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PREPARED FOR FREE, FAIR, VIOLENCE-FREE POLLING IN MADHYA PRADESH: OFFICIAL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A day before polling in Madhya Pradesh, the state's chief electoral officer said all preparations have been made for voters to pick their choice of candidates for the 230 Assembly seats.

In an exclusive conversation with news channel on Thursday, Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said the state has around 64,000 booths and more than 50% of polling parties have already reached their respective booths. They will be staying there in the night and prepare for the voting, which will begin at 7 am.

On security preparations, Rajan said, "There is Maoist influence in three districts of Madhya Pradesh - Mandla, Balaghat and Dindori. We have provisions for live web-streaming. Micro-observers will also be there. All measures have been taken to ensure that the polling is free, fair and violence-free. We have around 700 companies of central paramilitary forces and around 2 lakh police employees, including police personnel and home guards, that will be deployed across the state."

Rajan said webcasting will also



MODI WON'T GET MAJORITY IN 2024 POLLS: KCR

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu predicted on Thursday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not get a majority at the Centre in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing election rallies here, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief reiterated that regional parties will play a key role at the Centre, as he slammed both the BJP and the Congress.

"Don't cast even one vote for the BJP. It's a waste. A vote for the Congress is even more waste," KCR said, as he dubbed BJP and Congress as two sides of the same coin. Stating that regional parties will play a key role in the coming days, he predicted that a coalition government will come to power at the Centre next year.

IF CONGRESS GOVERNMENT IS FORMED AT THE CENTRE, WE WILL START CASTE CENSUS IN COUNTRY: RAHUL GANDHI

Jaipur: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday addressed election meetings in Taranagar in Churu and Nohar in Hanumangarh and said that the party would start a caste census in the country as soon as the Congress forms a government at the Centre.

Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rahul Gandhi said, "Narendra Modi ji says 'Modi's guarantee'. Modi's guarantee means Adani's guarantee. The Congress party will conduct a caste census survey in Rajasthan. As soon as the Congress government comes to power in India, we will start the caste census that day. As long as there is a backward population, we will hand over that many rights to the backward people of India, the backbone of India."

he said flying squads and static surveillance teams have recovered cash, liquor, precious metals and "freebies" worth ₹ 350 crore.

The chief electoral officer also issued an appeal to all voters in Madhya Pradesh to cast their vote and urge their relatives and friends to do so as well.

be done in 70% of polling booths, as opposed to 10% in the 2018 elections. In terms of pre-poll seizures,

BHUPESH BAGHEL IN FRAY FOR 2ND PHASE OF CHHATTISGARH POLLS

Raipur: The second and final phase of Chhattisgarh assembly elections for the remaining 70 seats will be held on Friday and decide the electoral fate of political heavyweights like Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, his deputy TS Singh Deo, eight state ministers and four members of Parliament. The first phase of elections for 20 seats in the Naxal-affected state, which has a 90-member assembly, was held on November 7 and saw a high voter turnout of 78 per cent.

Men's ODI World Cup 2023 Final

Its India vs Australia at Ahmedabad

Kolkata | Agencies

Australia registered a hard-fought win over South Africa to enter the final of Cricket World Cup for a record-extending eighth time on Thursday. Needing 213 in the second semi-final, Travis Head blazed away to 62 off 48 balls while David Warner smashed 29 off 18 in an opening stand of 60 to lay the foundation for Australia's chase. However, South Africa had their moments as they struck at regular intervals to dent Australia's chase. In the end, Australia crossed the finishing line with three overs to spare. Opting to bat, South Africa kept on losing wickets at regular intervals. Miller scored 101 runs while Heinrich Klaasen scored 47.



Israel-Hamas war won't end until there's two-state solution: Biden



Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden strongly believes the Israel-Hamas war would not end until there's a two state solution to the problems between the two nations. "I can't tell you how it's going to last," he

said as the differences between the US and Israel widened on the post war scenario with the US asking Israel not to reoccupy Gaza and Israel refusing. Biden said on Wednesday that he did not believe the Israel-Hamas war would end "until there's a two-state solution". The remark was in response to a question on setting a deadline around the US' support for Israel in the conflict. The UNSC voted for the fifth time calling for an immediate ceasefire to help humanitarian causes in Gaza. Biden said, "But I can tell you, I don't think it ultimately ends until there's a two-state solution. I made it clear to the Israelis I think it's a big mistake for them to think they're going to occupy Gaza." The president was also asked about hostages in Gaza, including a 3-year-old American reportedly being held.

"DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO STOOP...": SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN SLAMS PRIYANKA GANDHI

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan slammed Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi over her remark on Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that he did not expect her to stoop so low.

Chouhan made the remark while talking to reporters in the state capital Bhopal on Thursday after Priyanka Gandhi drew similarities with Salman Khan-starrer 2003 film "Tere Naam" to attack PM Modi during the election rally in Datia. "I did not expect Priyanka Gandhi to stoop so low by talking about actors and quoting films and then saying that some movie should be made on 'Mama' and PM Modi. Are elections done for acting? Is it for films? Is it done in the name of Salman Khan? It is done for issues of public and development," Mr Chouhan said. He further slammed the Congress party saying that the party became strange and was not serious.

Biryani rush in UP district after Virat hits his 50th ODI ton

Bahraich (UP) | Agencies

When an eatery owner in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich announced a discount equal to the runs made by cricketer Virat Kohli, he obviously did not expect the cricketer to strike 100 in the World Cup.

Virat's 50th century at Mumbai's Wankhede stadium on Wednesday led to a near stampede at the eatery selling biryani in the Tikoni Bagh area of Dehat police.

With Kohli scoring a century, the discount came out to be 100 per cent, which meant the plate of chicken and mutton biryani came for free, prompting a huge rush to avail the offer. As visuals of the offer went viral on social media, the queue only swelled and people were seen jostling to get into the queue to grab hold of a plate of biryani. Before the restaurant owner exhausted his staff, cops had to be called to control the crowd. The situation turned tense after those waiting in the queue started demanding the restaurant owner to arrange for more biryani. Ultimately,



the owner had to chain down his restaurant to avoid any kind of vandalism.

SHO, Kotwali Dehat, Manoj Kumar Pandey, said that since a large crowd had gathered outside the eatery, a police team was sent to avoid any kind of law-and-order situation.

10% CUT IN MUMBAI WATER SUPPLY FROM NOV 20-DEC 2 FOR REPAIRS

Mumbai: The BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Thursday announced a 10 per cent water cut in the city, from November 20 to December 2, for carrying out certain urgent maintenance works in the distribution network.

The BMC will replace air bladders at the pneumatic gate system located at the Pise Weir which needs emergency repairs and replacement.

During the 12-day period, the BMC's regular water supply to Mumbai city and certain parts of Thane Municipal Corporation and Bhiwandi Municipal Corporation would also be affected to an extent.

The BMC has urged people to make judicious use of water, avoid wastage, and cooperate with the authorities.

Solar-powered cruise ships to operate on Saryu River in Ayodhya

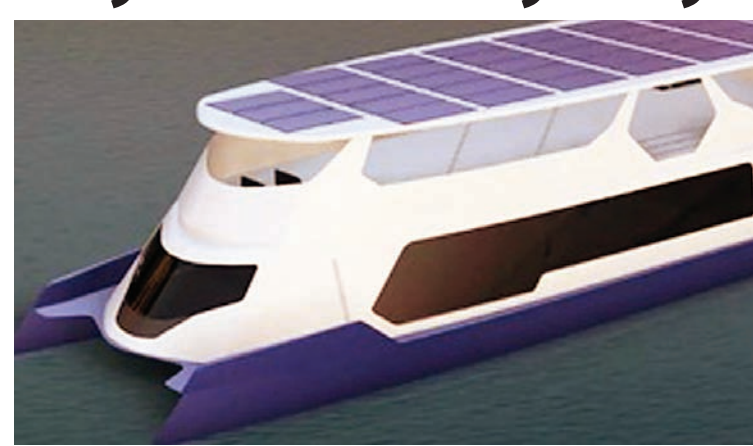
Ayodhya | Agencies

Two solar-powered 'mini-cruise' ships will start operating in the Saryu River in Ayodhya before the inauguration of the Ram Temple in January next year.

Vikas Malviya, the director of Varanasi-based Alaknanda Cruise, said that his company will offer the service. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, the 'Ramayana' vessels will aim to spread the knowledge of Lord Ram's childhood, his years in Gurukul, Swayamvar, his years in the forest, his meeting with Lord Hanuman, his victory over Ravana and his comeback to Ayodhya.

Malviya's company already operates four such vessels in Varanasi.

"We will start operation of two mini-cruise ships in the Saryu River before the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. We are in the



final phase of preparations," he said.

Malviya said each vessel would be a 30-seater and fully air-conditioned.

"In the close to hour-long trip, pilgrims will catch glimpses of Ayodhya ghats on the banks of Saryu. They will have a mesmerising experience

while cruising through the famous ghats of the holy river," he said.

The vessels would be fully solar operated. Tourism officials said the cruise service would give a boost to tourism in Ayodhya and generate direct and indirect job opportunities.

MUTUAL FUND HOLDINGS BEYOND TOP 500 STOCKS SPIKE TO 2018 HIGHS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Mutual fund holdings beyond the top 500 stocks as percentage of market volumes of the top 500 stocks have now started surpassing 2018 highs, a report said.

The curve had peaked in August 2022, but again started spiking since June 2023 on back of small-cap inflows, Elara Securities said in a report.

"The challenge is getting exit liquidity. We have seen in the past that liquidity vanishes sharply once markets start correcting, which itself creates a vicious cycle," the report said.

"Overall, market volumes beyond the top 500 stocks have also expanded back to 2016-2018 period. This is a very crucial monitorable to understand if the liquidity profile beyond top 500 stocks has started deteriorating. Once that happens, we generally see bigger impact on side counters," it said. The sharp pace of inflows into small-cap funds have induced the fund managers to move beyond the most discovered stocks. The previous big move started in 2004 and continued until 2007. The second large leg was seen from 2014 to 2018.



This is the third round which began in 2020 and has expanded sharply from April 2023.

"The curve has reached back to 2018 highs. Such moves into smaller stocks pose liquidity risk when the tide turns," the report said.

Cash levels of large-cap schemes remain inline with an average of 4.5 per cent.

"This segment has not been seeing any inflows, hence we have seen gradual depletion of cash," the report said. Mid-cap cash levels also remain inline with an average of 5.2 per cent. This segment has also been receiving average rate of inflows and similar level of deployment. "Small-cap fund managers have sharply increased cash levels in

October 2023. This is largely because a big portion of inflow has not been deployed. However, if the small-cap index continues to outperform, we could see another phase of forced deployment like seen in the May-August 2023 period," the report said. Absolute cash in small-cap schemes is now at Rs 15,800 crore, expanding from Rs 13,000 crore in September 2023. This is a reflection of lack of conviction at current levels, the report said.

Despite the sell-off in October, small-cap schemes once again outperformed large-cap schemes in a falling market, as liquidity support remains strong here.

"We just saw one month of underperformance in small-cap schemes in September, but that has reversed again. The momentum of outperformance has, however, slowed down," it said. Small-cap folios continue to expand, but this is the first time since April 2023 that the rate of increase has come down.

"We saw monthly increase of 775K folios between June and September. In October, that pace marginally slowed to 660K new folio addition," the report said.

DAY BEFORE VOTING, MP GOVT EMPLOYEE ON POLL DUTY DIES

Bhopal: A Madhya Pradesh government employee, engaged in poll duty for the November 17 Assembly polls, died in Betul district on Thursday after experiencing chest pains, an official said.

The deceased has been identified as Bhimrao, 55, employed as a watchman with the Public Health Engineering Department and posted on poll duty at booth number 123 at a girls' school.

Multai Sub Divisional Magistrate Trupti Pateria told reporters that upon complaining of pain in his chest, Bhimrao was rushed to a hospital where he died during treatment, adding that the family members of the deceased have been informed about his demise.

Voting in the state will be held of Friday between 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the counting of votes will take place on December 3. Meanwhile, election personnel have started arriving at the 64,523 polling booths across the state.

These personnel have been connected with the Global Positioning System (GPS) and their activities are being monitored by the MP Chief Electoral Officer's office, officials said.



RAJASTHAN: BJP RELEASES POLL MANIFESTO, PROMISES SAVINGS BOND FOR GIRL CHILD

Jaipur | Agencies

BJP national president J. P. Nadda on Thursday released manifesto for Rajasthan Assembly polls in which the party promised saving bonds for girl child, free scooty to meritorious girl child, SIT probe into corruption cases and "mahila thana" for women in every district.

Besides, the party also promised Rs 450 subsidy on LPG cylinder for Ujjawala beneficiaries, bonus of Rs 2,700 per quintal on MSP for wheat.

Along with this, it also announced formation of a committee to give compensation to farmers whose land has been confiscated.

For the safety of women, anti-Romeo force will be prepared in every city and a women's desk will be made in every police station, it said.

The meritorious girl students will be provided free scooty after Class 12. Along with this, BJP has promised to provide government jobs to 2.5 lakh people in five years.

The saffron party has also promised that if voted to power, an SIT will be formed to investigate the alleged corruption in the Gehlot government.



Under this, all scams including paper leak, Jal Jeevan Mission, old age pension will be investigated and action will be taken against the culprits.

Lado Incentive Scheme on the lines of Ladli Lakshmi Scheme of Madhya Pradesh has been

announced under which a saving bond of Rs 2 lakh will be given to every newborn daughter. Under this scheme, Rs 6,000 per year will be provided in class 6, Rs 8,000 in Class 9, 10, 10,000 in class 10, Rs 14,000 in class 12, rupees 50,000 for professional

studies and after turning 21 years, and 1 lakh rupees will be deposited in the account. The BJP has also made some big announcements for the youth. On the lines of IIT and AIIMS in Rajasthan, a Rajasthan Institute of Technology and Rajasthan Institute of Medical Sciences will be opened.

Nadda said that records of paper leak have been made in Rajasthan. There has also been a scam of Rs 450 crore in the old age pension scheme, he alleged.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's family has received a contract worth Rs 11,000 crore which shows how Congress "promotes nepotism and corruption".

Nadda said, "In the past five years, Congress is known for corruption, playing with the honour of women, contempt of farmers, paper leaks, atrocities on the poor, Dalits and backward classes."

Sankalp Patra Committee convener and Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said in over two and a half months, the committee contacted more than 1 crore people, and got over 1 crore suggestions based on which, the polls manifesto was made.

Tunnel collapse: Auger drilling machine gets to work, Union minister V.K. Singh takes stock

Uttarkashi | Agencies

Rescue operations to bring out the 40 workers trapped in an under-construction tunnel in Silkyara in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi resumed for the fifth day on Thursday as an Auger drilling machine began to operate to expedite the process of digging through the debris and rescuing the people.

This heavy drilling machine has been brought from Delhi to Uttarakhand by the Indian Air Force's Hercules cargo aircraft.

National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) Director Anshu Manish Khalkho said that the 25 ton heavy Auger machine drills five to six metres per hour.

If this drilling machine works well then all the 40 workers trapped in the tunnel can be rescued in the next 10 to 15 hours. However, the working of this machine will also depend on how far the workers are trapped inside the tunnel. After the installation of the Jack and Push Earth Auger machine sent from Delhi, it has started drilling and pipe pushing. At present, the entire process is going on satisfactorily. In case there is no glitch in the rescue operation, it is expected that the trapped workers will be rescued by late Thursday evening or Friday.

Meanwhile, Union Minister V.K. Singh arrived at the tunnel on Thursday to take stock of the rescue operation, where he spoke to the rescue officials and tried to find out the reasons behind the accident that took place



in the tunnel. The Minister said that all the 40 workers are trapped in a 2-km empty space inside the tunnel where there is some light and the authorities are sending food and water to the trapped workers. This new drilling machine is operating more powerfully and speedily than the older one. On the fifth day of the tunnel collapse, Uttarakhand Director General of Police Ashok Kumar also reached the spot and took stock of the situation. Later, he told the media that all the Central and the state agencies are trying their best to rescue the trapped workers. He added that all the people trapped in the tunnel are completely safe. "We all have to maintain their (trapped workers) morale by playing a positive role. Now the Army and Air Force have also been involved in the rescue operation," he stated.

No relief, Delhi's AQI drops into 'severe' category

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The overall Air Quality Index of Delhi was at 404, in the "severe" category on Thursday evening, according to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR).

At the Dwarka sector-8 station, the PM 2.5 reached 469 and PM 10 was at 470, in the "severe" category, while CO was at 134, in "moderate" levels.

However, the Anand Vihar station was in the "very poor" category with PM 2.5 at 305 and PM 10 at 191, under the "moderate" levels while the NO2 was at 73, in "satisfactory" levels, as per the CPCB, at 6 p.m.

At the Bawana station, PM 2.5 reached 352, in the "very poor" category and PM 10 at 238, in the "poor" category, while the CO reached 78, in "satisfactory" levels and NO2 at 18, in the "good" category.

The air quality at the Indira Gandhi International Airport T3 area was in the "poor" category with PM 2.5 at 287 and PM 10 at 146, in the "moderate" category while the CO reached at 61, under "satisfactory" category. The PM 2.5 at Jahangirpuri was recorded



at 379 while PM 10 reached 388, placing both under the "very poor" category. However, the CO was at 102, in "moderate" levels and NO2 reached 22, in "good" levels.

The AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good"; 51 and 100 "satisfactory"; 101 and 200 "moderate"; 201 and 300 "poor"; 301 and 400 "very poor"; and 401 and 500 "severe".

Manipur government continue to eradicate illicit poppy cultivation

Imphal | Agencies

The Manipur government is continuing to destroy illicit poppy cultivation in the state, officials said on Thursday.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh often said that illegal immigrants and drug peddlers including Myanmar nationals are involved in mass poppy farming and forest destruction in Manipur.

Officials said that the Manipur Rifles and Forest Department officials, during the past 48 hours, by spraying herbicides destroyed 31 hectares of illicit poppy fields at Tora Champhung Hill Range under Ukhrul district.

During the joint operations, 45 huts, set up by the poppy cultivators, were burned, and other infrastructure including pipeline connections, fertilisers, salt, herbicides, and pesticides were destroyed as well.

The Chief Minister, while talking to



the media, said that the state government is intensifying its war on drugs and will not stop until the drugs menace is completely rooted out from the state. The over six month long ethnic violence was started after the Manipur government during March-April started destruction of illegal poppy cultivation and launched the eviction drive against the encroachers who illegally occupied the reserve and protected forest lands in the mountainous areas of the state.

The Chief Minister earlier stated that encroachment evictions from forest lands were done in the state to preserve forests, considering the deteriorating climatic conditions. He had said that the state government never targeted a particular community. The enormity of the drug menace has reached such a height that out of the state's population of 28 lakh, the number of drugs-affected youths is around 1.4 lakh.

Delhi Congress protests outside ED office seeking probe against Narendra Tomar's son

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Hundreds of Delhi Congress workers on Thursday staged a protest outside the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office here demanding action against the silence of the agency in connection with the money transactions of Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's son.

Several senior Delhi Congress leaders including former minister Haroon Yusuf participated in the protest and raised slogans against the ED and the BJP government at the Centre.

The Congress leaders asked why the Prime Minister was not deploying the ED and the CBI to probe a video circulating in the social media about Narendra Singh Tomar's son, Devendra Singh Tomar, striking a "deal of Rs 10,000 crore" with a man on video call.

The Congress workers also demanded the resignation of Narendra Singh Tomar from the Union Cabinet and the arrest of his son Devendra, as both the ED and the CBI were keeping a studied



silence on the matter while the BJP government misses no opportunity to put the Central agencies after the Opposition leaders and arrest them on flimsy charges.

Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely said that the BJP, which uses religion for vote bank politics, was shockingly using religious institutions as conduits for corrupt financial deals. Congress workers carried placards with slogans such as "Narender Tomar Ke Bete Ke Ghotale Se Muh Na Chipaye", "ED-CBI Se Janch Karaye", "Hazaron Crore Ke Ghotale Ka Doshi Kaun". Lovely said that the BJP and the Central probe agencies were keeping mum on the allegations against the Tomars, though a week ago a video had gone viral where Devendra was purportedly talking about financial deals of Rs 100 crore, Rs 18 crore and Rs 21 crore respectively.

The Delhi Congress chief wondered whether Devendra Tomar was counting hundreds of crores of rupees like kids counting marbles, as this was not Tomar's money, but proceeds of corruption.

Royal Bengal Tiger pair to roar in Jammu zoo

Jammu | Agencies

A pair of Royal Bengal Tigers aged nine years has reached the Jammu Zoo at Nagrota in Jammu district from the Aringar Anna Zoological Park in Chennai, an official statement said on Thursday.

The tiger pair has been brought here in exchange of a pair of Himalayan black bear from the Jammu Zoo as part of an animal exchange programme.

The Royal Bengal Tiger is one of the largest, fiercest, and most powerful members of the Big Cat family. Every tiger has a distinct stripe pattern which makes them different from other tigers and makes it easy in counting them during tiger census.

There are around 3,167 tigers in India's forests, which is more than 75 per cent of the global tiger population as per the 2023 census.

"The tiger pair will be housed in a naturalistic and enriched enclosure spanning more



than 4,500 sq mt as per the Central Zoo Authority's norms. The enclosure has water ponds, machans, and heating and ventilation facility for extreme weather condition. "The tigers will be kept under quarantine for a week after which they will be released in the paddock for public display," the statement said.

Jaipur's daughter Neelam Sharma showed her skills from Jaipur to Mumbai

Jaipur | Agencies

Neelam Sharma, resident of Jaipur, is rich in versatile talent. He is employed at Hotel Sapphire as a successful hotelier;

She is also an executive member of Jaipur Hotel Association.

Not only this, Neelam Sharma is the founder of kartavya Institute of Management, and is working as the founder and director of kartavya Helping Foundation.

Besides, she has also worked in the field of finance as a Finance, Instructor and Distributor Consultant in HDFC Life.

Neelam Sharma has spent 18 years of her life in Mumbai from where she has showcased her talent as an artiste in popular TV serials; This includes Balaji Telefilms' famous serial Yeh Hai Mohabbatein and Rashmi Sharma has worked in the film serials Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai and Jai Santoshi Maa.

Neelam Sharma holds B.A Hons in Economics, Maharani College Jaipur and Master in Sociology (Psychology and Criminology).

from Rajasthan University; She has also done Diploma in Hotel Management from Mumbai.

Neelam Sharma is also part of NSDC Delhi (Skill India and THSC) and RSLDC (Skill Livelihood).

Neelam Sharma's career is a source of



inspiration for many youth.

An award-winning international artist, securing the future of India's rich arts and crafts history

Jaipur | Agencies

In a world being taken over by machines and AI, Shaivi strives to preserve the essence of humanity connected with the art-making process. Arts and crafts in any form—whether it be block printing, weaving, or metal work—are fundamental to understanding India's rich history. However, it is predicted that these crafts will lose favor in the face of modern technologies and changing demand. Nevertheless, there may still be hope since this inspiring social entrepreneur and artist has taken the reins!

Shaivi has founded the ART (Arts Revitalization and Teaching) Initiative for Students of India, a social initiative that brings a robust art education to underfunded and government schools in India and saves the heritage of India from an untimely death. "The way I understood my Indian heritage was through traditional practices of Jaipur crafts," says Shaivi, "to be able to secure the future of these legacies, it is absolutely crucial that



we educate coming generations about the history and the execution of these arts and crafts to be able to keep, what I believe to be the best part of India, alive."

After graduating from The

Hotchkiss School in Connecticut, USA, Shaivi decided to return to Jaipur, her birthplace, to found this initiative as a way to pay respects to and show gratitude towards the legacy Indian arts for being the starting

place for her career in fine arts. As she spends a year in The Pink City prior to returning to higher education, Shaivi builds a road towards the future of India's heritage.

So, the ART Initiative for Students of India's plan focuses on three main aspects. Firstly, they made the schools' administration and students aware of the numerous job opportunities available in the Indian arts and crafts industry. Secondly, they work closely with a school's faculty to identify an art teacher who can carry out an art curriculum developed by the ART Initiative for Students of India. Thirdly, to ensure the permanent establishment of an art education at schools, the ART Initiative has created an innovative business model.

After executing successful programs at branches of Adarsh Vidya Mandir in Jaipur, and reaching 60+ students, the ART Initiative for Students of India's plan is spreading through more government schools throughout Jaipur. It is Shaivi's hope for this program to reach even beyond Jaipur!



Shiv Sena (UBT) deputy leader nabbed in Rs 7.50cr bank loan case

Team Absolute | Nashik (Maharashtra)

Shiv Sena (UBT) deputy leader Advay Hire, who was arrested from Bhopal on Wednesday in connection with an alleged bank loan fraud case of Rs 7.50-crore, was remanded to five days' police custody by a Malegaon Court, here on Thursday. Hire, an ex-Bharatiya Janata Party leader, has been accused of getting the loan from the Nashik District Central Cooperative Bank (NDCCB) allegedly on the basis of forged documents, and then failing to repay the amount. The Economic Offences Wing of Nashik Rural Police was probing the matter and was on the trail of Hire who had gone into hiding but was tracked down by the Bhopal Police and handed over to the Ramzanpura Police Station of Malegaon on Thursday.



He was presented before the Additional District Sessions Judge U.S. Baghele who ordered his police custody till November 20. Arguing for Hire's custody for seven days, the Additional Government Pleader Mahendra Phulpagare said that no instalments of the bank loan were paid through an amount of Rs 1.78 crore received from the sale of a mortgage mill and land. From the total loan amount, an amount of Rs 6 crore was transferred to a private Venkatesh Bank, and the police needed to probe why this was done, what was done with the money and who benefited from it. However, Hire's lawyer contended that the investigations into the case were over, all the documents had already been taken and hence there was no need for police custody. In 2013, as the then Chairman of the NDCCB Hire had availed loans of nearly Rs 7.50 in the name of Renukadevi Yantramaag Women's Industrial Cooperative Society, a weaving mill, against mortgage, which was headed by his wife, Smita Hire. Over the years, the amount had swollen to Rs 32

crore after which the bank lodged a complaint with the police in April 2023 to recover the debts, and since the amount had gone beyond Rs 25-crore, the case was transferred to the EOW, Nashik.

Anticipating arrest, Hire had applied for anticipatory bail which was rejected by the lower and Bombay High Court, after which he was reported to be on the run till he was nabbed by the Madhya Pradesh Police in Bhopal. Shiv Sena (UBT) top leaders Sanjay Raut and Sushma Andhare have slammed Hire's arrest, terming it as 'political vendetta' unleashed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's government as he (Hire) was a political rival of PWD Minister Dadaji Bhuse. "If Hire had joined the BJP (after the June 2022 Shiv Sena split), all his alleged sins would have been forgiven, but because he has joined Shiv Sena (UBT), he is being hounded," said Andhare sharply.

Raut said that Hire is the grandson of the legendary Bhausaheb Hire and the police have targeted him due to political pressures though he faced the (fraud) allegations even when he was with the BJP. Hitting back, Raut said Bhuse himself is accused of defrauding farmers of Rs 178-crore through his cooperative factory, other leaders of the ruling alliance are also facing major allegations, "but only Hire who belongs to the MVA is being singled out for action".

Anyone named 'Manoj' enjoys a complimentary feast at this Maha hotel!

Quaid Najmi | Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

In a unique tribute to the ongoing Maratha quotas agitation, a restaurateur Balasaheb Bhojane here has implemented a novel initiative to attract customers and popularise the eatery. As per the scheme, any person named 'Manoj' is entitled to a special feast of the choicest pure vegetarian cuisine at Bhojane's 'Amrut Hotel' located strategically on the busy Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar-Solapur Highway at Pachod. Bhojane, 43, advertised the scheme - the second of its kind in three years - through banners and posters outside the restaurant that grabbed eyeballs and many 'Manoj's', too. When asked the rationale behind the initiative, Bhojane said he was an admirer of the Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj Jarange-Patil of Jalna, who is currently spearheading one of the biggest agitations in the state for Maratha reservation. "I belong to the Dhangar caste. But I am truly impressed at the manner in which Manoj Jarange-Patil Sahab has successfully united all the Marathas in the state in barely three months to speak in one voice for the community. This is a humble salute to his efforts that have been going on since August 29," Bhojane told IANS from the hotel. Since the scheme started on October 23, the restaurant has seen around 99 'Manoj's' turning up to enjoy an unlimited complimentary meal, courteously served by the staffers with Bhojane keeping an eye on the goings-on from his counter, and a record of the beneficiary. "Many 'Manoj's' were not aware of the offer and had simply walked in... We checked their Aadhaar Card and then served them the special vegetarian deluxe thali costing around Rs 225. They were thrilled and left after profusely thanking us," said a proud Bhojane. There were some mischief mongers too, who attempted to grab a 'free meal' by producing fake Aadhaar cards,



but Bhojane instantly made an online check and his staffers politely said that they "either pay up or scoot". Some 'Manoj's' even came with friends or families and their bill was suitably adjusted with the complimentary meal waived off, and they clicked selfies later, he said, of the eatery that is located barely 15 km from Jarange-Patil's Antaravali-Sarati village (Jalna). Incidentally, this is the second time Bhojane implemented a 'name-specific' scheme at his 30-table highway eatery with a capacity to seat around 125 simultaneously, which has become the talk of the region. In December 2019, he announced an open offer of a similar free meal to anybody named 'Uddhav' as his gesture of support to the former Maha Vikas Aghadi Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. "That was because Uddhav Sahab had fulfilled his election promise of waiving off the farm loans of lakhs of distressed farmers in the state which benefited the tillers... I know, as I also belong to a farming family. At that time, more than 150 'Uddhavs' came and enjoyed a complimentary lunch/dinner here," smiled Bhojane. Seeing the success of the current 'Manoj' drive, Bhojane said he has extended it till December 24 - the deadline given by Jarange-Patil to CM Eknath Shinde to implement his public assurance of giving Maratha quotas

IndiaPost marks ICC milestones with Special Cover and Cancellation

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Postal Circles hailed India's entry to the ongoing ICC World Cup-2023 grand finale by unveiling a Special Cover and a Special Cancellation, officials said here on Thursday.

Chief Postmaster General K.K. Sharma and Postmaster General Amitabh Singh late on Wednesday unveiled the Special Cover with a unique Special Cancellation to commemorate the first semi-final match India-New Zealand at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

The collectors' item reflects the fervor of the thrilling match and would serve as a timeless tribute to the fast-paced encounter that catapulted India to the finals.

The Special Cancellation honours Virat Kohli's



historic achievement of 50 centuries in ODIs at the stadium, breaking the record of master-blasted Sachin Tendulkar with 49 tons. Incidentally, Kohli's feat came a fortnight after the Wankhede Stadium inaugurated a larger-than-

life gleaming bronze statue of Sachin Tendulkar in the classic 'lofted drive' pose on November 1.

"Adding to the celebration of cricketing excellence, this Special Cancellation honouring Virat Kohli's achievement in the ICC World Cup semi-final highlights his exceptional skills, cements his status as a cricketing icon etching his name in the annals of sports history," said Sharma on the occasion. Others present were Assist Postmaster General Dr. Sudhir Jakhere, Assistant Directors Postal Services Yadagiri Nyalapelli and Sanjay Bhandari, and staff of the Mumbai GPO.

An official said that the Special Cover will be available at all Philately Bureaux across the Mumbai Circle, but the Special Cancellation commemorating Virat Kohli shall be exclusively for the Mumbai Philately Bureau, and enable sports connoisseurs and collectors "to own a piece of history".

Uddhav Thackeray demands EC action against Modi, Shah for seeking votes on religious lines

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) President and ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has demanded action by the Election Commission of India against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for seeking votes in the name of religion, here on Thursday.

Speaking to the media, Thackeray pointed to Amit Shah's recent poll campaign when he promised the voters of Madhya Pradesh free pilgrimage to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya if they vote the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) back to power.

Earlier this year, the Maha Vikas Aghadi ex-CM said that in the Karnataka Assembly elections, Modi had also sought votes on religious lines, asking people to chant 'Bajrang Bali Ki Jai' and press the EVM buttons.

"In the past, nobody had the courage to invoke religion during elections... It was only the Hindu Friday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray who coined the slogans of 'Garv se kahohum Hindu hain', 'Mandir wahin banayenge'. However, on the grounds of 'corrupt' electoral practices, he was banned from exercising



his voting right for six years," said Thackeray. "My question to the ECI is whether

any changes have been made since then... Why is a different yardstick being applied now? Does the ECI fol-

low some different rules for Modi and Shah? Why the double-standards for the BJP and others," asked Thackeray.

Simultaneously, Shiv Sena (UBT) Secretary Anil Desai has shot off a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner seeking clarification about the use of religion during campaigning for the forthcoming 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

"The double standards applied by the ECI are intriguing, yet understandable, given the fact that the ECI is publicly perceived to be in alignment with whatever the BJP does during elections and even otherwise," said Desai in the letter, referring to the poll campaigns that were held in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram. Thackeray warned that "if what the BJP does is acceptable to the ECI, then henceforth, even the Shiv Sena (UBT) would not hesitate to seek votes in the name of Hindutva or slogans like 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Ki Jai', 'Jai Bhavani', etc."

The letter has urged the ECI to declare the position on the use of religion, religious symbols, idioms and language, and whether it is consistent with the standards adopted by the ECI in the past.

UCO Bank files CBI case in Rs 820 crore online funds transfer fiasco

Team Absolute | Mumbai

UCO Bank has lodged a complaint with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after a technical glitch in its Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) led to the erroneous transfer of Rs 820 crore into various customers' accounts but the bank did not receive the money. "We further inform that by taking various proactive steps, Bank blocked the recipients' accounts and has been able to retain and recover around Rs 649 crore out of Rs 820 crore which is about 79 per cent of the amount," UCO Bank said in a



BSE filing on Thursday. The incidents occurred between November 10 and November 13, and the facility was stopped on Wednesday, it said in the stock exchange filing. "The bank, as a precautionary measure, has made the IMPS channel offline and is working closely with stakeholders to resolve the issue and restore the IMPS services

at the earliest. The matter has been reported to law enforcement agencies for further action," UCO Bank said. UCO Bank claimed that this is an "internal technical issue as a result of which bank customers received some erroneous credits via IMPS".

Some bankers are of the view that it could be a cyber attack on the UCO Bank system. IMPS is another real-time payment service, but the distinguishing factor is that IMPS is available 24x7 and you can avail the service even on bank holidays. Using IMPS, you can transfer comparatively lower amounts, up to Rs 2 lakh, instantly.

"PM Modi will win third term with bumper majority in 2024": D Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said people in the country have already decided to give another term to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Talking to reporters at his residence here on the occasion of Diwali, the Bharatiya Janata Party leader also dismissed speculation that he himself might contest the Lok Sabha elections next year. "People have already made up their minds to give PM Modi a third term with a bumper majority in the 2024 general elections. No matter



how hard anybody tries, people will not change their minds," Devendra Fadnavis said. Asked about speculation that he could contest the Lok Sabha elections,

Devendra Fadnavis said he will be contesting the next year's Maharashtra assembly polls from Nagpur. He currently represents the Nagpur South-West assembly seat.

UCO Bank stops online IMPS transfers as flawed payments surface

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The government-owned UCO Bank has temporarily stopped online Immediate Payment System (IMPS) transfers as funds from transactions initiated by customers of other banks were credited to account holders of UCO Bank, but the bank did not actually receive the money.

The incidents occurred between November 10 and 13, and the facility was stopped on Wednesday, UCO Bank said in a stock exchange filing.

"The bank, as a precautionary measure, has made the IMPS channel offline and is working closely with stakeholders to resolve the issue and restore the IMPS services at the earliest. The matter has been reported to law enforcement agencies for further action," UCO Bank said. "The financial impact is yet to be ascertained, and the bank will endeavour to intimate the same on ascertainment," it added.

However, in a second filing UCO Bank claimed that this is an "internal technical issue as a result of which bank customers received some erroneous credits via IMPS".

Some bankers are of the view that it could be a cyber attack on the UCO Bank system.

IMPS is a real-time interbank electronic funds transfer system that is linked to the UPI.

There is a daily transaction limit of Rs 5 lakh under IMPS.



Amid political rift, Ajit Pawar, Supriya Sule celebrate festival together

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid political rift, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP Supriya Sule and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Wednesday celebrated 'Bhau Beej' (Bhai Dooj) at Baramati in Pune district. Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar, their sons Parth Pawar and Jay Pawar along with other members of the Pawar family gathered at the deputy Chief Minister's home in the Katewadi area of Baramati. Every year, members of the Pawar family come together during Diwali to celebrate Bhai Dooj or Bhau Beej in Baramati. Later, Supriya Sule shared a video of the gathering on X (formerly Twitter) and wrote, "Bhau Beej is a festival that strengthens the bond between brothers and sisters." During a recent interaction with the media, when Supriya Sule was asked



whether the Pawar family would get together to celebrate Diwali like they do every year, she said that professional life and personal life are two different things and they will get together at the Ajit Pawar residence to celebrate the festival. "Like every year, we will get together at the Ajit Pawar residence to celebrate the Bhai Dooj festival. I think you all forgot that ND Patil and Sharad Pawar had political differences but ND Patil's wife is the real sister interaction with the media, when Supriya Sule was asked

lives. They have very strong relationship; there was never been any personal rift with anyone." This is the first get-together at Ajit Pawar's residence and the first Bhai Dooj after Ajit Pawar broke away from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and joined hands with the BJP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena to be a part of the government in the month of July this year. Moreover, he also moved Election Commission to stake claim to the party, originally founded by Sharad Pawar, and its symbol.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP waiting for Assembly poll results before effecting changes in UP

The BJP is anxiously waiting for the results of the Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana before it executes changes in its party organisation and Council of Ministers in Uttar Pradesh. The BJP wants to see how much impact caste equations have in the Assembly elections and this will decide the extent to which the party will stretch its OBC plank. Party sources said that the BJP wanted to sharpen its focus on Backward Class consolidation by accommodating some of the key OBC leaders, including SBSP chief OP Rajbhar and SP turncoat Dara Singh Chauhan, a Nonia OBC, in the state Cabinet. The move, however, is being scrutinised and discussed threadbare between the BJP's central leadership and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who holds the authority to decide the Cabinet rejig. Some of the top party leaders were averse to the idea of propping Chauhan and Rajbhar, given their history of crossing over to opposing sides. Sources said that Yogi felt that the Hindutva card would play a greater role in determining the outcome of the Lok Sabha elections and the party would do better to avoid playing the caste card with a ngeance. UP BJP chief, Bhupendra Chaudhary could not be contacted but spokesperson Anand Dubey said the party knows how to respect leaders of all communities and take them along. "The party has a tradition of seeking rigorous feedback from its key functionaries. And that is underway. Things will automatically fall in place after considering all factors including the ongoing state elections in MP, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana," he said. BJP leaders also pointed out how the party has kept some of the key organisational changes on hold. They include changes in the regional units, organisational fronts (morchas) and even at the sector, division and booth level.

Sanitary workers in Tamil Nadu fight twin banes of casteism, administrative apathy

Vignesh A

I have been cleaning human faeces for 35 years for extremely low wages. Already my life is very bad, they made it miserable by not paying me for almost 16 months," laments M Pitchaiyammal (50), a part-time sanitary worker at Mannadimangalam village panchayat in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, her son M Parthiban (27) did not receive his wages for 15 months, citing a lack of proof of attendance. Both allege that they have not been given the opportunity to sign the attendance register despite repeated attempts. "Whenever we visit, the panchayat office is either locked or the panchayat secretary would tell us that the register was not present," they claim. In this case, the panchayat office is about three km from their village Ayyappanayakanpatti and the travel time, including the bus wait time, is not less than an hour. So, they usually try to sign once a week or fortnight. Pitchaiyammal came to Ayyappanayakanpatti as a child bride. She initially helped her mother-in-law who was a sanitary worker. After her demise, Pitchaiyammal and her husband P Murugan (55) took up the work. The illiterate couple from Malai Kurav community, a Scheduled Tribe, does not exactly know how long they have been doing this job. "When I was married, I was just 15. Now I am 50. As soon as I came, they made me clean faeces," says Pitchaiyammal, looking at her husband with a satirical smile. "However, as per the records, I started working about 25 years back." The couple made a few hundred rupees initially, but now Murugan earns Rs 8,500 and Pitchaiyammal Rs 7,500 a month. Parthiban, who had dropped out after class eight, has been in the job for three years. He earns Rs 7,200 per month. Besides Parthiban, the couple has three daughters. In the villages of Tamil Nadu, the preference to employ sanitary workers in other menial jobs has always been less due to the stigma associated with their work such as cleaning public toilets, open defecation and sewage drains. Hence, they rely on whatever they make through sanitary work. "This is the only tribal family in the village. Their ancestors lived on a small hill nearby. They came down to work for the dominant castes and were treated like slaves in the olden days. Unable to bear the discrimination, many families returned to the hills decades ago," says K Mangaiyarkarasi, a native of Ayyappanayakanpatti affiliated to the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (CPI-ML).

The ordeal begins

After not receiving wages for March last year, Pitchaiyammal and Parthiban received partial payments by April-end. But neither of them knew that it would take another 15 months for the next payment. Pitchaiyammal, who has no idea about the Gregorian calendar, says the Tamil calendar has entered into the 16th month since she last received wages. "My wages were credited every two or three months. Whenever I inquired with panchayat clerk V Thirusenthil [now re-designated as panchayat secretary] about the pending wages of my wife and son, he kept on saying that the money will be credited once the Central fund comes," says Murugan. However, Vadipatti Block Development Officer (BDO) S Kathiravan tells 101Reporters that the wages of sanitary workers are paid from the state funds. "The Rural Development Department is not dependent on any Central fund for this expense," says Kathiravan, the top authority for 23 village panchayats in Vadipatti block. All these months, Murugan's wages ran the household with six members, including one of his widowed daughter and her three school-going children. Parthiban, who lives with his spouse, earned money by selling vegetables and



doing electrical works. With no positive signals from the panchayat, Pitchaiyammal registered her grievance with BDO Kathiravan this June. "However, the deputy BDO's report suggested that there was no evidence of them working in the attendance register. We met the BDO and asked why no show-cause notice was sent to the workers if they did not report for duty. He had no answer," says C Mathivanan, a senior CPI-ML functionary. Mathivanan brought the issue to the notice of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) Chairperson M Venkatesan in July. Though no formal complaint was filed, Venkatesan informed Mathivanan about the rights and entitlements of sanitary workers. The CPI-ML activists listed those rights and pasted wall posters across the villages in Mannadimangalam panchayat. "This time, the officials were ready to disburse the pending wages, on condition of providing proof. Pitchaiyammal took a paper and pen when she went to work, and requested the residents of Ayyappanayakanpatti to sign the statement that she had delivered her duty. After submitting the signed statement, the administration started releasing her pending wages in instalments, along with her full monthly wages," Mathivanan says. "We remove faeces, blood-stained menstrual clothes and all the dirt that others will not even look at. After returning from work, we have to wait at least an hour to forget the odour and the nauseous visuals before having food. How can my heart allow me to go unpaid," asked Pitchaiyammal. Mangaiyarkarasi, who was instrumental in escalating the non-payment with the panchayat union office, alleges that this is not administrative apathy but caste discrimination. Hailing from a dominant Other Backward Class, she has invited the wrath of many villagers for opposing discrimination. Though the grievances of the sanitary workers have been partially addressed, no action has been taken against Thirusenthil. 101Reporters did not approach him for comments as the workers feared repercussions. Panchayat secretaries are often more influential than the presidents as they are rarely transferred. Thirusenthil has been the panchayat secretary of Mannadimangalam for over 21 years. The BDO too did not give a direct answer on why the other sanitary workers of the panchayat began to receive partial wages every month after the issue came to public eye. "Now the issue has been sorted out and the workers are paid every month," he claims.

Though manual scavenging is prohibited by law in India, Pitchaiyammal and Parthiban claim that they manually remove the defecation around public toilets in the panchayat. Speaking to 101Reporters, all the sanitary workers confirm that no machinery has been provided for their work, other than brooms and dustpans.

Missing benefits

The situation is no different for the other sanitary workers in Mannadimangalam panchayat. 101Reporters spoke to seven of them, living next to each other and belonging to the Arunthathiyar

community, a Scheduled Caste (SC). One among them, M Ramuthai (34) stays about 300 m from the panchayat office and gets to sign the register regularly. But she too gets her wages only every two or three months. Sometimes, I get it only in the fourth month," says Ramuthai, who has been in the job for six years. Ramuthai did not get any financial assistance from the panchayat when she fell off the e-rickshaw collecting garbage a few months ago. "I suffered a leg fracture and had to be hospitalised. I was out of duty for two weeks. I was paid for these days, but I did not receive any other monetary support," she says. The panchayat appoints sanitary workers after fixing their payments, which is usually around Rs 5,000 at the time of appointment. All of them are entitled to full wages, but they get only partial wages every month. That too, sometimes as low as Rs 1,500. Ramuthai and others are unaware of the financial assistance provided by the Tamil Nadu Sanitary Workers Welfare Board to the families of sanitary workers in case of accidents, marriage and more. None of the seven female workers was aware of the emoluments or employee insurance. All sanitary workers (full-time and part-time) are eligible to join the welfare board. However, there is neither active enrolment by local bodies nor proper communication from the board. The membership application forms are usually distributed through the respective local bodies and the primary requirement is the ID card. The panchayat has not issued ID cards to Ramuthai and fellow workers. Arunthathiyars are among the three most populous Dalit castes in the state, but they are the most subjugated one too, sometimes even by fellow Dalits. Due to its backwardness, a 3% sub-reservation has been made for them within the 18% reservation for SCs. Though their working hours are fixed (9 am to 12 pm daily), the women claim it takes about five hours to complete. "Let alone regular wages, we were buying even the shovel and broom with our own money. We spend Rs 200 to 300 every few months on them," says M Muthumari (45).

Rural local bodies neglected

The state has 21 municipal corporations, 122 municipalities and 529 town panchayats, all categorised as urban local bodies. Last December, Chief Minister MK Stalin launched in Madurai the Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme, meant to benefit 53,301 sanitary workers in urban local bodies, of which 18,859 are permanent employees. This October, the state government announced the formation of the corpus fund of Rs 50 crore (Rs 10 crore from government and rest mobilised by urban local bodies and state public sector undertakings). Again, there was no mention of rural local bodies, which accounted for about half the state population. By looking at the number of urban sanitary workers, it can be assumed that the per capita allocation under the corpus fund would be a meagre Rs 938. As for rural local bodies, Tamil Nadu has 37 district panchayats that are divided into 388 block panchayats, which in turn are further divided into 12,525 village panchayats. In the recent months, the district administrations have been calling for enrolment of sanitary workers with the welfare board to make them eligible for various financial assistances. However, Ramuthai and her fellow workers are yet to know about it. (Vignesh A is a Tamil Nadu-based freelance journalist and a member of 101Reporters, a pan-India network of grassroots reporters)

international

Facing global dismay at Gaza situation, UNSC finally votes for humanitarian pause

United Nations | Agencies

At its fifth attempt, the UN Security Council has adopted a resolution calling for an extended humanitarian pause in the war in Gaza after the US under growing international dismay at the inaction over the tragedy in the territory withheld its veto while criticising it. The resolution adopted on Wednesday also demanded the release of the hostages taken by Hamas when it attacked Israel on October 7 and called for a humanitarian corridor to ferry relief supplies to Gaza. Russia and the UK joined the US in abstaining from voting on the resolution allowing it to be adopted with the support of the other 12 Council members, including France and China, the other permanent members. Although the Security Council has enforcement powers and its resolutions are legally binding, this resolution will be merely symbolic as it does not include any penalties for ignoring it - which would be impossible to enforce anyway.



An amendment proposed by Russia to call for a "humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities" - in other words, a ceasefire - failed to pass because it did not get the minimum of nine votes, and the sole vote against it by the US did not translate into a veto. The resolution proposed by Malta was a desperate attempt to get the Security Council to act on the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza where Israeli troops had taken over a hospital after sustained bombing that, according to the Gaza health ministry, has killed more than 10,000 people.

It comes 46 days after the Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel that killed about 1,200 people and took about 240 people as hostages, many of whom are still in captivity. Israel began its continuing retaliation the next day through relentless bombing and started a ground invasion this week. United Arab Emirates Permanent Representative Lana Zaki Nusseibeh said that the Security Council's failure to act on Gaza till now had created the impression "outside this building, and in our region in particular, the Council appears indifferent to the carnage and dismissive

of the suffering". Although she abstained on the resolution, US Permanent Representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield echoed a similar sentiment. Two of the resolutions did not get the required minimum of nine votes to pass because of the abstentions of many members, and one was vetoed by the US and another by China and Russia. Pictures of suffering children and other civilians in Gaza wounded in the Israeli bombing gave rise to international demands for a pause if not a ceasefire that brought pressure on Washington, which had earlier vetoed an almost similar resolution, to allow the resolution to pass. The resolution demands that "all parties comply with their obligations under international law, notably with regard to the protection of civilians, especially children".

It called for the creation of a safe route for "full, rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access" to get relief supplies, including fuel, from the UN and aid organisations to the people of Gaza.

IDF allows fuel truck to enter Gaza for 1st time since breakout of war

Tel Aviv | Agencies

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has allowed the first fuel truck carrying over 20,000 litres of diesel to enter Gaza Strip from Egypt since the breakout of the war amid outcry from international aid organisations that underlined the people's sufferings due to acute fuel shortage.

Sources with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) told IANS that the fuel is only for the use of the UN and not for hospital purposes. The UNRWA director in Gaza, Thomas White posted on 'X' that it received fuel. The shortage of fuel has led to the malfunctioning of hospitals, water treatment plants, sewage removal and even communications, according to the UNRWA.

The UNRWA has been actively involved in the humanitarian aid work in Gaza.

The UN had warned that it would have to halt humanitarian operations in Gaza since it was running out of fuel.

Tamara Al Rifai, Executive Director, Communications of UNRWA told reporter that Gaza Strip requires a minimum of 500 trucks per day of provisions, aid materials, fuel and other essential commodities for the minimum functioning of life, saying Gaza was receiving only around 30 trucks per day, which was highly inadequate.

Sources in the UN aid agency told reporter that two more trucks carrying fuel were lined up outside the Rafah crossing but it was not clear as to when these trucks would be allowed into Gaza Strip. It may be noted that the trucks that cross the Rafah border will have to pass through strict scrutiny of IDF soldiers, which will lead to a lot of time consumption in delivery of aid materials to UN relief centres and warehouses.

Biden appoints Indian-American Shakuntla Bhaya to key post

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden has appointed Indian-American Shakuntla L. Bhaya as a member of the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS), the White House announced. The ACUS is an independent federal agency charged with convening expert representatives from the public and private sectors to recommend improvements to administrative process and procedure. Its initiatives promote efficiency, participation, and fairness in the promulgation of federal regulations and in the administration of federal programs.



Bhaya is a co-owner of a statewide Delaware law firm, Law Offices of Doroshov, Pasquale, Krawitz & Bhaya. Her practice focuses on representing individuals who are seriously injured as a result of businesses and people making unsafe decisions, according to a White House release.

For the past seven years, she has been a member of Governor Carney's Judicial Nominating Commission.

In addition to practicing law, Bhaya is involved in Delaware politics, and is currently a member of the Delaware Democratic Party's State Executive Committee.

26 dead in China building fire

Beijing | Agencies

At least 26 people were killed on Thursday after a fire broke out at a building of a coal mine company in China's Shanxi province, local authorities confirmed. According to the National Mine Safety Administration, the fire ripped through the second floor of the five-storey building located in Lishi district of Lyuliang city, Xinhua news agency reported. Rescue efforts are underway, the authorities added. More than 60 people have been sent to a local hospital for treatment.



fire in the capital of Beijing. Last October, an explosion at a barbecue restaurant in the north-western Yinchuan province killed 31 people.

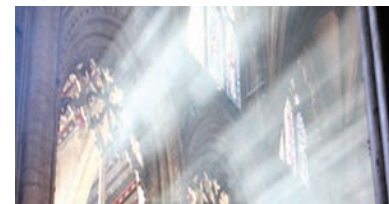
The building belongs to the private Yongju coal mine company, which has a production capacity of 120 tonnes a year. Shanxi province is China's largest producer of coal.

Industrial accidents, which can result in fires, often occur in China, the BBC reported. In April, 29 people died in a hospital

Church of England backs services for gay couples

London | Agencies

In a first, parishes under the Church of England will allow special services for gay couples, which will include the wearing of rings, prayers, confetti and a blessing from the priest, but not formal weddings. Although the Church of England's official teaching is that marriage is only between one man and one woman, an amendment to back the services on a trial basis passed in the General Synod -- the Church's legislative body -- by one vote on Wednesday, reports the BBC. The passing of the vote means that the distinct services of blessing could



now be allowed, rather than simply prayers within a normal church service.

While there is no set timeframe for temporary trial services to begin, it is understood these could be authorised in the coming weeks with the first services in the new year. The Bishop of Oxford,

the Rt Rev Stephen Croft, who has campaigned for a change in the Church's stance, said he was "delighted". Noting the services would not be official weddings, he added: "I hope there will be a similar joy and affirmation and those that come to receive these prayers will feel fully welcomed into the life of the church." The Church of England's official position on marriage is at odds with its Anglican equivalent in Scotland -- The Scottish Episcopal Church -- and the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, which both allow same-sex weddings, the BBC reported.



MP Polls: BJP tries to woo voters with PM's popularity; Kamal Nath targets CM Chouhan's 'failures'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The ruling BJP in its campaign for the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh kept Prime Minister Narendra Modi in front and a slogan-cum song "MP ke man mein Modi - Modi ke man mein MP" was also played across the state in an attempt to get support in the name of its most charismatic leader.

Being the BJP face for the election, PM Modi addressed as many as 15 rallies after the poll schedule was announced. He missed no opportunity to attack the Congress, especially its leader Rahul Gandhi, who has been his most vocal critic. In his last rally, a day before campaigning came to an end, Modi called Rahul "moorkhon ke sardar".

Modi, who has paid nearly a dozen visits and launched a number of projects in the past few months before the election date was announced in Madhya Pradesh, addressed rallies in different



districts -- Ratlam, Seoni, Khandwa, Sidhi, Damoh, Muraina, Guna, Satna, Chhatarpur, Neemuch, Barwani, Indore, Betul, Shajapur and Jhabua. During the campaign, he missed no opportunity to take credit for the development of Madhya Pradesh in the past two decades, and at the same time, he warned people that the state would become BIMARU again if the Congress regained power.

The BJP strategically placed its most popular leader in the state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh

Chouhan on the sidelines to counter the high anti-incumbency against his two-decade long rule. However, Chouhan still remains on top and has addressed 165 rallies. He addressed five-to-six rallies in a day, starting early morning and continuing till late night.

The main opposition Congress' entire campaign led by its state unit chief and former CM Kamal Nath focused on highlighting the failures of CM Chouhan and the scams that surfaced during the 18 years of BJP rule in Madhya Pradesh.

The Congress' central lead-

ers especially Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party president Mallikarjun Kharge targeted PM Modi during the campaign and spoke more about national issues, including a 'caste census' and OBC reservation. However, Kamal Nath was very much focused on local issues.

Kamal Nath, who alone addressed over 100 rallies out of the total 350 held by the star campaigners of the grand old party, mentioned at every rally the work done during his 15-month regime and then he would ask a question - "What sin had I committed for which my government was toppled. I too could have purchased MLAs, but this kind of politics doesn't suit me."

For the Congress, Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Sachin Pilot were among the popular leaders who held rallies. While the Congress chief was at nine rallies, the Gandhi siblings attended 11 poll meetings each.

Pink saree, black glasses... EVM in hand

Team Absolute | Bhopal

There is a tinge of glamor in the assembly elections. Before voting, a polling officer was seen in pink saree in Khargone. His pictures are going viral on social media. She is going to the voting booth with EVM. When she came out with the EVM, everyone's eyes stopped. Also, stylish polling worker Viraj Neema reminded me of Reena Dwivedi, a government employee in yellow saree of Uttar Pradesh.

Materials were being distributed to polling workers in Khargone today. Viraj Neema had come in pink saree and black glasses to collect the voting material. When she came out with the EVM, she looked completely different. During this time everyone's eyes stopped.

Seeing Viraj Neema in pink saree, people were taking pictures of her. During this, he told that he is posted as a primary teacher in CM Rise School, Bistan. In the Assembly elections 2023, his duty is as P3 polling worker in the school of Nutan Nagar area of Khargone. Female polling worker Viraj Neema said that they were going towards the destination with election material. He told about his look that there is nothing wrong in it. Women should have their own identity in a patriarchal society. They should appear more active than men. She said that she works hard and diligently every time during election duty. She selects her dress thoughtfully. Like every polling worker and government employee, he also thinks that there should be maximum voting. People should make maximum sacrifices in the great sacrifice of democracy. She said that like others, she does not shy away from duty at the polling station and performs her duty enthusiastically.



Prahlad Patel: Probable Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Elected as a Member of Parliament for the first time in 1989 and brought back into the Union Cabinet after 15 years in 2019, Prahlad Patel now faces a new political challenge - fighting the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls from Narsinghpur - amid speculation that he may be the BJP's chief ministerial candidate in the state. One of seven MPs, and three Union Ministers, who will be contesting the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, 63-year-old Prahlad Patel began his political journey by fighting and winning the Lok Sabha elections from Madhya Pradesh in 1989. He won again in 1996 and 1999 and a pivotal moment in Mr Patel's career came when, during a cabinet reshuffle under then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he was made the minister of state for coal in 2003. Patel held the



position for a year, until the National Democratic Alliance was voted out and the United Progressive Alliance won in 2004. The BJP leader contested the Lok Sabha elections from Madhya Pradesh's Damoh in 2014 and won again from there in 2019. It was after the second victory from Damoh that the five-time MP earned a call-up from Narendra Modi in 2019 and was appointed the minister of state (independent charge) for culture and tourism. He is currently the minister of state for food processing and Jal Shakti. Known for bringing in a private bill in Parliament for banning cow slaughter in 2000, Mr Patel will now

contest the Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, scheduled to be held on Friday, from his home constituency of Narsinghpur. Patel, two other Union ministers, and four other MPs are contesting the Assembly polls at a time when the BJP has not declared its longest-serving chief minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, as the candidate for the state's top job. This has given rise to speculation that one of these seven, including Narendra Singh Tomar and Kailash Vijayvargiya, could be the chief minister if the BJP manages to win in the state this time. The BJP had been in power in Madhya Pradesh since 2003 but lost to the Congress in 2018. The Congress government led by Kamal Nath, however, lasted only for about 15 months and had to make way for the BJP again after senior Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia rebelled and joined the opposition party with over 20 MLAs.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Keeping in mind the patients, the facility of battery operated vehicles has been started in AIIMS Bhopal. Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh has arranged for battery operated vehicles in the AIIMS campus keeping in mind the convenience of the patients. About 10 people can avail this facility at a time in this vehicle. This facility will start from the parking space on the AIIMS campus. So that patients do not have to take their own vehicle to OPD or IPD. The family members of the patient will be able to leave their vehicle or taxi etc.



at the parking lot and from there using the battery operated vehicle, they can go to OPD or IPD wherever they want to go through this battery operated vehicle. This facility will be completely free. For this, no patient or his family will have to pay any charge. Every day about five thousand patients come to AIIMS for treatment in various departments. Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh says that the entire AIIMS family will always strive to provide not only better health services but also better facilities to the patients. The facility of battery operated vehicles for patients and their families is a step in this direction.

Congress made many serious allegations against BSP and BJP

Team Absolute | Morena

While holding a press conference on behalf of Morena Assembly Congress candidate, City President Deepak Sharma told the journalists that in Morena Assembly, both BSP and BJP are doing the work of distributing broken items and money among the Dalit brothers in Single Basti, Rathore Colony, Ampura Islampur.

Some workers of both these parties are roaming around with crores of rupees in vehicles and distributing the money by keeping it in boxes of sweets. The election and administration is helping them in this work. The police are sitting with their eyes closed. They have also called tall bouncers



from outside who are intimidating people by going to Dalit settlements, videos of which are also coming to you.

Earlier the police used to take action against out-

siders by raiding hotels and lodges, but this time nothing like this is being done by the police. When we complained about this to Bhopal Election Commission, they also adopted a lax attitude and later with great difficulty an FIR was registered against the BSP candidate.

In this way, the administration sleeping with its eyes closed shows that the elections and administration are working for a particular party. Democracy is being openly murdered in Morena Assembly. All these things were said by the City Congress President while holding a press conference at the office of the Congress candidate. Now it remains to be seen how much truth is there in these things, only time on 17th will tell.

Bitterness between Nehru-Gandhi family, Scindia sparked off by 'Operation Lotus' in 2020 touches new heights by end of 2023 MP poll campaign

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The bitterness between the Nehru-Gandhi clan and Gwalior's erstwhile royal family that sprung up three-and-a-half-years ago after Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia toppled the Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh in March 2020, has increased exponentially.

This was quite evident during the recent campaigns held in the run up to the November 17 Assembly elections in the state.

Following 'Operation Lotus' in 2020, both the families attacked each other politically but maintained the dignity of the age-old relationship between their families that went back to a few generations.

However, by the end of the campaign for the 2023 election, things took a turn for the worse and it became a no-holds-barred campaign.

Even though the Congress called Jyotiraditya Scindia 'traitor' soon after he shifted to the BJP, and his two former party colleagues - MPCC head Kamal Nath and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh called him 'bikau' there was not much of an exchange after that.

However, Priyanka Gandhi's attack on the erstwhile royal family on the last day of campaigning in the Gwalior-Chambal region which is a Scindia bastion, made the Union Minister so furious and he went on to attack all four generations of the Nehru-Gandhi family.

After Priyanka's sarcastic remarks like, "Unhone apne pariwar ki parampara achhe se nibhai hai. (He is living up to the traditions of his family)" and "Scindia ji height me thoda kam rah gaye, lekin ghamand bahut bada hai unka (Scindia is a man of short height and high arrogance)," Scindia hit back at the Gandhi family with a long post on his social media account.

Scindia called Priyanka Gandhi a "part-time politician" and said he does not expect her to have the ability to understand the difference between "these two traditions."

Through his post, Scindia said his ancestors had fought against the Afghans, the Mughals, the British and had sacrificed their lives to protect the country.

He then attacked the Nehru-Gandhi family saying, "Who protected India from China? Forget about doing so, Indian land was given to them as a gift. The second generation of which family imposed 'Emergency' in its greed for power? And even today, the present generation of which family is defaming the country by going to foreign forums? Before measuring capability with height, please take a look in the mirror yourself. The Scindia family has repeatedly



changed the rule of corrupt and promise-breaking people, and the people of Madhya Pradesh are going to reject you again," Scindia's social media post read.

Scindia made this lengthy post on his social media account to counter Priyanka's remarks on him and the erstwhile royal family during a poll rally in Datia on Wednesday.

During her address, the Congress leader had said, "Hum toh UP wale hain, jab gussa aata hai to byan kar deten hain, lekin hame Maharaj kahne ki aadat nahi hai. Yahi sabse badi samasya hai ki hum maharaj nahi bol sakte (We are from UP and we are used to telling it like it is when we get angry. But the biggest problem is that we can't refer to him as maharaj)."

She further said that Scindia had cheated the Congress and the people of Gwalior-Chambal region by hatching a conspiracy to topple the Kamal Nath-led Congress Government in 2020.

"He (Scindia) has followed his family tradition well and he has betrayed the trust of the people of Gwalior and Chambal region. He toppled the Congress Government. He cheated the people of Gwalior-Chambal region," she had said in a scathing attack on Scindia.

On the question of friendship with Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sachin Pilot answered...

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Sachin Pilot and Digvijay Singh rode together in a chopper for election campaign in Madhya Pradesh. Sachin Pilot, who was contesting assembly elections in Rajasthan, was on a tour of Madhya Pradesh. During this time, when journalists asked questions about his friendship with Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sachin Pilot gave a vague answer. Sachin Pilot, who reached Guna, said, Scindia's biggest friend was Digvijay Singh. At the same time, Digvijay Singh, sitting nearby, interrupted and said, Jyotiraditya is like his son. It was seen that both Pilot and Digvijay Singh were seen avoiding Jyotiraditya Scindia. While giving a statement,



Sachin Pilot said that leave aside the talk of friendship. Today politics is being done on principles, issues and ideology. People are fed up with the politics of one decade at the Center and two decades in Madhya Pradesh. As always, the same trite promises and slogans are being given. The double engine has

completely failed. This time Congress government will be formed at four places.

Discussing the political situation in Rajasthan, Pilot said that this time the old tradition will end. This time the government will repeat in Rajasthan. Congress government will be formed with majority.

BJP accused of distributing gifts in Indore-1: Video viral on social media, Vigilance team also reached the spot...

Team Absolute | Indore

Congress has made allegations of distribution of gifts in Indore-1, which is one of the high profile seats of Madhya Pradesh and its video is also going viral on social media. Besides, the Vigilance team has also seized a large number of sarees and sweet boxes kept in a shop in the area. The Vigilance team has sealed the shop after preparing Panchnama.

In the last phase of election campaign, complaints about distribution of gifts are continuously coming to the fore in Indore-1. Here Kailash Vijayvargiya from BJP and Sanjay Shukla from Congress are contesting the elections. Shukla has directly accused Vijayvargiya



of distributing gifts including sarees. Videos of giving gifts to people have been released by Congress two days before voting. It is claimed that Congress workers themselves are keeping an eye on such activities by conducting raids and stopping them. Two cases were reported till Wednesday afternoon. One is Ahilya Puri and the other is near Gorakund intersection.

Legal action will be taken if leave is not given for voting: Collector

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On the day of voting, the district administration will take strict action if paid leave is not given for voting in any institution, factory or such institution where a large number of employees are employed. Collector and District Magistrate Ashish Singh has warned in

strong words that random checking will be done in such institutions tomorrow through flying squads. If it is found that employees have not been given leave to vote, then an FIR will also be lodged with the police against the owners of such institutions and legal action will be taken under the People's Representation Act and other relevant acts.



Kim Kardashian would love to take tennis lessons from Serena Williams

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim

Kardashian is open to taking tennis lessons from former American tennis champion Serena Williams, saying that she would love to take lessons from Williams whom she referred to as the tennis 'G.O.A.T.' (Greatest Of All Time).

The whole thing happened when Kim, 43, was seen in a tennis court holding a racket the wrong way. With her back turned, the September post saw her walking towards the web while she was wearing a bubblegum pink dress, somewhat reminiscent of swimwear revealing her entire back.

GQ asked her about this post, according to People magazine. The tennis champion had commented on Kim's post back in September, and jokingly wrote: "Literally not how you hold a racquet. Clearly I have to give you lessons lol!"

In the GQ interview, Kim clarified that in the post she wasn't playing tennis. She was just "walking" on the court. "First of all, I was walking to the other side. Is there a special way you have to hold the racquet just to walk from one side to the other side?" Kardashian said. "I was also out of bounds at that point."

Then she proceeded to jokingly call upon her friend to supply her with lessons. "But I'm waiting, I would love lessons from the G.O.A.T.," Kardashian said.

Kim Kardashian and Serena Williams have been friends for over 20 years, as the TV personality met the Grand Slam Champion back when she had a job organising celebrities' closets, and furniture, including those in Williams' home. Since then, the two have remained friends.

Jimmy Kimmel to return as host for 96th Academy Awards

Los Angeles | Agencies

Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is set to return as host of the 96th Oscars, the Academy announced.

For this year's ceremony, Kimmel will also be joined by his wife and Jimmy Kimmel Live! co-head writer, Molly McNearney, who earned an Emmy nomination for her work as a writer and executive producer of the 2023 event, reports People magazine.

"I always dreamt of hosting the Oscars exactly four times," Kimmel said in a release. Molly McNearney returns as an executive producer for next year's broadcast. "We are thrilled about Jimmy returning to host and Molly returning as executive producer for the Oscars. They share our love of movies and our commitment to producing a dynamic and entertaining show for our global audience," said Academy CEO Bill Kramer and Academy President Janet Yang. Kramer and Yang continued: "We are deeply grateful to

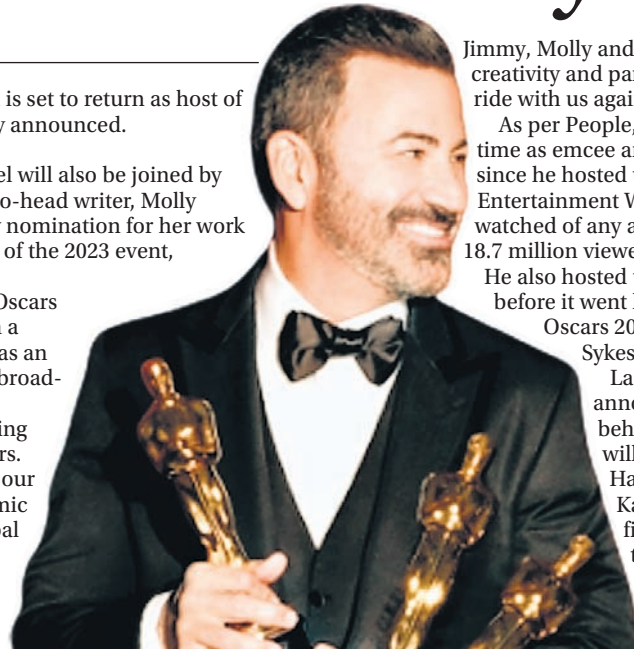
Jimmy, Molly and their teams for their incredible creativity and partnership and for going on this ride with us again."

As per People, this will be Kimmel's fourth time as emcee and his second consecutive year since he hosted the Oscars last year - which Entertainment Weekly reported was the most watched of any awards show in three years with 18.7 million viewers.

He also hosted the ceremony in 2017 and 2018 before it went host-less from 2019 to 2021.

Oscars 2022 saw Regina Hall, Wanda Sykes and Amy Schumer as hosts.

Last month, the Academy announced the creative team behind the ABC broadcast, which will be led by director Hamish Hamilton for the fourth time. Raj Kapoor and Katy Mullen will be first-time executive producers of the upcoming programme, with Kapoor doubling as showrunner.



Lily Allen doesn't get recognised when she's with husband David Harbour

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Lily Allen says no one recognises her when she's out and about with her star husband David Harbour and quipped that it's "good for her ego".

"They don't even notice me. I'm just the photographer. No one knows who I am. Growing up with the attention I had in my twenties can lead to, sort of, narcissistic feelings. It's nice to be in a relationship where somebody else gets all of that attention. It's good for my ego," she told 'Grazia' magazine of her spouse's fans asking for selfies.

The couple, who tied the knot in Las Vegas in 2020, were recently rumoured to have split, but Harbour quashed the claims and said he and Allen are "so great", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He then joked that his wife will be pleased that he will be able to go back to work following the end of the SAG-AFTRA strike.

Meanwhile, Lily previously admitted she was "off my face" from the age of 18 to her early thirties and addicted to fame. The 'Not Fair' singer battled an addiction to alcohol and drugs, along with an unhealthy obsession with fame since she first burst onto the music scene in 2006 and she only conquered them both "four or five years ago".



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER SLAPPED WITH LAWSUIT BY WOMAN LEFT 'PERMANENTLY DISABLED' AFTER CAR CRASH

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger is facing a legal problem following his alleged reckless driving. A few months after being involved in a nasty four-car accident, the actor has been slapped with a new lawsuit by a woman, who claims she was left "permanently disabled" due to the car crash.

On Wednesday, November 15, Cheryl Augustine submitted the legal documents in Los Angeles County Superior. In the court papers, which were obtained by 'The Blast' and 'Radar Online', she claimed that she was left "permanently disabled" following the accident, which took place at Sunset Boulevard and Allenford Avenue in January, 2022, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Cheryl accused the actor of driving his Yukon SUV "recklessly." She wrote, "At said time and place, defendants, and each of them, so negligently, wantonly, unlawfully, wrongfully and recklessly drove, operated, serviced, maintained, entrusted, repaired and managed said vehicle to cause said vehicle to collide with plaintiff's vehicle and to proximately cause the hereinafter described injuries and damages to the plaintiff."

In the legal document, Cheryl also elaborated that she suffered "injury to her body and shock and injury to her nervous system and person all of which have caused and continue to cause plaintiff great physical and nervous pain suffering."

She was "required to, and did, employ physicians and surgeons to examine, treat and care for her," which needed "medical and incidental expenses, the amount of which is presently unknown" to her.

Cheryl additionally explained that she "suffered out-of-pocket property damage, loss of use of her automobile, and incurred other out-of-pocket expenses in an amount not known." She alleged that she spent more than \$25,000 in damages, including "general damages... all medical and incidental expenses... all loss of earnings" since she couldn't go to work following the collision. The amount of money also included all damages to her car.



Kourtney Kardashian throws vegan Thanksgiving dinner for Husband

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kourtney Kardashian Barker celebrated her husband's 48th birthday by throwing him a vegan Thanksgiving dinner.

In a series of posts shared on her Instagram Story, Kourtney offered a glimpse at the lavish table set up and decorations, which included a personalised menu and a Thanksgiving food-themed tablescape, along with a delicious-looking food spread, reports 'People' magazine.

"Vegan Thanksgiving for my baby's birthday @travisbarker", Kourtney captioned a clip set to Frank Sinatra's 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'.

As per 'People', the birthday celebrations come shortly after the pair welcomed their first baby together earlier this month.

In the video, 'The Kardashians' star panned along the table as she showed off decorations including tartan napkins, red and white patterned plates and a centrepiece featuring foods such as pumpkins, apples and pomegranates. The room had also been decorated with red roses and candles. The Lemme founder tagged Khristianne Uy, a private chef known as Chef K who often caters for their events, into the post. Meanwhile, a sneak peek at the menu, which was titled, 'Travis's Birthday Thanksgiving Dinner', showed the items being served included vegan mac and cheese and pumpkin pie, along with gluten-free stuffing and sweet corn casserole.

The menu also revealed that the dinner was being followed "by an advanced screening of Thanksgiving," a new holiday-themed slasher starring Kourtney's friend Addison Rae and Patrick Dempsey.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jessica Plummer



AUSTRALIA BEAT SOUTH AFRICA BY 3 WICKETS IN TENSE SEMIFINAL, SET UP TITLE CLASH WITH INDIA

Kolkata | Agencies

Australia have set-up a 2023 Men's ODI World Cup final title clash with India after beating South Africa by three wickets in a tense semi-final at the Eden Gardens on Thursday.

Travis Head top-scored with 62, before Steven Smith (30), Josh Inglis (28), Mitchell Starc (16 not out) and captain Pat Cummins (14 not out) thwarted the valiant challenge from South Africa to march into their eighth Men's ODI World Cup final, where they will take on India in a replay of the 2003 edition finale.

South Africa's spinners asked all sorts of questions but they failed to latch on their chances which were created by the bowlers. Australia's efforts meant David Miller's gritty century went in vain.

Chasing 213, Travis Head and David Warner were off to a flying start by hitting two boundaries each in the first four overs. The duo then took 15 runs off Marco Jansen in the fifth over, including two fours and a six, to keep Australia going.

Warner tore into Kagiso Rabada in the next over, hitting him for three sixes, including lapping him over backward square leg for six on the free-hit delivery. But Aiden Markram



struck on his first ball of the night by casting Warner. Mitchell Marsh was sent back for a six-ball duck by Rabada as Rassie van der Dussen made a full dive to take a blinder of a catch. Head had a reprieve when substitute Reeza Hendricks dropped his catch at deep point off Gerald Coetzee, who was hit for two fours by the left-handed batter. Head would get his fifty by pulling Coetzee for four and had another life when Heinrich Klaassen couldn't hang on to a tough chance at slip-off Tabraiz Shamsi. Keshav Maharaj, the top-ranked ODI bowler, struck on his very first ball by turning enough to castle

Maharaj through the gate. Marnus Labuschagne survived an lbw appeal off Shamsi, but replays showed umpire's call on impact despite ball hitting the stumps. It was Smith's turn to get a reprieve when Quinton de Kock dropped a tough chance off Shamsi. But Shamsi eventually got Labuschagne when the right-handed batter was trapped lbw on a reverse-sweep against a delivery which turned in sharply and review showed the ball was clipping leg stump. Shamsi came back to knock off Glenn Maxwell's leg-stump with a quicker delivery, a dismissal which reminded many of the

way Kuldeep Yadav took the batter out in Chennai.

Smith and Inglis hanged around to hit three boundaries between themselves, but the former after playing an uncharacteristic hoick on a short ball and was caught by de Kock off Coetzee. With his crouched stance and low backlift, Inglis hanged around with Starc before being castled by a straight delivery from Coetzee. South Africa fought hard, but burnt their second review when Coetzee trapped Cummins in front of stumps, but replays showed ball pitching outside leg. There was more tension when Markram created a half-chance and dismissal chance, but Bavuma and de Kock couldn't latch on to it. Starc whipped through mid-wicket off Jansen for four, before Cummins finished off the tense chase with a steeper past backward point for a boundary.

Brief scores:

South Africa 212 in 49.4 overs (David Miller 101, Heinrich Klaassen 47; Mitchell Starc 3-34, Pat Cummins 3-51) lost to Australia 215/7 in 47.2 overs (Travis Head 62, Steven Smith 30; Tabraiz Shamsi 2-42, Gerald Coetzee 2-47) by three wickets

Nadal confirms he will play again: 'I've taken a big step forward'

Barcelona | Agencies

Although the 2023 ATP Tour season is yet to reach its conclusion, with the Nitto ATP Finals nearing their final rounds in Turin, Rafael Nadal already has his mind on 2024. After a return to training a few weeks ago, having not competed since the Australian Open and undergone an operation on his iliopectas, the Spanish star has now confirmed that he will play again. He has been working tirelessly toward that goal in recent months.

"I'm well, training, and happy," said the 22-time Grand Slam champion on Wednesday. "I'm at a good stage of my life. Until now I didn't know if I would play tennis again someday, and now I genuinely believe I will. I'm still not ready to say when, but I'm able to train increasingly longer, and the progress is good," he explained. "We know that the pain will never disappear, but I've taken a step forward," said the Spaniard. "That's a lot for me. Talking about tennis is another matter altogether, as is the level I'll be able to play at. But the steps toward trying to play again have been big and positive, which is what we have been fighting for for several months. I'm confident I'll be able to say something more specific in the coming weeks."

After picking up an injury at the Australian Open and then withdrawing from several tournaments, including Roland Garros, Nadal underwent an operation on 2 June in Barcelona and started his long recovery peri-



od, from which he is now starting to emerge. "I've always maintained hope that I would play again," said Nadal. "How much? At what level? It's difficult to answer that. I never lost hope I'd play. Things gradually become clear with the passing of the weeks. At the moment I'm on the right track." Nadal, 37, said he has not set himself the loftiest goals, like playing in the Paris Olympics or going for Novak Djokovic's Grand Slam record (24 compared to the Mallorcan's 22). It is not about that; it is a case of a return that would represent the personal achievement of having recovered when there was no light at the end of the tunnel.

"I haven't played for a year," reiterated the Spaniard. "Personal success is often more rewarding than general success. The hope is that I'll play again. You never know what will happen. My gut says it will be very difficult to get back to a good level of tennis. If I wasn't hopeful of trying to be competitive, I wouldn't be doing everything I've done over the past months at my age and after a long career," he added.

France beats S.Korea 1-0 in FIFA U-17 World Cup Group E



Jakarta | Agencies

A goal from Mathis Amougou gave France a 1-0 win over South Korea on Wednesday in Group E actions of the U-17 FIFA World Cup Indonesia. Held at the Jakarta

International Stadium (JIS), the match saw the French players complete a total of 12 shots, compared to South Korea's eight, reports Xinhua. In another Group E match held at the same stadium, the United States delivered a 2-1 win against Burkina Faso.

Keyrol Figueroa and Nimfasha Berchimas scored goals for the U.S. during the first half. Meanwhile, in Group F matches held at Jalak Harupat Stadium in West Java province, New Zealand lost to Germany 3-1, while Mexico drew 2-2 against Venezuela.

Virat Kohli can match Sachin Tendulkar's mark of hundred centuries: Ravi Shastri

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Virat Kohli surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing tally of 49 ODI centuries by smashing a stunning 117 in India's 70-run win semi-final over New Zealand, former head coach Ravi Shastri thinks the talismanic batter still has it in him to match up to the legendary batter's mark of a hundred centuries.

"Who would have thought when Sachin Tendulkar got 100 hundreds that anyone would come close and he's got 80, 80 international hundreds, 50 of them in the one-day game and which makes him the highest. Unreal."

"Nothing's impossible because such players, when they start reeling off hundreds, then they score them pretty quickly. His next 10 innings, you might see another five hundreds.



You have three formats of the game and he's part of all those formats. To

think that he still has three or four years of cricket ahead of him is sim-

ply mind-boggling," said Shastri on the ICC Review podcast.

Kohli is now the leading run-getter in the World Cup and Shastri thinks Kohli has prepared well and looked in control throughout the tournament. "I think his composure, just his body language, his composure, his calmness of the crease (was telling). I have seen him come out in previous World Cups where he's like a cat on a hot tin roof." "He wants to get on with it straight away. None of that sort here. He's taken his time, marked his guard, soaked the pressure, given himself time, and understood his role of batting deep in the innings. And he's just been wonderful."

Shastri, a member of India's 1983 World Cup winning team, points out that Kohli is reaping rewards of his meticulous preparation ahead of every game, especially in being proficient in running between the wickets.

NEHA TRIPATHI EXTENDS LEAD TO FOUR SHOTS IN THE 15TH LEG OF WPGT

Kolkata | Agencies

Neha Tripathi overcame an early double bogey to bring home a respectable 1-over 73 and extended her lead from two to four shots in the 15th Leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club.

Neha (72-73), twice winner this season, is looking for more as she chases the Hero Order of Merit honours. She is now 1-over 145 with one more round to go.

Neha is four shots clear of Ridhima Dilawari, who is still without a win this season. Ridhima had the best round of the day as none of the players have been able to break par on the iconic but challenging RCGC.

Tvesa Malik (74-77) slipped to third place after a horrific start with three bogeys in the first three holes and at 151 she is six shots behind Neha and two behind Ridhima. Tvesa and Ridhima are also due to play in the Final Stage of the LET Q-School in Al



Maadan Golf Marrakech & Royal Golf de Marrakech next month. Shweta Mansingh with five birdies

had one of the better rounds of the day at 73 and rose to the fourth place at 8-over 152. Seher Atwal (79-74)

and Khushi Khanijau (79-74) were tied fifth.

Neha began the second day with a birdie on the first, but immediately dropped a double bogey on the Par-3 second, which was playing to 150 yards. She got one shot back on Par-4 fifth and gained another shot with a birdie on the 11th. Then the birdies dried up and she also bogeyed the 12th and the 16th.

Ridhima had a birdie and a bogey on each side of the course, while Tvesa Malik started with three bogeys and another one on the sixth hole meant she was 4-over after six holes. Over the next 12 holes she had one more bogey but there was no birdie for her in the second round.

Amateur Anaahat Bindra (75-80) was seventh while four players were tied for eighth at 12-over 156 and they included Yaalisai Verma (82-74), Sneha Singh (79-77), Kriti Chowhan (77-79) and Anisha Agarwalla (76-80).

The cut fell at 163 at 20 players made the final round.

National Racing Championship 2023 Grand Finale gets underway from November 17

Coimbatore | Agencies

Racing aficionados are all set for a treat over the weekend as the curtains go up on the Grand Finale of the 26th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship, the country's biggest motorsports extravaganza which is scheduled from Nov 17-19 at Kari Motor Speedway.

With the season already in overdrive, the stage is set for an exciting play for the weekend. It will be a fiercely contested battle between the top racers for the national championship in the premier LGB Formula 4 category and overall championship in JK Tyre Novice Cup, JK Tyre Presents Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup & JK Tyre Presents 250 Cup.

The Indian make LGB Formula 4 will be the cynosure of all eyes as Ruhaan Alva of MSport aims to put a stop to the domination of the Dark Don Racing and gun for his maiden national championship in the category.

The Bengaluru boy has impressed everyone with his determination and skills on the track and is currently at the top of the leaderboard with 52 points. Ruhaan will hope to maintain his good streak and give all others a



run for their money.

However, he will also be aware of the challenge that he would face from the Dark Don trio of Arya Singh, Tijil Rao and Diljith TS. They have been in imperious form throughout the first two rounds and maintained a vice-like grip on the championship. But unfortunately a post-event FMSCI scrutiny after round 2 saw their points get docked and they slipped down the table. Kolkata's Arya is in second place with 46 points followed by Bengaluru's Tijil on 35 points and Diljith of Thrissur with 32 points. They are expected to come out with renewed vigor and stamp their authority in the final showdown.

ATP FINALS: ALCARAZ BEAT ANDY RUBLEV IN TWO STRAIGHT SETS

Turin | Agencies

Carlos Alcaraz kept alive his semifinal hopes at the Nitto ATP Finals when he moved past Andrey Rublev 7-5, 6-2 to earn his first win at the prestigious year-end event.

The 20-year-old bounced back from an opening Red Group defeat against Alexander Zverev with an aggressive display against Rublev. The Spaniard outlasted the fifth seed in a series of destructive baseline exchanges, redlining the ball to improve to 10-5 against Top 10 opponents in 2023.

With his 74-minute win, Alcaraz snapped a three-match losing streak. The World No. 2 fell against Grigor Dimitrov in Shanghai, Roman Safiullin in Paris and Zverev in Turin. He is now 64-11 on the season.

Alcaraz, who is the youngest player in the eight-man singles field, is making his debut at the Nitto ATP Finals after missing last year's edition due to injury. He is chasing his seventh trophy of the season and first since



Wimbledon and will meet Daniil Medvedev in his final round-robin match on Friday.

Alcaraz was not at his best in his opening match against Zverev but was dialled in from ball one on the quick courts inside the Pala Alpitour against Rublev. The Spaniard dropped just one point on his first serve in the opening set, while he

committed just four unforced errors. He gained the crucial break in the 11th game of the first set before holding to lead.

In a good rhythm, the 20-year-old pushed on in the second set, exploiting Rublev's defence with his powerful groundstrokes to force the 26-year-old into errors. Alcaraz also moved freely around the court, hit-

ting a couple of stunning passing winners on the stretch. He sealed victory on his first match point.

Rublev, who won his maiden ATP Masters 1000 title in Monte-Carlo earlier this year, now holds a 0-2 record in Red Group play after losing to Daniil Medvedev in his first match. The 2022 semi-finalist meets Zverev in his final round-robin match.



MRUNAL THAKUR: 'BORDER' WAS THE FIRST FILM I SAW IN THEATER WITH MY FATHER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mrunal Thakur fondly recalled her first cinematic experience with J.P. Dutta's iconic film 'Border', which left an indelible mark on her. Since then, she has been captivated by the lives of army personnel and their stories of valour.

"Border was a film that left an everlasting impression on me, and it ignited my interest in the lives of our brave soldiers. Working on Pippa allowed me to revisit that same world and feel a deep connection to the sacrifices made by our armed forces.

"It was the first film I saw in the theatres with my father and was always deeply inspired to be part of a film that displays the valour and strength of the armed forces," shared Mrunal, reflecting on her emotional journey during the filming process of 'Pippa'.

In Pippa, Mrunal steps into the shoes of an intelligence officer appointed by RAW, a role that showcases her acting prowess. She also portrays the on-screen sister to the talented actors Ishaan Khatter and Priyanshu Painyuli, bringing forth a compelling dynamic to the narrative.

The film, based on the book 'The Burning Chaffees', revolves around the heroic exploits of Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta of the 45th Cavalry tank squadron during the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971, where he, alongside his siblings, played a pivotal role in the liberation of Bangladesh.



Mouni Roy calls every step of her journey to stardom 'a learning experience'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mouni Roy has carved quite a niche in the world of entertainment. From humble beginnings to rising on her own merit to being praised for her performance in 'Sultan of Delhi', Mouni has called every single step of her journey to stardom a learning experience.

Reflecting on her journey to getting where she is now, the 'Brahmastra' actress said: "Every step of this journey has been a learning experience, full of love and support. I am overwhelmed by the affection and am deeply grateful. Here's to continuing this beautiful journey together!"

Essaying the role of Nayantara Gangopadhyay, the actress has received a lot of praise for her performance in the crime-thriller series, despite the show itself not being too well-received.

On the screen, Mouni Roy will next be seen in 'The Virgin Tree' which is currently under production. Apart from that, she is also a judge in the Bengali-language reality show 'Dance Bangla Dance 12', and the host of the reality-TV show 'Temptation Island India'.

Kareena reveals Raha looks like Ranbir, Alia says only Bebo feels so

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan, who appeared on the latest episode of the popular chat show 'Koffee With Karan' with her sister-in-law Alia Bhatt, has said that Alia and Ranbir's daughter Raha, looks a lot like Ranbir. However, Alia mentioned that Kareena is the only one who feels like that.

As the conversation centred on maternity during the course of the episode, Karan first asked Alia about Raha, who turned one this November. Alia said: "Very often I would just sit with Raha in the morning when there's nobody around and I

talk to her about how I feel and what I wish for her." Alia also shared that she is quick to take out her phone and show the photos of Raha to her close ones. Kareena interjected and said: "Raha looks like Ranbir."

That's when Alia said: "Kareena is the only one who feels like that". To which Kareena told Karan: "But she looks a lot like Ranbir when he was a child."

Ranbir and Kareena are cousins and have grown up together. However, Alia maintained that Raha doesn't look solely like Ranbir. She said: "I feel Raha has bits of everyone." 'Koffee with Karan' Season 8 streams on Disney+ Hotstar.

Emraan Hashmi: 'Delighted that people loved Salman, my showdown'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Emraan Hashmi is happy that people are loving his showdown with superstar Salman Khan in 'Tiger 3'. He said that he relished the opportunity to play an anti-hero.

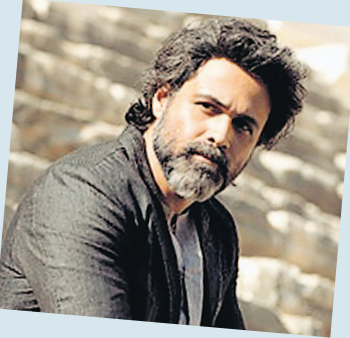
Emraan said: "I'm thrilled with the response to Tiger 3 and how people have showered love on my performance. We have started on a very good note and I expect the film to entertain audiences globally."

"I relished the opportunity to play an anti-hero and what could be better than going toe to toe with the biggest action superstar of our country, Salman Khan! I'm delighted that people have loved our showdown and that's great validation for me."

YRF's Tiger 3 has recorded an astounding 169.75 crore nett and 272 crore gross worldwide in just 4 days and is on course to record another huge weekend from Friday! Emraan is thrilled with the love that people are pouring on him and Tiger 3!

He added: "I have always wanted to entertain people with my choice of films and playing an anti-hero liberated me to explore shades that I have never ventured into before. I'm thankful to people for loving my villainous turn and for making Tiger 3 a successful film at the box office."

Produced by Aditya Chopra and directed by Maneesh Sharma, 'Tiger 3' is running successfully in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu languages.



Shahid Kapoor calls David Beckham his and Mira's 'teenage crush'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor is hosting a star-studded bash at her house, welcomed soccer champion David Beckham in a lavish welcome party. Shahid Kapoor, who was among the guests, took a picture with the sports star where he called Beckham his and his wife's teenage crush.

Taking to Instagram, the 'Kaminey' alum posted a picture of himself alongside his wife Mira Rajput, and wrote: "When me and the wife both met our teenage crush @davidbeckham."

The former star football player attended Sonam Kapoor's party as he is currently on a three-day visit to India as the Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF. Needless to say, the athlete received a grand welcome at Sonam Kapoor's Mumbai residence.

The party was also attended by Sonam's husband Anand Ahuja, Farhan Akhtar, Shibani Dandekar, Adar Poonawalla, Arjun Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Sanjay Kapoor and

Maheep Kapoor.

Arjun Kapoor, who was practically fangirling on meeting the former champion also penned a long note, in which he said that meeting David Beckham was a childhood dream of his and thanked Sonam and her spouse for the opportunity.

Sharing a picture of himself with her, the 'Ek Villain Returns' actor wrote: "A night to remember... To meet someone u have admired from afar for so many years & to be able to talk face to face with him about his new life in Miami, football, India, travel, his kids, philanthropy & everything else I could squeeze into a 15 minute dinner table chat."

"Grateful to have met @davidbeckham & completely in awe of his genuine sincerity towards spending time with all of us & being kind enough to allow every fan boy/girl in that room to feel elated to get a picture & time with him... Thank You @sonamkapoor & @anandahuja for fulfilling this childhood dream of mine," he added.



Big B has cleaned kitchen utensils and bathroom sink... several times!

Team Absolute | Mumbai

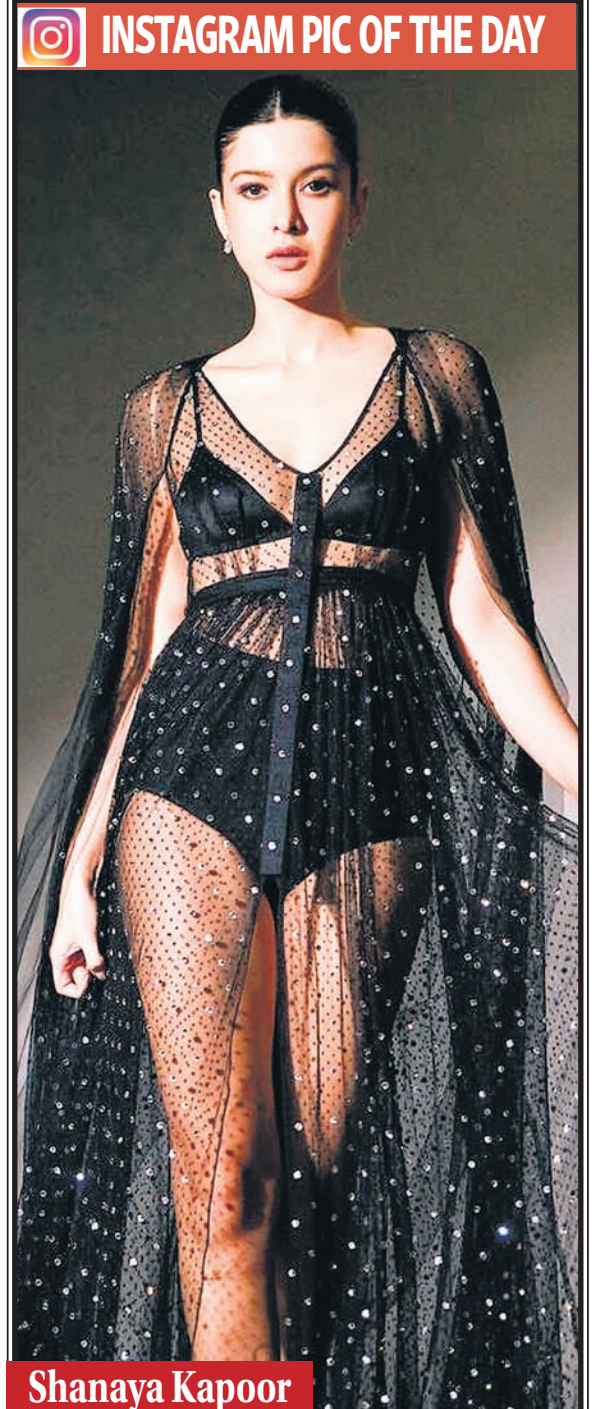
Veteran Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who hosts the quiz-based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15', has shared that he has done many household chores, contrary to the public perception of him not getting involved in house chores because of his status as a megastar.

The 'Don' actor was talking to contestant Harsh Shah on 'KBC 15'. Harsh spoke about his business as he said: "I handle my father's business. We have a manufacturing unit of plastic monofilament yarns. These threads are used in making the cleaning scrubs. Sir, have you ever cleaned utensils?"

Big B replied: "Haan sir, kayi baar bartan saaf kiya hai, kitchen ka chilamchi saaf kiya hai, bathroom me jo basin hota hai, use saaf kiya. Aisa kyu lagta hai ki humne na kiya hoga (Yes, sir, I have cleaned utensils several times, even the bathroom sink. Why do you think I have never done these things)?"

The 68th episode aired on November 15. During the episode, the second round of Fastest Finger First was won by Harsh Shah from Bhavnagar, Gujarat.

He took the hot seat and told Big B: "My mother wanted me to participate in KBC, and I have finally fulfilled her wish. I had to leave state civil services to handle my father's business as my dad had heart surgery. I had to take up the responsibilities over my dreams."



Shanaya Kapoor