loyalty is one of them. Because I've played under great leaders and have learned a lot from them, those learnings that I have had from their experience playing under them is gonna help me a lot in this IPL,"

said Gill in a video posted by the franchise on its social media accounts.

Gill, 24, began his IPL career with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2018 and was released by the two-time champions ahead of the IPL 2022 auction, where he was picked by Gujarat. In his first season with GT, where they won the trophy under Hardik's leadership, Gill made 483 runs in 16 games at an average of 34.50 and strike-rate of 132.33, including four half-centuries. Gill went on to become the leading run-scorer in IPL 2023, making a whopping 890 runs in 17 matches at an average of 59.33 and strike-rate of 157.80, including three centuries and four fifties, as Gujarat finished as runners-up. He feels there are more learnings in store for him as leader of the Gujarat side alongside experienced names like Kane Williamson, Rashid Khan among others. "We have great leaders in our team, be it Kane (Williamson) or be it Rashid (Khan) bhai or be it (Mohammed) Shami bhai, or

even David (Miller), or even Wriddhi (Saha)."

"So, I think it's gonna be great. Obviously, there are gonna be a lot of learnings along the way, which would be my experience as a captain. I see a lot of people making great memories."

Gill's previous leadership experiences have been being the deputy to skipper Prithvi Shaw during the victorious Indian campaign in the 2018 Men's U19 World Cup in New Zealand. At the senior level, he captained India Blue in 2019-20 Duleep Trophy and India C side in Deodhar Trophy during the same season, apart from leading India-A on tour of New Zealand in 2019.

Gill admitted it will take time for him to warm up to the fact that he's now the captain of an IPL team. "I think it's gonna take, like, probably till the time we don't play the first match. It's not gonna quite sink in; it's a great feeling. I was about seven or eight years old when the IPL started happening." "Obviously, it's a



dream for any kid who wants to be a cricketer and wants to play the IPL to be able to captain a team. Then, to be able to be that kind of binding factor in this team, it feels amazing," he concluded.

Bowling is the area where I would be worried, says AB de Villiers on RCB ahead of IPL 2024 auction

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former South Africa cricketer AB de Villiers raises concern over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) bowling attack as RCB released their mainstay bowlers like Harshal Patel, Josh Hazlewood, Wanindu Hasaranga. ahead of the Indian Premier League season 2024 auction.

AB de Villiers showed concern over RCB's bowling line up and said that RCB need to add more firepower to their bowling attack and that RCB has let go off many of their match-winning bowlers.

"It is the area where I would be worried. Obviously, there is Mohammed Siraj there, Reece Topley, and some experience there, but if you see the released players list, they let go of Wanindu Hasaranga, Harshal Patel, and Josh Hazlewood. Those three have won them a lot of games in the last couple of seasons, especially Hazlewood; he had just this way of controlling that bowling lineup," said de Villiers.
RCB are left with Mohammed Siraj and Reece



Topley are left among the bowlers with international experience, and with Rs 23.25 crore in their kitty RCB will look for an overhaul change in the bowling attack.

However, De Villiers acknowledges the concerns over bowling performance of RCB in last few year and how it affected the. He remains hopeful of RCB grabbing

some big names in the auction to bolster their bowling attack, scheduled to held on December 19.

"It has been a well-known fact that RCB's bowling has been an area of weakness over the years. Yes, the batters also made a mess at times, but you need to play as a team. You need to gel together and understand each other. More often than not, there has been this feeling of making silly mistakes, not getting the discipline right, and not doing the basics well under pressure. We know how difficult it is to bowl at the Chinnaswamy Stadium," said de Villiers. RCB traded Cameron Green into their side from Mumbai Indians for Rs 17.5 crore, which has made a significant impact on their auction purse. RCB have a total of 6 slots to fill out of which 3 are overseas slots. AB de Villiers announced his retirement from IPL in 2021 after being associated with the RCB franchise since 2011. De Villiers scored 5162 IPL runs with a staggering strike rate of 151.69. Earlier this year, de Villiers was inducted in RCB's hall of fame for his crucial contribution in the team.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The All India Football Federation announced on Wednesday that the Kalinga Super Cup will be organised in Odisha starting from January 9, 2024.

The matches are planned to be held in two different venues in Odisha.

Both Indian Super League and I-League teams have been invited to take part in the annual tournament. The format of the tournament will consist of four groups of four teams each, who will play single leg matches amongst themselves. The group winners will qualify for the semi-finals followed by the final to be played on January 28, 2024. "As per the decision we took earlier, the annual Super Cup tournament will now be organised in a bigger and broader perspective. The tournament will now be known as Kalinga Super Cup and will be played in Odisha in January 2024. This is a positive development for Indian domestic football. I am confident the



Kalinga Super Cup will be a huge hit both in terms of organisation and spectator interest," said AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey.

The I-League teams will play the qualifiers to get into the group stage of Kalinga Super Cup where four slots have been reserved for them in the group stage.

The Champions of Kalinga Super Cup will be nominated to play in the ACL 2 Preliminary Stage of AFC 2023-24 season.

Shiva Thapa, Amit Panghal storm into quarters at 7th Elite Men's National Boxing

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Shiva Thapa, a six-time Asian Championships medalist (63.5kg), and Amit Panghal, the 2019 World Championships silver medalist (51kg), maintained their impressive form by securing victories and advancing to the quarterfinals on day four of the 7th Elite Men's National Boxing Championships in Shillong.



Jayshandeep's efforts to put up a strong fight, Amit emerged victorious with a scoreline of 4-1. Amit is set to face Mohammad Aarif of Jammu and Kashmir in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, the 2021 Asian Champion, Sanjeet, faced off against Sawan Gill of Chandigarh. Sanjeet's skill set and power packed punches were on full display as he dominated the match, securing a commanding victory with a 5-0 score. Sanjeet, representing SSCB, will face Naman Tanwar of RSPB in the quarterfinals.

Representing SSCB, Amit Panghal faced Punjab's Jayshandeep Singh in the round of 16. Despite

BCCI announces contracts extension for head coach Rahul Dravid and support staff of senior India men's

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that it had extended the contracts of head coach Rahul Dravid and the support staff of senior India men's team.

In its statement, the BCCI said it engaged in productive discussions with Rahul Dravid after the term of his contract ended following the recently concluded 2023 Men's ODI World Cup and unanimously agreed to further the tenure, though it didn't mention the duration of extension.

Dravid had replaced Ravi Shastri as the India senior men's head coach after the T20 World Cup in 2021 for a two-year term, along with support staff comprising Vikram Rathour (batting coach after 2019 ODI World Cup), Paras Mhambrey (bowling coach), and T Dilip (fielding coach).

"The last two years with Team India have been thoroughly memorable. Together, we have witnessed the highs and lows, and throughout this journey, the support and camaraderie within the

group have been phenomenal. I am genuinely proud of the culture we have set in the dressing room."

"It's a culture that stands resilient, whether in moments of triumph or adversity. The skills and talent that our team possesses are phenomenal, and what we've stressed is following the right process and sticking to our preparations, which has had a direct impact on the overall result."

"I thank the BCCI and the Office Bearers for placing their trust in me, endorsing my vision, and providing support during this period. The demands of this role necessitate considerable time away from home, and I deeply appreciate my family's sacrifices and support. Their instrumental role behind the scenes has been invaluable. As we embrace new challenges post the World Cup, we remain committed to the pursuit of excellence," said Dravid in the statement.

The contract of Dravid and the support staff had come to an end following India's defeat to Australia in the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad, with speculations over their

future with the team now coming to an end as the BCCI opts for continuity in coaching of senior men's team. "Mr Rahul Dravid's vision, professionalism, and unyielding efforts have been important pillars in Team India's success. As Head Coach of the Indian Cricket Team, you are always under immense scrutiny and I extend appreciation to him not only for embracing the challenges but for thriving in them."

"The performances of the Indian Team are a testament to his strategic guidance. I am delighted that he accepted the offer to remain the Head Coach, and it speaks of the mutual respect and shared vision between him and the BCCI. I have no doubt that under him, the team will continue its march to the pinnacle of success and set new benchmarks along the way," said BCCI President Roger Binny. With the contracts extended, the first assignment of Dravid and support staff in their second stint will be the all-format tour of South Africa, comprising three T20Is and ODIs each, along with two Tests from December 10 to January 7.



The team will be back in India to play three T20Is against Afghanistan in January, followed by five Tests against England till March, before regrouping for the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup in the West Indies and USA.





Team Absolute | Mumbai

It's official. Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda and Lin Laishram are now man and wife after the two tied the nuptial knot at Imphal on Wednesday. It's official. Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda and Lin Laishram are now man and wife after the two tied the nuptial knot at Imphal on Wednesday.

The couple got married in a traditional Meitei ceremony in the presence of family members and a few friends. Ahead of the wedding, Randeep had expressed his excitement on getting married in Laishram's Meitei traditions.

The couple took their wedding vows in the Shannapung resort. Randeep performed the rituals wearing a white kurta-pyjama as his wife Lin looked dazzling pretty in a white and pink saree paired with a black blouse. She completed her look with

RANDEEP HOODA, LIN LAISHRAM GET HITCHED IN CLOSE-KNIT CEREMONY IN MANIPUR

jewellery. Randeep and Lin have been in a relationship for a long time. Lin has been a part of films such as 'Mary Kom', 'Rangoon' and recently in 'Jaane Jaan'.

Randeep was last seen in 'Sergeant'. His upcoming film is 'Swatantrya Veer Savarkar', which also marks his directorial debut.

Earlier, Randeep and Lin had announced their marriage on Instagram, saying, "Taking a leaf out of the Mahabharata where Arjuna married Manipuri Warrior Princess Chitrangada, We are getting married with the blessings of our families and friends.

"As we embark on this journey, we seek your blessings and love for this union of cultures, for which we are forever indebted and grateful."

Randeep had also shared that a reception will take place at a later date in Mumbai.



Mukesh Chhabra worked as back-up dancer initially while in Delhi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Casting director-actor Mukesh Chhabra, who is known for his casting choices in films like 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Dangal', 'Bajranghi Bhaijaan' and others, revealed that he worked as a back-up dancer during the initial phase of his career.

Mukesh will be soon seen in the upcoming streaming show 'Chamak'. He essays the role of Dimpay Grewal in the show.

The show, which boasts a star-studded cast, including Paramvir Singh Cheema, Manoj Pahwa, Gippy Grewal, Mohit Malik, Isha Talwar, Mukesh Chhabra, Prince Kanwaljit Singh, Suvinder (Vicky) Pal, and Akasa Singh, follows the story of a young aspiring rapper, Kaala, who returns to Punjab from Canada to uncover the events that led to the death of singer Taara Singh.

Reminiscing about the formative years of his journey, Mukesh Chhabra said: "In the initial phase of my career, I worked as a backup dancer in Delhi while juggling college. Those times were like my crash course in grit and the grind. Being a backup dancer sculpted my resilience and taught me the true worth of hard work. Honestly, where I stand today is like a reflection of the experiences and life lessons I bagged



back then." Mukesh further provided a sneak peek into his character, Dimpay Grewal, in Chamak. He revealed, "Dimpay is unapologetically over the top, a blabbermouth who is both kind and sweet at heart. He is whom I would define as 'Yaaro Ka Yaar'. He is that friend who can go to any lengths for the people he cares about. In the series, Dimpay goes all-in to save his father's Grewal Studio - no holds barred."

TWINKLE UNVEILS FOURTH BOOK IN THE PRESENCE OF DIMPLE, AKSHAY, KJO

Actress, best-selling author and columnist Twinkle Khanna unveiled her fourth book, 'Welcome To Paradise' (Juggernaut) here on Wednesday.

The event was attended by her husband Akshay Kumar, mother Dimple Kapadia, filmmaker Karan Johar, and the actresses Vidya Balan and Kiara Advani, among others.

According to the book's promotional blurb, 'Welcome To Paradise' offers "rich narratives that explore the depth of loneliness, heartbreak and deception." The blurb goes on to describe the quartet of stories on offer, noting: "Huma's divided family -- Team Cemetery and Team Crematorium -- clash hilariously over matters involving pigs and penises as they decide what to do with Amma's body. Madhura Desai writes an email to the chief justice of India, urging him to choose a 'nice cut-



off age' to die, sending shockwaves across the nation.

"Along the shores of Satpati, Nusrat grapples with the loss of her son, and her voice. And Amita tells her husband about her breast implants but not about Bua, Bangalore and beautiful men." The blurb promises that the book is: "Perfectly observed, shot

through with light and shadow and wry humour ... [and it] confirms Khanna's reputation as one of our most masterful storytellers." Twinkle looked radiant in a black and golden co-ord set with a satin brown-coloured tank top. She kept her hair open, opted for nude makeup and golden hoops were her choice for accessories.

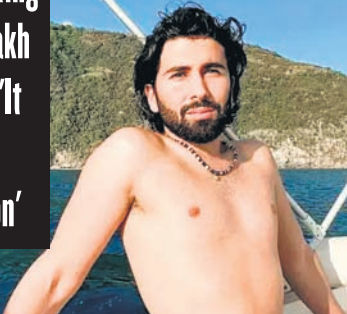
Akshay was seen sporting a black shirt and matching pants. KJo wore a casual grey suit set with a black tee shirt. He completed the look with white sneakers. Dimple was seen wearing a breezy black outfit, which was complemented with big golden earrings.

Kiara looked picture-perfect in a lilac pink co-ord set with white tank top. She kept her hair open, opted for glossy makeup, and sported golden hoops earrings.

In 2015, Twinkle released her first non-fiction book, 'Mrs Funnybones', and established herself as a writer to look out for.

Her second book is 'The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad', a collection of short stories, one of which was based on social entrepreneur Arunachalam Muruganatham, which became the inspiration for R. Balki's Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Pad Man'.

Orry on getting Rs 20-30 lakh for selfies: 'It was an exaggeration'



love how it has made headlines." He said that if he made that much money through pictures, he would've been on an island living it out and not "slogging".

"I wish I made that much money per selfie you would see me on an island in a yacht living the life and you wouldn't see me slogging it out and working like a dog in Bombay I would be living more than I had lived," he said.

He in his adorable way then added: "I'd be lucky if I got 20-30 rupees for selfies but yeah that is the honest truth."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

B-town celebs' bestie Orry, whose real name is Orhan Awatramani, has finally spilled the beans about him getting paid Rs 20-30 lakhs for selfies. He said that if he got such amount for pictures he wouldn't be slogging it out and would be living more.

Orry in 'Big Boss 17' made a statement that left the host Salman Khan stumped and also created headlines. He disclosed that he earns a whopping amount of Rs 20-30 lakhs for clicking photographs with celebs.

Asked if he really does earn that much via selfies, Orry told IANS: "I love the statement I made about selfies, it was an exaggeration and I made about that much money through pictures, he

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Priyanka Chopra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'War 2', the sequel to the 2019 Hrithik Roshan-starrer blockbuster film 'War', has locked its release date. The sequel will take the narrative forward for Hrithik's character of Major Kabir Dhaliwal, a RAW agent, who was shown to have gone rogue in the first part of the film.

The sequel to the 2019 Hrithik Roshan-starrer blockbuster film 'War', has locked its release date. The sequel will take the narrative forward for Hrithik's character of Major Kabir Dhaliwal, a RAW agent, who was shown to have gone rogue in the first part of the film.

As per a trade source, 'War 2' will debut in theatres on August 14, 2025. The film, which is directed by Ayan Mukerji, is the 6th film from the spy universe after 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'War', 'Pathaan' and the recently released Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif-starrer 'Tiger 3'.

Hrithik also teased his appearance in 'Tiger 3' along with SRK, hinting towards the next movies in the spy-universe.

'War', which released in 2019, told the story of Hrithik's character, who goes rogue to cleanse the intelligence system of the country of traitors and to identify the infiltrator in the elite forces.

The film broke all opening day and weekend box-office records for a Hindi film before it was surpassed by the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Pathaan'. It eventually emerged as a major success becoming the highest-grossing Indian film of 2019 and the 17th highest-grossing Indian film of all time.

The film is produced by Yash Raj Films, which recently released the streaming serie 'The Railway Men' based on the 1894 Union Carbide gas leak in Bhopal.

'War 2' sets its release date for Aug 14, 2025

