







# ORDER TO GIVE UP BENEFITS OF 'LAADLI BEHNA YOJANA' CANCELED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Madhya Pradesh, the order regarding abandonment (self-decision of abandonment) of ineligible women availing the benefits of Laadli Behna Yojana has been cancelled.

In the letter issued by the Project Officer of Women and Child Development Department of Sagar, it was written that if any supervisor or any Anganwadi worker or assistant or president or secretary of a self-help group or a member of the group does not fulfill the conditions prescribed by the government of Laadli Behna Yojana. If the benefit has been availed contrary to the conditions, then you must give up the benefit within fifteen days or you yourself will be responsible for taking action against them if the benefit is availed contrary to the conditions.

The state government started facing embarrassment due to this order. But, Sagar's own program officer canceled this order. There was a political stir when this order came out and Congress State General Secretary Syed Jafar called it a betrayal of women.



At the same time, the Women and Child Development Department also became active and canceled this order. The order to cancel this has been issued by the District Program Officer of Sagar.

Naturally, the BJP government led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan had started the Laadli Behna Yojana to empower women financially. Through this scheme, it was promised to be given from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000 monthly.

Accordingly, women are currently getting Rs 1,250. Initially some conditions were set in this scheme, which were later abolished and most of the women came under the category of benefits of this scheme.

## New MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav carries forward predecessor's bulldozer action

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Newly inducted Chief Minister Mohan Yadav carried forward the bulldozer action politics introduced by his predecessor Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh.

The houses of three persons, who allegedly attacked a Bhopal-based BJP worker, were bulldozed a day after Mohan Yadav assumed office on Wednesday - the first such bulldozer action under the new dispensation.

On December 5 (two days after the results of Madhya Pradesh Assembly election were announced), a BJP worker Devendra Singh Thakur was attacked by a group of persons associated with Congress MLA Arif Masood. Thakur was attacked with a sword, due to which, he suffered deep cuts to his hand while shielding himself.

Following the incident, several BJP leaders, including former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Madhya Pradesh BJP president V.D. Sharma had visited the hospital and had assured the accused would face tough action. Five accused namely -- Farukh, Aslam, Shahrulkh, Bilal and Sameer were arrested and booked under several charges of IPC, including attempt to murder. They were also booked under the National Security Act (NSA).

On Thursday, the houses of three accused were bulldozed in the presence of heavy police personnel and administrative officers in Bhopal. This marks the first use of a bulldozer since Mohan Yadav assumed the role of Chief Minister in Madhya Pradesh.

Prior to this, during the Shivraj government, bulldozers were used on the houses of several accused who had violated law and order. Since



assuming office, the new CM has been making decisions one after another, and it's worth mentioning that the people of the state have witnessed the proactive and assertive actions of the new CM.

The first decision taken by CM Yadav give an insight into the priorities of the new government, spanning from law and order to education, e-governance and tribal welfare.

The CM also ordered a ban on unlicensed buying and selling of meat and fish in the open in urban areas, announced a 'PM Excellence College' in every district, legal action for cancellation of bail of 'habitual criminals', mandatory uploading of certificates and marksheets on DigiLocker, and a hike in tendu patta payout to Rs 4,000. The biggest buzz was over CM Mohan Yadav's noise-cancellation order. Sound amplifiers (loudspeakers/DJs) can be used only within prescribed standards, and flying squads will be formed in all the districts to check this.

In his very first order, CM Yadav has directed officials to ensure that all religious institutions and public venues must adhere to prescribed volume and time limits.

## Relieved of CM's role, Shivraj has a 'field' day at his farm

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A day after the new Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav took charge of the office, his predecessor Shivraj Singh Chouhan was seen ploughing his field on a tractor. Chouhan, who always projected himself as a 'kisan ka beta' (son of a farmer) drove a tractor in his field in Vidisha on Thursday.

He also updated his social media bio, which now reads 'bhai aur mama' (brother and maternal uncle) along with 'Former Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh'. The former Chief Minister earned the 'bhai and mama' titles



due to his women-centric flagship schemes, especially the 'Ladli Laxmi Yojana' and the 'Ladli Behna Yojana'.

The kind of support Chouhan received from the people was also visible during the new Chief Minister's oath ceremony on Wednesday at Bhopal's Lal Parade ground, where the

crowd was seen chanting Shivraj's name while Yadav was taking the oath. Later, when Chouhan came out from the Lal Parade Ground, a large crowd stopped his convoy and forced him to step out of his car. Many supporters turned emotional as Chouhan waved goodbye to them.

## National Herald Case: Complaint of illegal sale of plot in Bhopal filed in ED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A complaint has been lodged in the ED office in Bhopal to investigate the illegal sale and income received of the plot of Associated Journals Limited in the Press Complex, Bhopal.

Mohd. Saeed of Navjeevan Employees Union, Sanjay Chaturvedi and former vice president of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee Minority Cell Irshad Raine along with senior advocates Bharat Chaturvedi, Ashok Srivastava and Santosh Verma have handed over the documents of National Herald's land scam to ED for investigation. The ED is investigating a money-laundering case against Associated Journals Limited (AJL) under PMLA, 2002. Recently ED has temporarily attached assets worth about Rs 752 crore. Bhopal's property is not mentioned in ED's investigation and action, whereas this is a big case of violation of rules and illegal earnings. A commercial complex has been built on the 1.14 acre plot allotted at concessional rates for publication of the newspaper



in the press complex and has been sold in several parts.

In 2001, Associated Journals Limited gave power of attorney for development to Narendra Kumar Mittal of Ganga Enterprises, Delhi. Mittal started the work with his partner Harmahendra Singh by taking possession of the plot. Later, power of attorney holder Narendra Kumar Mittal gave power of attorney to many people, including Sanjay Sinha of Soumya Homes. Mittal and Sanjay Sinha got the cell registered on the basis of partnership in which they took 100 percent stake in their name, in which the stake of lease holder AJL remained zero. It is alleged that AJL sold the land in the name of power of attorney while the company did not receive the income from it.

It is written in the complaint that at the time when AJL's building in Bhopal was being sold, AJL had taken a loan of Rs 90 crore from Congress to repay its liabilities. If the income received from selling the plot had come to the company's account, it would have been by taking the loan, AJL could repay its liabilities.

## KAMAL NATH WILL REMAIN MADHYA PRADESH PCC CHIEF

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After Congress's defeat in the assembly elections, questions are being raised about the role of PCC Chief Kamal Nath. What will be the role of Kamal Nath in Madhya Pradesh? Will he still make any strategy to revive the Congress which has lost in the Assembly or will he make Delhi his base at the age of 77? These questions are echoing in political circles.

Political analysts believe that for the time being Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh will continue to dominate the state. There is no option for this combination in the state Congress. At the same time, senior journalist Dev Shrimali says that Kamal Nath will remain PCC Chief till the Lok Sabha. Can contest Lok Sabha elections from Chhindwara himself. They know that to win Chhindwara they will have to enter the field. By becoming an MP himself, he can hand over the command of MP politics to his son Nakul by



making him win the assembly elections.

Kamal Nath himself is not in the race to become the Leader of

Opposition. They know it will take a lot of time. After the coup in 2020, he was the leader of opposition, but could not spend much time in the assembly. After this, due to the one person one post formula in Congress, he had to leave the post of Leader of Opposition and Dr. Govind Singh was made the Leader of Opposition.

Kamal Nath will not leave the post of PCC Chief for now. He has not offered resignation to the central leadership after the election defeat. He has clearly said in his statements that I am neither retiring now nor leaving Madhya Pradesh. That is, it is clear that after discussion with the high command, it has been confirmed that the command of Congress in Madhya Pradesh will be with Kamal Nath only.

Kamal Nath has already become active in Chhindwara for Lok Sabha. It is believed that he may contest the Lok Sabha elections. If this happens, Nakul Nath will do state politics by contesting the assembly elections.

## 22-year-old woman shot dead, accused arrested

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 22-year-old woman was shot dead in Madhya Pradesh's Narsinghpur district, police said, adding that the accused person was arrested on Friday.

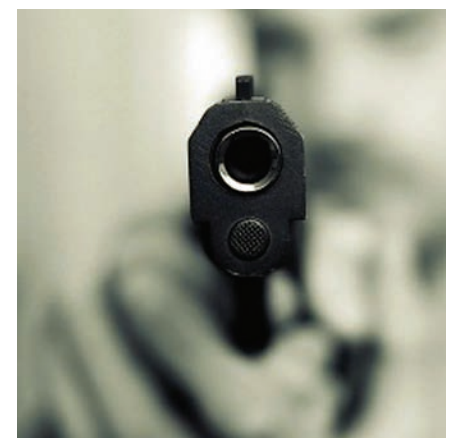
According to the police, the incident took place on Thursday night when the victim, identified as Kajal Sahu, was returning home from Jabalpur.

As the victim stepped out of the Narsinghpur railway station, she was shot, the police said.

Locals rushed Sahu to a nearby hospital but she succumbed to her injuries shortly. The incident was captured in a CCTV camera installed at the railway station.

Upon receiving the information, the police swung into action and arrested the accused, identified as Devendra Patel, on Friday.

Although preliminary investigation suggests that the victim and the accused were in relationship for the couple of years, probe into the case was still underway. SDOP Bhavna Maravi told reporters that



the accused was being interrogated.

On Friday, the victim's family and villagers staged a protest at the Narsinghpur highway and demanded stringent punishment to the accused.

The family further claimed that the accused had been harassing her for two years.

## Boy dies after falling into borewell pit, collector issues restrictive order

Team Absolute | Alirajpur

Strict action has been taken by the Collector and District Magistrate, Alirajpur after a child died after falling into a borewell pit in Khandala village of the district. Taking immediate action, the District Collector has issued a restrictive order on Wednesday regarding not leaving borewells or tube wells open. Along with this, Additional Collector Anupama Chauhan has been appointed the nodal officer at the district level for the above work, and instructions have also been given to the concerned Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat that action should be taken to definitely build parapets on

the wells constructed under MNREGA.

It is noteworthy that Vijay's father Dinesh, resident of Vaskal Falia village Khandala, died after falling into the borewell pit in village Khandala of the district on Tuesday. Despite a massive rescue operation by the district administration to save the child trapped in the borewell, the child could not be saved. After the rescue operation, when the child was taken to the district hospital, he was declared dead by the doctors there.

The above order was issued immediately after the incident, along with this the Collector has also given instructions to register a case against the concerned guilty person.

## Shivraj can go to the center, murmur of expansion in the Union Cabinet intensifies

Team Absolute | Bhopal

There may be a small expansion of the Union Cabinet for the rehabilitation of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan. Narendra Singh Tomar, who was the Agriculture Minister in the Modi cabinet, has been appointed the Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, in such a situation it is believed that Shivraj can be given the charge of the Agriculture Ministry.

Along with Chauhan, BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma can also be made a Union Minister. The central leadership of BJP is proud of Sharma's efficient management in the assembly elections.

It is noteworthy that among the ministers from the Modi cabinet who had contested elections in



different states, Narendra Singh Tomar and Prahlad Patel from Madhya Pradesh have resigned.

According to BJP sources, the central leadership of the party is serious about the rehabilitation of leader Shivraj Singh Chauhan, who had been the Chief Minister of the state for eighteen and a half years. For many years, there were speculations that Chauhan could be included in the Modi cabinet, but when the BJP was defeated in the Karnataka Assembly elections, the party took a U-turn. Party leaders say that BJP lost in Karnataka due to the removal of former Chief Minister Yediyurappa, if he had remained the Chief Minister, the results would have been different. For this reason, after winning the assembly elections, BJP appointed Dr. Mohan Yadav on Chauhan's chair.

## Brainstorming regarding new CS, DGP, indications of major reshuffle in Chief Minister Secretariat and Ministry

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With the arrival of the new Chief Minister in Madhya Pradesh, the face of the administration may also change. There may soon be major changes in the ministry as well as the CM Secretariat. Brainstorming is also being done regarding the new Chief Secretary and DGP in the state. Changes may also be seen in the officers posted in the districts.

State Chief Secretary Veera Rana is currently in additional charge. His retirement is after three months. Along with CS Veena Rana, DGP Sudhir Saxena is also retiring in the coming March. OSDs and personal assistants including the personal principal secretary to the CM will change. Before which brainstorming is being done regarding the new CS and



DGP.

Preparations are being made for major changes in the state bureaucracy. Senior IAS Anurag Jain, Mohammad Suleman, JN Kansotiya, Dr. Rajesh Rajoria and SN Mishra are ahead in the race for Chief Secretary. Principal Secretaries Manish Rastogi and Vivek Porwal posted in the Chief Minister's Secretariat will also get new responsibilities. Officers will also be changed in the districts, but it may take some time.



EDITOR'S SPECS

### BJP 'unhappy' with K'taka leaders

The BJP high command is reportedly displeased with the Karnataka BJP unit for not addressing the issue of a horrifying incident in which a mother was paraded on the streets after being stripped naked, according to sources. This incident occurred following the elopement of her son with a local girl when the winter Assembly session was being held at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi city. The incident had shocked the state and proved to be a significant embarrassment for the Congress government, as it happened in a place located close to the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. The BJP high command criticized its state leadership for not raising the issue during the session and for not holding the Congress government accountable for the failure in law and order system and protection of women. Sources state that BJP national President J.P. Nadda criticized the state leadership for not effectively addressing the issue during the state Assembly session. The incident occurred on December 10 when Kamalavva, a resident of Vantamuri village, was dragged outside and stripped naked. She was paraded naked and tied to an electric pole and assaulted after her son eloped with a girl from the village. The family members of the girl, infuriated by this, unleashed terror on the boy's mother. The Karnataka High Court strongly criticized the Congress government for the failure of the police department to prevent the incident. The bench, headed by Chief Justice P.B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit, remarked on December 14, "What will be the fear among other women? She will feel unsafe in the country. It did not even happen in Mahabharata. Draupadi had Lord Krishna who came up to help her, but in the modern world, no one came to help her. Unfortunately, this is a world of Duryodhanas and Dushyasanas."

# They Call It Marketing!

Vinod Mirani

What we need in the film industry is writers who can turn out a decent script that appeals to all classes of the audience. That has not happened, so the makers have to keep devising new gimmicks to promote a film. Isn't the star power good enough? Really speaking, films never needed marketing because they have a ready and keen viewership and, still, new-generation whizkids try to deviate from the traditional and foolproof promotion strategies and come up with complicated ideas to promote a film that serve no purpose. The recent one is about how the promos or trailers are released on digital platforms before a film's release. As if calling these trailers promos or trailers was not enough, now they are named in a manner that they coincide with a film's theme or title! Oh, yes, they were also called teasers for some time. The trailers of 'Dunki' starring Shah Rukh Khan, for instance, are titled Drop 1, Drop 2 and so on! It seems the film is about illegal migration in countries such as the UK and the US and the activity is described as 'donkey flights' in the North. This is also known as 'kabutarbazi' in some sections. 'Dunki' is yet to release and the connection of naming or ranking the trailers as a series of 'Drops' with the film's story remains unclear so far. The tragedy is that those unaware of this bright idea but searching for promos of 'Dunki' on YouTube will still have to type in the keywords 'Dunki promo!' I don't know who thought of this idea because you may publicise a film, but how will you tell people that when you look for 'Dunki' promos, look for Drop 1 and so on! 'Dunki', though, is not the only one to have people with such grand ideas. There are quite a few other films being promoted this way. I have often mentioned 'bhed chhaal' in the film industry. If one filmmaker does or tries to do something different, others follow him and make it a trend. The 'Jawan' trailer was launched as a Prevue. The 'Pathan' trailer as 'Pathan ka conversation' and Tiger 3 as 'Tiger ka message'; for the 'Dream Girl' trailer the name was 'Pooja ka kiss'. Films such as 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar' and 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani', all followed and dubbed their promos as something or the other. Did it help? The thing is that the number of hits on promos released on YouTube are seen by many more people than those who watch the movie. So, hits on an online promo are not a measure of viewers attracted to the cinemas and, hence, nothing to



gloat about. What worked when there was no Internet and no social media? They relied on street publicity. Posters of varied sizes -- 30"x40" or six sheeters (5'x10') and so on -- were plastered all over the cities. There were no radio jingles yet, forget television. The big attractions in those days, though, were trailers played in the cinemas. These promos were so exciting that people going for a movie made sure they reached in time so as not to miss the trailer of the forthcoming film. They just about summed up an upcoming film in three minutes with onscreen captions such as Drama, Romance, Music, Emotions, Comedy and Action. The prospective viewers instantly decided if they were going to catch that film. The Internet and social media are not devised to spread lies or deceive. What good are these hits on an X post or YouTube promo because it is common knowledge that an army of bots are engaged to produce these hits. What are the cinema chains doing in the name of marketing? On Monday, the fourth day after the release of 'Animal', they took prospective spectators who came to the booking window by surprise when

the admission rates were hiked suddenly and arbitrarily from Rs 150 to Rs 300 out of the blue in a matter of minutes. By the way, the online booking site still claimed that Rs 150 was the rate and the booking chart showed an almost empty house. There were some unhappy people at the booking window and they made sure the video went viral. This was contrary to the normal practice of reducing admission rates on the Monday or Tuesday after a film's release. Now, is this any way of attaining the set target, which nowadays is anything between Rs 500 crore to Rs 1,000 crore? I think it is easier to fake figures on social media like it is done with the figures of all the major films lately, instead of cheating people with ad hoc admission rate hikes. Suppose a young lad had somehow put together Rs 300 for two tickets to take his girlfriend out on a movie date, but comes to the cinema to learn that he cannot afford the revised rates. It would be awkward for him and a real let-down! Now, PVR's newly acquired property at the Jio World Plaza in BKC, Mumbai, boasts of being

India's "first cinema with bar and lounge". So what? Multiplexes have food plazas and, if you order, the snacks are delivered to your seat. And they are located within the cinema lobby. As for the lounge and bar, it is not the same as a food plaza and can't serve alcohol at your seat. It is just another facility attached to the property. Publicising it as a multiplex with a bar is misleading. Airports have bars and lounges, but you cannot carry your drink to the flight. At least not in India. BKC is a purely commercial area with few residential buildings. More residential properties are still in the development stage and the present population of the area would not be more than 80,000. The area gets so deserted post office hours that even transport is hard to find. Being in a commercial area, lounges and bars may still attract patrons who wish to discuss business or unwind over an after-office drink or two! The same cannot be assured for this six-screen multiplex.

## international

## Military offensive in Gaza to continue: Israeli leaders to US NSA

Tel Aviv | Agencies Israeli leaders have told US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan that Israel will continue its military offensive in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza Strip, despite the international calls for a ceasefire. Sullivan was in Israel on Thursday for meetings with officials as the US voiced its concerns about the rising civilian casualties in the continued Israeli strikes on Gaza. Speaking to the press alongside Sullivan, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said that the war against Hamas "will require a long period -- it will last more than several months", Xinhua news agency reported.



The two met in the Israeli Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv to discuss the Israeli offensive in Gaza, its border conflict with Lebanon, and dozens of

hostages remain kept in Gaza, according to a statement released by the Israeli Defense Ministry. Referring to the Yemeni Houthi forces' attacks on Israeli-linked ships as well as Eilat, an Israeli resort city on the shore of the Red Sea, Gallant said that Israel will support "international efforts in countering naval threats and will defend itself against any threat." Later, Sullivan met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who thanked the US for its "support for Israel in the supply of munitions, in blocking the attempts at the UN to stop the fighting, and in the assistance in returning our hostages". Sullivan said that Israel has "the support of the United States as you take on this terrorist threat".

## Indian-origin hotel owners arrested in US for 'hiding' fugitives

New York | Agencies Two Indian-origin hotel owners have been arrested in the US state of Tennessee for allegedly lying to the police about the whereabouts of fugitives whom they hid inside their building. Dakshaben Patel and Harshil Patel, who own the Super 8 and Mountain Inn in Monteagle, were each charged with felony on Wednesday for making false reports to police officers during an investigation on July 18, Fox News reported. The Monteagle Police Department said their officers had been conducting surveil-



lance on the rear of the hotel due to "high drug transition" in the area. They spotted two individuals on the bal-

cony, and identified them as having felony warrants out of Franklin County. Officers chased the wanted suspects on foot and quickly took them into custody. After interrogation, investigators found that the hotel had a "hide out room on the corner of the building" and determined that was where the fugitives had been living, police said. "Both Patel subjects had been advised multiple times about the wanted suspects and had lied to officers about their residence at the hotel," the department said in a release.

## Yemen's Houthi militia claims attack on Israel-bound cargo ship in Red Sea

Sanaa | Agencies The Iran-backed Houthi militia in Yemen has claimed a drone attack on an Israel-bound cargo ship in the Red Sea, amid increasing tensions in the region since the Israel-Hamas war erupted on October 7. "The military operation against the Mersik Gebrlater container vessel that was heading to Israel was precise and caused damage to the ship," Xinhua news agency quoted Houthi military spokesman Yehya Sarea as saying in a statement late Thursday. "The attack came after the ship's crew refused to respond to the call of our naval forces,"



he said. The spokesman claimed that Houthis had successfully prevented the passage of several other Israel-bound foreign ships during the past 48 hours. "Our forces will continue to prevent all ships heading to Israeli ports from navigating in the Arab Sea and the Red Sea unless food and medicine aid be allowed to enter into Gaza

Strip," Sarea added. This was the latest in a series of anti-Israel attacks claimed by the Houthis since October 7. On Tuesday, the militia group said they launched a missile at a Norwegian ship loaded with oil that was heading to Israel in the Red Sea. On November 19, the Houthi fighters hijacked a commercial ship, Galaxy Leader, in the Red Sea and brought it to the port city of Hodeidah. The Houthis have been in control of much of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa and the strategic Red Sea port city of Hodeidah since the Yemeni civil war broke out in late 2014.

## I don't think Trump is right person to be President right now: Haley

Washington | Agencies Indian-American Nikki Haley, who has emerged as a strong contender in the Republican presidential primary race, doesn't think her rival Donald Trump is the right person to be President at the moment. During the fourth Republican debate on December 6, Haley, the former South Carolina Governor, did not answer whether Trump is fit to be PPresident, but she told ABC News that it is not about fitness but rather Trump is just not the right person to be President right now. "It's not about fitness. I think he's fit to be President. It's 'Should he be President?' I don't think he should be President. I thought he was the right President at the right time," Haley said in an interview that was aired on Monday. "We've got to look at the issues that we're dealing with, coming forward with new solutions, not focusing on negativity and baggage of the past. So it's not about being fit. It's just I don't think he's the right per-



son to be President," she said. Trump maintains an unprecedented lead over his rivals in both early state and national polls, with 61 per cent of self-identified Republicans saying they would vote for the former President in the state-by-state nominating contest, according to a recent Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll. Haley, who served as Trump's UN ambassador for

the first two years of his administration, has urged the country to move past him in recent interviews. In an interview with CNN this week, Haley said that though she recognises the strong voter support Trump has, "chaos" continues to follow him. "I'm not going to be 100 per cent with him. I'm not going to be 100 per cent against him. It's not personal for me. This is about what's right for the country," she told ABC. "This is about how we're going to lead. This is about the direction we should go. It's not about the personal thoughts of an individual. It's about the fact that we have a country to save." Haley recently got a big edge in the presidential race with an endorsement from New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu. He called her "the candidate with the momentum to win and get our party back on track to delivering conservative victories across the country".

## Finland closes border crossing points with Russia again

Helsinki | Agencies The Finnish government announced that it will close the crossing points at its land border with Russia once again, from Friday evening until January 14, 2024. Following an earlier two-week complete closure, Finland on Thursday had opened two southeasterly crossings, reports Xinhua news agency. According to Minister of the Interior Mari Rantanen, the



arrival of asylum seekers resumed immediately, and the phenomenon was accelerating. She told reporters that the situation on the eastern border creates a national security risk. The two crossings that opened on Thursday, Vaalimaa and Niirala, will close on Friday evening at 8 p.m. All land border crossings to Russia will remain closed until January 14, 2024. Finland shares a 1,340 km border with Russia, Europe's longest.



# Maha babu's son mows down girlfriend in pre-dawn murderous attack, Thane cops probing

Quaid Najmi | Thane

In a chilling incident, Ashwajit Gaikwad, the son of a top Maharashtra bureaucrat, allegedly mowed down his girlfriend with his SUV in Thane recently, seriously injuring her.

The victim, Priya Umendra Singh, 26, a professional beautician, has narrated her shocking ordeal of the murderous attempt on her life in a social media post on the incident and her injuries.

"Need justice... Culprit Ashwajit Anilkumar Gaikwad, son of Anilkumar Gaikwad, Joint Managing Director of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation," said Singh on her post. She also named Ashwajit's friends, Romil Patil, Prasad Patil and Sagar Shelke, all Thane residents, in her post, plus her boyfriend's driver-cum-bodyguard, Shiva.

Singh has tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, Union Minister Smriti Irani, Shiv Sena-UBT's Aditya Thackeray, in her post with an emotional header: "My boyfriend rammed his car over me and left me dying in pain on the street."

Despite several attempts by IANS, Anilkumar Gaikwad - who was recently elevated as the

**My Boyfriend Rammed his car over me and left me Dying in pain on the street**



MSRDC Vice-Chairman & Managing Director - was not available for comments on the serious allegations against his 34-year-old son, or the incident that happened in the CM's home district.

The alleged incident occurred on Ovala Road in the Ghodbunder area of the district, and Singh has suffered grievous injuries in the stomach, back, arms and her right leg is broken and in a cast.

Singh also detailed how she was allegedly abused by Ashwajit and his friends, how he invited her to the Courtyard Hotel around 3 a.m. on December 11. There, a bitter fight ensued, when Ashwajit assaulted her, and then his friends Romil, Prasad and Shelke also joined in the attack.

As the situation appeared to worsen, she went to take her bag and mobile from the SUV but the youths allegedly attempted to cause her grave harm by first bulldozing the SUV into her back near a divider, then returned and drove it over her right leg, before speeding away in the darkness.

Surprisingly, Shiva, the SUV driver, turned out to be a Good Samaritan, he left them and rushed to help the bleeding and crying Singh, and also informed her family about the assault. Later they alerted the Thane Police on the entire sordid drama.

The prime accused Ashwajit and his friends reportedly warned the woman against involving the police and even boasted that they would use the political clout of the Gaikwad family.

Meanwhile, based on the complaint of Singh - who is in the ICU of Titan Medicity Hospital - the Kasarvadavali police have lodged a complaint against Ashwajit, Shelke, and the Patil duo (said to be linked to a retired police official), but no arrests have been made so far, even as the victim's post went viral on social media.

Given the sensitive nature of the case, top Thane police officials remained incommunicado despite attempts to get their version.

# Sonia, Rahul, Kharge to address rally in Nagpur on Dec 28



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi along with incumbent party chief Mallikarjun Kharge will address a rally in Maharashtra's Nagpur city on December 28, on the occasion of the grand old party's foundation day. A senior leader said on Friday.

A meeting of senior Congress leaders in Maharashtra is currently underway here in the presence of All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and senior leader Mukul Wasnik.

The meeting is being attended by Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole, former state minister Balasaheb Thorat, Leader of Opposition in the assembly Vijay Wadettiwar, former chief ministers Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan among others.

Talking to reporters, Venugopal said, "On the

occasion of Congress's foundation day on December 28, party president Mallikarjun Kharge and its former chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi will address a huge rally in Nagpur."

The winter session of the Maharashtra legislature is currently underway in Nagpur.

Meanwhile, opposition INDIA alliance leaders staged a protest near the Gandhi statue in the Parliament complex on Friday, a day after 14 MPs were suspended.

While Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) was suspended from the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, 13 opposition MPs, including nine from the Congress and the DMK's Kanimozhi, were suspended from the Lok Sabha.

O'Brien joined the opposition MPs wearing a T-shirt saying he was on a 'silent protest'.

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi also joined the protesters in their

demonstration.

The suspended MPs held placards saying they were suspended for speaking up, while the "culprit BJP MP" roamed free. The Congress has been demanding strict action against BJP MP Pratap Simha who provided the visitor passes to the intruders. The protesting MPs also demanded that their suspensions be revoked.

"Suspension and expulsion is nothing new for this government, last week Mahua Moitra got expelled. This week, the BJP MP from Mysore who issued the passes for the intruders is moving freely, and I and my colleagues have been suspended for raising the voice of the people of India, a very genuine demand that the home minister and the prime minister should speak in Parliament," said Hibi Eden, one of the MPs who was suspended from the Lok Sabha.

Both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned for the day amid opposition protests.

# Drugs worth Rs 50,000 crore seized in Maharashtra in recent past: Minister

Team Absolute | Nagpur

The Maharashtra police have seized drugs worth about Rs 50,000 crore in the state in the recent past, said Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis in the legislative assembly on Friday. He was replying to a question by Shiv Sena (UBT) legislator Ravindra Waikar, who represents the Jogeshwari East constituency in Mumbai.

In a major haul, the Mumbai police recently seized 151 kg of mephedrone worth Rs 300 crore and arrested more than a dozen persons from several cities in an operation that also included a raid



in a factory in MIDC Shinde Gaon in Nashik district. "The police have seized drugs worth Rs 50,000 crore

in the recent past. The police discretely tracked 2,200 small shops (selling drugs) in

Mumbai and removed them to curb the menace of drugs," said Fadnis.

The deputy Chief Minister, however, did not specify the exact period during which the drugs were seized.

"The state government is keeping a watch on chemicals being imported which could be used to make drugs. We have also found that closed factory sites are being used for drug production," Fadnis added.

Following the Rs 300-crore drug bust by the Mumbai police, the opposition and ruling dispensation have targeted each other over key accused Lalit Patil.

# 'CID' actress accuses mom and brother of assault, lodges complaint with Thane police

Team Absolute | Thane

Television actress Vaishnavi Dhanraj has approached the Kashmiri Police Station in Thane, accusing her close family members of allegedly abusing and assaulting her badly at home this morning, officials said on Friday.

She posted a video on social media from outside the police station showing several of her injury marks on the face, lips, right hand and wrist, and desperately appealing for help.

"Hi, this is Vaishnavi Dhanraj. I am talking to K. Himaanshu Shuklaa. I really need help right now. I am in Kashmiri Police Station... And I have been abused by my family, I have been hit really badly. Please... I need everybody's help, right from the media, to the news channels and everybody in the



industry. Please come and support me," she said in her video post.

An official from the Kashmiri Police Station confirmed to reporter that the actress has lodged a non-cognisable complaint against her family members this afternoon.

"We have summoned her mother and brother and warned them against indulging in such behaviour at home. Since it's purely a family dispute, we have filed a NC and allowed them to go," said the official.

Later, taking to social media, Shuklaa expressed his gratitude to the Thane Police, for helping her out in the crisis. Dhanraj, a divorcee, living with her parental family, is noted for her role in the long-running serial "CID" in which she played a cop, and "Laado" among other assignments.

# Shreyas Talpade suffers heart attack, undergoes angioplasty

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Film actor Shreyas Talpade, who underwent an angioplasty late last night is in a stable condition and will be discharged in a few days, his wife Deepthi said here on Friday.

"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming concern and well-wishes following the recent health scare my husband experienced. I'm relieved to update everyone that he is now in stable condition and will be discharged in a few days," said Deepthi.

She expressed gratitude to the medical team's expertise, exceptional care and timely response have been instrumental during this time of medical crisis.

She said: "The medical team's exceptional care and timely response have been instrumental during this time, and we are grateful for their expertise.



We kindly request respect for our privacy as he continues his recovery. Your unwavering support has

been a tremendous source of strength for both of us."

"We kindly request respect for our privacy as he continues his recovery. Your unwavering support has been a tremendous source of strength for both of us," Deepthi concluded. Talpade, 47, noted for his roles in films like 'Iqbal', the 'Golmaal' franchise and 'Poster Boys' among many others, had a major health scare when he suffered a heart attack after a grueling shoot. Talpade had been shooting throughout the day, was joking around with the crew on the sets, shot some sequences which had a bit of action, but after going home, he told his wife he was feeling uneasy. She rushed him to the city's Bellevue Hospital in Andheri West, but he collapsed en route but upon reaching the hospital, the medics took charge. After various tests, Talpade underwent an angioplasty around 10 p.m., and the morning after was on the way to recovery.

# Maharashtra govt announces SIT probe into violence in Beed district during Maratha quota stir

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis Friday announced that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) would be set up in the next two days to probe arson during the Maratha quota stir in Beed.

He was speaking during the assembly during the Winter Session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

During the Maratha Quota agitation homes of two Nationalist Congress Party MLAs were torched in Beed district. Fadnis vowed the government will not spare anyone involved in the violence.

The agitation seeking reservation for the Maratha community in jobs and education had turned violent as protesters torched the homes of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLAs Sandeep Kshirsagar



and Prakash Solanke in Beed, central Maharashtra, in October-end. Solanke's home was also vandalised. Fadnis, who is also the home minister, said

people involved in the incident will be prosecuted. He was responding to the calling attention raised by Kshirsagar whose house in Beed city was torched during the agitation.

Fadnis said, "Actionable evidence is available to prosecute suspects. Although the investigation (launched after the incident) has progressed, I will set up a SIT with the approval of the house."

NCP (Sharad Pawar group) MLA Jayant Patil, a former state home minister, said police could have fired in the air to stop arsonists.

"An accused person's name is Pappu Shinde. Why did the local police not arrest people who have criminal background? At least firing in the air (by the local police) could have deterred some of them (violent protesters)," Patil said.

Fadnis said no one involved in the unlawful act will be spared.

# SC grants a 10-day extension, asks Maha Speaker to decide defection pleas in Shiv Sena split by Jan 10

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday granted a 10-day extension to Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar for deciding the pending defection petitions in the Shiv Sena split case.

Earlier, the top court had ordered the Speaker to announce his decision by December 31 on disqualification petitions filed by the two rival factions of the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray and CM Eknath Shinde against each other.

During the hearing, a bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud was apprised by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the Speaker would conclude the proceedings on December 20 and considering the voluminous documents involved in the case, and thus, the deadline may be extended by three weeks. Opposing this, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sunil Prabhu, submitted that similar requests seeking extension of time have been raised by the Speaker in the past.

Thereafter, the bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, ordered: "The Speaker has indicated that the proceed-



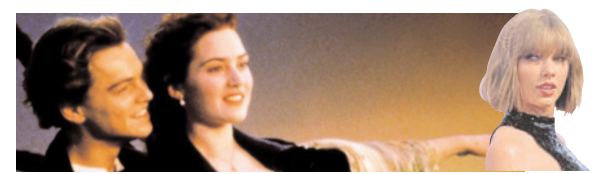
ings will be closed on December 20 and has sought a reasonable extension of time. Bearing in mind the time limit laid out earlier, we grant extension of time till January 10, 2024 for the Speaker to deliver judgment."

Following the split in the party, both the factions of Shiv Sena filed petitions against each other under the anti-defection law. Later, the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena moved the apex court against delay by the Speaker in deciding the disqualification proceedings filed against Chief Minister Shinde and his camp. Jayant Patil of the NCP-

Sharad Pawar faction also filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the delay by the Speaker in hearing the defection pleas following a split in the NCP.

The top court in October this year directed the Speaker to conclude the hearing in NCP defection petitions by January 31 next year.

Earlier in May, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had directed that the Maharashtra Speaker "must decide disqualification petitions in a reasonable time" against 16 Shiv Sena MLAs, including Shinde, who were accused of anti-party activities.



# Taylor Swift celebrates birthday with Blake Lively, Gigi Hadid, Zoe Kravitz

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift spent her 34th birthday surrounded by friends. The pop icon celebrated her big day with a party attended by many of her celebrity friends in New York City, and she posted to Instagram the following day to share photos from the event.

Stars including Gigi Hadid, Blake Lively, Jack Antonoff, Sabrina Carpenter, Gracie Abrams, Este Haim, Alana Haim, Zoe Kravitz and Antoni Porowski, among others, stepped out to Swift's party, as did her longtime friend Abigail Anderson - all of whom are pictured hanging with the 'Karma' singer on Instagram, reports People magazine.

Miles Teller and his wife Keleigh Sperry also attended the celebration, according to photos taken outside Manhattan nightclub, where the party was held following a dinner at Freemans Restaurant. "Can't believe this year... actually... happened? Thank you for all your beautiful birthday wishes yesterday", wrote Swift on Instagram, reflecting on her many accomplishments of 2023: launching the Eras Tour, breaking records with its theatrical film and releasing both Speak Now (Taylor's Version) and 1989 (Taylor's Version), among others. As per People, in the Instagram post's lead photo, Kravitz can be seen holding a cake from Milk Bar

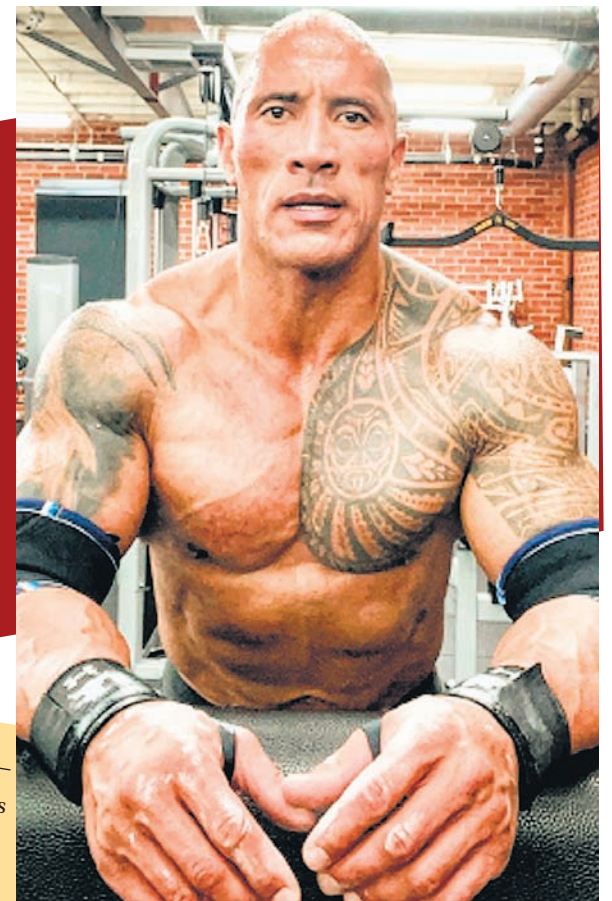


celebrated her birthday early with friends in Kansas City at a holiday party on Sunday, where they were spotted posing with partygoers and exchanging sweet kisses in group photos throughout the evening.

## Dwayne Johnson cast as MMA fighter Mark Kerr in 'The Smashing Machine'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood Actor Dwayne Johnson is set to step into the shoes of mixed martial arts fighter Mark Kerr. A24 announced that the actor, 51, will portray



"The Smashing Machine" from filmmaker Benny Safdie, reports People magazine. "Dwayne and Benny are singular talents, and their shared vision for Mark's inspiring story is electrifying. We are deeply honoured to have their trust as collaborators in bringing this incredibly special project to life," A24's Noah Sacco said in a statement to The Hollywood Reporter and Variety.

Safdie, 37, previously worked with his brother Josh Safdie as the co-director of 'Uncut Gems', which starred Adam Sandler, and 'Good Time' starring Robert Pattinson. As per People, 'The Smashing Machine' will be Safdie's first solo project as both writer and director. Johnson, Safdie, Dany Garcia, Eli Bush and David Koplan are producing the film.

The movie is set to explore the life of Kerr, at the peak of his career in 2000, while he navigates career victories, love, friendship and addiction. Kerr, 54, earned the nickname "The Smashing Machine" due to his unbridled fighting style. He won over two dozen MMA titles and was a two-time UFC Heavyweight Tournament Champion, as well as a World Vale Tudo Championship winner. Dwayne Johnson's other upcoming projects include 'Red Notice 2', 'Fast X: Part 2', 'Jungle Cruise 2', 'Red One' and the live-action remake of 'Moana'.

## Kate Beckinsale reveals personal items that bring her comfort

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Kate Beckinsale's greatest comforts in life include cuddly cats and giant candles. The 50-year-old actress, who was recently targeted by a troll for dyeing her naturally brunette hair blonde, posted a series of images of items that bring her solace and joy.

She captioned the carousel, which has pictures of a framed image of a cat surrounded by huge flickering candles, as well as Raymond Carver books, a skull ornament and one of her pals at a party, "Things and people that have given comfort or lifted my spirits, should anyone need some ideas x (there will be a volume 2 to this)".

Beckinsale has changed the colour of her locks for Christmas and also showed off her new look in a series of party pictures on Instagram, reports aceshowbiz.com.

They showed her in a shimmering dress enjoying time with friends, including 42-year-old heiress Paris Hilton.

Fans took to social media to praise her new look, but one said: "Why such a colour? I thought the original was better - a shame."

The message prompted Kate to hit back, saying: "Because sometimes one fancies a change and is not too bothered about what (you) may think about it, given we clearly do not share the same aesthetic, nor do we know each other."

Referring to a coat he was wearing in his Instagram profile picture, Kate also asked the male fan if he'd like people "saying they don't think your orange puffer jacket flatters you".

She then continued to ask him why it was appropriate for him to remark on someone's appearance, asking him: "Were you brought up to think your unwarranted opinion is the most important factor in any situation? If so, tell your mum she did a bad job."

Beckinsale's comments won the backing of a flood of Instagram users, who joked about her dislike of the man's jacket.

The actress recently marked her 50th birthday by dressing up and declaring getting older is "great."



## Jessica Simpson shares 'Thirsty' picture on Instagram

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Jessica Simpson shared an Instagram photo of herself modeling a swimsuit from her clothing line on Thursday.

She wrote in the caption: "Thirsty". She posed against a wall while sporting the swimsuit from her collection, reports People magazine.

She regained control of her company after she bought it from partner Sequential Brands Group in 2021. Dripped in jewels, she wore a pearl choker, a dainty silver choker, a gold necklace with a diamond pendant of a tiger's head, a single silver bracelet and a pair of large bejewelled silver hoop earrings.

As per People, she accessorised her look with a pair of bronze metallic pointed high heels and oversized aviator sunglasses. The 'Employee of the Month' actress completed her look with a dark brown smokey eyeshadow look and a glossy nude lip.

During an October chat about a recent Jessica Simpson Collection drop, Simpson revealed her daughters Maxwell "Maxi" Drew, 11, and Birdie Mae, 4, have been exploring her many looks. "I have to do a weekly girls' closet inventory to check for missing items. They even know my hiding spots somehow," she said. She joked that she may have to consider "having one closet for all three of us ladies."

## For Charlie Puth, planning his wedding to Brooke Sansone is 'more intense' than planning a tour

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Charlie Puth, ahead of his performance at TikTok's In the Mix event over the weekend, has shared that he tends to be a bit more secretive with regard to his wedding plans.

"I like to keep some things in the confines of our home, of course, because stuff gets out so easily", he said. He revealed that "planning a wedding is a lot like planning a tour, reports People magazine.

He said: "It's probably even more intense". The singer and Sansone, who is a family friend, have been romantically linked since the summer of 2022, but first revealed their relationship publicly as part of a post for his 31st birthday. He then popped the question in September 2023.

"I've known her. I mean, she grew up one town over from me in New Jersey, and my parents know her parents," Puth said, quoted by People. "Her dad has been best friends with my dad since the third grade, so it's kind of like I'm just gaining another family right away, even before the wedding."



ding. And they've also known me before the fame, before everything, so I can't think of a better situation, quite frankly."

The couple's love is particularly evident in their thoughtful generosity towards one another. On December 2, Puth celebrated his 32nd birthday with Sansone, whom he says got him "the coolest present ever."

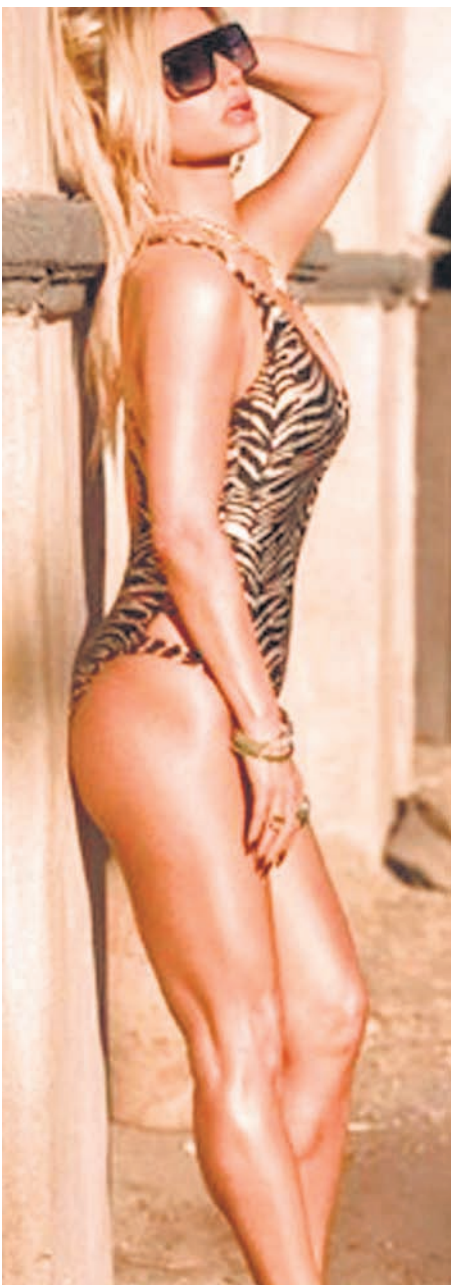
"She got me an Apple computer, an Apple 2 from 1991," he shares. "(The) serial number's from December of 1991, which is obviously when I was born, and the computer came with old recording software on it. Obviously, it's very rudimentary, but it's so cool just to see how they were able to record music in the past."

Expressing his happiness with the gift, Puth noted that Sansone "searched far and wide for that gift, we both love giving gifts," before stating "now I've got to top it for her birthday."

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Sophie Habboo







## Amitabh shares fond memories with Agastya, his passion for acting

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**M**egastar Amitabh Bachchan, who was excited to host his grandson Agastya Nanda on the hot seat of the show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15', recalled holding him in his arms soon after his birth and shared how his grandson had a passion for acting.

The quiz-based reality show saw the presence of the star cast of the recently released teen musical drama 'The Archies'. Agastya, Suhana Khan, Khushi Kapoor, Vedang Raina, Mihir Ahuja, Dot, Yuvraj Menda came to the show along with their director Zoya Akhtar. Agastya, Mihir and Yuvraj sat on the hot seat in the first lot.

Agastya, who is the son of Shweta Bachchan, said: "It feels as though we have two exams today. One with you and the other is KBC!"

Yuvraj then said to Amitabh: "The team of The Archies has prepared something for you and we want Agastya to read it out to you."

Agastya then read a candid poem for his 'nanu' which said that the latter should ask them easy questions, and sign the cheque of Rs 7 crore fast.

Replying to him, Big B also narrated a rap and declined their request candidly, leaving everyone in splits.

The 'Don' actor then asked his grandson to describe his first day on the set of 'The Archies'. Agastya, who has made his acting debut with the film, said: "Firstly, such opportunities come by rarely. And when they do, it becomes our responsibility to give our best. I enjoyed myself. We were shooting together. We released a song called 'Sunoh'. We were performing that, and



I think I had a blast. I just enjoyed it."

Yuvraj added on to Agastya and said: "I also want to ask something to you sir. How did you feel when you got to know that Agastya was going to play Archies' character in this film?"

The 'Sarkar' actor shared: "I guess a lot of people don't know that he's the son of my daughter. This is a very difficult question. Five minutes after his birth, I held him. Then he grew up a little and I could carry him in my arms. And he had a habit of scratching my beard with one finger."

"Then he grew up a little more. He became an actor one day. When he said he wanted to be an actor and work in films, I never stopped him. I never asked my kids what they wanted to do. They were free to do as they pleased. He chose his own path. No one in the family told him he had to do acting. He comes from a family of businessmen. I thought he would do business but he wanted to do acting," said the

'Brahmastra' actor.

Amitabh used to observe Agastya closely. "We went to the gym together once. The TV was switched on and you can browse the channels. There were two channels that played film songs. He'd never tune into the news or any sports events. Agastya Nanda watched the TV intently. 'Look how Ranbir Kapoor is dancing. Which step will Ranveer Singh do next? Oh! That's Anushka Sharma and...' He used to only observe what actors were doing," said Amitabh.

"At that moment, I knew that he had started rehearsing. When I watch the film, I will know if what he watched on TV worked for him or not," he concluded.

## Shreyas Talpade stable post angioplasty, to be discharged soon: wife Deepti

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**F**ilm actor Shreyas Talpade, who underwent an angioplasty late last night is in a stable condition and will be discharged in a few days, his wife Deepti said here on Friday.

"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming concern and well-wishes following the recent health scare my husband experienced. I'm relieved to update everyone that he is now in stable condition and will be discharged in a few days," said Deepti.

She expressed gratitude to the medical team's expertise, exceptional care and timely response have been instrumental during this time of medical crisis.

She said: "The medical team's exceptional care and timely response have been instrumental during this time, and we are grateful for their expertise. We kindly request respect for our privacy as he continues his recovery. Your unwavering support has been a tremendous source of strength for both of us."

"We kindly request respect for our privacy as he continues his recovery. Your unwavering support has been a tremendous source of strength for both of us," Deepti concluded.

Talpade, 47, noted for his roles in films like 'Iqbal', the 'Golmaal' franchise and 'Poster Boys' among many others, had a major health scare when he suffered a heart attack after a grueling shoot.

Talpade had been shooting throughout the day, was joking around with the crew on the sets, shot some sequences which had a bit of action, but after going home, he told his wife he was feeling uneasy.

She rushed him to the city's Bellevue Hospital in Andheri West, but he collapsed en route but upon reaching the hospital, the medicos took charge.



## BIG B SHOCKED AS SUHANA WAS CLUELESS ABOUT SRK'S 'PADMA SHRI' WIN



Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Suhana Khan, who graced the quiz-based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' was left embarrassed as she was not able to answer a question on her superstar father Shah Rukh Khan.

Suhana, who made her acting debut with the movie 'The Archies', came on the show along with the director Zoya Akhtar and other star cast-- Agastya Nanda, Khushi Kapoor, Vedang Raina, DOT, Mihir Ahuja, and Yuvraj Menda.

During the Super Sandook round, Zoya, Suhana and Vedang were asked: "Shah Rukh Khan has not yet received which of these honours?"

The options given were- Padma Shri, Legion of Honour, L'Etoile d'Or +, and Volpi Cup. Suhana gave the wrong answer and said 'Padma Shri'. The correct answer was Volpi Cup.

Host of the show Amitabh Bachchan was left surprised by Suhana's cluelessness about her father SRK.

The 'Sarkar' actor said: "The daughter doesn't know what awards her father has received. Her father just told her that the person sitting in front of her has played his father's role. So ask him to take it easy with the questions. I asked such an easy question. But she couldn't answer."

Amitabh continued and said: "And in 2005, Shah Rukh Khan received Padma Shri."

## DEEPIKA PADUKONE SEEKS BLESSINGS AT TIRUMALA VENKATESWARA TEMPLE WITH FAMILY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Deepika Padukone embarked on a spiritual journey to the Tirumala Venkateswara temple in Andhra Pradesh, and sought the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. The 'Chennai Express' star climbed the stairs of the temple barefooted at night, and was accompanied by her parents and sister Anisha Padukone.

The video that is doing rounds on the social media shows Deepika walking in the temple premises wearing a black hoodie and matching leggings. She was also accompanied by her team.

The other video shows the 'Om Shanti Om' actress seeking blessings at the temple, along with her family. She is wearing a traditional outfit, with jhumkas and her hair tied in a low bun. On the work front, Deepika was last seen in a special appearance in the action thriller 'Jawan', starring Shah Rukh Khan in the lead. Directed by Atlee, the flick stars Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Priyamani and Sanya Malhotra in pivotal roles.

She is now gearing up for the release of her upcoming aerial action drama 'Fighter', starring Hrithik Roshan and Anil Kapoor. Directed by Siddharth Anand



## SHAH RUKH KHAN, SUHANA PRAY AT SHIRDI SAIBABA TEMPLE



Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood mega-star Shah Rukh Khan and his actress-daughter Suhana prayed at the famed Shirdi Saibaba Temple here on Thursday.

The Shirdi town visit came a couple of days after he went and prayed at the Vaishnodevi Mata Temple in Jammu, both coming ahead of his upcoming much-anticipated film.

Videos of SRK and Suhana have surfaced on social media showing the father-daughter duo at the Shirdi Saibaba Temple.

While King Khan is sporting a white t-shirt with a dark coat and black cap plus an orange shawl around his shoulder, Suhana is seen attired in a pastel blue salwar-kurta suit. Scores of fans taken by surprise at the sudden star-duo entry were seen jostling for a glimpse and clicking selfies, while Khan managed to greet and shake hands with some temple officials who came out to receive them, and waves out to his fans crowding around.

With two huge blockbusters -- "Pathaan" and "Jawan" under his belt this year, Khan is hoping for a hat-trick in 2023 with "Dunki", which is slated for a Christmas-New Year week on December 21.

Incidentally, prior to the "Jawan" release in September, Khan had visited the Lalbaugcha Raja marquee in Parel along with family and then prayed at Tirupati Temple in Andhra Pradesh.

Besides his own twin-blockbusters, this year daughter Suhana made her screen debut with Zoya Akhtar's "The Archies" -- based on the famous American comic books series -- in which she enacted the role of the rich and temperamental Veronica Lodge.

After Beatles, Rolling Stones & David Bowie, Vir Das

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctor-comedian Vir Das, who recently won an International Emmy Award for his stand-up special 'Vir Das: Landing', is set to take the stage at the Apollo Theatre in London, on Saturday. He will entertain a live audience of nearly 5,000 people as a part of his ongoing Mind Fool tour.

The Apollo Theatre has witnessed performances by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, David Bowie, Iron Maiden and Selena Gomez. The theatre has also been graced by comedy legend Louis C.K.

Talking about the same, Vir Das said: "Stepping onto the Apollo Theatre stage is not just a personal triumph; it's a momentous occasion for Indian comedy. The energy of this historic venue, which has hosted musical legends and comedy icons alike, is both exhilarating and humbling."

He further mentioned: "As I stand before a live audience of almost 5,000 people, I am driven by a desire to connect, to bring joy, and to be a bridge between cultures. The Mind Fool tour is my way of spreading laughter across borders, and I can't wait to share this experience with audiences around the world."

His tour spans 33 countries and encompasses 37 cities across India, and promises to be a cultural celebration.

to perform at London's Apollo Theatre

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Tara Sutaria