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'BE PREPARED FOR CLIMATE CALAMITY'

UN BIODIVERSITY MEETING THIS MONTH FAILED TO REACH A FUNDING AGREEMENT

Paris | Agencies

The world is nowhere near ready for the "calamity" being caused by climate change and must urgently prepare for even worse in the future, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Thursday. Global efforts to adapt to climate change -- from building defensive sea walls to planting drought-resistant crops -- have not kept pace as global warming accelerates the frequency and intensity of disasters. Floods, fires and other climate shocks have affected nearly every continent in a year the EU climate monitor says is almost certain to be the hottest ever recorded. The amount of money going to poorer countries for adaptation measures was



barely one-tenth of what they needed to disaster-proof their vulnerable economies, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said in a new assessment looking at 2022, the latest year for which data is available. "Climate calamity is the new reality. And we're not keeping up," said Guterres at the launch of UNEP's annual Adaptation Gap Report. Rich nations are under pressure at this month's UN COP29 summit to substantially increase the

\$100 billion they pledged for climate action in developing countries, including for adaptation. But some donor governments are under fiscal and political pressure, and major new commitments of public money are not expected at the conference in Azerbaijan. A UN biodiversity meeting this month failed to reach a funding agreement and the election of Donald Trump -- who opposes global climate cooperation -- hangs over COP29.

NO ONE IMMUNE

Most of the public money committed to climate change goes to reducing planet-warming emissions, not adapting to its long-term consequences. Some \$28 billion in public finance was paid to developing countries for climate adaptation in 2022. This was an increase on the year prior, but still a drop in the ocean: UNEP estimates between \$215 billion and \$387 billion is needed annually for adaptation in developing countries. Rich countries had pledged to double the amount by 2025 to roughly \$40 billion a year but even this would leave an "extremely large" adaptation funding gap, UNEP said. Climate disasters hit poorest communities hardest but the cost of inaction was no longer borne by them alone, said Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation. "From rising seas and extreme heat waves to relentless droughts and floods, the impacts of climate change now reach every corner of the globe. No nation, no community is immune," he said in a statement. Spanish authorities were accused of being inadequately prepared when a major storm brought flooding that killed over 200 people last month. Climate scientists say that global warming is fuelling more frequent and severe extreme weather. "We can't postpone protection. We must adapt -- now," Guterres said.

Army Slams Reports Of Deadlock Over Patrolling In Ladakh



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Dismissing reports that military talks between India and China on the modalities of patrols have reached a deadlock in eastern Ladakh's Depsang, the Indian Army has said no roadblocks or objections have been faced and termed the articles "speculative and bereft of facts". In a post on X on Thursday, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information of the Army said some reports on Wednesday and Thursday had speculated about roadblocks in the disengagement process in Depsang and Demchok after an agreement between India

and China last month. "It is unambiguously stated that the disengagement at Depsang and Demchok has been completed and implementation of consensus, as agreed to, is being undertaken in a planned manner that includes resumption of patrolling to traditional patrolling areas. There are no roadblocks/objections from either side that have been faced in this process," the Army said. It also cautioned the concerned media houses to authenticate facts on sensitive issues to ensure no misleading information is published. "The articles published in this regard are speculative and bereft of facts. The concerned media houses

are requested to verify and authenticate facts before publishing such sensitive articles and exercise due editorial discretion so that no unsubstantiated or misleading information is propagated," the post said. On October 21, India had announced that a patrolling agreement had been reached for the two contentious areas of Depsang and Demchok and the troops would return to the positions that existed before the stand-off between the two countries began in 2020. The disengagement process included the dismantling of structures and the restoration of the land on which they stood to their original condition.

Pakistan: Three-year-old approaches court as Lahore remains world's most polluted city

Lahore | Agencies

A three-year-old girl has filed a petition against the local government in Pakistan's Punjab as the province, especially its capital Lahore, continues to reel under the severe impact of smog, keeping the air quality in an extremely hazardous zone. The petitioner, Amal Sekhera, through her lawyer maintained in the petition that young children and the elderly are severely affected by air pollution and sought justice for herself, friends and the future generations. "Under Article 99-A of the Constitution, the government is obligated to provide citizens with a clean and healthy environment," the petition stated. The petition criticised the Punjab government for failing to protect the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan. Punjab government's senior provin-



cial minister Maryam Aurangzeb has said that the intensity of the smog is expected to continue for at least 10 more days, due to which the educational institutions have been shut down and people have been advised to wear masks. Many other cities like Multan and Gujranwala are also severely impacted with the ongoing weather conditions.

SC ALLOWS REVIEW PLEA FILED AGAINST 2021 CANON INDIA JUDGMENT

New Delhi | The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed a petition seeking review of the 2021 Canon India judgment.

A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, was hearing a review petition filed by the Commissioner of Customs seeking a review of the decision in the Canon India case, where it was held that the officers of the DRI who were not otherwise officers of customs, could not have been assigned as the "proper officers" under the Customs Act. The 2021 Canon India judgment added that only such officers who are vested with the power of assessment can be empowered to issue show cause notices.

JET AIRWAYS FIASCO: FATE OF 1.48 LAKH RETAIL SHAREHOLDERS IN LIMBO

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The fate of around 1.48 lakh retail shareholders who hold around 20 per cent stake in the beleaguered Jet Airways remains uncertain after the Supreme Court ordered the liquidation of Naresh Goyal-led grounded airline. At the current market capitalisation of Jet Airways at Rs 386.69 crore, retail shareholding in the airline is around Rs 74.6 crore. Retail shareholders held around 20 per cent stake in Jet Airways (as of September 30). Other major shareholders include Etihad Airways (24 per cent) and the erstwhile promoters (25 per cent). The stock of Jet Airways, locked in a 5 per cent lower circuit following the order, ended at Rs 34.04 apiece on Thursday. The share hit a high of Rs 63.15 in March but has lost more than 46



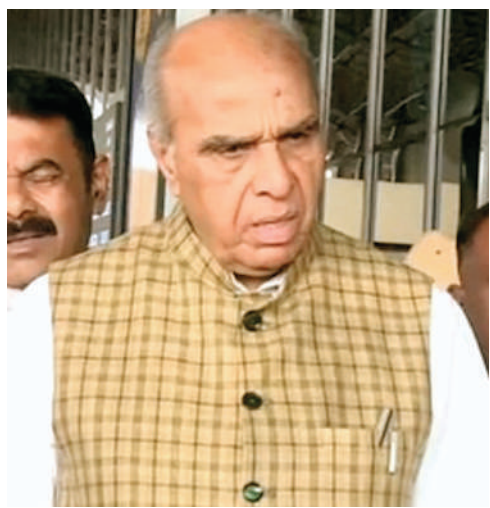
per cent since then. A Bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, allowed the lenders' plea against the transfer of ownership of the grounded airline to Jalan Kalrock Consortium (JKC). The Bench invoked

its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution "for doing complete justice" between the parties and ordered the appointment of a liquidator forthwith. Further, it ordered the forfeiture of Rs 200 crore infused by the JKC and directed lenders to invoke the Rs 150 crore Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG). In the plea filed before the apex court, the Committee of Creditors (CoC), led by the State Bank of India, has said that the proposed revival plan was not in the best interest of lenders and questioned the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order upholding the resolution plan. Due to severe financial distress, Jet Airways, once one of India's largest and most popular airlines, entered the corporate insolvency resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in June 2019.

Waqf board claimed farmers' properties on K'taka govt's directions: Jagadambika Pal

Hubballi | Agencies

Jagadambika Pal, the Chairperson of the Joint House Committee on Waqf Act Amendments, on Thursday slammed the Congress government in Karnataka for "naming the properties of farmers and others as belonging to the Waqf board". Jagadambika Pal made the statement while speaking to the media after meeting farmers' delegations in Hubballi and receiving petitions over their properties being named as Waqf's in land records. "It is not possible to happen unless the administration was involved. It is mentioned in the land records of farmers that theirs is waqf property as per the directions of the state government," Pal slammed. "The properties of farmers, lands, temples and heritage sites are named Waqf properties in the



documents. It was expected that 10 to 15 delegations of farmers would submit their petitions. But I have received more than 70 petitions," Pal stated. He reiterated: "It is not possible without the administration's support. As per the state government's directions, the properties were declared as assets of the Waqf. Now, the government is claiming it was withdrawing the notices issued to farmers. It is impossible to take away the properties without collusion with the state government." "How will the government officers carry out their tasks? This is a matter of utmost seriousness," Pal said. "I will consider all petitions and prepare the report," he stated. A delegation of BJP leaders, farmers including former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai, met Pal on Thursday and submitted a petition regarding the properties claimed by the Waqf in collusion with the Congress government.

Paid leave for employees in Mumbai on Nov 20 to increase voter turnout

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai district election officer has said all establishments, businesses and other workplaces within the Brihanmumbai limits are mandated to grant leave to their employees for voting in the Maharashtra assembly elections 2024 on November 20, reported news agency. Violations to this directive by employers will result in action under the Election Commission's guidelines, district election officer and Brihanmumbai Municipal Commissioner Bhusan Gagrani said in a release issued on Wednesday. Aiming to enable all eligi-



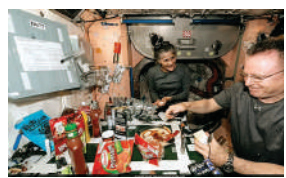
ble voters in Mumbai Suburban and Mumbai City districts to exercise their voting rights, Gagrani has implemented various initiatives to boost the voter turnout. The release said employers must grant leave to their employees for voting on November 20 in their constituencies and the rule applies to all industrial sectors, corporations, companies and other establishments, ensuring that no wage

deductions occur due to this leave. In cases where a full-day leave is not feasible due to exceptional circumstances, at least a four-hour leave may be granted with prior approval from the district election officer, it said. As per section 135(B) of the Representation of the People Act, employees whose absence would endanger the public or their establishment will not be penalized. Employers are directed to follow these guidelines strictly, ensuring all employees are able to exercise their voting rights on the election day, the release said.

"In Good Health": NASA Amid Reports Of Sunita Williams' Declining Health

New York | Agencies

Amid growing concerns over Sunita Williams' health, NASA recently clarified that all the astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) are in "good health". A spokesperson for NASA's Space Operations Mission Directorate, Jimi Russell, told Daily Mail that all the NASA astronauts aboard ISS undergo routine medical evaluations and are monitored by dedicated flight surgeons. "All are in good health," he said. The space agency's statement comes amid media



reports claiming that Williams is facing a health crisis after a prolonged stay on the ISS. A picture of the NASA astronaut assembling a pepperoni pizza is also doing rounds on social media wherein it looks like she has lost a significant amount of weight. According to a Seattle-based pulmonologist, Williams looks "gaunt" in the picture, adding that she seems to be experiencing the

natural stresses of living at a very high altitude for extended periods. "Her cheeks appear a bit sunken and usually it happens when you've had sort of total body weight loss. I think what I can discern by her face and her cheeks being sunken in is that she has probably been at a significant calorie deficit for a while," the doctor told Daily Mail. Williams and her fellow astronaut Barry Wilmore have been at the ISS since June. What was supposed to be an eight-day ISS mission, stretched into months due to a Starliner spacecraft malfunction.

INDIA'S GEN Z PREFERS TO RENTING A PLACE THAN OWNING A HOME

▶ About 79 per cent of Baby Boomers, 80 per cent of Gen X and 82 per cent of Millennials favour homeownership, while among Gen Z, only 71 per cent prefer to own a home and a high 27 per cent leaning towards renting. ▶ Millennials (39 per cent) and Gen Z (36 per cent) are leading the trend of upgrading and purchasing for end-use, while Baby Boomers display a stronger interest in investments (29 per cent) and retirement plans (15 per cent). ▶ Overall, 37 per cent of respondents are upgrading to a better home, reflecting a growing shift towards mid-range and luxury housing which was traditionally concentrated in select cities but is now expanding to Tier 1 cities in India.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As Baby Boomers, Gen X and millennials prefer to buy homes in India, Gen Z shows a notable difference and lean towards renting a place, according to a report on Thursday. Baby boomers favour investments but millennials prefer to upgrade their property and the reasons for purchasing a home show distinct generational difference, according to a Knight Frank report. The remaining 32 per cent are first-time homebuyers for end-use, 25 per cent are investing and 7 per cent



cite other reasons, such as retirement or acquiring a second home or vacation home, the report mentioned. The report further revealed that 52 per cent prefer apartments, followed by studio apartments at 19 per cent and independent houses or villas at 17 per cent. In terms of financing, about 79 per cent of respondents indicated home loans as their preferred mode for purchasing a home.

Overall, 80 per cent of respondents expressed a preference for owning a home, with only 19 per cent opting for renting and a mere 1 per cent remaining uncertain. According to Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, they anticipate a resilient real estate landscape that aligns with India's broader development goals. Location stands out as a priority and is the determining factor for 50 per cent of respondents, affirming its timeless importance in real estate.



BJP INSULTS AMBEDKAR WITH ATTACKS ON CONSTITUTION: RAHUL GANDHI

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Under constant assault for displaying a red-coloured copy of the Constitution in his political rallies, Congress' Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi broke silence over the issue, accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of 'insulting' B.R. Ambedkar, the Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution.

"The people of Maharashtra will not tolerate any insult by the BJP - together with the Congress and Maha Vikas Aghadi, they will defend our Constitution by responding with full force to every attack on it," said Rahul Gandhi.

Without taking names but referring to BJP's Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, the Congress LoP hit back at the former by saying that "showing Babasaheb's Constitution and raising voice for Caste Census is a Naxalite idea!" "This thinking of the BJP is an insult to the Constitution maker, Maharashtra's son Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. During the Lok Sabha (2024) elections, the people of the state fought for the Constitution and gave a big victory to the MVA," Rahul Gandhi pointed out.

He said that all such shameful attempts of the BJP would fail, and vowed that a Caste Census will be done after the MVA comes to power in Maharashtra. Rahul Gandhi's statement came hours after the Congress launched a major counter-offensive against Fadnavis who has accused the Congress leader of hobnobbing



with 'Urban Naxals' by displaying a red-coloured mini-copy of the Constitution.

The charge was led by AICC General Secretary and Rajya Sabha Member Jairam Ramesh and Media & Publicity Department Chairman Pawan Khera, besides other state leaders who ripped Fadnavis for his comments against Rahul Gandhi.

In the past couple of days, Fadnavis alleged in a media interview and in interactions that Rahul Gandhi is encircled by 'Urban Naxals', anarchist and anti-national forces, is less of a Congressman and transformed more into an ultra-Left ideologue, and more he flaunts a Constitution copy with a red cover instead of the traditional blue. Ramesh said that Fadnavis'

remarks clearly indicate that he is getting 'desperate' before the elections and is objecting to Rahul Gandhi showing the copy of the Constitution in his rallies and speeches.

"This 'red book' is the Constitution of India, and its Chief Architect was DR. B. R. Ambedkar... It's the same Constitution which the RSS had attacked in Nov. 1949 as it was not inspired by Manusmriti. It's the very same Constitution that the PM now wants to replace," said Ramesh sharply.

Ramesh reminded Fadnavis that as far as the "red book" is concerned, it carries a foreword by one of India's most distinguished legal personalities, K.K. Venugopal, who was the Attorney General of India during 2017-2022.

"Previously, the non-biological divinity and the self-proclaimed Chanakya have also been presented with the red book. As far as 'urban naxals' is concerned, the Union Home Ministry told Parliament on February 9th, 2022, and March 11th, 2020, that the Government of India does not use the term! Fadnavis should think first and then speak," said Ramesh.

In a jibe at the state BJP leader, Khera sought to know whether "Fadnavis had noticed the colour of the Constitution when he took the world famous secret oath of office" at dawn on November 22, 2019, at the Maharashtra Raj Bhavan" - referring to the infamous 80-hour long regime of Fadnavis-Ajit Pawar.

Khera flayed the BJP for releasing fake advertisements of the MVA's '5 Guarantees' and said the Congress will lodge a complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI).

"The unconstitutional MahaYuti government has only looted Maharashtra in the past two-and-half years, and its corruption through commissions and percentages would embarrass even the Guinness World Records. Now, only the final 15 days of this unscrupulous regime are left, and the regime will be ousted on November 23," Khera said.

Congress President Nana F. Patole and Spokesperson Atul Londhe have said that the colour 'red' is considered very auspicious but the people who are trying to destroy the Constitution find the same (red) colour as impure.

MP: Former CM Kailash Joshi's son rejoins BJP



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kailash Joshi's son Deepak Joshi, who had joined Congress last year, rejoined the BJP on Thursday.

He made his 'ghar-vapsi' in the presence of Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a public rally in Budhni. Joshi had resigned from the primary membership of the BJP in May 2023 stating that he was sidelined from the party despite being the son of Jan Sangh leader and former Chief Minister Kailash Joshi. He had joined Congress six months before

the Assembly election last year. Congress gave him a ticket from the Khategon Assembly seat in Dewas district, however, he lost the election. He was a three-time MLA from the Bagli and Hatpipalya Assembly constituencies in Dewas. After his third election victory, Joshi was made a minister in former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's cabinet in 2013. Joshi, a college friend of Chouhan, had contested his fourth election in 2018 but lost to Congress candidate Manoj Chaudhary in Hatpipalya. Joshi had been vocal against the BJP government in the state and has lev-

elled several allegations against the party. When in Congress, Joshi had accused the then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan of insulting his father and not helping his family at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Joshi's shifting back to the BJP came days after Congress approved a new committee for Madhya Pradesh in which he was not included, forcing him to return to the BJP. In the last Assembly election, senior Congress leader Kamal Nath had assigned him to corner Shivraj Singh Chouhan in his bastion Budhni.

Senior resident doctor of Bengal's Jhargram Medical College found dead in hotel room

Kolkata | Agencies

A serious resident doctor, attached to the Jhargram Medical College & Hospital, was found dead in mysterious circumstances in a hotel room in West Bengal's Jhargram town on Thursday afternoon, officials said.

The deceased has been identified as Dipro Bhattacharya, a senior resident attached to the Anaesthesia Department of the medical college & hospital. The police suspect this death to be a case of suicide. According to some of his colleagues, he had been long vocal against the "threat culture" prevailing in different medical colleges & hospitals in the state including that of R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital, which had recently been in the national headlines because of the ghastly rape and murder of a woman junior doctor there in August this year. Meanwhile, Jhargram district police had recovered the body of the victim and sent it for a post-mortem examination. For the time being, the



district police have registered a case of unnatural death and launched an investigation. The exact reason for the death will only be known after the autopsy report is available.

Gangsters sustain bullet injuries after trying to escape from police custody in Punjab

Chandigarh | Agencies

In a major action by the Jalandhar Commissionerate Police, two gangsters of the Kaushal-Bambiha gang sustained critical injuries while attempting to escape from the police custody at the outskirts of Jalandhar cantonment in Punjab, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said here on Thursday.

He said two pistols along with five cartridges were recovered from their possession. Both the gangsters, Rajeshwar Kumar and Deepak Vaid, were arrested after their names cropped up during follow-up investigations in the Arms Act case registered on October 17.

As per the information, police teams had arrested four members of this Kaushal-Bambiha module and recovered four weapons from their possession. With the arrest of these two gangsters, the total number of arrests in this case rose to six. "Police officers have displayed remarkable



endurance by chasing and arresting gangsters Rajeshwar Kumar and Deepak Vaid on foot for at least 1.5 km," said the DGP. He said both the accused were involved in multiple crimes and were also conspiring major crimes in districts including Hoshiarpur, SBS Nagar and

Kapurthala. The accused were also providing logistical assistance to other gang members and supplying weapons to different gangs in Punjab and Haryana, he said. Sharing more details, Commissioner of Police (Jalandhar) Swapan Sharma said following disclosures of accused gangsters Rajeshwar Kumar and Deepak Vaid, police teams from the Jalandhar Commissionerate were taking both the accused to the secluded place on the outskirts of the Jalandhar Cantonment, where they claimed to have concealed arms and ammunition. Upon reaching the location, both the accused managed to run from the spot by opening fire at the police party using the pistol retrieved from the spot, he said, while adding acting promptly, police teams opened retaliatory fire to stop them and managed to apprehend them after giving them a 1.5-km foot chase. During the operation, one of the accused sustained a bullet injury on his right leg, while another one sustained injuries during manhandling with the police teams.

CHHATH FESTIVITIES TURN SOUR FOR TWO FAMILIES IN BIHAR

Patna | Agencies

Chhath festival celebrations turned into tragedy after children from two families in Bihar's Bhojpur and Patna drowned on Thursday.

In Bhojpur district's Andhari village, extended families of one Santosh Soni have come to his home to celebrate the Chhath festival.

The tragedy struck when five children of the family were swept away in the Son River while bathing.

As 10-year-old Golu Kumar was drowning, his cousins came forward to rescue him. Priya Kumari attempted to rescue Golu and other children also tried to help. The villagers managed to rescue two of the drowning children Gudiya and Tanu, Vivek Kumar, SHO of Chauari police station said. During the rescue operation, the bodies of Chhaya Kumari and Priya Kumari were fished out.

A search for Golu was underway, with local authorities and officials



actively involved in the efforts. The tragedy has deeply affected the community, casting a shadow over the festive celebrations. Many local leaders and villagers gathered at the

river to support the grieving families and assist in the search. In another incident, three teenage girls drowned while bathing in the Pupun River in Patna's Masaurhi

block.

The girls were part of a family gathering for the festival. The trio went to the river to bathe with Pratima Kumari, who was observing the Chhath fast. Shalu, daughter of Randhir Singh from Batsapur in Aurangabad, had come to visit her maternal uncle, Bablu Singh, in Lakhnagar for the festivities. However, Shalu, along with her cousin Medha and Pratima's daughter Mishu Kumari started drowning.

The locals rescued Mishu and Medha but Shalu was missing. A State Disaster Response Force team has been deployed to search for her, with local authorities, including the Sub-Divisional Officer and Block Development Officer, on-site to assist with the rescue efforts.

Punpun Police Station Head Baby Kumari said information was received regarding the incident, two of three girls have been saved while the search for another was underway.

RG Kar horror: SC declines to transfer trial outside West Bengal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday remarked that it would not pass any direction to transfer the trial of the ghastly rape and murder of a junior doctor of Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital outside West Bengal.

A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, turned down the oral prayer made by a lawyer seeking transfer of rape and murder trial outside West Bengal.

"Yes, we have transferred cases (of gender violence) in Manipur. But we are not doing anything like that here," it remarked.

The Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, pursued the 6th status report filed by



the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and said that it would refrain from making any observations since the investigation is underway.

The apex court noted that the trial will commence from November 11 at a special court in Kolkata after charges were framed against the

"sole prime accused" in the case, Sanjay Roy. The process of the framing of charges was completed on Monday, exactly 87 days after the body of the woman junior doctor was discovered at a seminar hall within the state-run R.G. Kar premises on the morning of August 9 this year.

No farmer will be evicted: Shivakumar on Waqf row

Hubballi | Agencies

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar assured on Thursday that no farmer will be evicted, asserting that the Waqf controversy is a creation of the BJP for political gains.

"Our government is committed to protecting farmers, and no one will be evicted. The BJP has created this controversy in light of the upcoming elections," the Deputy Chief Minister told media persons when asked about the visit of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) Chairperson Jagadambika Pal regarding the claiming of properties of farmers, temples and religious institutions by the Waqf board.

He added that the state's property is a matter handled by the state government, adding that the BJP issued notices concerning Waqf properties in districts like Dharwad even

before 2019. "It was Basavaraj Bommai led BJP government that issued these notices. Now, they are accusing us. They do not want people to live peacefully," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

He said that the BJP is creating unnecessary confusion during the Assembly elections in Maharashtra and the by-elections in the state, adding that the people are intelligent and will "teach them (BJP) a lesson".

"We will correct the errors in the records and protect the farmers. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda have already clarified this matter. The JPC does not have the authority to address state matters. If the JPC visits the state, they need to inform the government and officials. The entire committee team should visit. If only the committee chairperson comes, then they are here for party work," he said.

Lalit Sharma Jaipur

The Sportstar Conclave returns with its third season on Saturday, November 9, creating an exclusive platform for insightful discussions on Rajasthan's evolving sports ecosystem. It will be organized at Poornima University (PU), Jaipur, where it will feature prominent athletes, industry leaders, and key stakeholders to discuss Rajasthan's journey toward becoming a thriving sporting hub. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Olympics silver medalist and Rajasthan Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, will deliver the keynote address as Chief Guest. Former India captain Ajay Jadeja will address the gathering as a Special Guest on 'Cricketer's changing landscape.'

With the theme "Let's Talk Sports," the conclave will cover crucial topics, including the growth of Rajasthan cricket, the integration of science and technology in sports, and the expanding



role of women in athletics. Esteemed figures like former India international Pankaj Singh and Gagan Khoda, and ex-Rajasthan cricketer Sanjay Vyas, will contribute to "Rajasthan Cricket 2.0.," while Jake Lush McCrum, CEO of Rajasthan Royals, will share insights from a franchise perspective. Highlighting innovation, speakers including Dr.

M.S. Dasgupta from BITS-Pilani and Martin Owens, Head Coach at Reliance Foundation Youth Sport, will explore the intersection of science and sports. Celebrating women's contributions, former international squash player Surbhi Misra and Asian Championship shooting gold medalist Shagun Chowdhary will lead the session "Women Power in Sports."

Additional sessions will discuss sports-driven economic growth, Rajasthan's polo heritage, and initiatives to develop future medallists through "Project Gold", where Divyansh Singh Panwar (Asian Games gold medalist, Shooting) and Divyakriti Singh Rathore (Asian Games gold medalist, Equestrian) will share their views. Veteran India polo captain K.S. Garcha, multiple world champion archer Rajat Chauhan and Paralympic bronze medal-winning shooter Mona Agarwal will also be in attendance at the season's first Conclave.



HEALTHY CITIZENS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF A STRONG SELF-RELIANT MADHYA PRADESH: CHIEF MINISTER DR. MOHAN YADAV

► STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING HEALTH SERVICES IS THE TOP PRIORITY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

Team Absolute | Indore

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that strengthening and expanding health services in Madhya Pradesh is the top priority of the state government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes that the foundation of a self-reliant and empowered India is built on healthy citizens. The state government aims to ensure that every citizen, whether in the city or in remote rural areas, can easily access advanced medical services. For this purpose, the community health centers of the state are being equipped with advanced medical facilities, so that these centers can provide high quality health services similar to district hospitals. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the Madhya Pradesh government is continuously working to provide advanced health facilities to all citizens and keep them healthy. Creation of self-reliant Madhya Pradesh is possible only with healthy citizens. It is the endeavor of the state government that every citizen gets health services and people in every



area can play their role in the development of society and the country with full energy.

Expansion of medical education and increase in manpower

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the state government is also rapidly expanding medical education under the vision of Prime Minister Modi's "Healthy India Empowered India". At present, 17 government and autonomous medical colleges are operating in Madhya Pradesh and construction of new medical colleges is going on. Recently, new medical colleges have started operating in Seoni, Neemuch, and Mandsaur and 8 other medical colleges are under construction. Apart from this, the state government has planned to open 12 more medical colleges

under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, which will promote medical specialization in the state.

More than 30 thousand medical, assistant medical posts will be recruited

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that in accordance with the standards of Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), more than 30 thousand medical and assistant medical manpower will be recruited in the state soon, which will further improve the health service delivery.

Inclusion of modern technology and services

Facilities of modern equipment like MRI, CT scan, and PET CT are being expanded in major health centers of Madhya Pradesh. 42 types of anti-cancer medicines have been

made available for serious diseases like cancer, so that serious patients can get proper treatment on time. 132 types of investigation services are now available in all the district and civil hospitals of the state, while 80 types of investigation facilities are being provided in community and primary health centers. 324 hubs and 1,610 spokes have been established in the state, where more than 35 thousand tests are being done daily at the district level and more than 32 thousand tests are being done at hubs and spokes. Similarly, facilities of dialysis, CT scan and digital X-ray are now available in all district hospitals. MY (Maharaja Yashwantrao) Hospital Indore of Madhya Pradesh has become the first government hospital in the country where advanced CAR-T therapy has been started for the treatment of patients suffering from blood cancer. This facility is a historic step towards strengthening the health infrastructure of the state and promoting high-quality health services.

Expansion of free medicines and health services

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that there has been a major increase in the availability of free medicines in the government hospitals of the state. 530 types of medicines are being provided free of cost in district hospitals from 295, 448 in civil hospitals, 373 in community health centers and 299 in primary health centers.

Same old syndicate operating in MP: Sachin Pilot

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress leader and former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Thursday attacked the BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government, alleging the state's law and order situation has deteriorated more since the new state government took over last year. Addressing a press conference at Congress headquarters here in Bhopal, Pilot alleged that only the Chief Minister's face has changed in Madhya Pradesh, however, the same old "syndicate that has been operating in previous BJP government, is still operating in Madhya Pradesh."

Hitting at Chief Minister Mohan Yadav-led BJP government, the Congress leader said the state's law and order situation is getting worse day by day. "New CM (Mohan Yadav) has failed to control strong nexus involved in looting public money and operating crime in the state," he added.

Highlighting the reports of differences within the state BJP unit, Pilot stated that the situation has emerged due to



multiple power centres emerging within the state government.

Before briefing the press, Pilot along with MP Congress chief Jitu Patwari and Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha chaired a meeting with party workers in view of the upcoming bypolls in two Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh.

Senior BJP leader minister Vishwas Sarang responding on Pilot's allegation, said the people of Madhya Pradesh

and Rajasthan have rejected Congress in the Assembly elections.

"Congress leaders have nothing to say except to blame BJP when they go to campaign in the bypolls, which is why such baseless allegations are being made," he added.

Pilot, Patwari and Tankha also visited Vijaypur to campaign for Congress candidate Mukesh Malhotra, who has been fielded against BJP's Ramniwas Rawat.

Former Home Minister alleges illegal tapping of aides' phones

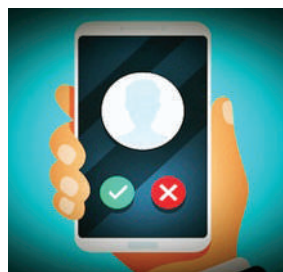
Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Madhya Pradesh minister and BJP MLA Bhupendra Singh has accused the state police of "illegally tapping" phones of his associates, a party leader said on Thursday.

"Phone calls of several people have been illegally tapped and they are being harassed. It is being done without seeking prior permission from the higher authorities of the state police," said Bhupendra Singh, who represents the Khurai assembly seat in Sagar district.

The BJP leader's allegations against the government headed by his own party have sparked a controversy with the Opposition Congress hitting out at the Mohan Yadav government for alleged wrongdoings.

Bhupendra Singh alleged that Sagar district police had tapped phones of his supporters on the instruction of some BJP leaders, a charge denied by police officials.



He made the allegations during a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla in Sagar on Wednesday, with the latter assuring an investigation.

A party leader said Bhupendra Singh had alleged that the illegal phone-tapping was happening for the last five months.

However, Sagar Superintendent of Police Vikas Sahwal, who was also present in the meeting with the Deputy Chief Minister, denied Bhupendra Singh's allegation, stating that tapping phone calls wasn't under his jurisdiction.

Sources told reporter that Sahwal's denial of the allegations were countered by the

BJP leader saying, "I have been the state home minister and I know how it happens. I want to know that who is instructing district police to do so."

The former minister had previously headed several departments, including home and urban under the then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan.

While serving in the Chouhan government, Bhupendra Singh was considered one of the most influential BJP leaders in Madhya Pradesh.

Meanwhile, the Opposition Congress attacked the BJP government in the state, saying that a former minister and senior leader of the ruling party has raised question on his own party's government.

"Former state Home Minister's allegation has justified that the BJP government is misusing power," Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha said during a press conference in Bhopal on Thursday.

DIGVIJAY SINGH'S CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE BANNED: BJP

► THE BJP HAS COMPLAINED TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION ACCUSING FORMER MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER AND RAJYA SABHA MEMBER DIGVIJAY SINGH OF GIVING PROVOCATIVE SPEECHES. IT HAS ALSO DEMANDED A BAN ON HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN BUDHNI AND VIJAYPUR.

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The BJP has complained to the Election Commission accusing former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha member Digvijay Singh of giving provocative speeches. It has also demanded a ban on his election campaign in Budhni and Vijaypur.

A delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer and complained about Congress leader Digvijay Singh's provocative speeches in the campaign for the Budhni assembly by-election.



The BJP has said in the memorandum submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer of Madhya Pradesh that during a meeting for the Budhni assembly by-election, Congress leader Digvijay Singh said that farmers in the Agriculture Minister's area are struggling for DAP fertilizer. Digvijay Singh is trying to spoil the law and order by giving such false speeches about farmers. Several thousand farmers live in Sehore district, but no one has complained about the shortage of fertilizers and seeds. Digvijay Singh is

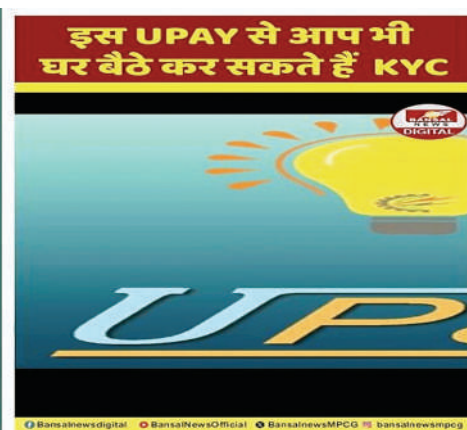
deliberately trying to disrupt the peaceful elections by giving provocative speeches. The BJP delegation has said in a complaint submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer of Madhya Pradesh that the Election Commission should ban Digvijay Singh from campaigning for the Budhni and Vijaypur assembly by-elections, so that the law and order of the state can be saved from deteriorating. The BJP delegation that submitted the memorandum to the Election Commission included the state co-convenor of the party's legal cell Ashok Vishwakarma and other officials. By-elections are being held in two assembly constituencies Budhni and Vijaypur in the state. The election campaign has gained momentum and both the parties are engaged in attacking each other. Verbal rhetoric is also in full swing. Congress is on the offensive regarding the fertilizer problem of the state. At the same time, the government is also being cornered in the matter of electricity. In Budhni, Congress' Rajkumar Patel is pitted against BJP's Ramakant Bhargava and in Vijaypur, BJP's Ramniwas Rawat is pitted against Mukesh Mehrotra. Voting is to be held on November 13 and the results will be declared on November 23.

ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS CAN NOW ALSO GET KYC DONE THROUGH UPAY APP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

It is mandatory for electricity consumers to get eKYC done to take advantage of the beneficial schemes of the state government. Consumers have been told that they can also get eKYC done through the Upay app of Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company. By downloading the Upay app available on Google Play Store, electricity consumers can complete the KYC process by entering their consumer number and overall number in Samagra KYC and then entering the OTP received on the linked mobile number. Under the KYC process, so far 04 lakh 11 thousand 022 consumers have successfully got KYC done.

It is worth noting that Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company has started the Know Your Consumer (KYC) process to update the electricity related personal details of electricity consumers of



16 districts falling under Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Gwalior and Chambal divisions of the company's

area of operation in the company's records. Under the Know Your Consumer (KYC) process, the company is updating the personal information of electricity consumers such as Samagra ID, mobile number and bank account etc. Through the Know Your Consumer (KYC) process, on one hand the benefits of the state government schemes can be ensured to the electricity consumers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, on the other hand, more transparency will be ensured in the system. Also, KYC will ensure physical verification of the status of electricity connections and their load of the actual consumers, which will make it easier to plan for future expansion of electricity structures in the company's area of operation and will help the company in correct identification of consumers and accurate tagging of mobile numbers, which will ensure smooth operation of the company's services.

Installment of Rs 1250 for November to 1.29 crore Behnas

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Ladli Behnas of the state will soon get the installment of Rs 1250 for November. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav will transfer Rs 1574 crore from Indore to the accounts of 1.29 crore Ladli Behnas on November 9. It may be noted that under the Ladli Behna Yojana, a total of 17 installments of monthly financial assistance amount have been transferred to the beneficiary women from June 2023 to October 2024. Apart



from this, special financial assistance of Rs 250 was also transferred to the beneficiary women in August 2023 and 2024 (a total of 2 times). At the beginning of the scheme, an amount of Rs 1000 per month was paid to the eligible beneficiaries. From October 2023, the amount of monthly financial assistance was increased

by Rs 250 per month. Mukhya Mantri Ladli Behna Yojana 2023 is being implemented for the empowerment of women in the state. This scheme is an important step taken towards economic self-reliance of the women of the state, continuous improvement in their health and nutritional level, and strengthening their role in family decisions. A provision of approximately Rs 18 thousand 984 crore has been made under the scheme in the financial year 2024-25.

"E-Shram" one stop solution for the welfare of unorganized sector workers

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The central government has launched "e-Shram" one stop solution for unorganized sector workers. Through the e-Shram portal, unorganized workers will get direct benefits of social security schemes and government welfare schemes. This includes schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana, One Nation-One Ration Card, National Social Assistance Program and National Career Service. Apart from this, many other schemes are also being linked to the portal, so that workers can get more help.

It is noteworthy that till now more than 1.81 crore unorganized workers have been registered on the e-Shram portal in the state, which is an important step

towards the welfare of the workers. This initiative will help workers to create their identity, provide economic security and avail the benefits of government schemes.

KEY BENEFITS AND FEATURES OF E-SHRAM PORTAL

Easy Registration Process:- Workers have the facility to register themselves on the e-Shram portal. Apart from this, free registration can also be done through Common Service Center (CSC). Security and Social Benefits:- Registered workers can avail facilities like accident insurance. Under accident insurance, workers get a cover of up to Rs 2 lakh.

Benefits of Special Schemes:- Workers will get easy access to health, education and employment security schemes.

For all unorganized workers:- Data of millions of workers including construction, migration, domestic, agricultural workers, rickshaw pullers is integrated. The portal connects workers directly to various government schemes and their benefits, from which they are getting benefits.

Minister of State for Minority Welfare Krishna Gaur gave instructions on the preparations of Ijtima

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Ensure that all arrangements for the Ijtima event including road, electricity, parking, drinking water are made on time. Minister of State for Backward Classes and Minority Welfare (Independent Charge) Krishna Gaur gave these instructions to the departmental officers. Minister of State Smt. Gaur took stock of the preparations for the Ijtima event at Eitkhedi and obtained information about the arrangements from the officials.

Minister of State Gaur said that Ijtima is a major event of the Muslim community in Bhopal. A large number of devotees from the country and abroad come to this event. Along with the movement and stay of the devotees, the officers of the concerned department will complete all



other arrangements on time with responsibility. Devotees should not face any kind of problem at the venue. He said that such arrangements should be made so that the

devotees participating in the Aalmi Tablighi Ijtima to be held on 29, 30 November and 1 and 2 December go back happily. Minister of State Gaur received

information about the department-wise works. She said that there is no expected progress in the construction of various roads connecting the venue Eitkhedi and the internal routes of the venue. Officers should ensure to pay attention to this. Arrangements should be made in the next one week. She discussed with various officials on parking, parking ramp, electricity system, drinking water, medical, security and cleanliness arrangements. It was told in the meeting that 25 thousand volunteers of the Ijtima Organizing Committee work 24x7 during the event. This time single use plastic will be banned in Ijtima. Arrangements will also be made to ensure that dust does not fly at the venue. Along with adequate cleanliness, initiatives will also be taken to separate dry and wet waste and make compost from wet waste.



EDITOR'S SPECS

COST OF HOME-COOKED VEG THALI INCREASES 20 PC

Vegetable prices shore up costs of veg and non-veg thalis in the month of October, as the cost of a home-cooked veg thali surged 20 per cent (year-on-year) while the cost of a non-veg thali increased 5 per cent, according to a report on Wednesday. The increase can be attributed largely to higher prices of vegetables, which account for as much as 40 per cent of a vegetarian thali cost, according to the report by CRISIL Market Intelligence and Analytics. In October, prices of onion and potato rose 46 per cent and 51 per cent on-year, respectively, because of lower arrivals due to incessant rainfall in September. "That said, we expect tomato prices to stabilise in November. Onion prices, too, should moderate with kharif arrivals in mandis. Potato, however, may take slightly longer to show a moderation in price," the report mentioned. The cost of a non-veg thali, which had clocked on-year declines for 12 consecutive months, also increased 5 per cent, breaking its divergence with the veg thali. For the non-veg thali, an estimated decline of 9 per cent on-year in broiler prices that account for 50 per cent of the cost led to relatively slower uptick, while the prices of vegetables, which account for almost 22 per cent of the cost, witnessed an increase. "For the non-veg thali, an estimated stable broiler prices on-month helped prevent further uptick in cost," the report mentioned. The average cost of preparing a thali at home is calculated based on input prices prevailing in north, south, east and west India.

THE 20-MINUTE BATTLE THAT RID KASHMIR VALLEY OF TRIBAL INVADERS

Vikas Datta

A fortnight after the Pashtun tribal invasion of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar had been saved by the resolute action of some gallant Indian soldiers, but the danger had only been averted as the invaders were still around. It then took Indian troops less than half an hour on November 7, 1947, to defeat them decisively and chase them out of the Kashmir Valley.

This came at the Battle of Shalateg - the outcome of a risky gambit - and careful planning - by the Indian commander, (then) Brigadier L.P. 'Bogey' Sen, who stood up to doubts, his fiery superior's wrath, and political appeals for his dismissal - aided by Sardar Vallabhbhai's confidence in him.

The sacrifices by J&K forces' Chief of Staff, Brig Rajinder Singh Jamwal on the Jhelum Valley Road, Lt Col Dewan Rajit Rai, who led the first Indian troops into the Valley, at Patan on October 27, and Major Somnath Sharma at the Battle of Budgam on November 3, ensured Srinagar, and its airstrip, were still in Indian hands. But the tribals were still around and a threat.

Brig Sen, who had taken over 161 Brigade on November 2, realised that skirmishes would only whittle down his limited strength and recalled the parting advice by Delhi and East Punjab Command chief, Lt Gen Dudley 'Pasha' Russell that "if you get a chance of hitting them, hit hard with all you have got and don't let up". In his memoirs, "Slender Was The Thread", he recalled that for this he had to make the enemy combine and a tempting figure that a tempting bait would be an open road to Srinagar so they could swoop down in their vehicles to loot the city.

This meant ordering the troops on the Srinagar-Baramulla road to fall back and the order created a storm. His superior, J&K Force commander, the capable and irascible Maj Gen Kulwant Singh Datta



stormed into his HQ early on November 5 and bluntly said this was "sheer suicide" as the raiders would sweep down on Srinagar. He sought a written statement - in triplicate - that the withdrawal was unapproved by HQs.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Abdullah sent an emissary to Delhi to ask Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to replace Brig Sen. However, Sardar Patel, who had gone to Srinagar and had been briefed by the Brigadier, dismissed the request.

On the ground, Brig Sen found that his plan seemed to be working as raiders were seen returning to Baramulla to regroup. He was planning how to deploy his limited forces - three battalions-odd, augmented by some National Conference workers, who carried out risky intelligence operations,

when an Armoured Corps officer walked into his ops room.

Major Inderjit Rikhye said that his armoured car squadron had been leading the reinforcements from Jammu but given the Ramban bridge's condition, he had left the force to reinforce it and made for Srinagar with just a troop (four armoured cars) and a rifle troop.

Though just two armoured cars were working, they and the rifle troop - which luckily happened to be Jats, were sent behind the enemy lines. It was a hazardous trip - detachment commander, 19-year-old Lt Noel David reported that they had to cross the stream over a narrow wooden bridge, which didn't appear to be able to support the weight. However, in five minutes, he reported that they could cross if the railings were knocked off.

It was then found that the bridge was just two inches wider, on either side, for the vehicles but he persevered, reporting that they had crossed "but would never like to try doing it again".

By November 7 morning, his detachment was amid the enemy in the village of Shalateg and taken to be reinforcements from Pakistan.

As soon as they were in position, Brig Sen ordered 1 Sikh to advance and hit the enemy hard. 1 Kumaon then made a flank attack, Lt David's force opened fire from their rear, and elements of 4 Kumaon attacked on the other side. The Air Force also bombed the enemy, sending them fleeing.

"The Battle of Shalateg had been

won, in twenty minutes from the word GO," Brig Sen said, noting over 600 tribals were killed on the battlefield and in their headlong retreat, while abandoning nearly 140 transport vehicles and a large stock of weapons. The Indian troops pursued the enemy through the night, retaking an abandoned and devastated Baramulla the next morning, and then, Uri.

The Jammu and Kashmir war was not over, as desperate struggles would rage in Jammu and Ladakh for the rest of the year and the following year, as Pakistan would jump into hostilities, but the Kashmir Valley would face no more threats.

international

Polls miss mark again in US presidential election

Sacramento | Agencies

For the third consecutive presidential election, US polling organisations struggled to accurately predict Donald Trump's electoral performance, with some surveys dramatically underestimating his support in crucial battleground states.

The most notable polling miss came from veteran Iowa pollster J. Ann Selzer, whose final poll showed Vice President Kamala Harris leading Trump by 3 percentage points in Iowa, according to a New York Times article published on Monday, one day ahead of Election Day.

According to AP News' election result, the poll missed by 16 points, with Trump winning the state by 13.2 points (55.9 per cent to Harris's 42.7 per cent).

"The poll findings were produced for The Des Moines Register and Mediacom did not match what the Iowa electorate ultimately decided in the voting booth today," Selzer acknowledged in a statement on Tuesday. "I'll be reviewing data from multiple sources to learn why that happened."

Another significant miss



came from The New York Times/Siena College poll released on Sunday, two days before the election, which showed Harris clearly leading in Georgia, North Carolina, Nevada, and Wisconsin, with Pennsylvania and Michigan tied. However, Trump ended up winning or leading in all these states.

Even in reliably Democratic states, polls showed significant errors, Xinhua news agency reported.

In New Jersey, the polling discrepancies were particularly severe, with a Rutgers survey in mid-October missing Trump's

final percentage by double digits. In Maryland, Trump overperformed his polling average by 4.1 per cent, while Harris underperformed by 1.2 per cent, according to The Independent.

James Johnson, founder of J.L. Partners, one of the few polling firms to accurately predict Trump's victory, told Newsweek Wednesday that the error stemmed from familiar problems: "The key thing is people made the same mistakes they did in 2016. They understated the Trump voter who is less likely to be engaged politically, and crucially, more likely

to be busy, not spending 20 minutes talking to pollsters."

New York Times chief polling analyst Nate Cohn noted that "white Democrats were 16 per cent likelier to respond than white Republicans," suggesting a structural bias in their survey response rates, as reported by Vox. Some pollsters still argued that the aggregate polling data wasn't entirely wrong despite the misses. Yahoo News reported on Wednesday that major election models showed the race as essentially a toss-up, with FiveThirtyEight and Nate Silver's Silver Bulletin each giving Harris 50 per cent odds of winning. Split Ticket put her chances at 53 per cent, while The Economist estimated 56 per cent. The final Yahoo News/YouGov survey had Trump and Harris tied at 47 per cent among likely voters, with 6 per cent either backing third-party candidates or undecided. According to FiveThirtyEight's analysis cited by Yahoo News, presidential election polls had typically been off by about 4 points on average since 2000.

Online betting markets appeared to gauge Trump's chances more accurately. Major

betting companies including Betfair, Kalshi, Polymarket, Predictit, and Smarkets all gave Trump better-than-even odds of winning on election eve.

The polling misses have led to renewed criticism of the industry. Comedy Central host Jon Stewart captured the public frustration during his election night broadcast. "I don't ever want to hear, 'We've corrected for the overcorrection with the voters.'"

As of Wednesday afternoon, Trump's popular vote margin stood at 3.5 per cent, though that could narrow as more results come in from populous states like California, according to Yahoo News. The former president has won five of the seven key battleground states, with Nevada and Arizona still to be called.

The continued difficulty in accurately polling Trump's support has prompted polling experts to question the industry's ability to adapt to changing voter behaviour and communication patterns, particularly among less politically engaged voters who may be less likely to participate in traditional polling methods.

Hezbollah fires 120 rockets at Israel, causing injuries

Jerusalem | Agencies

Hezbollah fired about 120 rockets at northern and central Israel, causing injuries and damage, according to Israeli sources.

Around 50 rockets launched from Lebanon within 15 minutes struck multiple locations in northern Israel's Upper Galilee, the Israeli military said on Wednesday, adding some of them were intercepted.

Meanwhile, Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that some of these rockets landed in Avivim, a community adjacent to a military outpost in the Upper Galilee that Hezbollah has repeatedly targeted, Xinhua news agency reported.

Several people sustained serious injuries and were transferred to a hospital, said Kan TV, while local authorities confirmed that about 10 homes were hit and several fires erupted.

In a separate attack, a projectile was fired from Lebanon toward central Israel, triggering sirens across the Gush Dan area, where Ben Gurion International Airport and dozens of cities and communities are located. Residents reported hearing explosions.

"Following the sirens that sounded in multiple areas of central Israel, one projectile from Lebanon was inter-

cepted," the military said.

It marked the second Hezbollah attack on central Israel on Wednesday, following a morning rocket barrage that hit an empty parking lot near Ben Gurion International Airport and Ra'anana, a suburb of Tel Aviv. The military added that two explosive drones later attempted to cross from Lebanon into Israel but were intercepted before breaching Israeli airspace.

In the wake of the recent attacks, the Northern Command of the Israeli military updated restrictions for residents of Upper Galilee's six communities, based on "situation assessment".

Residents were required to limit movement, avoid gatherings, secure communities' gates, and stay near protected areas.

"Please adhere to Home Front Command's alerts from this moment until further notice," the Northern Command said.

Since Wednesday morning, at least 120 rockets have been fired toward Israel from Lebanon, according to official Israeli figures.

The attacks came amid ongoing cross-border conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, which began over a year ago and has sharply escalated since late September.

Mount Marapi in Indonesia's West Sumatra erupts

Jakarta | Agencies

Jakarta: Mount Marapi in Indonesia's West Sumatra province erupted on Thursday morning, sending a column of ash up to 800 metres into the air, according to the Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Centre. The eruption occurred at 8.54 a.m. Jakarta time, with ash dispersing to the east and north-east of the crater, Xinhua news agency reported.

Residents have been warned to avoid activities within a 4.5-kilometre radius of the crater. Those living along rivers that originate on the volcano's slopes are advised to stay alert for possible lava flows during heavy rains.

Mount Marapi is one of Indonesia's 127 active volcanoes, located on the seismically active Pacific Ring of Fire.

Fast-moving wildfire in California forces thousands to flee

Los Angeles | Agencies

A dangerously fast wildfire fanned by fierce winds was burning out of control in California, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate.

The mountain fire occurred on Wednesday morning at Moorpark of Ventura County, 60 km north-west of Los Angeles, and has swept across more than 10,400 acres by afternoon, Ventura County Fire Department said, noting the flames have reached a suburb of the city of Camarillo, home to around 70,000 people.

Evacuation orders have been issued for more than 10,000 people so far as the wildfire threatened 3,500 structures in suburban communities, ranches and agricultural areas around Camarillo, said California Governor Gavin Newsom in a statement.



Newsom also announced approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help ensure the availability of vital resources to Ventura County, Xinhua news agency reported.

Local broadcasters showed many homes engulfed in flames and many utterly destroyed, as a thick plume of smoke rose hundreds of feet into the sky, blanketing whole neighborhoods and limiting visibility for firefighters and evacuees.

The National Weather Service office for the Los Angeles area amended its red flag warning for increased fire danger with a "particularly dangerous situation" label.

With predicted gusts up to 80 miles per hour and low humidity levels, many areas of Los Angeles and Ventura County could experience conditions ripe for extreme fire behavior into Thursday, the weather service said.

Inability to provide minimum security: India cancels consular camps in Toronto

Toronto | Agencies

The Consulate General of India in Toronto has cancelled several consular camps, initially planned to issue life certificates to Indian pensioners, due to security agencies' inability to provide minimum protection amid recent violence by Khalistani extremists.

"In view of the security agencies conveying their inability to provide minimum security protection to the community camp organisers, the Consulate has decided to cancel some of the scheduled consular camps," read a statement from the Consulate General on X.

This decision follows clashes between protesters bearing Khalistani flags and people at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton.

The clashes disrupted a consular event co-organised by the temple authorities and the Indian Consulate,



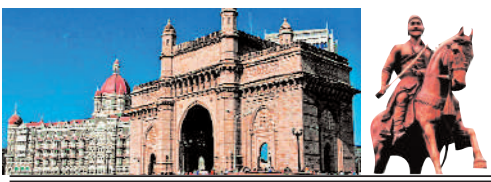
marking yet another violent episode against Hindu establishments.

On November 4, India voiced its ongoing concern about the safety of its nationals in Canada, following these incidents.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal condemned the violence at the Hindu Sabha Temple, calling on the Canadian

government to protect places of worship from attacks and to prosecute those responsible.

"We remain deeply concerned about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada. The outreach of our Consular officers to provide services to Indians and Canadian citizens alike will not be deterred by intimidation, harassment, and violence," Jaiswal stressed.



GUARANTEES BY MAHAYUTI, MVA TO INCREASE FISCAL BURDEN ON MAHA EXCHEQUER

Sanjay Jog | Mumbai

Amid a bitter fight for the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly elections slated for November 20, the Mahayuti and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) are engaged in an intense competition over the announcement of a slew of guarantees or promises to lure voters.

The Mahayuti led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde comprising BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP had announced 10 guarantees on Tuesday while the MVA consisting of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP(SP) released five guarantees titled 'Panchsutri' on Wednesday.

The Mahayuti in its "please all" guarantees, has made an attempt to cover various sections while the MVA has focused on reaching out to farmers, women, youth and young women through the 'Panchsutri'.

However, one thing is common, these slew of populist schemes will put additional financial burden on the state exchequer posing a major challenge to the new government to cope up amid tight finances.

With the announcement of guarantees by both Mahayuti and MVA, senior bureaucrats expect that the new government may have to bear an additional burden ranging between



Rs 50,000 crore and Rs 1,00,000 crore to fulfil those promises.

These promises, a part of the "revadi" culture, need to be seen in the context of the Maharashtra government's present financial position.

The Maharashtra government's fiscal deficit is now over Rs 2 lakh crore especially after the Mahayuti government's implementation of a slew of welfare and development schemes worth Rs 1 lakh crore announced in the annual budget.

The government's revenue deficit is projected to be Rs 20,051 crore while its public debt will be Rs 7.82 lakh crore.

As per the revised estimates, in 2023-24, the fiscal deficit of the state

is expected to be 2.8 per cent of the GSDP.

This is higher than the budget estimate (2.5 per cent). Fiscal deficit is projected to be lowered to 2.3 per cent of the GSDP by 2026-27.

In 2024-25, Maharashtra is estimated to spend Rs 2,75,615 crore on committed expenditure, which is 55 per cent of its estimated revenue receipts. This comprises spending on salaries (32 per cent of revenue receipts), pension (12 per cent), and interest payments (11 per cent).

In 2023-24, expenditure towards pensions is estimated to be 16 per cent lower than the budget estimate.

The expenses on these freebies will leave very limited funds for carrying

out capital expenditure which is needed to generate assets, jobs, additional revenue and ultimately to boost the economic growth.

The Mahayuti has promised an increase in monthly financial aid to Rs 2,100 from Rs 1,500 under the Ladki Bahin Yojana while the MVA has announced a monthly assistance of Rs 3,000 under the Mahalakshmi Yojana to women and free transportation in government buses across Maharashtra. The Mahayuti and MVA have both promised farm loan waiver though the MVA is specific that loans up to Rs 3 lakh will be waived off with additional incentive of Rs 50,000 for those repaying the loans regularly.

The Mahayuti has promised an expanded Shetkari Samman Yojana by increasing the annual financial assistance to Rs 15,000 from Rs 12,000 for farmers and adding a 20 per cent subsidy on the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The Mahayuti has assured creation of 25 lakh jobs and financial assistance of Rs 10,000 to 10 lakh students.

On its part, the MVA has promised to pay Rs 4,000 per month to unemployed youth.

Further, it has promised health insurance up to Rs 25 lakh and free medicines. It remains to be seen how the new government will be able to cater for these freebies.

Ideology may differ but there should be harmony while expressing opinions: Ajit Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

NCP President and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on

Thursday morning called up BJP legislator Sadabhau Khot and told him not to make personal remarks against anyone despite different ideologies.

Ajit Pawar, who earlier condemned Khot's statement on NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar, during his telephonic conversation with the leader said, "What you have said is very wrong. You should not create new issues by talking like this. Maharashtra does not tolerate talking about elders. We people do not tolerate it. We do not accept it."

He further said, "There will be many leaders in the state. Ideology may differ. But there should be some harmony while expressing opinions."

"Yashwantrao Chavan, the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra, set an example of how to be a civilized politician and how to speak in a civilized manner. There are some accusations and count-



er-accusations. ut there is a way of putting it. That is what they have taught us. The same method was continued by many dignitaries like Vasanttrao Naik, Vasantdada Patil, Sharad Pawar and Vilasrao Deshmukh. But whatever statement you made yesterday is objectionable. I strongly condemned it," he said during the phone call.

He further added that Khot has apologised, assuring that he would not indulge in personal criticism in future. Earlier, Ajit Pawar had

slammed Khot and warned the Mahayuti that he and his party would not accept any personal criticism against Sharad Pawar.

"Sadabhau Khot's statement about Pawar Saheb is very wrong and reprehensible. It is totally unacceptable for us to make personal criticism of Pawar Saheb at such a low level. On behalf of the Nationalist Congress Party, I strongly condemn this statement. Henceforth, NCP will not tolerate any personal criticism against Sharad Pawar," he warned.

Congress slams Devendra Fadnavis for serial attacks on Rahul Gandhi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Congress on Thursday launched a counterstrike on Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Deputy Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis who attacked Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for "hobnobbing with 'Urban Naxals' and displaying a red-coloured, mini-copy of the Constitution". Leading the charge were AICC General Secretary and Rajya Sabha Member Jairam Ramesh and Media & Publicity Department Chairman Pawan Kherra, besides others in Maharashtra, who criticised Fadnavis for his comments against Rahul Gandhi. In the past couple of days,

Fadnavis alleged in a media interview and in interactions that Rahul Gandhi is encircled by 'Urban Naxals', anarchist and anti-national forces, is less of a Congressman and transformed more into an ultra-Left ideologue, and how he flaunts a Constitution copy with a red cover instead of the traditional blue.

Jairam Ramesh said that Fadnavis' remarks clearly indicate that he is getting 'desperate' before the Maharashtra elections and is objecting to Rahul Gandhi showing the copy of the Constitution in his rallies and speeches. "This 'red book' is the Constitution of India, and its Chief Architect was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It's the same Constitution which the RSS had attacked in November 1949 as it was not inspired by

Manusmriti. It's the very same Constitution that the Prime Minister now wants to replace," said Ramesh sharply. According to him, as far as the "red book" is concerned, Fadnavis should know that it carries a foreword by one of India's most distinguished legal personalities K.K. Venugopal, who was Attorney General of India during 2017-2022. "Previously, the non-biological divinity and the self-proclaimed Chanakya have also been presented with the red book. As far as 'urban naxals' is concerned, the Union Home Ministry told Parliament on February 9, 2022, and March 11, 2020, that the Government of India does not use the term! Fadnavis should think first and then speak," said Ramesh.

After political furore, BJP leader withdraws slur on Sharad Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After protests and a political uproar, Mahayuti ally and Bharatiya Janata Party MLC Sadabhau R. Khot expressed regrets and withdrew his scurrilous remarks against Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar, here on Thursday.

The developments came a day after Khot, 60, hit out at Sharad Pawar, 83, deriding the latter's illness and past surgeries in an objectionable manner, during a poll rally in which Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis was also present.

"Sharad Pawar says he wants to change the face of Maharashtra... Does he want to make Maharashtra look like his own face?" remarked Khot, triggering strong reactions. Since then, the NCP (SP) supporters staged demonstrations and protests against Khot and BJP in Pune and other places, demanding an unconditional apology. As the matter boiled over, Khot



claimed that he had made the comment in a rustic style language and had no intentions to hurt the sentiments of anybody. "However, I regret having said such a thing. I am withdrawing my remarks, and this will never happen again in future," Khot told the media persons. Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVAY) ally Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut

slammed Khot for his utterances and labelled the latter as a "poodle of Fadnavis". Condemning Khot's words, Raut warned that the people of Maharashtra are watching everything and will teach the BJP an appropriate lesson for the insults meted out to a senior leader like Sharad Pawar - whom even Prime Minister Narendra Modi considers a "mentor". Taking strong objections to Khot's

words, NCP (SP) state President Jayant Patil said: "It reflects the 'crooked mentality' of the BJP-Mahayuti leaders."

Mahayuti ally Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President and Deputy CM Ajit A. Pawar also took umbrage at Khot's comments, condemning them as "not in line with Maharashtra's culture".

He called up Khot, gave him an earful and even warned him to be careful with his choice of words.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawar asked Khot to conduct civilised politics and not resort to below-the-belt attacks.

"This was taught to us by the first CM of Maharashtra, Y. B. Chavan, there may be allegations and counter-accusations, but there is a manner of presenting them. What he taught us was carried forward by others like Vasanttrao Naik Vasantdada Patil, Vilasrao Deshmukh, etc. I told him this was unacceptable, stop such things immediately and it is wrong to make such personal assaults," said Ajit Pawar.

After SC's directive, NCP releases declaration in newspapers on use of 'Clock' poll symbol

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hours after the Supreme Court's 36-hour deadline, the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) released a declaration in Marathi, Hindi and English languages on the use of the 'Clock' election symbol.

"The Election Commission of India has allotted the 'Clock' symbol to the Ajit Anandrao Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). The matter is presently sub judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and subject to the final verdict, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the interim has allowed the NCP to use the 'Clock' symbol for all ensuing elections," said the declaration released in newspapers on Thursday.

The NCP, which is contesting 56 Assembly seats in the Maharashtra elections, released its declaration



after the Supreme Court on Wednesday set a 36-hour deadline for the same. The apex court during the hearing on Wednesday had observed that the NCP has not complied with

its earlier order after the NCP-SP led by Sharad Pawar argued that the Ajit Pawar faction continues the use of the 'Clock' symbol without clarifying that the matter is sub judice saying

that it was in violation of the court's earlier order.

The Sharad Pawar faction, which has approached the apex court challenging the Election Commission's move to award the 'Clock' symbol to the Ajit Pawar faction, has pleaded for the allotment of a new symbol to the rival group. It is not just that the Ajit Pawar faction has released the declaration in the newspapers but the party has boldly inserted it in its banners and posters.

Interestingly, the front page advertisement released by the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in national dailies, which includes election symbols of Shiv Sena, BJP and NCP, has also mentioned "Matter related to 'Clock' symbol of the NCP is sub judice in the Supreme Court."

The Shiv Sena's move is aimed to avoid any legal action during the poll campaign.

Team Uddhav's Manifesto Offers Free Education, Scrapping Of Dharavi Project

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday unveiled his party's manifesto for the Maharashtra assembly polls, assuring free education for male students, stabilising prices of essential items and scrapping of the Dharavi redevelopment project.

Thackeray, while releasing the manifesto at his residence 'Matoshree' in Mumbai, said most of the poll promises are part of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) overall assurances, but there are some points which need special attention.

The MVA, which comprises the Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP), will also launch its manifesto for the November 20 state assembly polls, he said.

Thackeray said every district will have a temple of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He also promised to implement the Old Pension Scheme and remove the cap of 50 per cent reservation. Thackeray assured that the way female students in the state were getting free education under a government policy, it will be implemented for male students as well,



if the MVA comes to power. He also promised free travel for women in public transport buses. Apart from recruiting 18,000 women in state's police force, Mr Thackeray said all female police stations will also be established in Maharashtra. The MVA will also keep stable the prices of essential commodities, he said. On the Dharavi redevelopment project, the former chief minister said it will be scrapped as the project will have ramifications on Mumbai. Maharashtra and Mumbai will also have a housing policy keeping the rapid urbanisation in mind, he said. Affordable houses will be built for "sons of the soil" in urban, semi-urban and rural areas, he added.

16 INJURED AFTER FIRE BREAKS OUT AT BHUGAON STEEL COMPANY IN WARDHA



Team Absolute | Wardha

In a fire incident that broke out at Bhugaon Steel Company in Wardha district on Wednesday, 16 workers were injured.

All the injured workers have been admitted to the hospital, with one reported to be in critical condition.

Upon receiving information, the administration reached the spot and the fire was brought under control.

"16 workers were injured after a fire broke out at Bhugaon Steel Company in Wardha district. All the injured have been admitted to the hospital for treatment. One of them is in critical condition. The fire has been brought under control. An inquiry has been started as to how exactly this incident took place. The administration team has reached the spot," said Rahul Kardile, Collector, Wardha.

FIR against websites for selling Lawrence Bishnoi, Dawood Ibrahim T-shirts

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Police's Cyber Cell has taken decisive action against e-commerce platforms and sellers involved in the sale of T-shirts that glorify notorious gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Dawood Ibrahim, the officials said on Thursday.

According to the police, a First Information Report (FIR) against several online sellers and major marketplaces was registered after the discovery of merchandise that promotes criminal figures.

The police said, the Maharashtra Cyber Cell, the state's central agency for cyber crime prevention and security, launched an investigation after reports surfaced about T-shirts sold online bearing images and slogans idolising individuals with criminal backgrounds.

"As part of the ongoing vigilance, it has come to light that several e-commerce platforms, including Flipkart, AliExpress, and marketplaces like TeeShopper and Etsy, have been selling T-shirts that glorify notorious



gangsters like Lawrence Bishnoi and Dawood Ibrahim," said an official. The official added,



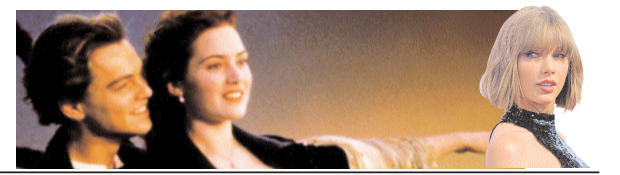
the gangsters, Lawrence Bishnoi and Dawood Ibrahim, are associated with serious criminal

activities including organised crime, extortion, and terrorism.

The sale of such products raises significant concerns over the potential for influencing vulnerable individuals, particularly the youth, who may view these figures as role models. By glamorising criminals through casual apparel, the merchandise promotes a distorted and dangerous narrative that can contribute to the normalisation of illegal activities, the officials said.

The police said that an FIR was registered under sections 192, 196, 353, 3 BNS, 2023, and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 against the e-commerce websites.

In an official statement, the Cyber Department affirmed its commitment to maintaining a safe and responsible online environment. "The Maharashtra Cyber Department actively monitors digital spaces for objectionable content on e-commerce websites, including those that have the potential to incite violence or lawlessness," the statement said.



Hollywood witnesses collective meltdown after Kamala Harris' defeat

Los Angeles | Agencies

The victory of former US President Donald Trump, and his return to the US President office following the US Presidential Elections of 2024, has ruffled many feathers in Hollywood.

Several Hollywood celebrities who rallied behind Democratic Presidential candidate Kamala Harris, reacted strongly to Trump's win.

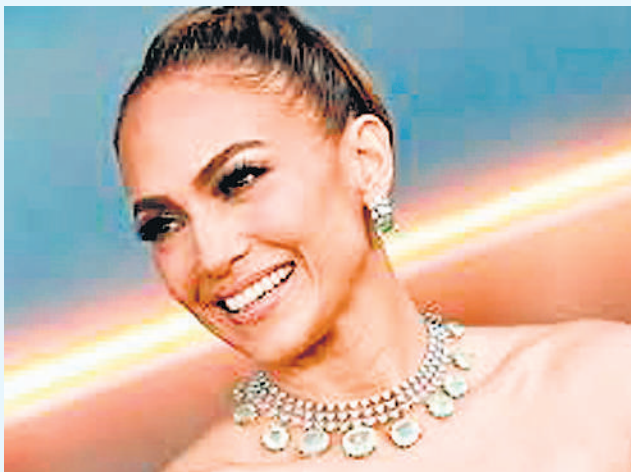
Singer-songwriter Billie Eilish took to the Stories section of Instagram, and wrote, "It's a war on women".
 Rapper Cardi B posted a video of herself watching the results of the 2024 Elections. She said in the video, "I hate y'all bad". She also conducted an Instagram Live, trashed Trump supporters, saying, "I swear to God, I'm gonna f*** you up, get away from me". She also read aloud a comment from a fan that said, "Cardi we need you at the Trump inauguration". To this, the rapper responded, "I swear to god I'm gonna f*** you up, get away from me. I'm sick of you! Burn you're f***ing hats m*****. I'm really sad. I swear to god I'm really sad".

Actress Jessica Alba also shared several quote on her Instagram carousel post. She quoted Kamala Harris in the caption as she wrote, "There is an adage: Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars. I know many people feel like we are entering a dark time. For the benefit of us all, I hope that is not the case. But, America, if it is: Let us fill the sky with the light of a billion brilliant stars. May the light of optimism, faith, truth, and service guide us even in the face of setbacks toward the extraordinary promise of the United States of America".

Author Stephen King took to his X, formerly Twitter, and expressed concern for democracy in his X reaction. He posted, "There's a sign you can see in many shops that sell beautiful but fragile items: LOVELY TO LOOK AT, DELIGHTFUL TO HOLD, BUT ONCE YOU BREAK IT, THEN IT'S SOLD. You can say the same about democracy". Singer-songwriter Ariana Grande, who is set to star in the film adaptation of "Wicked" later this month, wrote, "Holding the hand of every person who is feeling the immeasurable heaviness of this outcome today". Actress Viola Davis posted a photo of Harris and thanked her for "loving America's promise," adding, "I am and will forever be proud".



JLO SHARES HOLIDAY PLANS AFTER AN 'INTENSE YEAR' RIFE WITH BEN AFFLECK



Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Lopez is excited to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. The past few months have been stressful for the singer as she filed for divorce from Ben Affleck in August. However, this has not brought her Holiday cheer down as she enthusiastically shared her plans for the festivities.

In an interview with People Magazine on Wednesday, she revealed, "It was a pretty intense year for me, and I'm most looking forward to spending time with my kids and my family coming out from the East Coast." She added, "The holidays are such a special time for us, and they've always been since I was a little girl. And I really look forward to those moments when I can be with my sisters and just relax and have fun and create new memories." Her two sisters are Leslie Lopes and Lynda Lopez.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Apart from being one of the most popular TV shows of all time, "Friends" continues to be a fashion phenomenon and series star Courteney Cox says her co-actor Jennifer Aniston kept tons of clothes from the sitcom, even of her character Monica's.

Real-life buddies Cox, 60, and Aniston, 55, played Monica Geller and Rachel Greene, former high school classmates and eventual roommates on NBC show "Friends", on which Debra McGuire served as costume designer.

"She took a lot of Monica's dresses, and she'll say, 'Oh yeah, I used to wear this on 'Friends'.' And I mean, it looks great on her. She has a great figure and she's adorable."

"But I'm like, 'Why would you take this floral little prairie dress from 'Friends'? But she holds on to everything," Cox told Bella Freud on her "Fashion Neurosis" podcast.

The actor told Freud that "it's really funny that did take some of Monica's clothes."



Dolly Parton calls herself more of an 'eyesore' than an 'icon'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Country music icon Dolly Parton, who is well known for her extravagant sense of style, has a very different impression of herself but added that it's more important to be comfortable in your own skin.

She told the UK's Closer magazine: "I say I'm more of an eyesore than an icon in some of the stuff I wear. I just really do believe that for myself and for everybody else, you should wear what you're comfortable in, what fits your personality, what you feel good in."

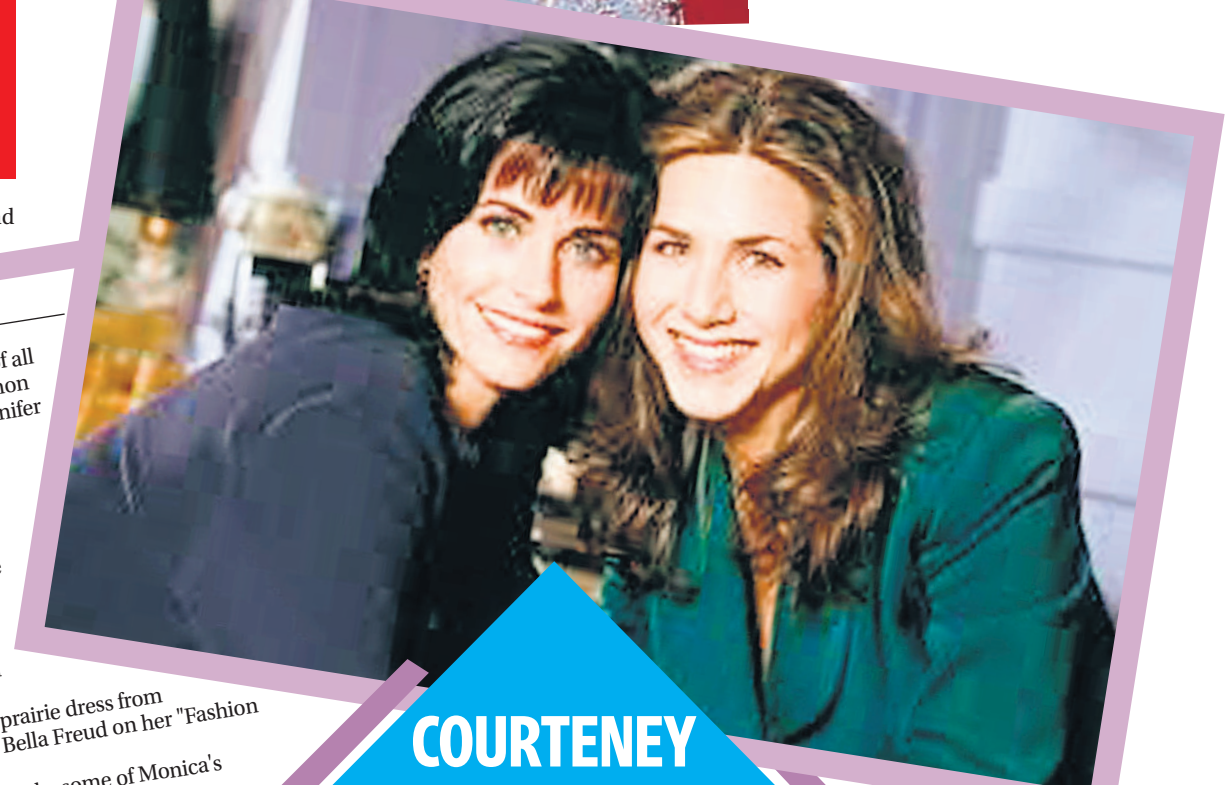
The "Jolene" hitmaker said that she loves lounging around in her tracksuit looking "like hell". She added: "I can wear a tracksuit and look like hell when I'm at home! Everybody's got their slouchy, comfy clothes."

While the "9 To 5" hitmaker enjoys a "bit of yoga", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She teased: "I do a little bit of yoga. I don't do much running, I'm not trying to give myself black eyes! So I just try to do stretches and little floor exercises. But I'm not big on that."

Parton is able to keep her "sense of humour" after six decades in the music industry, and she insisted being able to have a laugh "makes life so much easier" and more enjoyable.

She said: "I do have a great sense of humour. I've had to have fun in this business. Everyone should try to develop a good sense of humour if you don't have one, because that makes life so much easier and so much more fun!"



COURTENEY COX SAYS JENNIFER ANISTON TOOK A LOT OF DRESSES



Los Angeles | Agencies

Matt LeBlanc goes reclusive to avoid the fame

Matt LeBlanc has reportedly turned into a recluse as he wants to avoid the fame pitfalls that claimed his close friend Matthew Perry's life. The actor is currently living a clean life and keeping away from drugs which are so prevalent in the industry he works in to protect

his sanity. His only vice in this way of living is his habit of smoking.

Whenever life gets a little tough, the actor takes a step back from everything as he did when Friends' spin-off Joey was shut down just after its two seasons. A decade after the show ended in 2006, he revealed in an interview, "For years and years, I barely left the house. I was burnt out. Most actors call their agents and say, 'What's going on?' I'd call mine and say, 'Please lose my

number for a few years.'" Perry's death has only added to Matt's isolation, as reported by Radar Online. The actors who played best friends on the TV show in the 90s were also close friends in real life. They both live close to each other in the upmarket enclave of Pacific Palisades. He was also the first one to show up at Perry's house following his death last October

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kylie Jenner



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Halle Bailey has slammed her ex-partner DDG for showing off their baby to 'millions' of strangers online without her consent. 'The Little Mermaid' star split from rapper DDG, 27, last month, almost a year after welcoming their son Halo, reports 'Mirror UK'

She expressed her disappointment at the musician Darryl Dwayne Granberry Jr for showing off their

Halle Bailey hits out at ex-partner for showing their baby's face

baby on YouTube star Kai Cenat's Twitch livestream to the content creator's 13.8 million followers. Taking to X, formerly known as Twitter, Halle, who is suffering with 'severe postpartum', wrote, "Hi everyone. just so you know i am out of town and i don't approve of my baby being on a stream tonight. I wasn't told or notified and I am extremely upset to have my baby in front of millions of people. I am his mother and protector and saddened that I wasn't notified especially when I am out of town". As per 'Mirror UK', she has since deleted the tweet. In a follow-up tweet, that was also deleted, she said she has been battling 'severe postpartum' and criticised her ex-partner for not respecting her boundaries. "As a woman experiencing severe postpartum, there are boundaries that I wish to be respected. No one knows what someone is going through until they snap", she added.



Keacy Carty's ton leads West Indies to series win over England

Barbados | Agencies

West Indies batter Keacy Carty became the first player from the island of Sint Maarten to score an international century as the Caribbean side secured an emphatic eight-wicket victory over England at Kensington Oval to clinch the ODI series 2-1.

Carty's maiden international century 128 not out off 114 balls, marked by 15 fours and two sixes, steered the West Indies to successfully chased down England's total of 263/8 with seven overs remaining.

Carty's innings was his 50th international appearance for the West Indies, and he took full advantage of the opportunity to make his first triple-figure score against a challenging English attack.

Supporting Carty's outstanding knock was opener Brandon King, who scored a well-crafted 102. King's steady innings set the foundation for the West Indies' chase, as he and



Carty put on an impressive 209-run partnership for the second wicket, putting the home team in a commanding position. Earlier, fast bowler Matthew Forde

struck early in the English innings, claiming 3/46, including the wicket of Will Jacks in his second over, which left England struggling at 24/4. Although the visitors found some

stability with middle-order contributions from Dan Mousley (57), Sam Curran (40), and Jofra Archer (38 not out), their total of 263/8 ultimately proved insufficient.

With the West Indies requiring 264 to seal the series, Carty and King took command from the start, building a solid partnership that showcased their skill and composure, before in-form skipper Shai Hope (5*) came in at the end to help seal the result.

King was named Player of the Match for his steady innings at the top of the West Indies' batting order, while Forde was adjudged Player of the Series for his eight wickets across the three contests.

Brief scores

England 263/8 (Phil Salt 74, Dan Mousley 57; Matthew Forde 3-35, Alzarri Joseph 2-45) lost to West Indies 267/2 in 43 overs (Keacy Carty 128*, Brandon King 102; Jamie Overton 1-17) by 8 wickets.

BWF Tour: Kiran George marches into quarterfinals of Korea Masters

Iksan City (South Korea) | Agencies

Indian shuttler Kiran George defeated third seed Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei to move into the men's singles quarterfinals at the Korea Masters, a BWF Super 300 badminton tournament, here on Thursday.

World No. 41 George, the only Indian competing at the tournament, registered a 21-17, 19-21, 21-17 win over Jen to move into the top eight, where he will face Japan's Takuma Obayashi.

Jen initially led by a single point at the first midgame break, but Kiran George accelerated after the restart to secure the opening game. In the second, the Chinese Taipei shuttler fought back, equalising despite Kiran's three saved game points towards the end.

The decider remained intense until George won five consecutive points, reaching a 20-14 lead. Jen saved three game points but couldn't prevent the Indian from clinching the match in an hour and 15 minutes.

Earlier, Kiran George had to dig deep to beat Vietnam's Nguyen Hai Dang 15-21, 21-12, 21-15 in the opening round.

India's Ayush Shetty (men's singles) and Imad Farooqui Samiya (women's singles) were also on the entry list for the tournament but both have pulled out.



Fan's death overshadows FC Bayern's UCL win over Benfica

Munich | Agencies

FC Bayern's win over Benfica in the league phase of the Champions League was overshadowed by sad news as a fan passed away at the Allianz Arena.

A tragedy unfolded in the stands on Wednesday evening when a fan in the crowd required medical assistance and died on the way to the hospital.

The Bavarian club mourned the death of a fan and said, "The club received the sad news that the fan had passed away en route to the hospital. FC Bayern is in mourning alongside their relatives.

In a gesture of sympathy, the Bayern fans in the south stand refrained from their usual loud support during the match. "Out of respect, the Sudkurve refrained from their usual vocal support of the team, and the club also reduced its coverage of the match," the club said.

The Sudkurve, home of Bayern, lowered their flags as a signal that there would be no further support throughout the match.

Jamal Musiala's excellent header ended



Benfica's resistance and ensured Bayern returned to winning ways after two straight defeats. Goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin made a series of fine saves to deny England captain Harry Kane in a dominant, if frustrating, first-half showing from Bayern.

The introduction of Leroy Sané helped the home side break down Benfica and when his cross found Kane, the striker headed back across goal for Musiala to power in.

Sr Men's National Hockey: U.P, Karnataka, Chandigarh, M.P, T.N. win on Day 3

Chennai | Agencies

Teams from Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Chandigarh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, and the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu emerged victorious in their respective matches across multiple pools on Day 3 of the 14th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium here on Thursday.

Uttar Pradesh Hockey defeated Delhi Hockey 4-1 in a Pool F clash. Chandan Singh (4') broke the deadlock for Uttar Pradesh Hockey followed by conversions from Arun Sahani (19'), Manish Sahani (20') and Faraz Mohd. (26'). Govind Singh Bisht (17') scored the lone goal for Delhi Hockey.

Hockey Karnataka defeated Tripura Hockey 5-0 by way of forfeit in a Pool D fixture.

In another Pool D encounter, Hockey Chandigarh secured a 9-0 vic-



tory against Hockey Uttarakhand. Sumit (7', 8'), Paramvir Singh (12', 15') and Amandeep (18', 26') registered braces while Surinder Singh (35'), Mohit (37') and Manjinder Singh (59') also added to the tally.

In Pool B, Hockey Mizoram defeated Telangana Hockey 2-1 in their first match of the campaign. Notably, Venkatesh Telugu (18') gave Telangana Hockey the lead, before Stalin Abilash C's (46', 49') late brace secured the win for Hockey Mizoram.

Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Hockey Andhra Pradesh 17-0 in Pool C. Shreyas Dhupe (13', 22', 29', 36', 41') was the top scorer with five goals. Sourabh Pashine (38', 53', 57') secured a hat-trick while Captain Yousof Affan (12', 30'), Sushil Dhanwar (18', 51') and Mohammad Zaid Khan (30', 46') scored braces. Armaan Qureshi (17'), Mohd Umar (27') and Mohd Nizamuddin (33') also contributed a goal each.

'Give him a decent run': Ponting on Pakistan's new white-ball captain Rizwan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting feels that Pakistan's newly-appointed white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan should get a "decent run" at the role to showcase his leadership skills in the formats.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) appointed Rizwan as captain of the white-ball teams last month after Babar Azam quit the role for the second time following the early exit from the T20 World Cup 2024.

Rizwan's first assignment as captain saw Pakistan lose against ODI World champions Australia in the series opener in Melbourne last week. However, Ponting warned Pakistan's management against any impulsive decision regarding the leadership role.

"They're continually changing leaders, (Shaheen) Afridi one day, Babar one day, Rizwan another day. Lots of changes going on around their white-ball stuff. You don't like to see that instability, but I guess they're trying to find some-



thing that works and they're willing to make changes until they find something that works and they start getting the right outcomes," Ponting said in the ICC Review.

Ponting added that the ongoing Australia tour would provide a good indication of Rizwan's leadership skills. "He's the sort of player that I love watching. Aggressive player that takes the game on, and wears his heart on his sleeve a little bit," he said.

"I reckon you can see he gets quite emotional out on the field, out on the ground as well, which I think is a good thing. It tends to show that you really care about what you're doing and what your team's trying to achieve.

"So the proof will be in the pudding. I mean, we won't know (until they) give him a decent run at it. They obviously feel he's the right man for here and now. So I think in a few months time, or maybe in a few weeks time, even here in Australia with the one-dayers, the T20Is coming up, we might have a better idea in three or four weeks time," Ponting added.

Mushfiqur Rahim ruled out of Afghanistan ODIs with finger fracture

Sharjah | Agencies

Wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim has been ruled out of the remaining ODIs against Afghanistan after sustaining a fracture on his left index finger in the series opener that Bangladesh lost by 92 runs. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said that Mushfiqur will miss the second and third ODIs against Afghanistan and is being monitored by the management.

"Towards the end of Afghanistan's batting innings, Mushfiqur injured the tip of his left index finger while keeping wickets," team physio Delwar Hossain said in a BCB statement. "An X-ray after the match has confirmed a fracture on his left index near the DIP joint. He is under conservative management and is not available for the second and third ODIs. Further updates on his condition and expected recovery period will be provided in due course," it added. Mushfiqur's injury forced him to bat at No. 7 as Bangladesh's batting collapsed after losing eight wickets for only 23 runs while chasing 236. He departed after being stumped out for 1. For Afghanistan, Mohammad Ghazanfar



returned with the figures of 6-26 to all out Bangladesh for 143. Bangladesh are yet to name a replacement for Mushfiqur as they trail 0-1 in the three-match series. In the absence of Litton Das, who is recovering from fever, Jakir Ali is likely to don the wicket-keeping gloves for the remainder of the series. As Bangladesh gear up for an upcoming multi-format tour of the West Indies, featuring two Tests, three ODIs, and three T20Is later this month, Mushfiqur's finger injury raises questions about his full availability for the Tests and ODIs. Mushfiqur retired from T20Is in 2022.



New Zealand brace for England's 'Bazball' assault in upcoming Test series

Christchurch | Agencies

New Zealand cricket fans eagerly await a high-intensity series as England prepare to tour the country for three Test matches starting on November 28 in Christchurch. England's aggressive Test approach, popularly known as 'Bazball', will face scrutiny against the Black Caps, who come into the series with renewed confidence after a 3-0 white-wash of India. Despite England's recent series loss in Pakistan, New Zealand skipper Tom Latham expects the visitors to stick to their trademark attacking style. After England's recent 2-1

defeat in Pakistan, cricket analysts and former captains Nasser Hussain and Michael Vaughan questioned whether England's strategy could endure in diverse conditions, but Latham remains certain that England will not back down.

"They've got an attacking brand that they like to play, and I'm sure it will be no different in terms of how they like to approach it," Latham told reporters after New Zealand's return from India. "We're looking forward to it. It'll be a great challenge."

For New Zealand, the series against England holds high stakes. With their recent success against India, the Black Caps have surged

to fourth in the ICC World Test Championship rankings. A strong performance against England could potentially elevate them further and keep alive their hopes of reaching the World Test Championship final for the second time. New Zealand were the inaugural titleholder, having claimed the championship in 2021 after defeating India in a thrilling final.

England, currently ranked sixth, trails behind Australia, India, and Sri Lanka in the Championship race. But for Latham, the broader implications of the Championship are secondary to enjoying the game and focusing on each match.

"It's a big carrot for us," Latham remarked. "But for us, it's just about enjoying our cricket as much as we can. If we're able to play some good cricket, then those sorts of things take care of themselves."

Latham emphasised the unique challenge England will pose in New Zealand's conditions, noting that while the Black Caps are buoyed by their success in India, the setting for this series will be entirely different.

"(It's) completely different conditions, we're against a completely different team," Latham said. "We're going to have to be at our best again, so yeah, it's another exciting opportunity."



Amitabh Bachchan dreams of boarding an Aircraft carrier

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the latest episode of "Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 16", Amitabh Bachchan shared a heartfelt tribute to the Indian Navy, expressing his deep admiration for their service and courage. Big B took a moment to praise the Navy's role in safeguarding the nation's waters, conveying his own fascination with their bravery and discipline. In a touching revelation, he also shared a personal dream: To one day step aboard an aircraft carrier and witness the awe-inspiring operations of the naval forces up close.

The upcoming episode will feature young minds aged 8 to 15 in KBC Juniors. Among them is Tritee Ranjhana from Assam, a young girl with big dreams and a dedicated spirit. As Tritee shines in the gameplay, she opens up about her deep love for the country and her dream of joining the Indian Navy. The actor responds warmly, saying, "Wow! It's inspiring to see a young person with such a strong vision and dreams like yours. Serving the nation is indeed a noble ambition."

Sharing his own admiration for the Indian Navy, the 'Kalki 2898 AD' actor stated, "Not many people know much about the Indian Navy. Recently, I had the honor of meeting some high-ranking naval officers who asked for help to raise awareness about the Navy. I even lent my voice to their documentary. Few realize the incredible work they do. The Indian Navy is a formidable force, and it has grown tremendously over the years, now equipped with powerful weapons. I even told them I'd love to learn more firsthand by visiting one of their ships—perhaps even an aircraft carrier—to understand and share the details of their operations. For example, when an aircraft lands on a carrier, the challenges are immense. Many aren't aware of how difficult this process truly is."

Amitabh also shares his desire to witness a distinctive Navy exercise, saying, "One thing I find fascinating is when two ships come side by side in the open sea, and the captain has to transfer to another ship. They use a ropeway with a leather seat to cross, and I told them I'd love to try it myself someday!"



Parineeti Chopra starts her YouTube channel

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra, who was last seen in the streaming biopic 'Amar Singh Chamkila', has started her YouTube channel. The actress recently took to her Instagram, and made the announcement through a video message.

She said in the video, "I've always been a very private person even though I'm a public figure, I'm in front of cameras all the time. I've always said that I only share one percent of my life on my social media." She further mentioned, "Now that I do so much in my life, I travel so much, I do some crazy adventurous things, I scuba dive so much, I read and I have music and I'm singing all the time, I'm in studios all the time, there's so much happening in my life that I feel like it's finally time and I'm finally ready to start sharing more of behind the scenes of my life and what I do on a daily basis."

The actress shared that this move will allow

her fans to see first hand and visually what unfolds in her life.

She added, "So I have decided to finally, finally, finally open my YouTube channel. I'm very excited because now I won't have to answer questions about what I do every day, you'll just be able to see it. So I'm gonna put the link to my channel in my bio and let's start this new chapter together. I'm super excited to welcome you into my life. See you soon!"

She also penned a long note in the caption talking about what motivated her to start her own channel.

She wrote, "All these years, I have deliberately shared just about only about 1% of my life on social media. I do so much but have always loved staying private! But my reluctance to share anything has seriously frustrated my social media team (haha), and after a lot of persuasion from them, I think it's time to open up a bit more!"

"Feeling nervous already. But here goes. I proudly announce that you can now subscribe to my YouTube channel, 'OfficialParineetiChopra', where I'll be sharing my life and days with you. Let's do this together", she added.

Ananya Panday dons her mom's old outfit designed by Rohit Bal

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday, who was recently seen in the streaming movie 'CTRL', wore her mom Bhavna Panday's ethnic outfit from 21 years ago designed by the late designer Rohit Bal.

The actress wore the outfit on the occasion of her friend, Deeya Shroff's marriage with Mihir Madhvani. On Thursday, Ananya took to her Instagram, and shared an array of pictures from the ceremony.

She also penned a heartwarming note in the caption, as she wrote, "briDEEEEEEE @deeyashroff obsessed with my sister getting married but also not ready to let go of her yet but also very excited to have a brother now!! @mihirmadhvani also wearing my moms @rohitbalofficial from 21 years ago! Gudda forever (sic)!"

Earlier, Ananya's rumoured boyfriend, Walker Blanco had penned a romantic birthday wish for the actress on her 26th birthday. In his post, Walker professed his love for Panday, calling her "special".

He took to his Instagram handle and shared a candid photo of the birthday girl, where she is seen sitting and smiling with her hand resting on her face. He wrote in the caption, "Happy birthday, beautiful. You are so special. I love you, Annie."



The post sparked a frenzy among Ananya's fans, who see Walker's birthday message as an official declaration of his love for her. Walker Blanco has often expressed his admiration for Ananya on social media.

Divyanka Tripathi: Shiri is a story of every woman



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya, who will be seen in slice-of-life series titled 'The Magic of Shiri' directed by Birs Dasgupta, said it is a story of every woman finding her way in a world that doesn't always make space for her.

Divyanka said: "Shiri is a story of every woman, finding her way in a world that doesn't always make space for her. Playing her has been a rewarding experience because it reminded me of the everyday battles we all face to keep moving forward, no matter the odds."

The actress said that Shiri's journey is

"relatable" "It's about holding onto a dream and pushing through, even when it feels impossible. She is every woman who has ever dared to dream beyond society's boundaries, refusing to be held back by the challenges life throws at her," the actress added.

The slice-of-life drama that beautifully portrays the journey of a woman pursuing her dreams in the enchanting world of magic. Divyanka is joined by Jaaved Jaaferi, Namit Das, and Parmeet Sethi, the ten-episodic series captures life's small joys, challenges, and the magic found in everyday resilience.

Jaaved Jaaferi said that this is a tale for anyone who has at some point in their life been told that their dreams are too big or that their goals are out of reach.

He added: "Shiri's inspiring journey beautifully captures the magic of resilience, passion and determination. My character adds a certain intensity and depth to the story and plays a pivotal role as friend, philosopher and guide in Shiri's journey through the world of magic."

'Bigg Boss 18': Sara Arfeen Khan gets violent

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The drama in the controversial reality show "Bigg Boss 18" is now at its peak as contestant Sara Arfeen Khan will be seen turning violent in the upcoming episode. A promo shared by the channel on Instagram, shows that after the task for being in the race to become time god, housemates Sara, Rajat Dalal, Karan Veer, Chahat Panday, Digvijay Singh Rathee and Shruti are in the race to become the head of the house.

In the task, the contestants are supposed to hold onto the scepter and the one who holds onto it till the end gets the opportunity to become the time god. Amid the task, due to the push and pull, Sara loses control and leaves the task and pushes the scepter on



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Vishal Daddani has unveiled his latest track, "Jugni," which celebrates the essence of living life to the fullest. Warner Music India's much-anticipated folk music project, Maati (Season 1), takes another exciting step forward with the release of its fourth track, Jugni, a fusion of rock and bhangra anthem crooned by Daddani.

The peppy foot-tapping number brings together three

VISHAL DADLANI SHARES HIS NEW TRACK 'JUGNI'

erhouse artists—rock icon Vishal, lyricist Varun Grover, and composer Achint. The song combines the energy of rock & roll with the spirit of traditional Punjabi folk, creating an anthem that celebrates life, freedom, and boundless energy.

Talking about the song, Vishal Daddani shares, "Loved the idea of doing a song about the spirit of life. Felt very rock & roll. Varun's lyrics really resonated with me, and Achint's music was carefree and fun. Big shoutout to Achint & Parth at Night Song Records for partnering with Warner Music India to do a fun project like this."

Producer Achint adds, "Working on this song has been an absolute blast. It was actually quite a moment to have Vishal Daddani, our Indian indie hero, be a part of this track. I go on about Varun Grover's writing genius for days. Parth & I had an idea to make this track rock & roll, and everything around it really clicked with Varun's writing and Vishal's voice."



Rasha Thadani