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CLIMATE FUNDING FOR FOOD SEES DOUBLING OF INVESTMENTS AT COP28

CHANGE FOR LIFE

Northeast celebrates 52nd anniversary of 'Vijay Diwas'

- With the support of over 600 government and non-government partners, AIM for Climate announced an increased investment of more than \$17 billion, up from \$8 billion at COP27, representing a more than doubling of investments.
- The increased investment comprises over \$12 billion from the government partners, and over \$5 billion investment from Innovation Sprints. India is also a government partner of the initiative.
- AIM for Climate introduced 27 Innovation Sprints, initiatives led and self-funded by partners to achieve expedited results in agricultural and food systems innovation.
- There are now 78 Innovation Sprints in total, more than double what was announced at COP27, aligned with one or more of AIM for Climate's Innovation Sprint focal areas.

With India a partner, the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate), a global initiative spearheaded by the UAE and the US, has announced more than doubling of investments, partners, and Innovation Sprints in transformative climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). They are smallholder farmers in low- and middle-income countries; emerging technologies; agroecological research; and methane reduction.



from carbon removal economics. Spreading rock dusts in farmlands removes carbon dioxide by accelerating the natural weathering process and improving crop productivity for smallholder farmers. Speaking about the importance of an initiative such as AIM for Climate, Shantanu Agrawal, Founder and CEO, Mati Carbon, told reporter: "With 2023 coming to an end, we have only 250 gigatons of carbon budget left to reach the 1.5C target and we are still significantly underinvested across sectors. We know that climate change is going to disproportionately impact agriculture, especially smallholder farmers. "AIM for Climate's initiative to push for increased investments is critical especially for the 500 million smallholder farmers and for food security in the global south." The new investments, partners, and Innovation Sprint announce-

ments were made by AIM for Climate co-leads US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Mariam bint Mohammed Almhairi, at the UAE Pavilion of COP28. These announcements underpin AIM for Climate's progress in significantly increasing investment in and other support for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation over the period of 2021 to 2025. Through these collaborative efforts, AIM for Climate demonstrates a commitment to developing sustainable and resilient agricultural practices to address climate change and global hunger. Mohammed Almhairi said: "We are witnessing tremendous progress in transforming the global food and agricultural systems at COP28, which has placed the theme at the heart of the Presidency agenda. The world has rallied together for the implementa-

tion of the 'COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action' with 134 nations endorsing it, in addition to support gained from non-state partners. "The significant traction gained by AIM for Climate is another step in promoting climate-smart agriculture, driven by innovation and advanced technology, which is critical to strengthening productivity and building sectoral resilience." US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said: "Together, with the UAE and our global partners, we are dedicated to meeting our climate goals, enhancing food security, and building a sustainable future for our planet. "This partnership embodies our shared commitment to accelerating investments in transformative food systems and climate-smart agricultural innovations and we look forward to working with everyone on the road to COP30. Our joint efforts are not just about climate-smart agricultural advancements but about nurturing ambition, catalyzing action, and fostering hope towards a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous world for all." EarthShot Prize winner Boomitra, founded by Aadith Moorthy, is also an AIM for Climate Innovation Sprint. To scale the deployment of climate-smart agriculture, Boomitra will deliver \$200 million in carbon finance to farmers and ranchers in the developing world by 2025.



Team Absolute | Guwahati/Agartala

The army on Saturday celebrated the 52nd Vijay Diwas across northeastern states in which wreath laying ceremonies and various other events were organised at the war memorials in Agartala, Shillong, Imphal, Aizawl and other places. The Bangladesh Assistant High Commissions in Guwahati and Agartala also organised discussions, cultural programmes and a get-together on the occasion. In Aizawl, to commemorate the anniversary of the victory in the 1971 war, Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati unfurled the national flag on a 70-foot pole at the Assam Rifles state headquarters. The national flag atop 70-foot high mast is the

first of its kind to have been installed in Mizoram. On this occasion, Mizoram witnessed incomparable participation of soldiers during the 1971 war where the fearless Mizos showed impeccable valour, an official statement said. The ceremony also aims to spread a feeling of nationalism and patriotism. Lt. Colonel Clement Lalhminghanga, former Indian football stalwart Jeje Lalpekhlua, and other dignitaries were also present at the event. In Meghalaya, Vijay Diwas was celebrated on Saturday in Shillong. In Tripura, to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those who participated in the 1971 war, a solemn Vijay Diwas function was organised at the Albert Ekka War memorial on the outskirts of Agartala city by the army. Wreaths were laid at the

memorial by Tripura Governor Indra Sena Reddy Nallu, state's Finance Minister Pranajit Singha Roy, senior army officials and other dignitaries. In Manipur, Chief Minister Biren Singh and other dignitaries visited the first Battalion Manipur Rifles ground in Imphal to pay homage. Paying his tribute to the Indian soldiers, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on X: "On this day in 1971, our forces inflicted irreversible damage on the nefarious designs of Pakistan and defeated them, thereby ensuring the creation of Bangladesh. On Vijay Diwas, I salute their bravery and resolve to protect Maa Bharati at any cost." The day was also celebrated in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and other parts of northeast India.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

One of the new Innovation Sprints to be announced is led by Mati Carbon who have committed investments of \$50 million over four years with a focus on developing scientific robust, scalable, and cost-effective carbon removal that will benefit the smallholder farmers in the global south. Mati Carbon's mission is to enable climate resilience for smallholder farmers by improving crop productivity and using direct benefits transfer

YouTube adds song play counts, AI playlist art creator in Music app



San Francisco | Agencies

Google-owned YouTube has added play counts for every song in its Music app and broadened the availability of the generative AI creator for playlist art. Users will now see the play count for every track when they browse an album or public playlist generated by YouTube Music. It's right next to the artist name and song length in the Android and iOS apps, reports 9to5Google. Previously, this information was provided in "Song details" at the bottom of the Now Playing Related tab. Moreover, another YouTube Music feature seeing a wider rollout this week is the AI-driven playlist artwork creator. This feature provides a variety of themes for users to personalise their playlist covers. When users see one of their playlists, a circular pencil icon appears in the bottom-right corner of the cover, allowing them to cus-

tomise the theme. This includes colours, travel, nature, animals, landscapes, food and drinks, or fantasy. Users can then customise one to three aspects of the chosen theme. After selecting the desired theme, click "Create", a series of AI images will be generated. YouTube Music will provide seven alternatives, with the option to access 'More' at the end. Users can then select it and click "save" to make it the playlist art, the report explained. Meanwhile, YouTube has announced a new comment moderation setting, "Pause", allowing creators and moderators to prevent viewers from creating new comments while keeping existing comments on videos. Users can find the Pause option in the video-level comment settings in the upper right-hand corner of the comments panel on either the watch page in the app or in YouTube Studio.

Deepti Sharma is the Ben Stokes of the Indian team: Amol Muzumdar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amol Muzumdar, head coach of the Indian women's cricket team, revealed that off-spin all-rounder Deepti Sharma is called the "Ben Stokes of the team". On Saturday morning, Deepti extended her match haul to nine wickets, taking four scalps in the second innings, apart from making 67 and 20 with the bat, to play the leading hand in India securing a memorable 347-run win over England in the one-off Test at the DY Patil Stadium, thus taking the Player of the Match award. "You are talking about Stokesy - I jokingly call her as the Ben Stokes of the team. She is fantastic. The confidence she has shown in her batting and the confidence she has gained in these two innings - nine wickets



in the Test match and a fifty! She is an important cog in the wheel when she comes (out to bat in the) lower order, bowls crucial overs, and gets wickets," said Muzumdar to broadcasters after the match ended. In both of their batting innings, where they made 428 and 186/6 declared, India had a run-rate of 4.09 and 4.52 respectively. Muzumdar stated that there was a plan behind batting with a high run-rate in the Test against England, which they wrapped up before lunch on day

three's play. "We had thought about playing in a certain fashion as a team and we will continue to do that. It was not planned as a 400-run day. But we had to be positive. Glad that the team responded. And resulted in a good first day." "No Test match is easy. But the efforts the girls put in before the Test match - the players who came in five-six days before, we had a nice solid group that was working at the Wankhede Stadium. The preparation was nice, and it resulted in a Test match win." With a jubilant feeling of comprehensively winning over England in the Test match, India will be brimming with confidence to prepare for their next Test, against Australia at the Wankhede Stadium starting on Thursday.

- The American Heart Association defines metabolic syndrome as a group of five conditions that can lead to heart disease, diabetes, stroke and other health problems.
- The results showed females who consumed tree nuts snacks had a reduced waist circumference and a trend toward reduced visceral (intra-abdominal) fat compared to those consuming carbohydrate snacks.
- Males who consumed tree nuts snacks had decreased blood insulin levels. Both males and females consuming tree nuts snacks saw an effect on triglycerides and TG/HDL ratios with TG/HDL ratios reduced about 11 per cent compared to those consuming carbohydrate snacks.

Snack on almonds, walnuts to cut heart disease, diabetes, stroke risk

New York | Agencies

Love to eat snacks in between meals? Instead of munching cookies, brownies, pies, eat tree nuts like almonds, walnuts, cashews, pecans and hazelnuts to reduce your risk of metabolic syndrome. Metabolic syndrome is diagnosed when someone has three or more of risk factors such as High blood glucose (sugar), low levels of HDL ("good") cholesterol in the blood, high levels of

triglycerides in the blood, large waist circumference or "apple-shaped" body and High blood pressure. The new findings published in the journal Nutrients showed that daily tree nut consumption reduces the risk of metabolic syndrome by improving waist circumference, lipid biomarkers, and/or insulin levels, without requiring calorie restriction, in young adults. In the study, the team enrolled 84 men and women, aged 22-36,

most of whom were either overweight or obese (BMI 24.5 to 34.9 kg/m2) and had at least one risk factor for metabolic syndrome. Participants consumed either one ounce of mixed unsalted tree nuts or one ounce of a carbohydrate-rich snack twice daily. Both snacks provided the same number of calories, protein, fibre, and sodium and were part of a 7-day eucaloric weight maintenance menu that repeated throughout the study duration of 16 weeks.

KERALA PROFESSOR BRINGS OUT EXCLUSIVE OLYMPIC CALENDAR AS IT RETURNS TO PARIS AFTER 100 YRS

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

A retired Kerala professor has brought out a 2024 exclusive calendar tracing the evolution of modern Olympics and honours the legends of Olympics, as the biggest sporting extravaganza returns to Paris next year exactly after 100 years. The event will be held from July 26, 2024 to August 11, 2024 in France, with Paris as the main host city and 16 other cities spread across metropolitan France. Dr. Vasishth, former Head of the History Department, Malabar Christian College, Calicut who made the calendar, said he decided to come out with this in the midst of the ongoing conflicts at the international level, the calendar is made to propagate the message 'Olympics For World Peace' and 'Nobel Peace Prize for Olympics'. The calendar explains the entire history of Olympics, its meaning, the venues, the giants who brought laurels to themselves and their country, the mascots and many more interesting details.



The 2024 Summer Olympics, officially the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad and commonly known as Paris 2024, is a forthcoming international sports event scheduled to take place from 26 July to 11 August 2024 in France, with Paris as the main host city and 16 other cities spread across metropolitan France.



K'TAKA: BJP STAGES PROTEST AGAINST CONG-LED GOVT OVER ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Karnataka unit of the BJP on Saturday staged a state-wide protest, condemning the incidents of atrocities against women and criticising the Congress government's failure to prevent female foeticide in the state.

Members of the BJP Mahila Morcha held protests in all district headquarters, criticising the Siddaramaiah-led state government.

In Bengaluru, members of the Bengaluru City Mahila Morcha, led by former CM DV. Sadananda Gowda, staged a protest at Freedom Park.

They criticised the Congress government led by CM Siddaramaiah and attempted to lay siege to the residence of Home Minister G. Parameshwara.

State General Secretary Siddaraju, Mahila Morcha President Geetha Vivekanan, and other leaders were also



present during the protest.

They were detained by the police and later released. Protesters across the state demanded the resignation of CM Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G. Parameshwara.

State unit president B.Y. Vijayendra said: "The Belagavi nude parade is an inhuman incident, and the state government should bow down its head in shame. It raises a big question about whether the state government has taken the incident seriously."

He added: "BJP workers are attacked in broad daylight, and the horror unleashed on women in Belagavi is being discussed at the national level. They make a few arrests, and they won't move beyond that. Steps such as the CM visiting the victim or issuing compensation immediately were not taken. After finding out the facts, we will discuss how we should take the issue forward."

Bharat Jodo Yatra 2.0 likely to start from NE in Jan first week, to be in hybrid mode

Anand Singh | New Delhi

Congress is planning to hold the second leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which is likely to kick off from January first week, party sources said on Saturday.

According to Congress sources, the first leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which was led by former party chief Rahul Gandhi and travelled for over 4,000 km from Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari to Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar in five months was a massive success to bring back the Congress workers together.

Thus the party has planned the second leg of Yatra from January first week in 2024, that will also kick off the party's Lok Sabha campaign.

The source said that the second leg of the yatra is being planned from first week of January. The source said that this time the Bharat Jodo Yatra 2.0 will be in hybrid mode, which will include pad yatras and travel by bus.

The source said that the padyatra will pass through several cities and villages of west and north India. He also said that the yatra will begin from northeast and will go on for over two months. The source said that the party leaders are working round the clock for the preparation and fine tuning of the programme of the Bharat



Jodo Yatra. He said that there are several things that are going in the planning of the yatra looking at the hill and cold conditions of the north-east India. The source also said that during the yatra, there will be several nukkad and public meetings in cities and villages across the route.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra began on September 7 last year from Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari and passed through the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and union territories of Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir. The yatra concluded in Srinagar on January 30. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi led the yatra from the front and addressed several public meetings and also met several groups of societies during the yatra.

Congress appoints Charan Das Mahant as C'garh CLP, Deepak Baij to continue as state chief

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday announced the appointment of party MLA Charan Das Mahant as the CLP Leader of Chhattisgarh, with immediate effect.

Congress General Secretary (organisation) K.C Venugopal said, "Congress President has approved the proposal of the appointment of Charan Das Mahant as the CLP Leader of Chhattisgarh, with immediate effect."

He said that Congress President has also approved the proposal to continue Deepak Baij as the President of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee.

The Congress lost to the BJP in the recently concluded



assembly election. The Congress managed to win only 35 out of 90 seats in the state while the BJP came to power

with 54 seats. The Congress was eyeing for a second consecutive term in the state but failed.

Jaipur | Agencies

Faculty of Computer Science & Engineering, Poomima University (PU), Jaipur organised two days International Conference on "Recent Advancements in Artificial Intelligence (ICRAAI-2023)" in association with SAS India and Centre of Excellence in Machine Learning Applications for Society, PU.

Dr. Arun Patil, Vice-President-Global Engagement, Victorian Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Australia (Chief Guest); Dr. Jagdish Chand Bansal, Associate Professor, South Asian University, New Delhi; Dr. Richi Nayak, Professor (CE), Queensland University of Technology, Australia; Dr. Namita Mittal, Head of the Department of CSE, MNIT, Jaipur; Dr. Manoj Kumar, Research Head, University of Wollongong in Dubai, UAE, (Guest of Honors) graced the occasion of inaugural session. Chief Guest Dr. Arun Patil provided



valuable insights into the intricate landscape of implementing AI-based solutions. In his elucidation, he navigated through the intricate terrain of challenges, addressing issues such as ethical considerations, data privacy concerns, and the need for robust regulatory frameworks. Dr. Suresh Chandra Padhy, President, PU, engaged in a thought-provoking discourse on the pervasive influence of AI in our daily lives. Dr.

Manoj Gupta, Pro-President, PU, eloquently highlighted the imperative role of Artificial Intelligence in engineering education and expounded upon diverse futuristic approaches within the AI domain. Dr. Ajay Khunteta informed that all the presented papers will be published in Springer book series Innovations in Sustainable Technologies and Computing. Dr. Jagdish Chand Bansal, Associate

Professor, South Asian University, New Delhi, discussed various opportunities in the area of AI and challenges in near future. Dr. Namita Mittal, HoD of Computer Science and Engineering at MNIT, Jaipur, captivated the audience with her enlightening keynote speech, delving into the intricacies of AI applications. She provided real-world examples showcasing the transformative power of AI across diverse sectors, from healthcare to finance and beyond. Dr. Richi Nayak, Professor of Computer Engineering at Queensland University of Technology, Australia provided a compelling analysis comparing traditional AI with generative AI in her illuminating talk. Dr. Manoj Kumar, the Research Head at the University of Wollongong in Dubai, UAE, brought a critical perspective to the forefront as he explored the intersection of AI and security in his engaging discussion. At last, Dr. Chandni Kirpalani, Registrar, PU proposed the vote of thanks.

Atishi asks PWD Principal Secy to repair all the potholes in Delhi by Dec 31

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Minister Atishi on Saturday pulled up the PWD for laxity and apathy towards the dismal condition of roads in the national Capital, and also issued an ultimatum to the department's Principal Secretary to repair all the potholes in the city by the end of the year.

In her communication to the PWD Principal Secretary, Atishi, who also holds the PWD portfolio said, "All roads wider than 60 feet are maintained by the PWD. However, these roads are in an abysmal condition in many parts of the city."

She said that many roads have potholes, many have large patches that need repair and some are entirely broken and are unmotorable.

"For the last six months I have been repeatedly directing the PWD to ensure maintenance of these roads. However, no action whatsoever has been taken.



This is despite the fact that I have taken at least ten meetings on this issue and have gone on multiple ground visits with PWD officers," she said.

Atishi added that the state of these roads was shocking. "Serious accidents are possible given the state of disrepair of these roads. The people of Delhi are suffering because of the laxity and apathy of the PWD. This is not acceptable," she said.

She directed the PWD Principal Secretary to send daily reports of pothole repairs to her office and make a list of all the roads that require re-surfacing.

"This resurfacing of all broken roads has to begin by February 1, 2023 and be completed by the end of February," she said. "It is the personal responsibility of Principal Secretary PWD to ensure that these timelines are strictly adhered to. Strict action must be taken against any officers who cause delay by even a single day," she added.

Delhi: Woman gets dragged by Metro train as clothes get trapped in door; dies

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A woman has succumbed to her injuries which she sustained when her saree and jacket got stuck in the door of a Delhi Metro train following which she got dragged by the train for several metres, an official said on Saturday.

The incident occurred on December 14 at Inderlok Metro station when the woman was travelling from Nangloi to Mohan Nagar accompanied by her son.

Initial investigation suggests that the Metro door's sensor failed to detect the presence of the woman's clothing, leading to the accident. The victim was dragged by the train for several metres, ultimately causing her to fall onto the tracks.

Following the incident, she was promptly rushed to Safdarjung Hospital and admitted to the ICU ward of Neuro Surgery. "An incident



occurred at Inderlok Metro station on December 14 where, prima facie, it appears that a lady passenger's clothes got entangled in a train, leading to injuries and subsequent demise in hospital today," said

the DMRC spokesperson, Anuj Dayal.

"The Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) will be holding an inquiry into this incident," he said.

Rajasthan: New CM Bhajan Lal Sharma forms SIT in paper leak case

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has announced forming an SIT to investigate the paper leak case.

Addressing his first press conference in CMO on Friday, Sharma said: "Those who put the future of youth at stake will not be spared. The state government will ensure that the paper leak does not occur in future. The accused will be punished."

"Any kind of crime will not be tolerated. Anti Gangsters Task Force will be formed to end organised crime in the state," he said.

The chief minister has also hinted at bulldozing criminals' houses along the lines of Uttar Pradesh government.

Bhajanlal said: "We will work on the basis of our manifesto. We will solve the issues facing the public and work to



support the last person. The kind of work Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done for women, we will also do the same. Our government will not tolerate atrocities against women and girls. Providing security to women will be a priority.

"Improving law and order and eradicating corruption will also be the priority of the government."

JAIPUR JEWELLERY SHOW (2023) IN ITS 21ST YEAR

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

The city of Jaipur, clichéd as the Pink City has qualities galore. One of them is the strong tradition in lapidary (processing and cutting of gems), and Jaipur is now fast becoming a household name for exquisite jewellery. The growth of the city in terms of infrastructure, influx of tourists, new hotels and restaurants, all indicate a city in the making of a metro.

It was in this context that a small step was confidently taken to give a further fillip to the city by launching the Jaipur Jewellery Show (JJS) in 2003 by late Shri Rashmikant Durlabhji. The vision was clear: giving an impetus to the Gems and Jewellery trade; placing Jaipur on the World Gem & Jewellery map. Adapting the new trends of marketing for Gem & Jewellery, such an exposition in Jaipur was long overdue as the city has a rich legacy of colour gemstones and traditional Jewellery.

JJS: The humble beginning in 2003 with 67 stalls at Entertainment Paradise (EP) saw an encouraging response, interaction and zeal. Small wonder that, the 2004 JJS witnessed a quantum leap to 189 booths. There has been no looking back since then. In 2005, the venue was shifted to the Rajmahal Palace, with as many as 276 stalls. This venue provided greater space and facilities to the exhibitors, other participants and visitors. In 2006, the booths saw



an impressive increase to 308; 354 in 2007; 357 in 2008, 372 booths in 2009; 413 booths in 2010; 451 in 2011; 464 in 2012; 456 in 2013; 552 booths in 2014 at JECC; 730 booths in 2015, 800 plus booths in 2017; 810 in 2018 and 2019; 800 in 2021 and 902 in 2022. Creating an enduring experience for the sellers and buyers, JJS in its 21st year will host over 1100 booths. This has been possible, owing to brand JJS and the changed venue to JECC eight years ago. There has been a significant growth in the number of booths this year.

THE STATE-OF-THE-ART VENUE: Persistent demand for more booths and better facilities by the exhibitors made the Organizing Committee of JJS shift the show to the new venue of Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre (formerly known as Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC) at Sitapura in 2014. With more space and better facilities, JJS has been leveraged to a totally new level. JJS will be showcased in an impressive area of over 2,50,000 square feet, pillar-less hall. New registration area has been created for the conven-

ience of visitors. The exhibitors at the show will find better flooring, lighting, carpets, lounge as well as parking and toilet facilities. In terms of car parking too there will be more space and better facilities for the participants and visitors. JJS has also left no stones unturned in ensuring total security for the high value products on display. Nearly 500 CCTV cameras will be placed at vantage points with security agency personnel ensuring fool proof arrangements are carried out. Members of the media will also be provided with a 'Media Centre' well-equipped with adequate facilities. Other than gems and jewellery sections, there will be other sections for publications, machinery, and gem testing laboratories as well as the 'JJS-IJ Awards Entries'.

There will be over 1100 booths. Out of which 318 will display gemstones, 660 will display outstanding jewellery, 13 will display costume and silver articles and remaining booths are for Allied machinery and publications. The number of booths as well as the space allotted to the show is a clear barometer that not only repeat exhibitors are coming in a big way but the new exhibitors too are showing keen interest in participating in this grand 'December Show'. The manner in which the stall owners create highly impressive and ambient booths, make them a feast for the eyes. It needs to be underlined that 67% booths at the show are designer stalls.

This time JJS will be attended by more than 8,000 trade visitors, and nearly 50,000 domestic

"The power to question is the basis of all human progress. 'progress.'"



Indira Gandhi

absolute india

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Eating a lot of bakery items, processed snacks resulting in constipation cases for children: Experts

PLEASE DO TAKE CARE

Worry, anxiety, fatigue and change of lifestyle may cause stress which leads to constipation. Hence stress should be avoided. Those who suffer from constipation should take more water and fibre and do more outdoor exercises. Physical activity prevents constipation. Addressing dehydration is crucial for maintaining optimal gut health and overall wellbeing.

Bengaluru | Agencies

As Constipation Awareness Month is being observed, experts opined that eating a lot of bakery items and processed snacks is attributed to increased cases of constipation among children above the age of 5 years in Bengaluru.

Constipation Awareness Month, a global healthcare event, is observed annually throughout December to bring awareness on gut health.

Dr. Srikanth K. P, Consultant - Paediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road, Whitefield and Sarjapur, told reporter that, the children are exposed to eating a lot of bakery items that are made up of maida which don't contain any fiber.

Their whole meal too doesn't include many fruits and vegetables, which is very negligible. All these dietary changes are attributed to the increased constipation cases for slightly older children (above 5 years of age), Dr Srikanth said.

Known for its cold climate, people, specifically children, in Bengaluru, spend a lot of time indoors which results in less physical activity out-



doors and no sweat. They also don't feel that thirst to drink water very often. Thus, they eventually end up drinking very little water. This contributes to be a major reason for constipation in children and adults in Bengaluru, Dr. Srikanth explained.

That is another reason for constipation in children who are younger than 3-4 years of age. Thus, if individuals go back to our traditional whole grain diet, since the Indian diet, no matter the region, contains enough

fiber along with an adequate quantity of water, it will help them prevent constipation or treat constipation if they already have it," he stated.

Dr Khushali Lalcheta, Consultant Physician, HCG Hospitals, Rajkot explained that, in the case of children, the consumption of processed snacks and a deficiency in fiber-rich foods, such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, contributes to constipation.

Coupled with inadequate water intake, these dietary patterns under-

score the importance of fostering a balanced diet to ensure optimal digestive health in the younger population.

Dr. Ganesh Shenoy, Director - Minimal Access, GI and Bariatric Surgery, Fortis Hospital, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru, said that Bengaluru's warm climate and high altitude lead to increased fluid loss through sweat and respiration, putting residents at risk of dehydration. This lack of proper hydration can significantly impact bowel function, leading to constipation. In children, underdeveloped digestive systems struggle with processed foods, while older adults grapple with slower gut motility and weakened pelvic floor muscles. Constipation can severely impact their quality of life. Early intervention and dietary adjustments are key to healthy gut habits across generations, Dr. Shenoy explained.

Bharathi Kumar, Dietician, Fortis Hospital, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore stated that parents should prioritise whole grains, lentils, and fruits in their children's diets, while seniors should opt for fibrous vegetables, prunes, and adequate water intake.

Jitu Patwari replaces Kamal Nath as MP Congress chief, Umang Singhar to be CLP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after its drubbing in the Madhya Pradesh elections, the Congress has replaced senior leader and former chief minister Kamal Nath as the state unit chief with other backward class (OBC) leader Jitu Patwari.

OBCs account for over 50% of voters in Madhya Pradesh and the selection of Mr Patwari - who lost to a BJP candidate from the Sau Assembly seat with a margin of over 35,000 votes - is being seen as the party's attempt to make a fresh start in the crucial heartland state ahead of the all-important Lok Sabha elections, which are less than four months away.

The Congress had managed to secure only 66 seats in the 230-member Assembly and the BJP had won 163 despite being in power in Madhya Pradesh for nearly two decades.

Despite the loss in Chhattisgarh, however, the Congress has decided to retain Deepak Bajaj as the state unit chief.

In Madhya Pradesh the party has also appointed Umang Singhar as the Congress Legislative Party leader, which means that he



will be the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, and has picked Hemant Katare as the deputy leader.

The picks are significant as, apart from effecting a generational change, they also reflect the Congress' attempt at caste balancing. Kamal Nath was a Brahmin leader and has now been replaced with an OBC leader in Jitu Patwari. Umang Singhar is a tribal and the nephew of late Jamuna Devi, who was a former deputy chief minister and represented the state both in the Lok Sabha and

Rajya Sabha.

The naming of Hemant Katare may have been done with an eye on retaining the votes of the Brahmin community after replacing Kamal Nath. Announcing the appointments, a Congress statement said, "The Congress president has appointed Shri Jitu Patwari as the president of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee, with immediate effect." "The party appreciates the contributions of outgoing PCC president, Shri Kamal Nath," it added.

Unemployment, inflation reasons behind Parliament security breach: Rahul Gandhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

For the first time, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday slammed the BJP government at the Centre over the Parliament security breach, saying that unemployment and inflation were the main reasons behind it.

Addressing mediapersons at the Congress headquarters here, the Wayanad MP also slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that the government policies are the reason for the rising unemployment in the country. "Unemployment is a big reason in the country. And due to policies of the Modi



government youths are not getting employment opportunities. (Security) Breach has happened and main reason behind this is unemployment and inflation," he said. Two youths entered the

Lok Sabha on December 13 and jumped from the visitor's gallery and sprayed the yellow smoke gas. Till now, Delhi Police have arrested a total of five people in connection with the case.

Can't set time frame for restoration of normalcy in Manipur: Lt Gen Kalita

Kolkata | Agencies

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command of Indian Army Lt Gen R.P. Kalita on Saturday said that peace is returning to the conflict-ridden Manipur but there cannot be set time frame for the restoration of normalcy in north-eastern state.

He said that efforts are on by the central and state governments as well as the security forces to bring a lasting peace through dialogue and other means. "The Assam Rifles was called in after violence erupted in Manipur on May 3. We worked in a synergised manner with state police and Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF) and succeeded in bringing about some semblance of normalcy in the next 7-10 days. The law-and-order situation was brought largely under control," the General Officer



Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command said while addressing the media on the sidelines of a solemn wreath laying ceremony at Vijay Smarak in Fort William, Kolkata, to mark India's victory against Pakistan in the 1971 War that led to the liberation of Bangladesh. He said that in Manipur there have been spor-

adic incidents of violence but the efforts are on through dialogue and a proactive role played by us to restore normalcy. He said that, however, the large number of weapons in the hands of both communities and the instability in Myanmar, across the border, has had its impact. "There are possibilities of sporadic incidents but all efforts are on to restore normalcy. While a reconciliation process is on from the governments' side, our objective is to bring down violence," Lt Gen Kalita said.

He said that the transportation of the mortal remains of victims of the violence took place on Friday and 19 bodies have already been cremated at Kangpokpi. "The remaining will also be cremated in a couple of days. A burial ceremony will also take place at Churachandpur soon. I am positive that things will improve," he said. He said that, however, it is very difficult to put a time limit.

FPIs bought heavily in banking, IT stocks

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services V K Vijayakumar on Saturday said that a major development in December has been that FPIs have heavily bought stocks in banking and IT segments.

He said that this trend has intensified after the Fed signalled the end of the tightening cycle and indicated possibly three rate cuts in 2024.

He said that this triggered a crash in U.S. bond yields with the 10-year going below 4 per cent.

"FPIs heavily bought stocks in banking and IT segments. FPI buying is likely to sustain and going forward," he said.

He said that the India is one of the



top investment destinations of FPIs.

"There is a near consensus now in

the global investing community that India has the best prospects among the emerging economies for sustained growth for many years to come," he said.

He said that this growth has the potential to create phenomenal wealth through the stock market.

"FPIs are investing to benefit from this potential wealth creation," he said.

He said that after the inclusion of India in the J.P Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index, there is high enthusiasm to invest in Indian government bonds.

"Some institutions may have already started buying. Now that the U.S. bond yields have corrected significantly, Indian bonds will attract more investment," he added.

My father, mother were CMs but I didn't take fake degree: Tejashwi

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav said on Saturday that he was the son of two former chief ministers and he could easily have taken a degree but opted for honesty and did not take a fake degree.

While addressing a gathering during a school sports event in Patna, he said, "A degree is important and I want to appeal to the parents to pay attention to the education of their children. At the same time, sports are also important. Hence, the Bihar Government has taken an initiative to bring medals and create jobs in the state. So, don't go with the old theory of 'Padhoge likhoge banoge nawab, kheloge kudoge hoge kharab (if you study you will become a big man, but if you play you will ruin your life.' Sports can build your career." "I appeal to students to leave smart phones



and tabs and come to the ground for sports," Yadav said. "People ask me why I don't have a degree. I want to say that my father and mother were chief ministers of the state and I could have easily taken a degree but I opted for honesty and not a fake degree. I still say education is very important for every student," Yadav.

Tejashwi Yadav, the younger son of Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi dropped out of school and did not complete class 9.

RAGHAV CHADHA NAMED LEADER OF AAP IN RS IN SANJAY SINGH'S ABSENCE

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday named Raghav Chadha as the party's leader in the Rajya Sabha in the absence of Sanjay Singh, who is under judicial custody following his arrest in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

The AAP said, "In the absence of Sanjay Singh, the party has announced Raghav Chadha as the leader of AAP in the Rajya Sabha." Singh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on October 4 this year in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. The ED had also arrested former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with the case on March 9 this year, days after his arrest by the CBI on February 27 in the same case. Sisodia is also under judicial custody presently.



Dharavi project was awarded to Adani Group through fair, open, internationally competitive bidding process

Mumbai | Agencies

The Dharavi project was awarded to the Adani Group through a fair, open and internationally competitive bidding process, the spokesperson of Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd (DRPPL) said in a statement.

"It is important to note that the tender conditions were finalised during the tenure of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, which demitted office at the end of June 2022. The finalised conditions, including the obligations and incentives, which were known to all the bidders, have not been changed for the awardee post the tendering process. Hence, it is wrong to claim that any special benefits have been



given to the awardee," the statement said.

"It is unfortunate that a concerted effort is being made to disseminate misinformation about certain aspects of the project. It is reiterated that all eligible tenement holders will be provided with key-to-key solution, which means they will move into their new homes in Dharavi itself. "As per the tender conditions, even ineligible ten-

ement holders will be provided accommodation under the Rental Housing Policy. The tender provisions also ensure that eligible residential tenements will receive 17 per cent more area than other SRA projects in Mumbai," it added. Further, generation and usage of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) are as per the tender conditions and fully compliant with the relevant laws. Moreover, the resettlement of Dharavikars is not affected by TDR. Also, the TDR from the project will be managed and monitored transparently through a specially created portal by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and the Government of Maharashtra.

WhatsApp tests manage emoji replacement feature on Windows

San Francisco | Agencies

Meta-owned WhatsApp is rolling out a new 'manage emoji replacement' feature to some beta testers who install the latest WhatsApp beta for Windows 2.2350.3.0 update from the Microsoft Store.

This new update lets users disable this text-to-emoji replacement option, providing users with greater control over their messaging experience, reports WABetaInfo.

Open the app settings and the general tab to see if the toggle to manage replacing text with emoji is available to your account.



"Introducing a feature to allow users to disable text-to-emoji replacement ensures that the original intent and tone of their messages remain intact. Sometimes, automated emoji replacements may not convince users, and they might prefer the clarity and precision of their chosen symbols without automatic alterations," the report said.



China still adores Dwarkanath S. Kotnis - revamps school at his birthplace Solapur

Quaid Najmi | Solapur (Maharashtra)

The Chinese people continue to adore Dr. Dwarkanath S. Kotnis, over eight decades after he died while serving the ill and needy there on a special medical mission during the second China-Japan War of 1938.

As part of his 81st death anniversary commemoration, the Chinese Consulate General in Mumbai and Yapp India Automotive Systems Pvt Ltd, Nashik, dedicated a revamped school in Solapur - Kotnis' birthplace - this week, officials said.

A grand opening ceremony of the renovated SMC Camp No. 1 Camp High School was held on December 14 with Chinese Consul-General Kong Xianhua, Yapp India CEO Chen Huazhu, Solapur Municipal Commissioner Sheetal Telgi-Ugale, and more than 800 students in attendance.

The Chinese Consulate and Yapp India have invested Rs 50 lakh to install a new drinking water system, develop a sports ground, renovate the gates and security system, besides painting the school building and fitting CCTV cameras to give it a new look.

Speaking on the occasion, Xianhua said that this school will soon be renamed as 'Dr. D.S. Kotnis Friendship School', after completing the relevant official formalities, as the students greeted the announcement with a loud applause.

Expressing gratitude, Teli-Ugale said Kotnis' dream of having a school or hospital in Solapur is



coming true, as she expressed her readiness to work with China and Chinese companies to strengthen the education-health sector of the town.

Kotnis was born in Solapur on October 10, 1910, and qualified as a medico from the renowned KEM Hospital & Seth G.S. Medical College in Mumbai.

When was barely 28, Kotnis became part of a five-member voluntary Indian Medical Mission team, organised and crowd-funded by the then Congress President Subhash Chandra Bose and senior leader Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, following a desperate appeal for help from China.

Leaving for China in September 1938, Kotnis, along with Dr. M. Atal from Allahabad and the Mission head, Dr. M. Cholkar (Nagpur), Dr. B.K.

Basu and Dr. D. Mukherjee (Calcutta), toiled for nearly five years on the battle-front.

Xianhua recalled how Kotnis always worked in the front-line, saved innumerable lives with his exceptional medical skills, trained a group of skilled Chinese medicos and made significant contributions to the victory of China against Japanese aggression.

The long hours of work in the harsh environment took its toll on Kotnis, who died on December 9, 1942, at the young age of 32.

His untimely death shocked and saddened the Chinese and for generations they continue to regard Kotnis as a 'Son of China'.

"Gratitude is the traditional virtue of Chinese people... We want to make our own small contribution to Solapur, try to repay Kotnis' ultimate sacrifice for China and honour his heroic deeds," said Xianhua.

He also noted that young students are the future, and the seeds of friendship sown in their hearts will help carry forward the spirit of Kotnis and hold high the torch of China-India friendship, emphasising that "the Chinese people have not, and will never forget Dr. Kotnis".

Xianhua assured that the school revamp is only the beginning and "there will be a lot more coming for Solapur's all-round development, adding that Kotnis would have been pleased to see his birthplace improving with the combined efforts of the people of China and India.

Dharavi redevelopment project Uddhav Thackeray, other Maharashtra political leaders protest in Mumbai



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray along with party leader Aadiya Thackeray, Sanjay Raut and other Maharashtra political party leaders including Dharavi Congress MLA Varsha Gaikwad on Saturday held a massive protest march that began from Mumbai's Dharavi.

Uddhav Thackeray had earlier announced to hold a protest march from Dharavi to the Adani Realty office in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). The demonstration is a response to what Thackeray alleges is favoritism by the Eknath Shinde government towards Adani Realty in the awarding of the redevelopment project for one of Asia's largest slums. In a press conference earlier on December 5, Uddhav Thackeray had said that he would lead a march to the Mumbai office of Adani Group on

December 16 claiming that the government was apparently favouring the business conglomerate with the Dharavi redevelopment project. According to the report, several suspicious decisions have been taken to favour Adani Group for the Dharavi redevelopment project. It also includes a TDR (Transferable Development Rights) sale clause which will benefit the Adani group significantly. "To protect the interest of the residents of the Dharavi area, Shiv Sena will march to the Adani Group office on December 16. I will lead the rally on Saturday," Uddhav Thackeray told reporters.

The Maharashtra government in July formally awarded the 259-hectare Dharavi redevelopment project to an Adani Group firm.

Uddhav Thackeray wondered whether the state government was trying to favour the Adani Group at the cost of residents of

Dharavi, a sprawling slum colony. "Enough information is available about the Dharavi redevelopment project which raises suspicion about whether the government is trying to benefit Adani at the cost of Dharavi residents, Uddhav Thackeray added.

Notably, Shiv Sena (UBT) ally Congress had last month organised a protest rally in Mumbai demanding the cancellation of the Dharavi redevelopment project contract alleging discrepancies in the issuance of the work order.

The project, which reportedly has a revenue potential of Rs 20,000 crore, involves rebuilding the Dharavi slum sprawl in central Mumbai, located near the BKC business district. It was won by Adani Properties in November last year through a competitive bidding which also saw realty major DLF and Naman Developers competing.

Maha BJP claims 'Shiv Sena (UBT) leader attended party with mafiosi', wife denies charges

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Nitesh Rane on Friday alleged that a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sudhakar Badgujar allegedly attended a party thrown by the 1993 blasts accused mafia operative Salim Kutta, a close associate of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar. Rane flashed photos and a video as evidence and claimed that the party was held when Salim Kutta - currently convicted and serving a life in jail - was out on parole, and showed Badgujar dancing in the bash.

He said that Deputy Chief Minister Devendra



Fadnavis and other BJP leaders have taken strong cognisance of the matter and ordered an SIT probe, while the Nashik Police have launched a preliminary probe into the incident.

Late at night, Badgujar's wife Harsha dismissed the video clip as fake and alleged that her husband was being implicated in the matter.

She suspected that the video was of a public event, at least 15-16 years old and the couple do not know who Salim Kutta is.

Fadnavis later informed the legislature that a detailed probe will be conducted by a Special Investigation Team and the involvement of any others who would also face stringent action.

Thane 'mowing' case: Congress flays govt for not arresting Maha babu's son

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Congress on Saturday slammed the state government and police for failing to arrest a senior bureaucrat's son who allegedly made an attempt to run over his girlfriend in Thane on December 11.

Congress' chief spokesperson Atul Londhe said although an FIR has been registered on the complaint of the victim - Priya Umendra Singh (26) - Thane Police are yet to arrest the prime accused, Ashwajit Gaikwad, and his friends, who made the murderous attempt on her.

Ashwajit (34) is the son of Anilkumar Gaikwad, Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC).

Singh, a beautician, had revealed the entire incident on her social media posts (IANS report - December 15), in which she named Ashwajit, his friends Romil Patil, Prasad Patil and Sagar Shelkar,



while tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, the state police and other dignitaries seeking action.

"There is something dubious about this and it raises suspicions... An attempt was made to crush a girl under a car (SUV) in Thane. The accused

Ashwaji is a leader of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha and son of the MSRDC head," said Londhe.

In a jibe at Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, who handles the home portfolio, Londhe said that though he is an efficient and capable leader, if such a serious incident takes place in a city like Thane, "it raises a question mark on his functioning and efficiency".

"What is the home department doing? When will the criminal in the Thane case be arrested by the police? Do BJP people think that they are above the law? Is Ashwajit is not being arrested because his father is a high-ranking official in the government," Londhe asked.

He also questioned that if the victim cannot be given justice, why raise slogans like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and beat drums on women's security.

The Congress spokesmen demanded immediate action, no matter how highly connected the criminal may be.

Mumbai local train updates: Central Railway to operate mega block on main line on Sunday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Central Railway on Saturday shared Mumbai local train updates for Sunday and said that it will operate a mega block on its main line on Sunday. The Central Railway also said that there will be no mega block on the Harbour line between CSMT-Panvel and on Trans-harbour line between Thane-Panvel.

In an official statement, the Central Railway's Mumbai Division said that it will operate a mega block on its suburban sections carrying out various engineering and maintenance works on 17.12.2023 as under:

Down Fast / Semi-fast services leaving Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Mumbai from 09.57 am to 01.50 pm will be diverted on DOWN slow line between Thane and Kalyan stations halting at Kalva, Mumbra and Diva stations in addition to their respective halts and will arrive



destination 10 minutes later than their schedule arrival.

Up Fast / Semi-fast services leaving Kalyan from

10.39 am to 02.58 pm will be diverted on UP slow line between Kalyan and Thane stations halting Diva, Mumbra and Kalva stations in addition to their respective halts and further re-diverted on UP fast line at Mulund. These services will arrive destination 10 minutes later than their schedule arrival.

"There will be no mega block on Harbour line between CSMT-Panvel and on Trans-harbour line between Thane-Panvel. These maintenance mega blocks are essential for infrastructure upkeep and safety. Passengers are requested to bear with the Railway Administration for the inconvenience caused," the Central Railway said in the statement.

Meanwhile, the Western Railway has announced a jumbo block on both UP and DOWN Fast lines between Mahim and Santacruz stations. The extensive maintenance operation is scheduled to take place on Sunday, December 17, 2023, from 10:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs, causing disruptions to the regular train services.

6 of wedding party killed in SUV-truck collision near Nagpur

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Six persons returning after attending a wedding were killed and one more seriously wounded when their SUV collided with a soybean laden truck early on Saturday, officials said. The accident occurred near Sonkhamb village on the Katol-Kalmeshwar Road at around 1 a.m., when the Qualis was speeding from Nagpur to Katol and rammed with the truck. While three persons succumbed instantly, the other three victims died during treatment at a local hospital, while the critically injured man has been shifted to Government Medical Hospital in Nagpur.

The deceased have been identified as Mayur M. Ingle, 26; Vaibhav S. Chikhale, 35; Sudhark R. Mankar, 42; Ajay D. Chikhale, 45; Vitthal D. Thote, 45 and Ramesh O. Helondy, 48, and their bodies have been sent for autopsy. The police have arrested the driver of the truck for the mishap and are investigating the exact causes of the accident which left the Qualis in a crumpled heap of metal on the road.



Traffic restrictions issued in parts of Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police have issued traffic restriction in parts of city including Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), Worli, Mahim, etc ahead of the Jio Mumbai Cyclothon Rally on December 17.

According to a traffic notification, the police said that the Jio Mumbai Cyclothon Rally is organised in the jurisdiction of BKC traffic division in Mumbai from early morning 03:00 hrs to 11.30 hrs. Distance wise the said Jio Mumbai Cyclothon Rally is divided into different categories. In which of 10 kms Cyclothon Rally will start from BKC traffic division and will end at BKC traffic division after moving from Bandra traffic division.

The police said, however, 25.50 and 100 Kms Cyclothon Rallies will start from MMRDA R-II ground the jurisdiction of BKC traffic division and after moving from Bandra,



Worli, Dadar and Mahim division through designated route said rallies will return the jurisdiction of BKC traffic division and will end at MMRDA R-II Ground.

The notification said, during the period of Cyclothon Rally following traffic management is made on 17/12/2023 between 02.00 hrs. to 12.00 hrs.

How Mumbai police tracked down man who threatened Ratan Tata

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police said it tracked down an MBA holder, who allegedly made a call threatening veteran industrialist former Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata. The police said during the course of the investigation they learned that the anonymous caller has schizophrenia. An officer of Mumbai Police said the caller asked the police to enhance Ratan Tata's security, failing which he warned that the industry doyen would meet the same fate as former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry.

Also a well-known industrialist, Mistry died in a car crash on September 4, 2022.

On receipt of the call, Mumbai Police went into full alert mode and a special team was assigned to



cater to the personal security of Ratan Tata while the other team was asked to collect information about the caller.

The police said they tracked down the caller through technical support and with the help of a telecom service provider.

The location of the caller was found to be in Karnataka, the police said, adding that he was a resident of Pune. As the police reached his Pune residence, they came to know that the caller had been missing for the last five days and his wife had even filed a complaint at the Bhosari police station in the city. After questioning the caller's kin, the sleuths learned that he suffers from schizophrenia and he took the phone, with which he made the call, from someone's house without informing them.

He rang up the control room of the Mumbai Police and threatened Ratan Tata, the sleuths said. The officer said since the caller was found to be battling schizophrenia, the police decided against pursuing legal action against him.

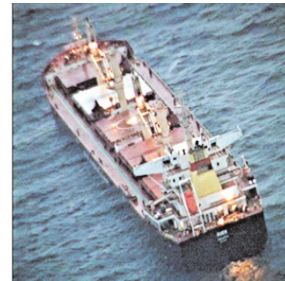
The sleuths learned that the caller has an MBA in finance and also studied engineering.

Indian Navy rushes to help hijacked Malta vessel in Arabian Sea

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major development, the Indian Navy has rushed to help a hijacked Malta-flagged ship with 18 crew on board in the Arabian Sea a couple of days ago, officials said here on Saturday. Responding to a Mayday message from the ship, MV Ruen that at least six 'pirates' had boarded the vessel, the Indian Navy's Mission Deployed platform reacted swiftly.

As the grim situation



unfolded in the high seas, the IN diverted a Naval Maritime Patrol aircraft on a surveillance mission in the area and its warship on the anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf

of Aden to locate the MV Ruen and render assistance.

On Friday morning, the IN aircraft overflew the hijacked ship and continuously monitored the movement of the vessel which was seen proceeding towards the Somalia coast in eastern Africa.

Simultaneously on Saturday, the IN warship deployed in the Gulf Aden intercepted the MV Ruen, and other international maritime agencies are also coordinating.



CHIEF MINISTER DR. MOHAN YADAV TO INAUGURATE KUNO FOREST FESTIVAL ON DECEMBER 17

Cultural programmes along with thrilling events to mark the occasion. Tourists to enjoy luxury glamping in tent city

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav will inaugurate the first edition of Kuno Forest Festival on December 17 at Kuno, Sheopur. This festival aims at harnessing tourism potential in the Kuno Forest Retreat (Tent City) constructed in village Ranipura of Sheopur district.

Tourists will enjoy luxury glamping in the tent city located near Kuno National Park. Also, tourists will have a thrilling experience with activities like hot air ballooning, paramotoring, jungle safari.

MLA Vijaypur Shri Ramniwas Rawat, Principal Secretary Tourism Shri Shiv Shekhar Shukla will also be present in the inaugural programme.

The first edition of Kuno Forest Festival is being organized by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board from December 17 to December 21. The Kuno Forest Festival, being organized by Eyak Ventures Private Limited and Lalluji & Sons in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, will provide a unique experience of thrilling events along with cultural programmes. Various activities and



workshops to promote local art and culture will also be held. This festival will be a combination of adventure, entertainment and culture. Jungle safari will also give visitors a chance to witness the a wide spectrum of wildlife in the area. It will promote the cultural heritage of Madhya Pradesh along with traditional art, cultural events and delicious dishes. At Kuno Forest Retreat (Tent City), tourists will be able to experience luxury glamping in all-weather tents.

Principal Secretary, Tourism and Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, Shri Shiv Shekhar Shukla has said that Madhya Pradesh attracts tourists from all over the world for its diverse and rich wildlife. Tourism in the state is being facilitated through initiatives like Kuno Forest Festival. The Tourism Department is committed to continuously improve infrastructure and experience based tourism near the National Parks of Madhya Pradesh.

From extraordinary luxury glamping to a wide range of cultural activities, new and unique experiences are being ensured for its visitors. The department is also committed to launching environment-friendly initiatives and conservation efforts while ensuring active participation of the local community through employment opportunities.

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

Many activities including various types of adventure sports, arts, crafts, music, village tour, food will be organized in the five-day festival. A tent city has been developed for the tourists, in which 50 fully equipped Swiss tents have been installed. Display of art and culture by local artists is the main attraction.

The festival will have adventure sports and thrilling activities for nature enthusiasts. Tourists will be able to enjoy the experience of parasailing, hot air ballooning, paragliding, star gazing with silent DJ, jungle safari, Dev Khoh tour and night walk.

Will decide on Madhya Pradesh cabinet after Sunday meet: Vijaywargiya

A DECISION ON THE FORMATION OF THE NEW CABINET IN MADHYA PRADESH WILL BE TAKEN AT A BJP MEETING ON DECEMBER 17, SENIOR LEADER AND NEWLY-ELECTED MLA KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA SAID ON SATURDAY.



Team Absolute | Indore

Responding to a query whether he would be seen in a big role in Madhya Pradesh in the coming days, he said, "I am still in a big role. I am the general secretary of BJP".

Vijaywargiya's comments come amid speculation regarding the role the party may assign to him and other senior leaders after Mohan Yadav became the chief minister.

In recently held assembly elections, Vijaywargiya won the Indore-1 constituency by defeating his nearest Congress rival. "A decision

will be taken in this matter in a party meeting on December 17," Vijaywargiya said when asked about the formation of new Mohan Yadav cabinet.

Yadav took oath as the chief minister on December 13. Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda were sworn in as deputy chief ministers.

Vijaywargiya, without naming Congress MP Dhiraj Prasad Sahu, said the Grand Old Party was trying to push

the Parliament security breach issue to suppress the recovery of Benami assets worth about ? 400 crore.

"The security breach is being investigated. Home Minister Amit Shah has said the government will thoroughly investigate the matter. Despite Shah's assurance, if the opposition is creating a ruckus in Parliament, then it seems their intentions are not good," he said.

18-Year-old shot dead after fight at his birthday party

Team Absolute | Gwalior

An 18-year-old youth was shot dead in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district on Friday late at night, a police official said.

The incident occurred near 6 Number Square under the jurisdiction of Morar police station in the district. The youth who died has been identified as Imran (18), a resident of Shivaji Nagar, Thatipur and he had gone to attend the birthday party of one of his friends.

A CCTV video of the incident has also surfaced on social media and there are around six to seven accused, including the main accused, Arvind Yadav in the incident.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP, Gwalior) Rajesh Singh Chandel said, "During a birthday party in the district, there was a dispute between the birthday boy and the main accused, Arvind Yadav. In the meantime, Imran also reached there. Accused Yadav opened fire which hit Imran and he died on the spot."

The police registered a case into the matter



and started a search operation to arrest the accused. On the basis of a CCTV video of the incident, there are six to seven other accused in the matter and efforts are on to arrest them as well, he added.

CANAL WORTH RS 7 CRORE COLLAPSED WITHIN 10 DAYS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The canal built at a cost of Rs 7 crore in Kolar area could not last even for 10 days. The canal completely caved in on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday. Actually, work is being done to pave the canal from Gehukheda to Hinotiya Alam. But this canal fell victim to corruption even before it was built. Its 50 feet area suddenly sank into the ground in the night. Now the responsible officials are talking about investigation.

People allege that there has been a lot of corruption in the construction of the canal. Even after complaining earlier, no action was taken. Now the result is in front of everyone. Let us tell you, about a year ago the Water Resources Department had issued a tender to make this canal concrete. The cost of this tender was fixed at Rs 7 crore 4 lakh. After this, this canal was handed over to the Public Works Department for construction. After



this, its construction work was being carried out from Gehukheda in Kolar to Hinotiya Alam via Priyanka Nagar, Bairagarh Chichli. But before it could be completed the canal responded.

It is being told that this is a pilot project of the Water Resources Department. After its success, it is to be implemented in other districts of the state also. According to the

department, space was required for road construction in Kolar. Besides this, due to the canal being open, there was also filth in it. That's why it was being confirmed. Besides this, water supply through pipeline would also prevent theft of water. Executive Engineer of Water Resources Department, Nitin Kohli says that the Public Works Department is doing the work of paving the canal. If there is any irregularity in it, we will get it investigated. Meanwhile, SDO of Public Works Department DK Sharma says that he is currently busy with CM duty.

In fact, it seems that there has been huge corruption in the construction of the canal and commission has been given to everyone from officials to public representatives, due to which poor construction took place. It remains to be seen whether this matter reaches the new CM of the new government or not, and what action does he take?

MERCURY IS AT 7 DEGREES, SHIVERING DUE TO BITTER COLD

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

It is harsh winter in Jabalpur. Life is affected due to cold and cold wave. Melting has increased due to increase in humidity in the air. Despite these circumstances, the Municipal Corporation leaders do not feel the need to light bonfires in public places. Those living under the open sky are shivering. Bonfires are not visible in the city's public places, Railway Station, Bus Stand, Rickshaw Stand, Baldevbagh, Bade Mahavir, Chhote Mahavir, Municipal Corporation, Civic Centre, Gaurighat, Ranital Chowk, Labor Chowk, Regional Bus Stand Damohanaka. Friday was the coldest night of this season, when the mercury dropped to 7 degrees.

For the last two days, severe cold is going on in the city. Biting cold in the morning and evening and cold wave in the afternoon have affected life.



People are seen laden with warm clothes round the clock. The streets become deserted quickly at night. People quickly hide in their homes to escape the cold. On the other hand, the morning routine starts late.

Children are facing a lot of trouble in going to school in the morning. But till now the timings of private and government schools have not changed. While the temperature is

falling day by day. Melting in the air is increasing, due to which the cold is increasing. According to the weather office, during the last 24 hours, the maximum temperature of the city was recorded at 25.2 degree Celsius, 1 degree less than normal, while the minimum temperature was recorded at 7.8 degree Celsius, 3 degree less than normal. The humidity in the air was recorded at 75 percent in the

morning and 56 percent in the evening. Sunrise occurred at 6.44 am and sunset at 5.27 pm. North winds blew at a speed of 2 to 3 kilometers per hour. Rajgarh was the coldest district in the state, where the minimum temperature dropped to 7 degrees. The weather is likely to remain dry during the next 24 hours. Last year, on this day the maximum temperature was recorded at 27.2 degrees and the minimum temperature was recorded at 15.0 degrees. For those living under the open sky in the harsh winter, the cold is now becoming death. An old man died due to cold near Tayyabaali petrol pump in Omati police station area. According to the police, the 70-year-old unidentified man used to earn his living by begging and used to sleep in the strip of a bakery next to Tayyabaali petrol pump. Police say that he died due to cold. The police are investigating the matter by establishing a route.

All District Collectors and District Election Officers, Returning Officers will go for two days training at IIIDEM New Delhi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

All District Collectors and Dist Electoral Officer and Training of Returning Officers Receive New Delhi will go Bharat election to them India International by Commission Institute of Democracy End Election Management (IIIDEM) Lok Sabha Elections in New Delhi In preparation for 2024 Training will be provided.

main Election Officer Mr Anupam Rajan said that India Forthcoming by Election Commission Preparation for Lok Sabha Election-2024 It has been started Collector of all districts of the region And District Election Officer and

Returning Officers IIIDEM in New Delhi Daily training will be given.

Mr Rajan told that Collector and District Election Officers Three in IIIDEM New Delhi Training in different phases will be given Training 21 It will start from December and 29 It will last until December. Training Program Key India Elections The time table is also issued by the commission It has been done.

In Collector of this district in the dates and Returning Officer Training will receive:

21 And December 22: Sheopur, Morena, Bhind, Gwalior, Datia, Shivpuri, Guna, Ashoknagar, Sagar, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Panna, Satna, Rewa,

Sidhi, Singrauli, Sehore, Khargone, Rajgarh, Dewas and Anuppur.

26 27 December: Umaria, Jabalpur, Dindori, Mandla, Balaghat, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Betul, Harda, Narmadapuram, Raisen, Vidisha, Bhopal, Barwani, Shajapur.

28 December 29: Khandwa, Burhanpur, Katni, Shahdol, Alirajpur, Jhabua, Dhar, Indore, Ujjain, Ratlam, Siwani, Mandausar, Neemuch, Agar-Malwa, Niwadi, Mauganj, Maihar and Pardhuna districts Collector and District Election Two-day training of officers India to receive International Institute of Democracy and Elections Management (IIIDEM) New Will go to Delhi.

Investigation initiated in the case related to action against youths in Gwalior

IN THE RECENT INCIDENT INVOLVING THE POLICE TAKING ACTION AGAINST TWO YOUTHS OF THE VIDYARTHI PARISHAD, WHO TRIED TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR IN GWALIOR BY RUSHING HIM TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER HE SUFFERED AN ATTACK, WILL UNDERGO INVESTIGATION.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has given instructions for investigation regarding unauthorised use of vehicle by the youths and the action taken against them.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has instructed the Director General of Police that it does not seem justified to impose the section of robbery on the youths because they do not have a

criminal background. The youth did the right thing from the humanitarian perspective but it is true that their method was wrong. This is a matter related to human sensibilities. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that this matter has come to my notice. Considering the entire circumstances, it would be appropriate to take justifiable action after probe. In this regard the decision to investigate has been taken.

38 Thousand people advised in One Year through TELEMANS: AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a year, 38 thousand people were given health advice on call through the Tele Manas facility running in AIIMS Bhopal. This 24-hour facility has so far emerged as a life saver in many cases. To use this facility, a person has to call TELEMANS helpline. Initially a counselor talks to the patient then according to the problem of the patient, the call is transferred to the specialist. If the patient does not get relief even after this, further procedures are started which includes in person service. Under this, the patient is given information about the nearby health centre, civil hospital or district hospital. With this, the patient is given the option to consult the doctor through e-Sanjeevani i.e. video call. The facility of Tele Manas is used the most by depression patients. Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, Prof. Dr. Ajay Singh said that to improve mental health, we need to create a strong support system and also remove the misconceptions prevalent in the society regarding this. There are some use cases that will help you understand the usefulness of this feature.

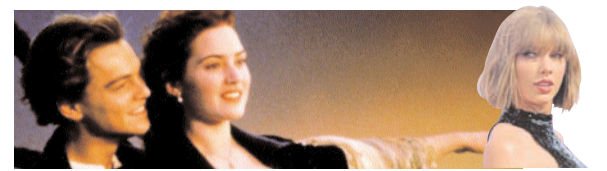
One day a call comes to Tele-Manas Indore, in which a 30 year old man told that he has been suffering from mental stress for the last 7 years. When the counselor asked for more information, he said that he always felt that his hands and body were



dirty. Needs to be washed and cleaned frequently. Not only this, such thoughts prevent him from eating and spending time with others. He revealed that earlier it was not like this, but ever since he started living in his village due to family problems, his views started changing due to the villagers repeatedly speaking to him. Now these thoughts bother him so much that he can't even sleep. Family disputes continued to increase, meanwhile they had to get married due to family pressure, due to which there were differences in their marital life. He was undergoing treatment 7 years ago but he stopped the medicine without consulting any psychiatrist because he was feeling better. His call was transferred to the psychiatrist. The psychiatrist spoke to the patient, conducted a detailed assessment of the patient's condition, and referred him to a Tier 2 local hospital. After which the patient went to the hospital and after medical consultation the medicines were

changed, which improved his condition, further the patient was given information about the nature of his disease, regular treatment and importance and benefits of the medicine. On follow-up one day, the patient expressed his gratitude and said that the information and suggestions given by the TMC counselor helped him.

A 17 year old youth was complaining of frequent thoughts, overthinking, depressed mood, loss of interest in activities, irregular compliance for the last 8 years and his 12th board exams were approaching. Due to which he was more stressed and worried about the future. The counselor encouraged her to express her feelings and get her emotions out. Who was troubling him for a long time. Apart from this, his safety was ensured with the presence of his family members (father). Additionally, medication adherence, sleep, and daily routine were improved for patients and caregivers. Also, suggestions were given for balanced diet, proper rest and regular exercise. After this he was referred for Tier 2. On follow-up call, the patient told that he had gone to the mental hospital in Indore. Following the advice given by Tele Manas counsellor, treatment has also been started. Dr. Vijender Singh, Professor, AIIMS Bhopal, said, the Tele-Manas program aims to reduce the huge treatment gap (currently 70-80%) for mental health problems in the country.



Madonna kisses boyfriend Josh Popper on stage

Los Angeles | Agencies

Legendary musician Madonna well and truly got 'Into the Groove' with her toyboy lover Josh Popper, after inviting him to join her on stage in New York.

Mixing business with pleasure, Madonna turned up the heat with her younger boyfriend on the first US date of her epic Celebration tour, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

Romance was in the air at the Barclay Center, in Brooklyn, when Madonna planted a kiss on 30-year-old Popper's cheek in front of the 14,000-strong crowd.

The boxing coach and model made an unexpected appearance during the Vogue segment of the show, titled 'Estere's Ball' after her 11-year-old

daughter.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', Madonna and her boyfriend sat beside one another and held up score cards as dancers performed sexy ballroom-style moves on a catwalk.

Whilst the music icon sparkled in a black-and-silver bustier, teamed with opera gloves and heels, Popper opted for a simple T-shirt, shredded black pants and trainers. Afterwards, Madonna posted a picture of herself and Josh clutching '10' scorecards on Insta Story, with the caption: "10's across the board". He was the latest surprise guest, following hot on the heels of FKA Twigs, Donatella Versace, Julia Fox and Diplo.

Madonna fell for Popper, who owns a gym in the Big Apple, after hiring him to coach one of her children. They went Instagram official in February.

Cher's romance took her 'completely by surprise'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Cher says it's "ridiculous" how her partner came into her life when she wasn't looking for a relationship. The 'Believe' hitmaker, 77, was not looking for love when the 37-year-old music executive came into her life, reports.

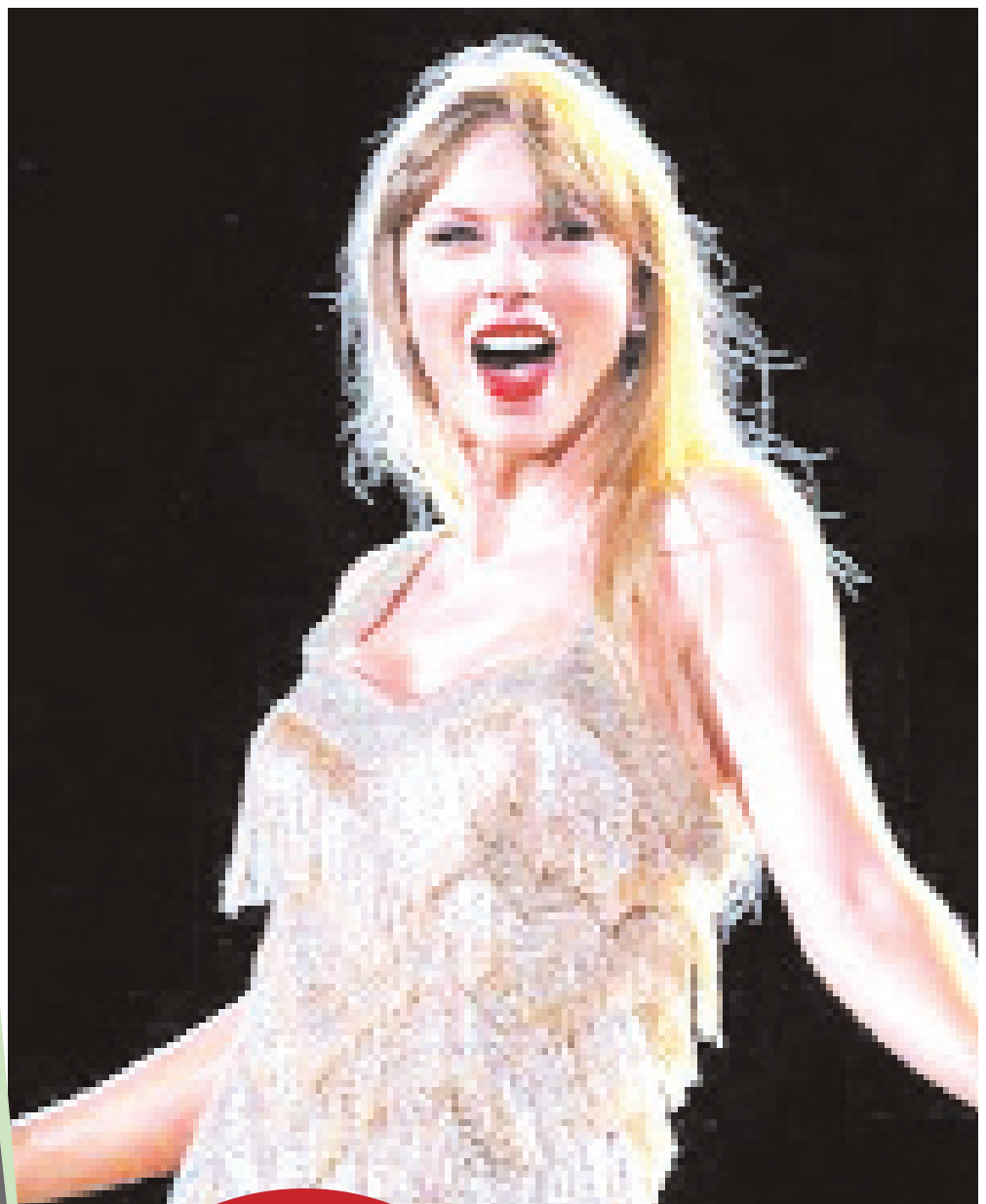
She told Parade magazine: "It took me completely by surprise. I mean, it was ridiculous. I wasn't looking for it at all. It just happened."

She was blown away when her partner presented her with a diamond ring last Christmas. Cher said: "Christmas morning, he gave me a bag and it had these beautiful handmade books and a beautiful pen-just amazing!"

"And then he went, 'Oh, wait, I forgot this one.' And I opened it up and there was the most amazing diamond ring I've ever seen."

Cher recently said she has a "great" time with A.E. However, the 'Turn Back Time' hitmaker admitted their 40-year age gap is sometimes highlighted in their discussions.

She said: "Sometimes I'm talking to him and he has no idea who I'm talking about. The other day, I said, 'Do you know who, I don't know, (1940s Hollywood star) Clark Gable, (is)?' Somebody said, 'Yes, of course,' but most of my references... He'll look at me and go, 'I wasn't born yet.'"



Taylor Swift tops Billboard's The Greatest Pop Stars of 2023

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has grabbed the top spot on 'The Greatest Pop Stars of 2023' by Billboard. SZA secured second place followed by Beyonce on the third spot. October's 'Midnight's' release had served as the climax-to-that-point of a 2020s where Swift had made every right move, starting with the acclaimed alt-folk reset of 'Folklore' and 'Evermore' in 2020 and crescendoing with the first two Taylor's Versions re-recordings (and the improbably Billboard Hot 100-busting 10-minute revision of Red deep cut 'All Too Well') in 2021, reports Billboard. The list further features Ice Spice at fourth, demonstrating their enduring influence, and Morgan Wallen rounding up the top five. Karol G, Olivia Rodrigo, Bad Bunny, Doja Cat and Drake are the other artists on the list.

Selena Gomez makes out with new boyfriend Benny Blanco

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Selena Gomez shared an intimate snap of her pair making out with her new boyfriend Benny Blanco. She took to social media to announce her new relationship with an adorable snap of her and her new man locking lips in New York, reports.

In the last image in a carousel of memories from the Big Apple, the lovebirds looked enamoured with one another as Selena was seen laying on the music producer's lap as she pulled him in closer for a kiss.

As per Mirror.co.uk, the precious moment followed a series of other fun-filled times in the city including pictures of Selena enjoying a warm cup of joe, grabbing tea with her friends, taking in the skyline views, and of course watching 'How I Met Your Mother' from the comfort of her hotel bed. Selena captioned the Instagram post: "New York, my favourite moments with you this week."

Fans took to the comments of the Only Murder in the Building star's post gushing over the new couple and how happy Selena looks with him. One fan wrote: "Ekkkk I'm so happy for you. You deserve the world." Another added: "love seeing you happy omgg you deserve all the happiness in this world and much more." And a third wrote: "Last slide.... I'm IN! You're glowing Xo."

The new post comes as Selena has already been forced to defend her new man against haters. When the 31-year-old actress first shared snaps with Benny, some of her fans bashed the couple claiming that it was a "marketing plan" as they previously worked together with others taking jabs at his appearance.



Kanye shouts 'Jesus Christ, Hitler, Ye!' during anti-Semitic rant at event

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Kanye West gave an unhinged speech to a crowd of people during an event taking place in Las Vegas. The rapper said that "all the rich f**ks" in the room have their kids in "Zionist schools".

He added that his daughter North, whom he shares with ex-wife Kim Kardashian, had destroyed couches in her house so she could join him on tour, reports. xIn a video obtained by TMZ, Kanye told them, "It's 60 million of us in America, 60 million Jews in the world. 50 percent of our deaths is abortion, 25 percent of us go to prison... raise your hand if you ever got an abortion. If we were in a Jewish... every mother would raise their hands."

"Who's going to make the hospitals, though? He's a Zionist, (Donald Trump). This is what I've been trying to tell you. Jesus Christ, Hitler, Ye, third party, sponsor that! They can't f**king touch me because God cover



me," he continued. Telling the crowd to "shut

up", he said, "I dont give a f**k about life or death, I get visitation with my kids," before adding, "F**k Balenciaga."

"North ripped up the motherf**king couches in the house' to be able to travel with her father on his trip," he further added.

He also addressed allegations of his past anti-Semitic behaviour on his song "Vultures".

Taylor Swift spotted flaunting ring to Miles Teller, Keleigh Sperry

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has got a new fashion accessory. In new photos taken outside of her birthday bash, Swift, who turned 34 on December 13, was seen showing off an eye-catching ring -- which she wore on her right, middle finger -- to her pals Miles Teller and his wife, Keleigh Sperry.

The statement piece features what appears to be an oversized opal gemstone with a halo of dark gemstones on the exterior, reports 'People' magazine.

In the photo, Sperry, 31, is holding the Lover singer's hand as she gets a closer look at Swift's piece.

Since Swift was spotted with the piece of jewellery, her fans have been speculating that the ring could be a new accessory gifted from her boyfriend, Travis Kelce.

As per 'People', Swift wore the piece with a singular tennis necklace and a Clio Peppiat Lucina Embellished Stretch-mesh black mini dress. Her birthday look also included an Aquazzura Galactic Mini Tote that was encrusted completely with jewels, a pair of Aquazzura Atelier Plateau 130 black open-toed high heels and a black Anine Bing faux fur jacket that she wore off the shoulder, plus Messika earrings.

Along with Teller and Sperry, Taylor Swift was joined by many of her celebrity pals in New York City to celebrate her 34th birthday.

The guest list included Blake Lively, Sabrina Carpenter, Antoni Porowski, Jack Antonoff, the Haim sisters, Gigi Hadid and more. Swift's long-time best friend, Abigail Anderson, who's mentioned in her popular song 'Fifteen', also appeared alongside the group in pictures.



Heidi Pratt



IND W V ENG W: CREDIT GOES TO OUR BOWLERS, SAYS HARMANPREET AFTER INDIA'S BIG TEST WIN



Navi Mumbai | Agencies

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur gave credit to her bowlers for securing India a 347-run victory as the country hosted a women's Test match after a gap of nine years, the huge win against England Women at the DY Patil Stadium here on Saturday setting the record for the biggest win by run-margin in the Women's cricket.

The Indian bowlers bundled out England twice in two days, getting them out for 136 and 131 runs respectively in two innings of the one Test match of the current series. Off-spinner Deepti Sharma claimed nine wickets in the match for 37 runs while Pooja Vastrakar picked four. Spinners Sneha Rana, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and debutant pacer Renuka Singh Thakur claimed two wickets apiece in the

match as India bowled out England twice for 260-odd runs. "The credit goes to the bowlers, whatever fields they were given they bowled according to that. Your job (as captain) becomes easier when your bowlers can bowl at the right spots. They bowled according to the plan," said Harmanpreet in the post-match press conference here on Saturday. Asked about how she arrived at her

bowling changes and unusual field positionings, the 32-year-old Indian captain said she got those ideas after batting for a fairly longish period on the wicket. Harmanpreet scored a crucial 49 in the first innings and a fighting unbeaten 44 as India declared their innings on 186/6 to set England the target of scoring 479 runs to win the Test.

"You get a lot of ideas about the behaviour of a pitch when you bat on it. When I was batting in both the innings, I got a fair idea of how the pitch was behaving at what time and which bowler and field placements would be best at that point in time. Sometimes you set fields to make them change their plans - we noticed their plan to sweep the off-spinners so we had a fielder at short square leg," she said.

Harman said everything went according to plan for India in this Test. "Everything went according to the plan. We got the score that we wanted and the bowlers did a good job, both medium pacers and spinners knew their plans and performed accordingly. The biggest positive was our fielding, especially in a long game when you have to field for 90 overs (in a day) it is very important to maintain the energy. We managed to set the tone with our fielding," said Harmanpreet, who was playing only her fourth Test match since making her debut in 2014.

Gu Ailing claims 2nd straight World Cup win to start season



Washington | Agencies

China's Olympic champion Gu Ailing, also known as Eileen Gu, clinched her second consecutive title to start the FIS Freeski Halfpipe World Cup season at Copper Mountain.

Following her victory at Genting Snow Park in north China's Chongli, 20-year-old Gu stomped all three of her runs, with each one scoring well into the 90-point range.

The best came from Gu's second run, where she earned a score of 95.75 for her ninth straight World Cup half-

pipe victory. "I'm so grateful to be here today," said Gu, who's battling through a shoulder injury. "Every day that I have on snow whether it's just making finals or being on the podium or winning any contests, I never take anything for granted. I'm grateful for every single win that I have and I'm as hungry as ever. Let's keep it going!" American freeskiier Hanna Faulhaber finished runner-up with 92.00 points, while Zoe Atkin of Britain rounded out the podium in 91.00. On the men's side, Alex Ferreira also notched his second

straight victory of the season and led a U.S. sweep of the podium. Ferreira's first run scored him 97.00 points that would hold throughout the rest of the competition. "It was an absolutely amazing day," Ferreira said. "To be able to ski like I did today and do my absolute best in front of all these fans is unbelievable." Following up Ferreira in second was Hunter Hess with 95.00 points, and Birk Irving came third in 92.50. Big Air World Cup action gets underway at Copper Mountain on Saturday.

Khelo India Para Games: Sheetal Devi shines with gold in compound archery

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The inaugural Khelo India Para Games witnessed an exceptional display of skill and determination as Sheetal Devi clinched the gold in the Open category of the compound archery event at the JLN Stadium on Saturday.

Sheetal's remarkable score of 141 proved decisive in fending off a fierce challenge from Uttar Pradesh's Jyoti Balyan, who secured the silver with a score of 138. Sarita from Haryana claimed the bronze with a score of 137.

Sheetal Devi, the armless archer from Jammu, has been creating waves in the archery world, and her success at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou added to her growing reputation.



However, the competition at the Khelo India Para Games was intense, demanding Sheetal to showcase both her archery skills and mental strength to emerge victorious in a thrilling finish against Jyoti Balyan. In the men's recurve archery category, Paralympian Harvinder Singh of Haryana exhibited his prowess by clinching the gold medal. Vivek

Chikara from Uttar Pradesh secured the silver, while Sahil from Haryana claimed the bronze, highlighting the competitive spirit among the para-archers. At the Dr Kamal Singh Shooting Range, Rudransh Khandelwal of Rajasthan, a silver medalist at the Para Asian Games 2023, continued his stellar performance.

Odisha Masters 2023: Ashwini Ponnappa-Tanisha Crasto storm into Women's Doubles final

Cuttack | Agencies

The Odisha Masters 2023 witnessed thrilling encounters as ace double shuttlers Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto secured a spot in the Women's Doubles Final at the JN Indoor Stadium.

In an intense Women's Doubles semifinal clash, the Indian pair faced off against Arlya Nabila Thesa Munggaran and Agnia Sri Rahayu from Indonesia. The first set saw a competitive battle, with Ashwini-Tanisha leading 11-8 at the interval. The Indian duo displayed resilience and secured the first set with a scoreline of 21-17.

Continuing their dominant performance, they maintained control in the second set, leading 11-8 at the interval. With a powerful display of skill, Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto emerged victorious in the second set with a score of 21-13, securing their place in the Women's Doubles Final.

In other significant matches of the day, Tanisha Crasto, paired with Dhruv Kapila, also triumphed in the Mixed Doubles category against Denmark's Mads



Vestergaard and Christine Busch. The Indian duo exhibited aggression and confidence, clinching the first set with a convincing score of 21-14. They continued their momentum in the second set, sealing the victory with a 21-14 win, advancing to the Mixed Doubles Final. The Men's Singles category witnessed defending champion Kiran George being ousted by Satish Kumar Karunakaran in straight games with scores of 21-18 and 21-14. Ayush Shetty secured a spot in the Final with a comeback win after dropping the first set, eventually winning 21-14 and 22-20. In Women's Singles, former World No 1 Nozumi Okuhara showcased her prowess by defeating Unnati Hooda with a scoreline of 21-16 and 21-5, securing her place in the Final. Another exciting Women's Singles Semifinal saw Lo Sin Yan Happy beating Christophersen Line with a score of 11-21, 21-10, and 24-22.

The Odisha Masters 2023 also witnessed notable victories in other categories, setting the stage for thrilling finals in the days to come. The Badminton enthusiasts eagerly await the culmination of the tournament as players vie for supremacy in the remaining matches.

SEBASTIAN SODERBERG TAKE COMMANDING LEAD AT MAURITIUS OPEN

Bel Ombre (Mauritius) | Agencies

In a scintillating display of skill and precision, Sebastian Soderberg surged to the top of the leaderboard at the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open, captivating the audience with a remarkable 7-under 65 on the second day at the La Reserve Links course.

Soderberg, who commenced his round early in the day, showcased his mastery over the course, carding an impressive round that included seven birdies. The 32-year-old Swede's stellar performance propelled him from 37th place after the first round to the coveted top spot.

For most of the day, a trio of determined contenders fiercely chased Soderberg's lead. The trio, comprising defending champion Antoine Rozner (62-74), Daniel Brown (68-68), and Paul Warring (63-73), exhibited consistent form, each concluding the day at 8-under after 36 holes.

Louis Oosthuizen, co-designer of the La Reserve Links course, held a



strong position at Tied-sixth with rounds of 68-69, while Marcel Siem, brand ambassador of the Heritage Resorts, found himself tied for 12th after consecutive rounds of 69-69. In a late surge at the end of the day, Jacques P de Villiers, a 32-year-old playing on the Sunshine Tour, claimed

the second spot by posting an impressive 5-under 67, adding to his first-round score of 68. De Villiers, displaying remarkable consistency, now sits one shot behind Soderberg at 9-under.

Notably, defending champion Antoine Rozner experienced his first

over-par round in 14 rounds played at the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open, an event he deems as his favorite on the Tour.

Sebastian Soderberg's stellar performance was characterized by a spectacular back nine of 6-under 30, featuring a string of birdies from the 12th to the 15th. His outstanding short game and solid putting contributed to a memorable day that he described as feeling "kind of easy."

Reflecting on his exceptional round, Soderberg expressed his satisfaction, stating, "It's just one of those days where it just felt kind of easy. I mean it was windy but I was hitting my driver really well, took care of the par-fives and the two drivable Par-4s. I made birdies on all of them."

As the tournament heads into the weekend, the stage is set for an exhilarating competition, with Sebastian Soderberg leading the charge and a strong field of contenders vying for supremacy at the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open.

ODI cricket is just 'too long', should be reduced to 40 overs: Wasim Akram

Perth | Agencies

Legendary Pakistan fast-bowler Wasim Akram believes that ODI cricket is just 'too long' as the 50-over format in its current form and wants for it to be reduced to 40 overs. Pakistan finished at fifth place in the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup and aren't scheduled to play a 50-over game till November 2024.

"There'll be another 50-over World Cup? God, do something about ODIs. It's just too long. The format has disappeared, especially the bilateral series. It's a very different format from T20 and Test cricket, it's kind of in between. You have to be a specialist." "I'll probably go 40 overs instead of 50 because the attention span is gone. It's disappearing a bit because of the T20 format. Test cricket is the ultimate, no doubt," said Akram while commenting on day three of Australia-Pakistan Test at the Optus Stadium in Perth.

He also pointed out that lack of action in the middle-overs is a point of concern for him. "The only problem is that ODI cricket, for me, is from the 10th to the 40th over, most of the time nothing happens. Teams are going at four-an-over



and the bowling side is saying, okay, we will give you four-an-over. The last ten and the first ten overs, the powerplays, are more exciting and that's where something has to be done, I think." Akram, who picked 502 wickets in 356 ODIs from 1984-2003, reminded everyone of the suggestions made by legendary India batter Sachin Tendulkar on making improvements in the format. "Somebody mentioned the great Sachin as well, to play four innings (of 25 overs each), that means the whole game will go on for probably three days. I did play one game in 2001 in Cardiff of two innings, 25 overs each, it was too long. It was interesting, but it was too long, the changeover and everything."

Tennis Premier League: Bengaluru SG Mavericks end Day 4 in top spot

Pune | Agencies

Rackets clashed and emotions soared as the fourth day of season 5 of the Tennis Premier League delivered nail-biting matches that were pure cinematic drama.

The first fixture of Day 4 of the league was kicked off with Punjab Patriots going up against Mumbai Leon Army. Conny Perrin of Punjab Patriots emerged victorious against Sowjanya Bavisetti of Mumbai Leon Army in the Women's Single Category, in a game that ended 11-9.

Digvijay Pratap Singh of the Punjab Patriots lost to Ernests Gulbis of the Mumbai Leon Army 9-11 in the Men's Singles Category. Conny Perrin and Arjun Khade of the Punjab Patriots beat Sowjanya Bavisetti and Vijay Sundar Prashanth of the Mumbai Leon Army in the Mixed Doubles category as the game ended 12-8. The final game of the match was the Men's Doubles Category, in which Digvijay Pratap Singh and Arjun Khade of the Punjab Patriots took on Ernests Gulbis and Vijay Sundar Prashanth of Mumbai Leon Army.

The game ended 11-9 in favour of the Punjab Patriots. The Patriots emerged victorious from the match as it ended 43-37 in their favour. Arjun Khade was adjudged to be the best player of the match for his exceptional performance for the Patriots.

The second fixture of Day 4 saw the Gujarat Panthers clash with the Bengaluru SG Mavericks. The Gujarat Panthers Ambassador, Arjun Kapoor was in the dugout motivating his players to push themselves during the games. Ekaterina Yashina of the Gujarat Panthers beat Arina Rodionova of Bengaluru SG Mavericks, 12-8, in the Women's Singles Category. In the Men's Singles Category, Sumit Nagal of the Gujarat Panthers lost convincingly to Ramkumar Ramanathan of the Bengaluru SG Mavericks, as the scores at the end of the match read 6-14. Ekaterina Yashina and Mukund Sasikumar of



the Gujarat Panthers lost to Arina Rodionova and Vishnu Vardhan from Bengaluru SG Mavericks, in the Mixed Doubles category, 9-11. Sumit Nagal and Mukund Sasikumar of Gujarat Panthers beat Ramkumar Ramanathan and Vishnu Vardhan from Bengaluru SG Mavericks, in the Men's Doubles Category which was thoroughly dominated by Bengaluru and ended 7-13 in their favour. Bengaluru SG Mavericks bested the Gujarat Panthers as the match ended 34-46. Ramkumar Ramanathan was awarded the Player of the Match for his brilliant performance for the Bengaluru SG Mavericks.

The third fixture of Day 4 was between the Delhi Binny's Brigade and the Bengal Wizards. The match started with the Women's Singles Category, in which Sahaja Yamalapalli of Delhi Binny's Brigade beat Maria Timofeeva from Bengal Wizards, in a clash that ended 13-7. Denis Novak of Delhi Binny's Brigade and Sriram Balaji of the Bengal Wizards went head-to-head in an entertaining Men's Singles game that ended 12-8 in favour of Delhi.

It was followed by the Mixed Doubles game that saw Sahaja Yamalapalli and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan of the Delhi Binny's Brigade lost to Maria Timofeeva and Anirudh Chandrasekar of the Bengal Wizards which ended 9-11. In the Men's Doubles Category, Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Dennis Novak of Delhi Binny's Brigade took on Sriram Balaji and Anirudh Chandrasekar of the Bengal Wizards. The Delhi Binny's Brigade duo came out on top with a score of 11-9. Delhi Binny's Brigade won the match, ending 45-35 in their favour. Denis Novak of Delhi Binny's Brigade was awarded the player of the match award. The game ended in a 12-8, in favour of the Jaguars. The Hyderabad Strikers came out on top in the match after it ended 39-41. Ellen Perez of Hyderabad Strikers won the player of the match award.

4 with 157 points. Mumbai Leon Army were seventh by the end of Day 4 with 156 points, while the Pune Jaguars remained eighth with 146 points.



AbRam strikes SRK's iconic pose, Aradhya wins hearts with performance at school

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The kids of Bollywood stars recently took part in their school's annual day celebrations. Many star kids performed at the function but the one who got the most applause were Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan's youngest son AbRam and Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's daughter Aradhya.

In a video, which is currently doing the rounds on the Internet, it shows AbRam Khan arriving in a Medieval-inspired outfit on stage. He delivered the lines from the skit in English, and also offered hugs. In a

segment, he told his fellow performers, "Give me a hug, I love hugs," and went on to strike the iconic pose of his father as the tune of 'Dilwale Dulhania Jayenge' played in the background. A proud SRK was seen applauding in the audience.

In another video, Aaradhya dressed as an evil character in a dramatic look. She took to the stage and delivered her lines in English, and also shook a leg on a song during the performance.

Taimur also sported makeup for his performance. He was also seemingly joined by Karan Johar's son Yash Johar as he was papped in a simi-

lar outfit.

Later, the Bollywood stars also performed in the audience section at the annual day celebration at the Dhirubhai Ambani International School.

Alia Bhatt hops on viral 'laddoo peela' trend

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt hopped on to the viral 'laddoo peela' trend as she donned a yellow-coloured ethnic wear. She wore a stunning yellow-coloured net saree adorned with intricate embroidery and paired it with a chic sleeveless blouse. Alia's choice of jewellery was nothing short of exquisite, featuring an emerald choker necklace, matching studs and a ring.

The actress gave her fans full-filled glimpses from the mehendi ceremony of her best friend's wedding celebrations. She shared a series of pictures of herself dressed in a gorgeous yellow saree with bird motifs on the border.

She wrote in the caption, "Yellow there". The Internet can't stop gushing over her looks. The comments section was flooded with fans and industry friends complimenting her. Alia's mother Soni Razdan commented, "What a beauty". Bhumi Pednekar wrote, "Stunning" with a red heart emoticon. Preity Zinta dropped a handful of red heart emoticons.

The actress also shared the pictures on the Story section of her Instagram and wrote, "Laddoo Peela szn".



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'BIGG BOSS 17': SALMAN KHAN CALLS MUNAWAR FARUQUI 'NON-COMMITTAL' CONTESTANT



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan was seen questioning housemate Munawar Faruqui's decision-making abilities and called him a "non-committal" contestant of 'Bigg Boss 17'.

In the latest Weekend Ka Vaar episode, Salman spoke about Munawar's gameplay, labeling it as 'boring' and tagging him as a 'non-committal' contestant.

He then went on to speak about his decision-making abilities, pointing out what he perceived as overconfidence. Salman also asked him to show a bar graph of his journey, however later the superstar said that there have been no ups and downs as his line has only been straight and uneventful.

After the episode with Salman got over, Munawar was seen going to the washroom and crying. His close friend Mannara Chopra came to him and said that she would like to talk about it whenever he would want.

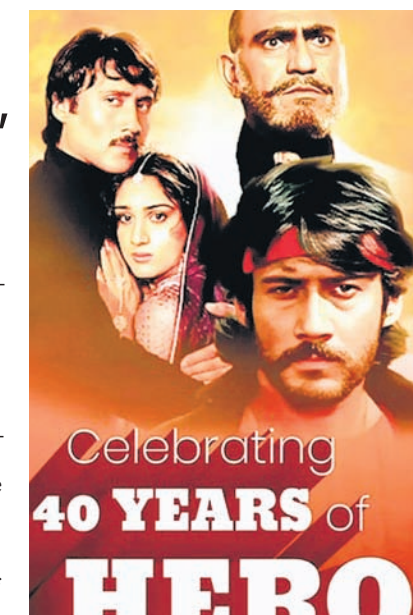
In the past week, Munawar became the first house captain of the season. As soon as he was crowned, he went on to change the rooms of the contestants and divide the common ration equally in all the rooms.

Rohit Shetty's 'Indian Police Force' teaser is packed with power, performance and police force

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Living up to what he does best, filmmaker Rohit Shetty's debut OTT series 'Indian Police Force' teaser, which was dropped on Saturday, is full of action, power, great performance and of course the police force.

The over-a-minute long teaser gives a glimpse of actors Sidharth Malhotra, Vivek Oberoi and Shilpa Shetty. The teaser moves through different parts of the city, with each frame intensifying the suspense of a ticking bomb clock that eventually results in explosive blasts. Against this backdrop of imminent danger, this cop drama unfolds a thrilling chase of



JACKIE SHROFF, SUBHASH GHAI LOOK BACK AT 40 YEARS OF 'HERO'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Director Subhash Ghai and actor Jackie Shroff are celebrating 40 years of 'Hero' on Saturday. While the director called it a symphony of emotions, Jackie reflected on his journey.

The actor also took to his Instagram to share a video with snippets from the film. He wrote in the caption: "From Dust to Star #Hero #40years".

He said: "The journey from 'Hero' to now has been incredible. I'm grateful for the love and support from fans throughout these 40 years. It's a special film that holds a special place in my heart."

"It catapulted me into stardom and forged a timeless bond with the audience. Working with Subhashji was like embarking on a cinematic journey where every frame held a piece of magic. Subhashji didn't just direct 'Hero'; he sculpted an emotion, a connection that transcends time. I am eternally grateful to him," he added.

Subhash Ghai said: "Mukta Arts is a canvas for storytelling, and 'Hero' was the brushstroke that painted our cinematic legacy. Mukta Arts was born out of a deep-seated passion for storytelling, a commitment to crafting narratives that go beyond entertainment. 'Hero' isn't just a film; it is an emotion that continues to connect with people on a profound level.

the heroes and the masterminds behind the chaos as they march into the city from the threats, embodying fierce patriotism. It ends with "Jai Hind", which in every sense feels like a heartfelt tribute to the service. Created by Rohit Shetty and directed by Rohit Shetty and Sushwanth Prakash, this seven-episode action-packed series is a heartfelt tribute to the selfless service, unconditional commitment and fierce patriotism of the Indian police officers across the country who put everything on the line in their call of duty to keep people safe. It also stars Shweta Tiwari, Nikitin Dheer, Rituraj Singh, Mukesh Rishi, Lalit Parimoo in pivotal roles.

Actor Mohit Raina had support from the Moroccan army while shooting for the series 'The Freelancer: The Conclusion'. The action in the show looks real because they actually used real arms and ammunition of the Moroccan army in the series.

Talking about the same, Mohit said: "We had support from the Moroccan army as well, they used to supply arms and ammunition to us for the shoot, but only after submitting our passports. Working with an international crew is pretty much like an amalgamation of cultures."

He added: "There was a little bit of a drawback in terms of communication because they mainly speak French. The cast too brought together people from different nations too."

The series is based on the book 'A Ticket to Syria' by Shirish Thorat, directed by Bhav Dhulia, produced by Friday Storytellers, created by showrunner Neeraj Pandey, directed by Bhav Dhulia and produced by Shital Bhatia.

'The Freelancer: The Conclusion' also stars Anupam Kher along with Kashmiria Pardeshi. The series also features talented actors like Sushant Singh, John Kokken, Gauri Balaji and Navneet Malik, Manjiri Paddnis, Sarah Jane Dias amongst others.

Mohit Raina on the support he got from the Moroccan army while shooting

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Tanu Sree