

absolute india

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MODI MEETS INDIAN DIASPORA IN ROME

► ON THE FIRST DAY OF HIS VISIT TO ROME AHEAD OF THE G20 SUMMIT, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI MET THE INDIAN DIASPORA IN THE ITALIAN CAPITAL CITY.



NEW DELHI / ROME: Agencies

On Friday, the Prime Minister met and interacted with several Indologists and Sanskrit experts from Italian universities.

"The Prime Minister noted their interest in Indian culture, literature and practice of yoga and Ayurveda and lauded the role played by them in

strengthening the ties between India and Italy," a release from the Ministry of External Affairs said at New Delhi.

Modi also met and interacted with various organisations, including the representatives of Italian Congregation for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

The Prime Minister appreciated their contribution in several social activities, including spreading the message of Bhagavad Gita in Italy, the release said.

He also interacted with the community members and the representatives of Italian Hindu Union-Sanatana

Dharma Samgha and lauded the role played by them in propagating Indian culture in Italy. In a separate meeting, the Prime Minister met representatives of Sikh community and institutions involved in the commemoration of Indian soldiers, who had fought in Italy during World War I and World War II.

"The Prime Minister paid tributes to the valour shown by Indian soldiers in these wars," the release added.

Modi is in Rome for the 16th G20 Summit two days, after which he will head to Glasgow for the UN COP26.

Himachal's highest polling booth sees 100% voting



Shimla: The highest polling booth in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi parliamentary bypoll, which saw a low of minus 16 degrees, on Saturday recorded 100 per cent polling, election officials said here. The polling booth in Tashigang village in Lahaul-Spiti district had 47 voters, including 18 women. Donning traditional dresses, most of the electorate reached the booth to cast their votes. Tashi Chojam, who was the first to cast her vote, said, "We must exercise our franchise. I am happy to be part of democratic process." Seventy-year-old Sakya Dolma said she exercised her right to vote every time. "Today also I did it." The Election Commission had set up the model polling booth with a scenic point with the Himalayas in the background. Assistant Returning Officer Mohinder Partap Singh said there was 100 per cent polling at the Tashigang booth.

SHIMLA | Agencies

Shyam Saran Negi, believed to be India's oldest voter at 104 years of age, cast his ballot on Saturday in the Mandi Parliamentary by-poll in Himachal Pradesh.

Neji had also participated in the 1951-52 general elections, the country's first.

"In my lifetime I have never missed an opportunity to cast my vote since India got its Independence in 1947 and I am happy to vote this time too," Negi said in Kalpa, some 275 kms from the state capital, after exercising his franchise.

Like on previous occasions, the centenarian requested the young voters to actively participate in the democratic exercise to get their representatives at the helm.

Negi was accorded a red carpet welcome as he reached the polling station by officials at Kalpa in Kinnaur district to cast his vote.

A staunch believer in democracy, the centenarian

never fails to cast his vote in any election, be it Lok Sabha, Assembly or panchayat.

In 1951, Negi, a retired school teacher, was on election duty and had exercised his franchise in Chini constituency, later renamed Kinnaur.

Back then, voting in the snow-bound areas of the mountain state was held ahead of other places in the country. Negi came to the polling station along with his family members. He flashed his inked wrinkled finger after voting.

Consensual sex with major not 'offence' but 'immoral': Allahabad HC

PRAYAGRAJ | Agencies

The Allahabad High Court, while rejecting the bail plea of a gang-rape accused on Saturday, held that consensual sex with a major is not an "offence" but is "unethical, immoral, and against established Indian tradition".

Dismissing the bail plea of one of the four accused in the case, Justice Rahul Chaturvedi said that it was the duty of the man, claiming to be the minor's boyfriend, to protect her when she was being sexually assaulted by the other co-accused.

"The moment the applicant submits that the victim

is his beloved, it becomes his binding duty to protect the dignity, honour and reputation of his girlfriend. If a girl is major, then having sex with her consent is not an offence, but certainly it is unethical and immoral, and also not in consonance with the established social norms of the Indian society," he said.

The court termed the act of the applicant "highly deplorable and unbecoming of a boyfriend" and stated that "he remained a mute spectator when the co-accused were brutally assaulting his beloved in front of him." According to the FIR, on February 19, the vic-

Mehbooba writes to PM Modi over arrest of Kashmiri students

SRINAGAR | Agencies

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the recent arrest of Kashmiri students in Agra on charges of sedition and sought his intervention in the matter.

"I write to you with a deep sense of disappointment and concern about the alarming situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Not too long ago when you presided over an all party meeting in Delhi you expressed your intention to remove "dil ke doori" between Delhi and J&K," the letter reads.

Mehbooba added that in her capacity as the President of PDP she suggested a few Confidence Building Measures that would have provided a sense of relief and breathing space to the people of J&K.

"We had been waiting for the roll out of a policy to address the hearts and minds of people especially youth. While the spree of raids, arrests, killings



continue unabated the level of repression and state intolerance has touched a new low," the letter reads. In her letter she further said that there were expectations that HM's recent visit to J&K would have led to a meaningful reach out. Especially after his statement about engaging with the youth here. "Instead what followed was shocking and worrying. A friendly cricket match between India and Pakistan that was solely a source of entertainment for people here bruised by incessant lockdowns, Internet gag and restriction of movement led to booking youngsters under the draconian UAPA for

simply choosing to cheer the winning side."

"Our brightest young people pursuing professional courses like MBBS have been targeted and slapped with anti terror laws. While within Kashmir youth are no strangers to the state excesses, three students in Agra too have been arrested and charged with sedition for the same reasons. This despite the college's own admission that they didn't engage in any activity that might be construed as anti national." She further wrote in the letter that patriotism and sense of loyalty has to be cultivated with compassion and can't be forced by wielding the baton or by the barrel of a gun.

"Such punitive actions laced with contempt will only further the sense of mistrust and alienation between the younger generation and rest of the country," the letter reads. "Political parties and their fortunes will wax and wane over the course of time. But what matters most is the future generation that will have to carry the burdens of the past yet strive to fulfil the expectations of a better tomorrow.

TACKLE CLIMATE, GROWING INEQUALITY TOGETHER AT COP26: OXFAM INDIA



New Delhi: A day ahead of the annual climate summit at Glasgow in the United Kingdom, Oxfam India has called upon the government of India to tackle the twin challenges of climate and growing inequality together at the COP26 summit. "A failure to confront extreme weather that is pushing millions of people deeper into hunger and poverty, even though they did the least to cause this crisis. India must demand that developed countries provide more for climate finance to adapt to the impacts of climate change and compensate for loss and damage and enable a just transition," said CEO of Oxfam India, Amitabh Behar. Stating that "we are dangerously close to missing the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement," Behar said, "The Government of India must demand that developed countries bring down their per capita material and carbon footprint to global average by 2030."

Demanding that there is also a need to prepare and plan for a 'Just Transition' to ensure that the millions of unorganised workers and local communities dependent on the current economy do not suffer due to the eventual and much needed closing of mines and power plants, Project Officer, Access to Energy at Oxfam India, Sandip Chowdhury said, "It is important to ensure social justice is done in this shift towards a renewable future crucial for a climate resilient society."

Kerala mulls compulsory first aid kits at gyms, indoor courts

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM | Agencies

The Kerala government on Saturday highlighted the urgent need of ensuring that all gyms, indoor stadiums, courts across the state must ensure that basic first aid kits, such as automated external defibrillator (AED), are kept ready for use.

Speaking on the occasion of inaugurating a first aid training program at the Royal Badminton Court, state Transport Minister Antony Raju said he will carry the message of ensuring this becomes a reality to the state government and speak with the Kerala Sports Minister V. Abdurehman to see it happens.

"We came to know about the sad demise of Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar on Friday and we are told that he felt uneasy while working out in a gymnasium. Maybe his life could have been saved. We do not want any sportsperson in our state to suffer because the basic first aid equipment is not there ready to be used in our indoor

courts and gymnasiums. I will take up this issue with the concerned departments and the state government to see if this is made mandatory," said Raju.

The live demonstration that was held at the court was held under the aegis of NIMS Medi City, a premier medical facility in the capital city.

Faizal Khan who heads NIMS Medi City said their hospital is ready to provide free training in basic first aid facility to representatives of various organisation. "All we need is a one day training for the layman in basic first aid. We already have such a programme and now with the sad news of actor Puneeth Rajkumar's demise, we have decided to take this basic first aid training programme in a big way. We will provide free kits and a certificate to all those who undergo the training programme. The basic training programme would be imparted by experts in this field. And those who are trained can go back and share it with others," Khan said.

Aditya Varma, scion of the erstwhile Travancore Family who owns the Royal Badminton Court, announced that he will make sure all the basic first aid kits are made available at his court. "I lost my father 14 years back in a road accident in Kollam district.

After the accident he was brought to the hospital late. Perhaps, if people who took him to the hospital had some knowledge of basic first aid, his life could have been saved. And now with the Kannada actor's sudden demise, I will take up the role of carrying forward the need of imparting the basic first aid training," said Varma. Senior cardiac anaesthetist Harris and cardiac surgeon Asher of NIMS Medi City who conducted the live demonstration said to impart the basic first aid, one need not be a doctor or a nurse. "All that are needed to know are the basics of providing first aid. And with equipment like AED, it can be operated by anyone as its menu and voice driven.

Welcome kids at school gates on Nov 1, says Stalin

CHENNAI | Agencies

It is our bounden duty to welcome the young children studying in Classes 1-8 at the school gates with a smiling face as they return to schools after nearly one and a half years, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Saturday.

In a statement issued here, he said the children are coming to the school from November 1 onwards after a long time and they should be welcomed in such a manner that enthuses and energises them.

He also said school teachers and others can welcome the children by offering them sweets and flowers.

Stalin also requested the teachers to tell or ask the stu-

dents to tell stories, ask them to paint, play or any other activity that would increase their memory power in the classroom during the first two weeks. He also requested MPs, MLAs and member of local bodies in welcoming the students at the school gates.

For the past one-and-a-half years, schools were closed due to the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in Tamil Nadu.

Schools were reopened for students of Classes 9 to 12 sometime back.

POLICE REMOVE BARRICADES AT GHAZIPUR BORDER, FARM PROTEST TO CONTINUE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After Delhi Police started removing the barricades from the Ghazipur border, farmers protesting at the site for nearly a year against the three contentious farm laws have expressed apprehension that they also might be removed. The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) has issued a statement appealing to the farmers to reach the site as soon as possible to strengthen the agitation.

"There is no confusion about the status quo on the border. Protests will continue. There is no change in the strategy of farmers," the BKU said in the statement.

"It was the police which had put the barricades after the January 26 incident. Delhi Police is correcting its mistake after farmers gave an affidavit in the Supreme Court that they have not blocked the roads. Farmers in large numbers are present at Ghazipur bor-



der. The BKU appealed to farmers to reach the site as soon as possible and strengthen

the agitation. They said there is a conspiracy against the stir and they will fight it.

They are using social media to convey the message. In an appeal to the farmers, the BKU said: "Reach the Ghazipur border and strengthen the agitation. Every day there is a conspiracy against the movement, we have to be ready against every conspiracy."

BKU media in-charge Dharmendra Malik said: "Our protest will continue with more vigour. We are appealing to the farmers to reach in large numbers."

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) in a statement said: "Our stand is vindicated. It was the police which had blocked the roads, not us. We had left the space for traffic movement, but the police put up the barricades."

On Friday, police officials were seen removing iron nails that were installed on NH9 at Ghazipur, where hundreds of protesters, mainly belonging to the BKU, have been occupying a road stretch since November 2020.

INDIA, ITALY JOIN HANDS ON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN ENERGY TRANSITION

New Delhi/Rome | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Mario Draghi on Saturday expressed their resolve to strengthen cooperation in the strategic sectors, including the cross-cutting issue of accelerating the clean energy transition to fight climate change, central to both the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome and the COP26 in Glasgow.

At a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit at Rome, hosted by Italy in Rome on October 30-31, 2021, Modi and Draghi acknowledged the significant progress in bilateral relations since the adoption of the Action Plan for an enhanced Partnership between India and Italy (2020-2024) on November 6, 2020.

They also recalled the India-EU Leaders' Meeting held in Porto on May 8, 2021, where the European Union and India highlighted the urgency of addressing the interdependent challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and agreed to deepen cooperation for accelerating the deployment of renewable energy, includ-



ing deployment of innovative renewable technologies such as offshore wind energy and exploiting the potential of green hydro-

gen, promoting energy efficiency, developing smart grids and storage technologies, modernizing the electricity market.

In addition, both sides agreed on the utmost importance of cost-effective integration of a growing amount of renewable energy into their respective power systems, as a key asset for an effective clean transition that generates jobs, GDP growth, reinforces universal energy access while eradicating energy poverty, a release from the Prime Minister's Office said in New Delhi. In this perspective, the two Prime Ministers appreciated India's resolve to deploy 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 as well as Italy's prompt ratification and active support to the International Solar Alliance. They agreed to launch a bilateral strategic partnership in the domain of energy transition, the statement said.

Such a partnership could build on existing bilateral mechanisms, including by giving new impetus to the cooperation on renewable energy and sustainable development between the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition and its Indian counterparts, namely the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

BJP spreads hate, division, Congress spreads love and unity: Rahul Gandhi

PANAJI | Agencies

The BJP believes in spreading anger, hatred and division, while the Congress spreads love and unites people, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday.

"I would like to make it very clear what the difference between the Congress and the BJP is. The Congress believes in uniting all India's people and taking them together forward. For us every single Indian person has a right to be given the space that he requires," Gandhi said, while interacting with a group of fishermen in South Goa's Velsao village.

"And our response to their hatred is love and affection. So wherever they spread anger, division, we spread love and affection and we unite people." Gandhi also said that the Congress party cannot be blamed for rising petrol prices. "You cannot blame us for petrol prices. It is not that petrol on the



When the UPA government was in power international petrol prices had reached \$140 per barrel. Today, the petrol price and diesel price in the international market were much lower when we were in power. "But you pay much more for your petrol and diesel. You should understand that today India taxes petrol the highest.

Among the highest in the world and that is why you are paying a high price for petrol. It is not that petrol on the

international market is that expensive. It is that petrol in India is that expensive.

"You have to ask yourself, where is that money going, to whom is that money going and who are the people who are being benefited by the coal hub that is being built here, by the prices of petrol, and if you look carefully you will find they are the same two, three four five businessmen, who are benefiting from all these things," he added.

Rajasthan sees 70.41% voting in bypolls for 2 seats

Jaipur | Agencies

A round 70.41 per cent polling was recorded in two assembly constituencies of Rajasthan -- Vallabh Nagar and Dhariawad, in the bypolls held on Saturday. The seats fell vacant after the demise of Congress MLA Gajendra Singh Shaktawat from Vallabh Nagar and BJP's Gautamal Meena from Dhariawad.

In Vallabh Nagar, a total of 71.45 per cent voting was reported while in Dhariawad, the voting percentage was 69.38. A 100-year-old woman Mohini Bai voted in Vallabh Nagar, Udaipur, said Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta, adding that a total of 638 polling stations were set up in Vallabh Nagar and Dhariawad assembly seats of the state. Out of these, the number of sensitive polling stations was 119, which were monitored through live webcasting, he said. A total of 16 candidates were in the fray out of which nine were from Vallabh Nagar and 7 from Dhariawad.

Gupta informed that a control room was set



up by the Election Department to monitor live webcasting, while monitoring was also done at the level of Returning Officer and District Election Officer. This live webcasting was monitored by the Election Commission of India. The Chief Electoral Officer said that all the guidelines given by the commission were followed for free, fair and peaceful elections at all the polling stations.

KOLKATA | Agencies

Apart from some sporadic incidents the polling in four assembly constituencies in West Bengal passed off peacefully. In a comparatively low polling, Santipur in Nadia recorded the highest of 76.1 per cent and Khardha recorded the lowest of 63.9 per cent.

In the dying hours of polling a controversy erupted when BJP candidate in Khardha Joy Saha caught hold of a person alleging that he was trying to cast a false vote.

The incident at Bandipur in Khardha immediately triggered tension as the Trinamool Congress supporters started giving slogans and this prompted the central forces to resort to lathi-charge resulting in the injury of Arayadeep Sinha - son of late MLA Kajal Sinha's son.

Trinamool Congress candidate Sovondeb Chattopadhyay said, "There was nothing of this sort. The BJP candidate was trying to create disturbance and the central forces



and the personal security of the BJP candidate resorted to lathi charge. Our supporters were injured in the process". BJP candidate Joy Saha has refuted the allegation. The election commission, however, sought for a report from the district magistrate.

Chattopadhyay has been alleging of the excesses of the central forces since morning. "The agents are told that if they wear a badge then they will not be allowed inside the booths. This is my eighth election and I know

the rules better than the forces. If the badge is in my name with the party's symbol, then they cannot be stopped," Chattopadhyay had said.

"The voters are also told that if they don't have a double vaccine then they will not be allowed inside the booths. This is weird. How can they dictate terms like this? Their only job is to see whether there is any problem outside the booth. The technical specifications will be handled by the Presiding officer. I have lodged a complaint

with the election commission," Chattopadhyay added.

However, Dinhata in Coochbehar recorded a polling percentage of 69.9 and Gosaba in South 24 Parganas district recorded 75.9 per cent polling.

BJP candidate in Santipur Nirajan Biswas alleged that voters are not being allowed to come out of their houses to exercise their franchise. "Some of our supporters are being threatened so that they don't go to the polling station. The Trinamool Congress goons are forcing them to stay indoors. I have lodged a complaint with the election commission," Biswas said.

EC officials however said, they looked into the issues but nothing substantial was found. "Polling is continuing on peacefully in the constituency at present," the official had said. The Election Commission had made an extensive arrangement for bypolls and deployed 92 units of central police forces, out of which 8 companies would be retained for counting day on November 2.

HARYANA'S LONE ASSEMBLY BY-POLL SEES OVER 73% POLLING

Chandigarh: Over 73 per cent voter turnout was recorded on Saturday in the bypoll to the Ellenabad Assembly constituency in Haryana, election officials said.

The counting of ballots will take place on November 2. By 1 p.m., the poll percentage was 43 per cent. With 19 candidates in the fray, the Ellenabad constituency in Sirsa district is witnessing a triangular contest between Abhay Singh Chautala of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), Gobind Kanda of the BJP, and Pawan Beniwal of the Congress. The by-poll was necessitated due to the resignation of Chautala from the seat in January in protest against the three new farm laws.

After winning the bypoll in 2010, he retained the seat in 2014 and 2019. The BJP's candidate Kanda, brother of Haryana Lokhit Party chief and legislator Gopal Kanda, who joined the party recently, has been fielded by the BJP-JJP combine. Beniwal, who had unsuccessfully contested the previous Assembly poll against Chautala, switched to the Congress from the BJP just ahead of the bypoll.

BJP MP accuses Kejriwal of politicising Chhath Puja issue again

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reacting to the DDMA's recent order to not allow Chhath Puja celebrations on the banks of the Yamuna river, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Saturday accused Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of politicising the issue and doing injustice to the Purvanchali community residing in the national capital.

"I request the Delhi chief minister with folded hands to not do this injustice. Chhath Puja is a festival of faith for the Purvanchali community. Playing politics over our festival is a great injustice to the community. It does not suit your stature," Tiwari wrote in a letter. "It is common knowledge that the festival is celebrated every year at Yamuna ghat. After cleaning it, we offer arghya (offerings) to the sun god and pray for the prosperity of Delhi. We are deeply saddened by your anti-Hindu and Purvanchali attitude," the Bhopuri actor-turned-politician said.

The northeast Delhi MP once again accused Kejriwal of being anti-Hindu and anti-Purvanchali. "There is no BJP member in DDMA. An emergency meeting of

DDMA should be called immediately and BJP MPs should be invited to that meeting too," Tiwari tweeted on Saturday evening.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Friday allowed Chhath Puja celebrations at designated sites in the national capital except the banks of the Yamuna, citing water pollution caused after immersion of prayer offerings as a reason. No site shall be designated on the bank of the Yamuna, the DDMA order said.

On Saturday morning, AAP leader Sanjeev Jha wrote to Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal, asking the latter to give an appointment to him over the 'serious' issue. Jha also mentioned that he has been told by senior officials that such a restriction has been imposed because the level of toxins in the river increases after Chhath Puja offerings as happens in the case of idol immersion at Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Puja.

"However, Chhath Puja is celebrated in peace with nature. Devotees ensure to clean the ghats before praying. This festival is also celebrated as an occasion to clean one's surroundings," he added.

In November 2017, the alleged victim had filed a complaint against the three alleging that in 2016, some TV news channels reported a news item in which some scandalous remarks were made against her and Adesh Pal, who was the Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University at that time. The complaint also alleged that some posters were pasted on the university premises portraying that the complainant and Pal, her PhD guide, were involved in "an illicit relationship".

It was also alleged that "scuttle the journey of Dr Adesh Pal as the Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University," the accused used the complainant "as a medium so as to harm the reputation" of Pal. The complainant, aggrieved by the non-addition of certain sections in the FIR, had moved the Gujarat HC, seeking transfer of investigation in the case to DSP, Patan. Initially the complaint was filed under Sections 500 and 120B of the IPC (criminal defamation and criminal conspiracy, respectively). Following a court order and investigation by the DSP Patan, the complaint was registered under Sections 354(A)(1)(iv), 469, 504, 506, 500, 509 and 120B of IPC against the three accused, including the Patan MLA.

Congress will end up making Modi very powerful: Mamata

PANAJI | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to be very powerful because of the Congress' inability to decide on aligning with regional parties, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Saturday, adding that apart from Tripura, Goa and Meghalaya, contesting in Uttar Pradesh was also on the party's radar.

Speaking to mediapersons during an informal interaction here, Banerjee also said that while she loved Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, it would be wrong to assume that only the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is allowed easy passage to contest in other Indian states. "Modiji is going to be so powerful because of Congress. If

one cannot take a decision why will the country suffer for that? They have got enough opportunities. Instead of BJP they contested against me in my state. "How they expect that they will contest me and we will only give flowers to

them? And sweets to them? I want to see that all regional parties are strong. We are a union of states and the federal structure should be strong. If the state is strong the centre is strong. Delhi's dadagiri will not do," she said. Banerjee said that she would not like the opposition votes to be divided, but added wherever political opportunity arose, she would grab hold of it.

"In UP also we are there (former UP Congress vice president Lalitash Pati Tripathi) and his son and grandson have also joined the party and (from) Punjab they have sent me a letter, but wherever possible, Tripura we have started, northeast in a few parts. Uttar Pradesh also we have the target, Meghalaya also. And Goa," Banerjee said.

GUWAHATI | Agencies

Over 69.60 per cent of nearly eight lakh voters on Saturday cast their votes in the by-polls to the five Assembly seats in Assam, officials said.

Over 69.60 per cent of nearly eight lakh voters on Saturday cast their votes in the by-polls to the five Assembly seats in Assam, officials said.

untoward incident was reported from anywhere of the five districts, where the by-elections were conducted. The state's Chief Electoral Officer Nitin Khade, who along with other officials monitored the polling process through webcasting, said that there has been no incident so far.

"Adequate Central Armed Police Forces were deployed at each polling station to ensure free and fair polling," he said. Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the five districts personally supervised the situations.

An election official said that showcasing Assam's vibrant traditional culture, many of the polling stations were decorated with local products and items.

Nearly eight lakh voters, including 3,93,078 women, were eligible to decide the fate of 31 candidates in Mariani, Thowra, and Mariani and Hagrama Mahilary-led Bodoland People's Front (BPF) is contesting in Gossaigaon.

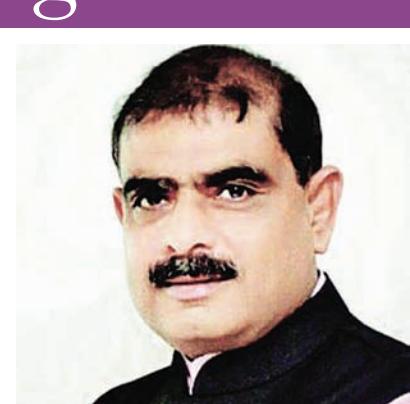
Guj HC quashes sexual harassment FIR against Congress MLA, two others

GANDHINAGAR | Agencies

The Gujarat High Court has quashed an FIR against Congress MLA from Patan, Kirit Patel and two others, accusing them of sexual harassment, criminal intimidation, and criminal defamation, based on a complaint by a university faculty member.

Justice Gita Gopani on Friday quashed the complaint and FIR, holding that a plain reading of the complaint showed that "it missed out on specifics". The complainant "has not given any particulars or details as to when the alleged instances of harassment had taken place," the judge said.

At the time of the incident in 2016, Patel and two others accused were office-bearers of the Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University at Patan. All the three were charged of forgery, intentionally insulting someone, criminal intimidation, criminal defamation, insulting modesty of a woman and criminal conspiracy, under the Indian Penal Code. The high court observed that it appeared that the issue related to political rivalry between different factions in the varsity as the complainant had narrated as to how a particular



individual was restricted from becoming a member of the Executive Committee/Search Committee for the varsity's Vice Chancellor. "The allegations made in the impugned complaint appear to be general in nature and unspecific. This court is of the opinion that the complaint filed by (the complainant) is a clear misuse and abuse of the process of law and deserves to be quashed and set aside," it ruled.

Bhabanipur, Gossaigaon and Tamulpur Assembly seats. The BIP has fielded turncoat candidates in three seats -- Congress' Rupiyoti Kurmi in Mariani and Sushanta Borgohain in Thowra, and All India United Democratic Front's (AIUDF) Phanidhar Talukdar in Bhabanipur. The BIP's ally United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) had nominated Jiron Basumatary in Gossaigaon and Jolen Daimary in Tamulpur. The main opposition Congress, which fielded candidates in all five seats, has been trying hard to at least retain the Thowra and Mariani seats.

The AIUDF has fielded candidates in Bhabanipur and Gossaigaon, while the Akhil Gogoi-led Rajo Dal is contesting in Thowra and Mariani and Hagrama Mahilary-led Bodoland People's Front (BPF) is contesting in Gossaigaon.

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PM MODI MEETS POPE FRANCIS, INVITES HIM TO VISIT INDIA

NEW DELHI/VATICAN | Agencies

Pope Francis received Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a private audience at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican on Saturday, the first such meeting between an Indian Prime Minister and the head of the Catholic Church in more than two decades.

"Had a very warm meeting with Pope Francis. I had the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues with him and also invited him to visit India," Modi tweeted soon after the meeting with the Pope.

The Prime Minister's meeting with the Pope came amid his a three-day trip to Italy to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit. Several other world leaders who too have reached Italy for the Summit have been meeting the Pope one after another since Friday.

"The meeting was scheduled for 20-30 minutes (but) went on for an hour," an official said.

Modi was accompanied by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar.

This was the first meeting between an Indian Prime Minister and the Pope in more than two decades after 1999 when then Prime Minister, late Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited the Vatican and



met the then Pope, John Paul II.

Modi becomes the fifth Indian Prime Minister to meet the Pope at the Vatican after Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, IK Gujral, and Vajpayee.

"During today's meeting, the two leaders discussed the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences for people across the world. They also discussed the challenge posed by climate change.

The Prime Minister briefed the Pope about the ambitious initiatives taken by India in combating climate change as well as India's success in administering one billion Covid-19 vaccination doses.

His Holiness appreciated India's assistance to countries in need during the pandemic," a release from the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The Prime Minister also extended an invitation to Pope Francis to visit India at an early date, which was accepted with pleasure, it added.

Modi also met Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

India, which is home to the second-largest Catholic population in Asia, and the Holy See have friendly relations dating back to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948.

MODI VISITING POPE IS NOTHING BUT AN IMAGE BUILDING EXERCISE: CONG

Thiruvananthapuram: Congress president of Kerala K Sudhakaran on Saturday took potshots on the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Vatican and his meeting with the Pope as nothing but an image building exercise for him.

"Nothing more needs to be said than this because Modi is trying to build his image and it was for that he visited the Pope. The problem is once such people who visited the Pope returns to India, they turn communal. All know what they are doing here in India as they have a communal agenda," said Sudhakaran. In a parting shot, Sudhakaran went on to point out that very soon all will come to know what Modi discussed with the Pope.

Sudhakaran is Congress Lok Sabha member from Kannur and is known for his bold approach in taking on his political adversaries and time and again he comes out successful in elections, be it to the assembly or the Lok Sabha from Kannur the citadel of the Communists in the state and all know about the long running battle he has had with the Communists and at times he takes on even Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Climate change, Afghanistan dominate Modi's meeting with Italian Prime Minister

NEW DELHI/ROME | Agencies

In their first in-person meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Mario Draghi discussed the challenges posed by climate change and the need for the international community to work together, as well as the situation in Afghanistan.

During the meeting on Friday, Modi highlighted the transformative climate actions undertaken by India in the last five years since the India-Italy Virtual Summit in November 2020 and expressed satisfaction at the progress in implementation of the 2020-2025 Action Plan adopted at the virtual summit that set strategic goals in the political, economic, S&T and cultural spheres to be achieved in the next five years.

The two leaders also exchanged views on recent global and regional developments, including in Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific.

"They reiterated their desire for working closer together for furthering the India-EU multi-faceted cooperation," said a release from the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

On the bilateral side, the two leaders reviewed developments since the India-Italy Virtual Summit in November 2020 and expressed satisfaction at the progress in implementation of the 2020-2025 Action Plan adopted at the virtual summit that set strategic goals in the political, economic, S&T and cultural spheres to be achieved in the next five years.

The Prime Ministers also reiterated their commitment to further expanding trade and investment linkages between the two countries particularly in textiles, food processing, automotive and renewable energy sectors.

"To provide fresh impetus to the bilateral cooperation in renewables and



clean energy, India and Italy issued a Joint Statement announcing a Strategic Partnership on Energy Transition and agreed to explore partnerships in areas such as large size green corridor projects, smart grids, energy storage solutions, gas transportation, integrated waste management (waste-to-waste), development and deployment of green hydrogen and promotion of bio-fuels. India and Italy also signed a Statement of Intent on Textiles Cooperation during the meeting."

Earlier on Friday, Draghi offered a grand welcome to Modi amid military honours at the Palazzo Chigi courtyard.

HIGH-INTENSITY BLAST ALONG ASSAM-MIZORAM BORDER, NO INJURIES

SILCHAR | Agencies



A high-intensity bomb was detonated early on Saturday near an Assam Police border outpost in Hailakandi district along the border with Mizoram, triggering a fresh tension between the two states, officials said.

As the massive explosion occurred in the early hours and on vacant land, no one was injured and no property was damaged.

Assam Police officials said that a Mizoram security personnel, who was wandering around the blast site at Baicherra, was arrested along with cordex wire that is used to remotely detonate the powerful bombs.

A police official said that the arrested man is a resident of Bairabi, the headquarters of Mizoram's Kolasib district that shares borders with Assam's Cachar and Hailakandi districts. The influential Mizo organisation -- Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZA) -- has issued an ultimatum saying that if the Mizoram security personnel is not released immediately, they would not allow Assam vehicles to enter Mizoram.

There is also an ongoing dispute that arose recently over the construction of a bridge by the Assam government.

TECHNOCRATS NEED TO KEEP NATION READY FOR EVERY CHANGE: LS SPEAKER

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday said that it was the responsibility of the technocrats to keep the nation ready for every change and they must use their creative talents while working with new methods and ideas.

Virtually addressing the convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Kota, he said that India's youth can make the nation strong with innovation, research, and efficiency and they will be the harbingers of New India. In his address, he also asked the students, who are beginning a new chapter in life after finishing their formal education, to work tirelessly to bring a change in the lives of crores of Indians and their self-confidence and ability would show the right path in their lives ahead.

Referring to the contribution of Indian youth on the world stage, the Speaker said that today Indian youth are in leadership positions across the globe, which shows that our students are the best in the world in talent, hard work and ability. Noting that self-reliance is necessary even in a connected and interdependent world, he said that the collective power of the youth is giving a new impetus to the emergence of a self-reliant India. He also motivated the youth to work for the development of the last man standing in the line. Noting that there was a need to strengthen the rural economy, Birla said that the youth must work in the agriculture sector and come up with tech-based solutions. He added that Kota would soon emerge as an IT hub in the country due to its impressive infrastructure, human resources, rail and road connectivity.

The three southern Assam districts known as Barak Valley -- Hailakandi, Karimganj and Cachar -- shares a 165-km-long border with Mizoram's Mamit, Kolasib and Aizawl districts throughout which, there are border disputes in more than five stretches.

On July 26, six Assam Police personnel were killed and over 50 were injured in the bloodiest border violence. After the border violence, there was an "economic blockade" for around two weeks, leaving hundreds of Mizoram-bound goods vehicles, stranded on the National Highway 306.

Assam and Mizoram held a crucial ministerial level meeting on August 5 in Aizawl where they decided to maintain peace along their border, and agreed that they would not send their respective forces and officials to the troubled areas.

In a fresh affidavit, the state Home Department now said: "The Karnataka State Police have not housed Rohingyas in any camp or detention centre within its jurisdiction. However, 126 Rohingyas have been identified in Bengaluru city are working in various fields and Bengaluru city police have not taken any coercive action against them as of now." The government added that there is no immediate plan of deporting them either. The state government also provided the names of Rohingya refugees who were staying in the north-east division of the city. It further added that all these Rohingyas, except those below 12 years of age, have been given individual numbers by the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Karnataka retracts from its stand in SC on deportation of Rohingyas

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Karnataka government has filed a revised affidavit in the Supreme Court, where it has retracted from its earlier affidavit stating that there is no immediate plan to deport Rohingyas in Bengaluru. The state government's response came on a 2017 PIL filed by BJP leader and advocate Ashwin Kumar Upadhyay, who sought the apex court's direction to deport illegal Rohingyas.

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DEATH TOLL IN BIHAR'S MUZAFFARPUR LIQUOR TRAGEDY RISES TO 8

Patna:

Two more persons died in Muzaffarpur liquor tragedy in Bihar on Saturday, taking the death toll to 8. A liquor party was held in a house of newly elected ward member Amit Kumar Bittu in Repura village on Wednesday to celebrate his victory in which around two dozen persons participated. After consuming liquor, health of Munna Singh, Awanish Singh and Vipul Shahi started deteriorating. As the incident created fear among other participants, all of them were admitted in several hospitals in and around Saraiya block. During the treatment, Munna Singh, Awanish Singh, Vipul Shahi, Avinash Singh, and Golten Singh died in different hospitals. One more person died on Friday and two more on Saturday. "During the investigation, it was revealed that they were admitted in several hospitals in and around Saraiya block. During the treatment, Munna Singh, Awanish Singh, Vipul Shahi, Avinash Singh, and Golten Singh died in different hospitals. One more person died on Friday and two more on Saturday. 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OUR PERFORMANCE IN BY-POLLS WILL IMPROVE FURTHER: BJP

By-polls for Khandwa Lok Sabha seat were held on Saturday. Polling was also held for three assembly constituencies Jobat, Raigaon and Prithvipur. By-poll in Khandwa Lok Sabha seat was necessitated after the death of BJP MP Nandkumar Chauhan. While Jobat and Prithvipur fell vacant after the death of Congress MLAs and Raigaon fell vacant after the death of BJP MLA.

Zafar Alam Khan | Bhopal

As people voted for one parliamentary and three assembly constituencies' by-polls in the State held on Saturday, the BJP has expressed confidence that the party will once again prove its stellar performance.

The saffron party claims that the performance will improve in terms of number of seats and vote percentage.

By-polls for Khandwa Lok Sabha seat were held on Saturday. Polling was also held for three assembly constituencies Jobat, Raigaon and Prithvipur.

Madhya Pradesh BJP president VD Sharma while talking to this correspondent said that the party is going to win the Lok Sabha and



assembly constituencies with huge margin.

Sharma also a Lok Sabha member claimed that party's performance will improve. "We are winning all seats where by-polls were held today which include one Lok Sabha and three assembly seats. Our performance will improve in

all respects which means number of seats and vote percentage," Sharma said. By-poll in Khandwa Lok Sabha seat was necessitated after the death of BJP MP Nandkumar Chauhan. While Jobat and Prithvipur fell vacant after the death of Congress MLAs and Raigaon fell vacant after the death of BJP MLA.

BJP Madhya Pradesh in-charge, P Muralidhar Rao said that BJP won two assembly seats which Congress had won earlier. "While winning back two seats (one Lok Sabha and one assembly) earlier won by the BJP, we are also winning the remaining two assembly seats from the Congress," Rao said.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Madhya Pradesh has created history in vaccination. The number of first and second doses in the state has crossed 7 crores. Clearly yesterday was a historic day for Madhya Pradesh. While 100 crore vaccine doses have been administered in India under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, which is a wonderful and surprising achievement, Madhya Pradesh has also done important work by providing 92 percent of the target population with the first dose and 37 percent of its brothers-sisters with the second dose for prevention from corona.

Chouhan said that for this all doctors, staff nurses, vaccinators, verifiers, Chouhan was addressing a dialogue programme on completion of 7 crore Covid vaccine doses in the state in the meeting hall of National Health Mission on Saturday.

Chouhan said that everyone



has worked under adverse conditions. When vaccination was opposed and many people were in a state of confusion and fear. Then the public was motivated for vaccination. After working day and night, people were convinced by going to their homes and fields. The public was motivated to get the vaccine by giving yellow rice, by providing special seating arrangements, by providing facilities to drop them back to their homes.

Chouhan said that the combined strength of the government and society became the basis of this success. Still a lot of efforts are to be made for the success of

the second dose. This is just the stop. Our destination is complete vaccination. If everyone gets the second dose by December 31, then we can be free from fears like the third wave. Chouhan said that those who do excellent work at the district level should be honoured and encouraged. Chouhan said that vaccination work should be done daily. This sequence should not be stopped even during the festival. Routine vaccination should be such that at least 5 to 6 lakh doses are administered daily. Vaccination work is to continue in parallel with other tasks. When the dates of the special campaign are fixed,

work should be done to motivate the general public with attractive measures. Chouhan said that now children should also do the work of motivating the parents. All the students should take this responsibility. Work to create the necessary environment, especially leading college students. Vaccine should be given door-to-door. Also the Jan Abhiyan Parishad, NCC Cadets and Corona Volunteers should make appeals. Chouhan said that some people can form a motivational group together to provide the benefit of second dose to the citizens. Political parties, friends of the media, students, social workers can be involved in this. In the next two months, it will be easy to reach the destination with hard work. There is also a guideline to be followed on festivals. Try to avoid infection by taking necessary precautions. Chouhan said that even after the fear of the virus has subsided among the general public, the vaccination efforts have not got cent percent success.

MP by-polls:

BJP, Congress accuse each other of using underhand means

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Amid voting in by-polls in three Lok Sabha seat in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress blamed each other for using unethical means to win the elections.

As per the official report, over 70 per cent voting was recorded till 5 pm.

In Prithvipur assembly constituency where the BJP and the Congress have been trading charges since campaign began, the BJP accused the Congress of threatening BJP voters.

The allegation came from none other but Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

"Congress is feeling edgy due to fear of defeat in the by-polls and therefore, they have started using unethical



means. They have been distributing money," he said. He also accused the Congress of threatening voters at many polling booths in Prithvipur. Chouhan alleged that the Congress party in the state tried to threaten the voters at several polling booths in the Prithvipur polling constituency, as the state observes by-polls in 4 constituencies.

Prithvipur Assembly seat is in the Bundelkhand region. Shishupal Yadav, who is BJP's candidate from Prithvipur, had joined the saffron party after quitting Samajwadi Party just days before his candidature was announced. He was picked as Yadav from 45 per cent on the electorate.

On the other hand, the Congress too accused the ruling party of distributing money to influence the voters.

Chouhan, who took over after former Congress CM Kamal Nath's government fell as 22 MLAs from Congress resigned and switched sides to BJP along with Jyotiraditya Scindia in 2020, alleged that party is resorting to unethical ways to gain power.

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While paying homage to Dr. Bhabha, Chouhan has written in his tweet that "you will always be in memory as a great dreamer who envisioned and made India a nuclear-rich nation."

CM PAYS TRIBUTES TO DR. HOMI BHABHA

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has paid tributes to the first Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission of India, renowned scientist and Padma Bhushan, Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha on his anniversary. Chouhan garlanded his portrait at his residence. Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha was born on October 30, 1909 in Mumbai. He is called the father of India's nuclear energy programme. He played an important role in the establishment of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research' and 'Bhabha Atomic Research Centre'.

While paying homage to Dr. Bhabha, Chouhan has written in his tweet that "you will always be in memory as a great dreamer who envisioned and made India a nuclear-rich nation."

Petrol crosses Rs 121 per litre in border district; diesel costs over Rs 110

According to sources in the industry, the price of petrol rose to Rs 121.13 per litre and the diesel cost reached Rs 110.29 per litre in Anuppur, while petrol crossed the Rs 120-mark in Balaghat.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

For the first time, the price of petrol crossed Rs 121 per litre in the border district of Madhya Pradesh, while the cost of diesel touched Rs 110.29 on Saturday.

According to sources in the industry, the price of petrol rose to Rs 121.13 per litre and the diesel cost reached Rs

110.29 per litre in Anuppur, while petrol crossed the Rs 120-mark in Balaghat.

The fuel prices have risen by 36 paise (petrol) and 37 paise (diesel) per litre in the last 24 hours, said Abhishek Jaiswal, a petrol pump owner in Bijuri town of Anuppur, bordering with Chhattisgarh.

Petroleum is brought to Anuppur from Jabalpur oil depot, about 250 km from the district headquarters, making

it costlier here in comparison to other parts of the state because of higher transportation cost, Jaiswal said.

Similarly, the price of petrol in Balaghat reached Rs 120.06, while diesel is being sold at Rs 109.32 per litre, petrol pump owner Manish Khandelwal said. In Bhopal, petrol is being sold at Rs 117.71 per litre, while diesel cost is at Rs 107.13 per litre, it was stated.

CM PLANTS SAPTAPARNI SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Saptaparni sapling in Smart Udyan. Chouhan plants a sapling every day in fulfillment of his resolve. Saptaparni, an evergreen medicinal tree, has great importance in Ayurveda.

Massive Covid vaccination drive from Nov 15

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The Madhya Pradesh government will embark on a special vaccination drive from November 15 to ensure that all the citizens get vaccinated against Covid-19 by December 31, an official notification said here on Saturday. According to the order issued by the Chief Minister's Office, Covid testing at public places, markets, railway stations and other places will also be set up again.

Under its extended plan for vaccination, phone calls will be made to those who have received their first dose to remind them about

awareness campaign so that they can encourage their parents and relatives to get vaccinated. There has been a surge in Covid cases in the state for the last two weeks, especially in Bhopal and Indore.

As per the official data till October 29, 301 new cases were reported in Madhya Pradesh, out of which 123 were reported in Bhopal alone. According to official data, a total of 4.98 crore people in the state have received their first dose, while 2 crore have received both doses so far. The cumulative Covid tally in the state has risen to 7,92,832, while 10,524 lives have been lost, shows the health department data.

In the review meeting, Chouhan directed officials to hold Covid vaccination and testing camps during public programmes in coming days.

The government has also decided rope in school and college students in their

It is necessary to apply knowledge in life: Governor

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that it is necessary to apply knowledge in life. Good things should not be kept in mind but should be in practice. Despite having the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong for health, not following it is the cause of health problems.

Patel was addressing a programme of National Ayurveda Day and Dhanwantri Jayanti at Minto Hall on Saturday. The programme was organized under the joint aegis of Pt. Khushi Lal Sharma Shaskiya Ayurveda Sansthan and Arogya Bharti.

Patel said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that Jaan hai to hain hain. It is important to understand this. He said that the tobacco crop is not fenced because it is not eaten by animals. The warning of being dangerous to health is inscribed on the cigarette box. Still people consume tobacco and smoke cigarettes. It is the responsibility



of the individual to take care of his health and take precautions. He said that many people have the knowledge of health through Ayurveda. The need is to adopt it. Diet is very important for a healthy life. Efforts should be made to increase awareness in the society regarding the properties of herbs and plants.

Governor Patel inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp. He released the souvenir. Homeopath N. S. Saliappan of Jabalpur and Vanshvardhan Tiwari, Ayurvedacharya of Rewa were honored for their excellent services. Minister of State (Independent Charge) of AYUSH Ramkishore Kanwre informed that

many types of herbs are available in the state. Herbal Garden has been created. Research work is also being done in colleges. He said that during the Corona pandemic, the department has stepped forward and cooperated in the works of treatment and prevention. Through the online programme of Yoga Se Nirog, efforts were made to increase positivity and boost the morale of Covid victims. Wellness centers were run for public awareness about diet and lifestyle. Efforts have been made to increase immunity in villages.

The keynote speaker of the programme Dr. Ashok Kumar Varshney said that the country is celebrating the 75th Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. He called upon the people present in the programme to create awareness about health among 75 individuals and families. Take care of your health as your right and duty. He told that according to an estimate 83 percent diseases are lifestyle borne. They can be prevented by making lifestyle changes.

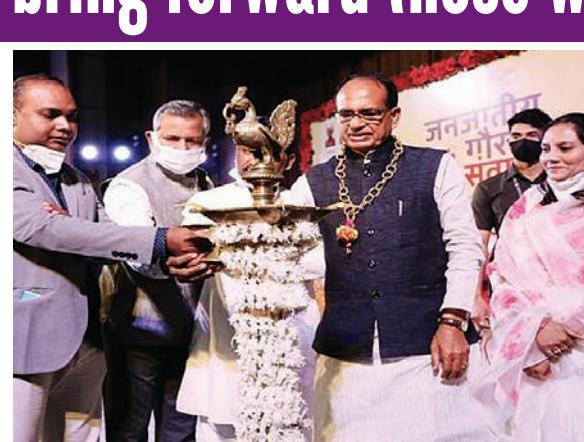
I will do everything to bring forward those who are left behind: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the tribal society is lagging behind in development, the state government will make every effort to bring it to the same level. Social justice and justice to all is necessary along with social harmony. A roadmap has been prepared for the development of infrastructure in the tribal area along with the educational, economic, social development of our tribal brothers and sisters. We will take all possible steps for the progress of tribal brothers and sisters, because for the progress of the country, everyone needs to move forward. Chouhan announced to give seven guarantees to the tribal society. Chouhan said that guarantee of development, guarantee of delivery of public welfare schemes to tribal brothers and sisters, guarantee of education, guarantee of health, guarantee of security, guarantee of respect and guarantee of employment to youth. The state government is committed to ensure all of these.

Chouhan said that on the birthday of Lord Birsa Munda on November 15, Tribal Pride Day would be celebrated in the state. Many schemes like "Ration Apke Dwar" will start on this day.

Chouhan was addressing the programme "Tribal Gaurav Samvad" organised at the Tribal Museum. Before the launch of the programme, the Chief Minister paid tributes to the tribal freedom fighters Rani Durgavati, Raghunath Shah, Shankar Shah, Birsa Munda, Bhima



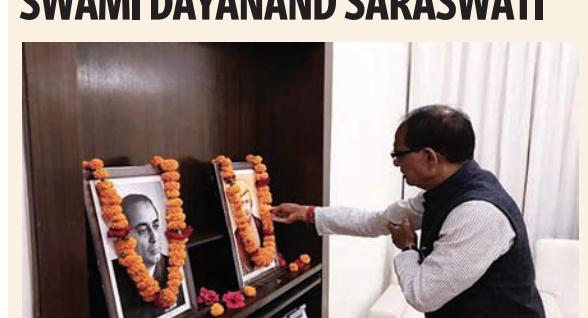
Nayak and Tantya Mama who liberated the country from the shackles of subjugation. Chouhan said that Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay was of the view that poor is our Narayan (God) and his service is our worship. This idea is inspiring. Prime Minister Shri Modi also has the same idea. In the process of development some people got more resources and some were left behind in the race for development. The idea of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas. Therefore, if the tribal society has lagged behind, then the state government is constantly trying to bring it to the same level. It was as a result of this concern that various commissions

were set up for tribal development. In areas like Jhabua, Alirajpur, arrangements were made to reach water to the fields of tribal brothers through lift irrigation. A large number of wells of Kapildhara were built for the provision of irrigated farming.

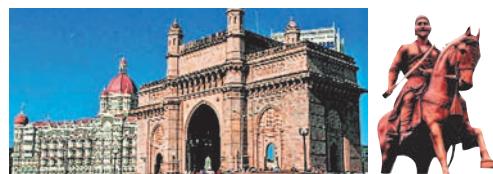
Chouhan said that ashram schools, hostels, high and higher secondary schools were started for the education of children. The children of tribal society have intelligence, talent everything. That is why our government started the great campaign of education. Children are studying and moving on. Education is the first step to being able. Chouhan said that Mukhya Mantri Chhatra Griha Yojna was made in the state, due to which the government made arrangements to pay room rent to the students studying in cities from villages. Along with this, arrangements have also been made for coaching, so that suitable guidance can be available to the students for competitive examinations. On admission to foreign universities, arrangements have also been made by the government to pay the university fees. Engineering colleges have been started at Shahdol and Jhabua.

Chouhan said that with this expansion of education, consciousness came, agitations were started, hunger for rights was awakened, youth got organised and started raising voice for their rights. It is a symbol of awareness. Chouhan said that the government servants have also done a lot for the progress and awareness of the tribal society. It is the duty of all of us to maintain the fabric of social harmony.

CM PAYS HOMAGE TO MAHARISHI SWAMI DAYANAND SARASWATI



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati on his death anniversary. Chouhan paid floral tributes by garlanding his portrait in the auditorium at his residence. Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati was a great thinker of modern India, social reformer and founder of Arya Samaj, great patriot and social worker. He was born on February 12, 1824 in Tankara, Gujarat. His childhood name was Mool Shankar. He founded Arya Samaj to propagate the Vedas and get Aryavarta independence. He always considered the power of the Vedas to be paramount. 'Return to the Vedas' was his main slogan. He passed away on 30 October 1883. Chouhan has tweeted that the Akhand lamp that Swami Dayanand Saraswati lit for the awakening of the nation and society with his knowledge, tenacity, spiritual power for the national awakening will be illuminated for ages.



ARYAN KHAN WALKS OUT OF JAIL


Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ending a 29-day long vigil, Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan and his producer wife Gauri, finally walked out of the Arthur Road Central Jail (ARCJ) here on Saturday.

With thousands of fans, admirers, a huge posse of police and media-persons camping here for the sec-

ond day, Aryan's much-anticipated exit out of the ARCJ to the waiting vehicle lasted barely a couple of seconds. All that the waiting crowds managed to grab was a glimpse of Aryan sporting a bright blue shirt with his stark mane visible, but face covered by a dark mask as he stepped inside the car without looking around.

Whisked off by a bevy of bouncers and bodyguards to the white

SUV with dark glasses on all sides, Aryan was immediately driven toward his Bandra home via the Bandra-Worli Sea Link.

At least 100 metres ahead of his Arabian Sea-facing bungalow, fans had organised a band of drums which started playing furiously on seeing his vehicle, some admirers began dancing with joy, others waved banners and posters with pictures of the father-son actor duo,

followed by a burst of loud fire-crackers, signalling the arrival of Diwali at the megastar's residence, 'Mannat.'

Aryan reached well in time for a piping-hot home-cooked lunch, 29 days after he left 'Mannat' on October 2 for the fun-filled Mumbai-Goa luxury cruise which ended in an unexpected jail sojourn. Earlier in the day, Shah Rukh Khan sped out in a motorcade to the ARCJ, around 15 km away in Chinchpokli, eager to welcome and hug Aryan. However, after the ARCJ Superintendent Nitin Waychal told waiting newscasters that Aryan would be out only after another three hours, the actor's motorcade slowed down and diverted to a five-star hotel en route.

To calm his jumpy nerves and curb his palpable excitement, he waited in the vehicle at the hotel, partook in some light refreshments, all the while hoping for a reunion with his son, who he last met inside the ARCJ on October 21.

The Mumbai Police deployed massive security, barricades and roadblocks at vantage points outside the jail, in the 'Mannat' vicinity and on the Bandra-Chinchpokli road to control the jostling fans of both SRK and Aryan, the media hordes and curious onlookers, too.

NCB ship raid: Special NDPS Court grants bail to 7 others


Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Special NDPS Court on Saturday granted bail to 7 others accused in the Narcotics Control Bureau's sensational raid on an alleged rave party aboard the luxury ship Cordelia Cruise on October 2.

They are Nupur Satija, Gomit Chopra -- both guests, Gopalji Anand, Samir Sehgal, Manav Singh, Bhaskar Arora -- who were

event organisers and Aachit Kumar, a 22-year old student who the NCB has claimed was the drug supplier to Aryan Khan.

Earlier in the week, the Special Court had granted bail to two guests from Odisha, while three other high-profile guests - Aryan Khan, Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhammecha - secured bail from the Bombay High Court on Friday.

In the high-profile cruiser swoop at the International Cruise Terminal at Mumbai Port and the subsequent investigations, the NCB teams led by Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede nabbed a total of 20 accused including a foreigner.

Around a dozen accused have secured bail till date from various courts and the rest continue in custody awaiting their fate.

MAHARASHTRA BJP TO PROTEST OVER NON-PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO FARMERS

Mumbai: The party's state chief spokesperson Keshav Upadhye said BJP leaders have decided to register their protest by wearing black bands on their shoulders in public places. The Maharashtra BJP on Saturday announced that it will be holding a state-wide agitation on Monday to protest the state government's failure to address the woes of farmers, who suffered losses due to excess rainfall.

Taking at the actor being surrounded by the media, Pooja had urged the media fraternity through her tweet which read: "Dear members of the press, I know times are tougher than ever & there is immense pressure on you'll from your respective employers to grab a byte even if it means compromising your own health & safety but how do you'll explain this pack like behaviour to your own children? Tragic."

"The party has decided to register its protest on Monday by sporting black bands in public places. Local leaders will submit a memorandum of demands at concerned government offices," Upadhye said.

The state BJP is appalled at the MVA government's insensitivity, as lakhs of farmers have lost their crops, soil and livelihood due to excess rainfall, he said. "The damage assessment is yet to be completed in several villages and districts. Farmers have not yet received their compensation. It seems this government is more interested in the son of a Hindi film actor than the plight of farmers," the BJP leader said. The state sugar commissioner's decision is also against farmers, as electricity expenses will be deducted from the procurement money paid by sugar mills to cultivators, bringing down their earnings further.

Non-Bailable Warrant Again, Against Mumbai Ex-Top Cop In Extortion Case

A case of extortion was registered on July 23 against Parambir Singh, Sachin Wajhe and others at Goregaon Police Station, whose investigation was handed over to the Mumbai

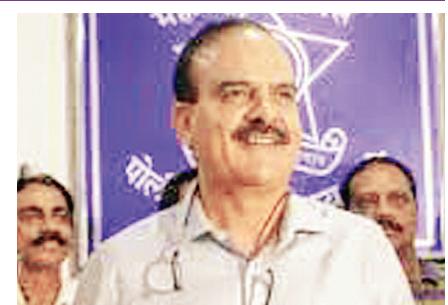
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai's Esplanade Court on Saturday issued a non-bailable warrant against former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh and two other accused in connection with an extortion case.

As per official information, this warrant has also been issued against Vinay Singh and Riaz Bhati, accused in the same case. At present, Bhati is on the run.

The application was filed in court by the Mumbai Crime Branch.

A case of extortion was registered on July 23 against Parambir Singh, Sachin Wajhe and others at Goregaon Police Station, whose investigation was handed over to the Mumbai Crime Branch. It was the second case of extortion in which Param Bir Singh has been



named. The Enforcement Directorate had earlier summoned the former Mumbai Police Commissioner to record a statement in connection with the ? 100 crore money laundering case against ex-Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

Maharashtra govt announces huge Diwali bonus for BMC, BEST employees months ahead of civic body polls

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Last year, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation gave a bonus of Rs 15,500 to all of its employees. The announcement comes months ahead of civic body polls. The elections for 227 seats of the BMC are expected to be held in February 2022.

The BMC officials and officers in BEST will get a bonus of Rs 20,000. Teachers/non-teaching staff in secondary schools will get Rs 10,000 as bonus and health workers will get Rs 5,300 as a bonus, according to Maharashtra government. Apart from this, a bonus of Rs 7,750 was given to the teachers and employees of the BMC school. Also, a bonus amount of Rs 4,700 was

announced to the teachers who are working on contract in BMC-run schools.

The Maharashtra chief minister's office (CMO) announced the bonus on Twitter. For BMC, this is the highest till now; for BEST, the amount is highest in last one decade. Last year, BMC gave a bonus of Rs 15,500 to all of its employees. Friday's meeting was attended by Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar, Deputy Mayor Suhas Wadkar, standing committee chairman Yashwant Jadhav, BEST committee chairman Ashish Chemburkar, BEST general manager Lokesh Chandra, joint commissioner (general administration) Milind Sawant, along with BMC as well as BEST officials/staff union leaders.

On a two-day tour of Aurangabad, Asaduddin Owaisi also criticised the Narendra Modi government on what he claimed was the inept handling of the China and Kashmir issues.

AURANGABAD | Agencies

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) will contest all elections in Maharashtra from here on and the option of entering into alliances is

Pooja Bhatt thanks Maharashtra minister for positive stand on Bollywood

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The past few days have been a whirlwind in the financial capital and the hub of Hindi cinema, Mumbai. Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, was granted conditional bail by the Bombay High Court and this has changed many things.

Amidst all the mud-slinging at Bollywood, the state's Minority Development, Aukaf, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Nawab Malik had come out strongly in support of the film fraternity.

Taking notice of his words, filmmaker-actress Pooja Bhatt thanked Malik for his support to the industry and the city of Mumbai when the industry and its people are constantly being maligned.

Taking to Twitter, she wrote: "Thank



you @nawabmaliknep for taking a stand against the engineered campaign of hate towards the Hindi film Industry. It makes us feel less orphaned. Bollywood

& Bombay/Mumbai are intrinsically linked. This is the city of dreams after all & has sustained millions over the years." Pooja's tweet comes at a time when the film industry is struggling with negative remarks and criticism from all quarters. Prior to this, she had reacted to Shah Rukh Khan's visit to Arthur Road jail when the actor went to meet his son.

Looking at the actor being surrounded by the media, Pooja had urged the media fraternity through her tweet which read: "Dear members of the press, I know times are tougher than ever & there is immense pressure on you'll from your respective employers to grab a byte even if it means compromising your own health & safety but how do you'll explain this pack like behaviour to your own children? Tragic."

Pimparkhed armed bank dacoity case solved

As per a senior officer, the Maharashtra police have arrested as many as five robbers on Saturday who looted at the Pimparkhed branch of the Bank of Maharashtra in Shirur taluka.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Acting quickly on their toes, the Maharashtra police have managed to nab five suspects who lay siege to a Pimparkhed branch of the Bank of Maharashtra in Shirur taluka.

on October 21. As per the report, in a successful attempt, the robbers fled with Rs 2.8 crore from the bank. In the course of the arrests, police recovered property worth Rs 2.2 crore which includes Rs 18 lakh cash and 7.3 kg gold ornaments.

According to the police team investigating the case, the robbery bid was planned to execute on October 20, but the idea was dropped due to the gram sabha meeting. Following this, the armed men had barged into the bank and robbed valuables worth Rs 2.8 crore. The suspects used a sedan car to escape with the loot.

Bank staffer strangulates woman to death, tries to pass off murder as suicide

The accused ran away from the crime spot and the body of the woman along with a suicide note and a broken fan was found in the bedroom.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In another shocking case from Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai, a 38-year-old bank staffer has been arrested on charges of allegedly killing a woman over financial dispute.

The accused, identified as Samadhan Landve, even tried to pass off the crime as suicide by getting a suicide note written by the now-deceased woman Shital Nikam (36). Reportedly, he asked her to write a note just before murdering her and attempting to hang her body to the ceiling fan.

According to further probe, the cops suspected that the duo were in an illicit relationship. Commenting further on the case, an officer added

that "Landve had given a loan of Rs 6.5 lakh to Nikam's husband by taking a personal loan in his name."

Battered by financial crunch due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nikam's husband was not able to pay the monthly installments to Landve due to which Landve was under pressure. It was on October 21 when Landve and the woman met and fought over the issue. During the fight, he even told her to "either you pay me or just die." The woman preferred to die and Landve suggested her to write a suicide note.

Unaware of his evil intentions, the woman wrote a letter after which the accused strangled her with the saree. The accused after killing

COVID-19:

Maharashtra records 1,130 new cases, 26 deaths, 2,148 recoveries on Saturday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra on Saturday, October 30, recorded 1,130 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the number of active cases to 16,905. Besides, 26 COVID-19 deaths were reported in the day, taking the number of total fatalities to 1,40,196.

2,148 patients were discharged in the day, taking the tally to 64,49,186. The recovery rate in the state is 97.57%. The case fatality rate in the state is 2.12%.

Currently, 1,67,064 people are in home quarantine and 897 people are in institutional quarantine.

The Mumbai circle that consists of MCGM, Thane, TMC, Navi Mumbai, KDMC, Ulhasnagar MC, Bhivandi Nijampur MC, Mira Bhayandar MC, Palghar, Vasai Virar



MC, Raigad, Panvel MC recorded 548 new cases. The Nashik circle--which consists of Nashik, Nashik MC, Malegaon MC, Ahmednagar, Ahmednagar

MC, Dhule, Dhule MC, Jalgaon, Jalgaon MC, Nandurbar-reported 177 fresh COVID-19 cases. The Pune circle that includes Pune, PMC, PCMC, Solapur, Solapur MC, Satara recorded 263 new cases.

The Kolhapur circle that includes Kolhapur, Kolhapur MC, Sangli, Sangli MC, Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri reported 57 new cases.

The Aurangabad circle that consists of Aurangabad, Aurangabad MC, Jalna, Hingoli, Parbhani, Parbhani MC, reported 27 fresh cases. The Latur circle that consists of Latur, Latur MC, Osmanabad, Beed, Nanded, Nanded MC recorded 39 fresh cases.

The Akola circle that includes Akola, Akola MC, Amaravati, Amaravati MC, Yawatmal, Buldhana, Washim recorded 5 fresh cases. Nagpur circle that includes Nagpur, Nagpur MC, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Chandrapur MC, Gadchiroli reported 14 fresh cases.

that "Landve had given a loan of Rs 6.5 lakh to Nikam's husband by taking a personal loan in his name."

Battered by financial crunch due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nikam's husband was not able to pay the monthly installments to Landve due to which Landve was under pressure. It was on October 21 when Landve and the woman met and fought over the issue. During the fight, he even told her to "either you pay me or just die." The woman preferred to die and Landve suggested her to write a suicide note.

Unaware of his evil intentions, the woman wrote a letter after which the accused strangled her with the saree. The accused after killing



Zayn Malik pleads no contest to harassment charges in reported dispute with Gigi, Yolanda Hadid

Los Angeles | Agencies

In the citations filed with magisterial district court in Pennsylvania, Malik was accused of saying "lewd, lascivious, threatening or obscene words" to Yolanda Hadid, Gigi Hadid (identified in court documents as Jelena Hadid) and John McMahon, whom TMZ identified as a security guard. The musician was also accused of physically harming Yolanda Hadid, with one citation stating that he "grabbed and shoved her into a dresser causing mental anguish and physical pain."

Yolanda Hadid is best known as a former cast member of the reality series *'Real Housewives of Beverly Hills'*. In his mail-in plea, Malik wrote in "Nolo," short for "Nolo Contendere" (no contest) in response to all of the charges but a court employee

entered them as guilty pleas, noting Malik's pleas were not an option for the level of the alleged offences, according to court documents.

In addition to his pleas, the musician agreed to 90 days probation for each count, for a total of 360 days and agreed to attend anger management class. He also agreed to have no contact with Yolanda Hadid or McMahon.

In a statement shared on his official Twitter account, the singer wrote that the incident "was and still should be a private matter."

"As you all know I am a private person and I very much want to create a safe

and private space for my daughter to grow up in. A place where private family matters aren't thrown on the world stage for all to poke and pick apart." "In an effort to protect that space for her I agreed to not contest claims arising from an argument I had with a family member of my partner's who entered our home while my partner was away several weeks ago."

The statement added: "This was and still should be a private matter but it seems for now there is divisiveness and despite my efforts to restore us to a peaceful family environment that will allow for me to co-parent my daughter in a manner in which she deserves, this has been 'leaked' to the press."

Malik went on to add that he was "hopeful though for healing for all involved with the harsh words shared and more importantly I remain vigilant to protect Khai and give her the privacy she deserves." Malik and Gigi Hadid welcomed their daughter Khai in September 2020.



Kit Harington had never heard of 'Eternals' character

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Kit Harington, who stars as Dane Whitman/Black Knight in the new Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) film 'Eternals', says he didn't know much about his alter ego, although he was attracted to the part by the "essence of the character". Asked if he was familiar with the character prior to the film, Harington told Variety: "No. If I'm totally honest, I hadn't heard of the character. I had to sort of read up on him and just see what the basics were. But the essence of the character and his powers seem to me very interesting."

He says that he has no idea where Marvel will take the character but was grateful for a superhero with "meat to get into", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The former 'Game of Thrones' star said: "God knows where it's gonna go. So I don't know, I can't predict whether, where, if anywhere, they'll take the character. But the basics of him having something that seems to be cursed, I thought, had a lot of meat to get into." The movie is his first major project since 'Game of Thrones', where he played the role of Jon Snow, came to an end and the actor had no qualms about jumping from one giant franchise to another.

"I don't think you get to choose when these things come along. Like, if Marvel calls up, and they say, we've got this interesting character for you, would you be interested in being in this movie...?"

"I mean, my process was it'd been about a year and a half since I'd filmed 'Thrones'. It seemed like an interesting character and an amazing universe, and that seemed like a no-brainer to me."

"I've got nothing against possibly long-running franchises and being in them. They've done very well for me! I've really enjoyed it. So it wasn't a very difficult decision to make." Once I saw what they were planning with this a" the director, it's Marvel, the character's cool - it was a pretty easy decision," he added.



'Rust' producers were warned about Dave Halls' safety issues

A crew member has shared that he warned the producers of the movie 'Rust' that Dave Halls, the first assistant director, was cavalier about set safety during a previous production.

Halls has admitted to investigators that he failed to properly check a gun before handing it to Alec Baldwin on the set of 'Rust' on October 21. Baldwin fired that gun while rehearsing a scene, killing cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and wounding the director, reports variety.com. The production companies credited on 'Rust' include Thomasville Pictures, led by Ryan Smith and Allen Cheney, as well as Short Porch Pictures, run by Nathan Klingher and Ryan Winterstern, among others.

The same two companies also produced 'One Way', another independent film that was shot in Georgia in February. Halls served as first assistant director on that project as well.

During filming, the crew member said he witnessed an unsafe situation in which cars were being driven in an open field by local people who were not stunt drivers. The crew member, who asked not to be identified, said that he specifically warned the producers that Halls was putting the crew in jeopardy.

"That man is a liability," the crew member recalled saying. "He's going to a... kill someone someday, and you're going to be responsible."

A second crew member on 'One Way' also said there were safety problems involving Halls and vehicles on set. This person said there was a scene with a 'car hit' that had inadequate crew, and that background actors were driving cars, instead of stunt drivers.

"They put me in a position of danger," the second crew member told Variety.

"They're getting the bottom-of-the-barrel

people."

A third crew member confirmed that he had heard about safety issues involving Halls and vehicles from a fourth person on set. This crew member also said he witnessed Halls losing his temper on set.

Jay Graves, the set dresser on 'One Way', also told Variety that he was nearly clipped by a car twice during the production. He said that they were filming on a street, but that the street was not completely closed, such that cross-traffic was able to drive through the set between takes.

"It was the least safe set I've ever worked on in my life," Graves said.

Another crew member, Jared Tyree, was on set for a day.

He told Variety that production shut down for about 30 minutes after two vehicles nearly collided. A spokesperson for the producers provided a quote from Molly Mayeux, the line producer on 'One Way', who denied there were safety issues on the set.

"I can attest with 100 per cent certainty that 'One Way' was extremely safety-conscious, and all safety protocols were followed during the shoot," Mayeux said.

"I am sickened by these sources' trying to capitalize on such a horrific accident."

Mayeux also denied that the crew member issued the warning about Halls being a "liability", according to the spokesperson.

Halls was also fired from another project:

'Freedom's Path', in 2019, after an incident involving a gun that went off unexpectedly,

according to that film's producers.

Thomasville Pictures was also involved in 'Bandit', an independent film starring Mel Gibson, though they were not the primary producers. Two crew members on that project said that some of the workers were not fully paid for the time they worked. Two crew members on 'One Way' also said there were issues with late paychecks on that film. Heather McReynolds, the second second assistant director on 'Bandit', said that crew members were given upscale hotel accommodations, and were not paid their full per diems. Not everyone had a bad experience with the company, however. J.M. Stelly, who worked as a digital imaging technician on 'One Way', said that Smith and Cheney treated him well. He also said he had been friends with Halls for years, and always knew him to be conscientious about safety. He said the fundamental question on 'Rust' is how a live round made it on set. "I don't think this falls on Allen and I don't think this falls on Ryan," Stelly said. "And people should lay off Dave. He admitted to what he did. That's the right thing to do."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



'Ron's Gone Wrong': Elevated with perfectly matched voices and brilliant animation

FILM REVIEW

TROY RIBEIRO

'Ron's Gone Wrong' (Running in Theatres)

Directors: Sarah Smith, Jean-Philippe Vine, Octovio E. Rodriguez

Cast: Zach Galifianakis, Jack Dylan Grazer, Olivia Colman, Ed Helms, Justice Smith, Rob Delaney, Kylie Cantrall, Ricardo Hurtado, Marcus Scribner, Thomas Barbusca.

Duration: 107 minutes

Ratings: *** (three stars)

This animated film reminds you of your childhood or of those children who were deprived of having the best toys or luxuries of the time. It also reminds you of the anxiety you faced when you tried making new friends. The story revolves around a seventh-grader named Barney Pudowski (Jack Dylan Grazer), who lives with his dad (Graham Ed Helms) and his Eastern European grandmother Donka (Olivia Coleman). He is an awkward kid since he does not own the latest android robotic device known as the B-Bot which is meant to help kids make friends easily. This B-Bot is marketed by a company called Bubble, a conglomerate like Google or Apple.

As the only kid in school without a B-Bot, Barney finds himself being isolated and bullied often. So, when he does not



receive one on his birthday, he is disappointed. Recognising his disappointment, his dad and grandma rush to the Bubble store and buy him the only piece that is left in the store. It is a defective piece that was dropped from the back of a delivery truck.

A thrilled Barney promptly names his robotic companion 'Ron' (Zach Galifianakis). When he powers it on, he finds that Ron can't even get connected to the network and after skilfully switching it on, he realises that Ron is a malfunctioning B-Bot that does not have a safety and security system in place. After getting into a bunch of trouble, Barney and Ron's misadventures catch the attention of the B-Bot creator Mark and his financier Andrew. While Andrew wants to destroy Ron, Mark is more concerned about Barney and his bond with Ron. There's an underlying sweetness to the bond that does develop between the duo, so it's inevitably frustrating when the ethical battle

between the company executives transforms the straightforward story into a generic plot revolving around company profits.

The humour in the film comes from twisted gags, Galifianakis' deadpan one-liners, and Ron's malfunctioning. The laughs cater mostly to young kids but the older audience too may find them amusing. The film is astutely crafted. It is about friendship and what real connections should look like, regardless if it is between a boy and an android or between schoolchildren. The film realistically shows how technology has wormed its way into human lives. It also reminds the audience who are vulnerable to technology that tech companies are not friends. It tells us how media conglomerates capitalise on their users by doing surveys and mining their data to sell more products and services to them. Overall, the perfectly matched voices and brilliant animation elevate the viewing experience.



JAMIE DORNAN LIED ABOUT MODELLING JOB

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jamie Dornan used to lie about his modelling career when he met girls because he was embarrassed. The 39-year-old actor, who has three daughters with wife Amelia Warner, struggled with the "energy" and the "vanity" of his former career and admitted when he used to meet women, he'd pretend he had a different job, reports femalefirst.co.uk. Dornan said: "I struggled with, let's say, the energy. There's too much vanity and it just feels douche-y as f***." "Too much nonsense. Whenever I went on a date or met a girl in a pub or whatever, I'd say I was a landscape gardener or worked for Google - anything but admit to having my photograph taken for a living." Despite it being a big part of the job, the "Belfast" star, who started modelling in 2003 before taking his first steps into acting in 2006, still isn't comfortable having his photograph taken because it feels so "unnatural". Speaking to the December/January issue of Britain's GQ magazine, he said: "I didn't love (modelling)." "And I still don't like having my photograph taken. I find it odd. I find it an unnatural thing to happen. It's not fun to be told continually to move your head about like it is on a swivel." Dornan turns 40 in May next year but he isn't "afraid" of the milestone because it has given him perspective. He said: "It gives you perspective, doesn't it? I am not afraid of that any more. I'm not someone with a five-year plan... but if my twenties were about beginning this career, modelling, the start of acting, and my thirties were about establishing myself, then I want my forties to be about building something that will last."

Draya Michele


T20 World Cup:

ENGLAND THRASH AUSTRALIA BY 8 WICKETS

Dubai, England produced a clinical performance with both bat and ball to thrash Australia by eight wickets in a Super-12 match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, here on Saturday. This was England's third successive victory and they are at the top position in Group 1 points table of the tournament. A sensational bowling performance by Chris Jordan (3/17), Chris Woakes (2/23), and Tymal Mills (2/45) helped England bowl out Australia for 125 in 20 overs. Apart from Jordan, Woakes, and Mills, Adil Rashid, Liam Livingstone also picked a wicket each for England while Aaron Finch (44 off 49) was the top-scorer for Australia. In reply, Jos Buttler's quickfire fifty (71 off 32) helped England chase down the target quite comfortably in 11.4 overs with 8 wickets in hand. Jason Roy (22) and Jonny Bairstow (16) also chipped in with small contributions with the bat.

Brief scores

Australia 125-10 in 20 overs (Aaron Finch 44; Chris Jordan 3/17, Chris Woakes 2/23) lost to England 126-2 in 11.4 overs (Jos Buttler 71, Jason Roy 22; Ashton Agar 1/15)



T20 World Cup: Hasaranga, fourth Sri Lanka bowler to claim T20I hat-trick

Sharjah | Agencies

Sri Lanka lost a thrilling Group 1 match to South Africa four wickets. But there was something for them to cheer on -- a hat-trick by their leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga. Though his effort went in vain, Hasaranga registered himself in the record books.

Hasaranga became the fourth bowler from Sri Lanka after Thisara Perera, Lasith Malinga (did it twice), and Akila Dananjaya to pick up a hat-trick in T20Is.

He also became the third bowler after Brett Lee and Curtis Campher to achieve the landmark in Men's T20 World Cups. Hasaranga is also the fourth bowler after Lee, Perera, and Malinga to take hat-tricks in both ODIs and T20Is. Hasaranga started by having Aiden Markram clean bowled with a googly on the final ball of the 15th over. On the first ball of the 17th over, Hasaranga got his



second wicket as South Africa captain Temba Bavuma picked out the fielder at deep mid-wicket, who leapt in the air to take the catch. On the very next ball, Dwayne Pretorius slogged straight to long-on, giving Hasaranga his hat-trick. Hasaranga almost got four wickets in four balls when Kagiso Rabada failed to read the googly and was hit on the pad. Sri Lanka immediately reviewed the on-field umpire's decision which was not out. But replays showed that the ball had pitched

outside leg, so the on-field decision stayed. Overall, Hasaranga finished with 3/20 in four overs.

Hasaranga's hat-trick was the second of the ongoing edition after Campher, the Ireland pacer, grabbed four wickets in as many deliveries against the Netherlands in a Round 1 match at Abu Dhabi. His heroics, though, could not propel Sri Lanka to victory as Rabada and Miller helped South Africa chase 143 with four wickets in hand and a ball to spare.

KERALA TO HOST SENIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

New Delhi: The Executive Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has approved Kerala as the venue for the forthcoming Senior Women's National Football Championship (NFC). The Senior Women's NFC will be held in three venues, and five stadia from November 25-December 9, 2021. The Committee also complimented the Kerala State

Government for their unprecedented support for the development of Indian Football. The Executive Committee also appreciated the support from states like Odisha and Jharkhand both of whom have been providing exemplary support, and hoped that respective State FAs along with support from the State Governments will take Indian Football forward together.

The Senior Women's National Football Championship, which was started in the 1991-92 season, was last held for the 2019-20 season at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, with Manipur beating Railways 1-0 in the final.

Miller, Rabada help SA edge past Sri Lanka in thriller

Sharjah | Agencies

Back-end heroics from David Miller (23 not out off 13 balls) and Kagiso Rabada (13 not out off 7 balls) helped South Africa prevail over Sri Lanka by four wickets in a thrilling Group 1 match of Super 12 stage in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium here on Saturday.

After Tabraiz Shamsi and Dwayne Pretorius took identical figures of 3/17 to bowl out Sri Lanka for 142 all out, South Africa were in trouble at 112/6 as Wanindu Hasaranga's hat-trick turned the game in Sri Lanka's favour. But Miller and Rabada chased down 25 runs in the last two overs to give South Africa their second successive win of the tournament. Chasing 143, South Africa lost openers Reeza Hendricks and Quinton de Kock in the fourth over by Dushmantha Chameera. While Hendricks was rapped on the back pad, de Kock got a top edge on the pull, pouched by the bowler himself.

There was some frantic running between the wickets when captain Temba Bavuma and Rassie van der Dussen were at the crease. One of those instances resulted in a mix-up between the batters, culminating in the run-out of van der Dussen in the eighth over as Dasun Shanaka hit the stumps directly at non-striker's end.

Bavuma had a 47-run partnership off 42 balls with Aiden Markram before Wanindu Hasaranga claimed the second hat-trick of the tournament and made things difficult for South Africa. Hasaranga started off by clean bowling Markram with a googly in the 15th over. After a quiet over from Maheesh



Theekshana, Bavuma whacked a gigantic six off Chameera.

But Hasaranga claimed wickets on the first two balls of his next over to complete his hat-trick. Bavuma picked out deep mid-wicket, who leapt in the air to take the catch. On the very next ball, Dwayne Pretorius slogged straight to long-on. Kagiso Rabada hit Chameera for a six over long-off in the 19th over yielding ten runs. With 15 needed off the final over, David Miller smacked Lahiru Kumara for back-to-back sixes before Rabada finished off in style with an edge past the keeper, with just a ball to spare. Earlier, South Africa struck at regular intervals with the ball, which made run-scoring a difficult task for Sri Lanka on a used pitch. Apart from Pathum Nissanka's 72 off 58 balls, no other batter could play a knock of significance.

After electing to bowl first, Anrich Nortje started things off by disturbing Kusal Perera's stumps in power-play. Nissanka soldiered on to hit boundaries and paced his knock with perfection

despite losing partners from other end.

Charith Asalanka looked in good nick but was run-out from a brilliant throw by Kagiso Rabada from mid-wicket. From there onwards, the Sri Lankan batting slide continued as Shamsi and Keshav Maharaj kept things tight while taking wickets in the middle overs.

Nissanka continued to bat deep, slamming an off-colour Kagiso Rabada for a six followed by back-to-back fours in the 18th over. But on the next over, Nissanka holed out to long-on off Pretorius. Maheesh Theekshana hit a boundary off Nortje in the final over to take Sri Lanka past 140-mark.

Brief scores

Sri Lanka 142 all out in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 72, Charith Asalanka 21, Tabraiz Shamsi 3/17, Dwayne Pretorius 3/17) lost to South Africa 146/6 in 19.5 overs (Temba Bavuma 46, David Miller 23 not out, Wanindu Hasaranga 3/20, Dushmantha Chameera 2/27) by four wickets

Men's World Boxing: Sumit extends winning run into pre-quarters

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian boxer Sumit continued his impressive form and moved into the pre-quarterfinals after defeating Abdumalik Boltayev of Tajikistan in the 75kg round of 32 match at the 2021 AIBA Men's Boxing Championships in Belgrade, Serbia on Saturday.

According to information received here, Sumit started the bout aggressively right from the first minute and dominated in a highly engaging and busy bout. Boltayev however tried to gauge Sumit's strategy but the Indian played on the front foot, taking away the first two rounds comfortably from his southpaw opponent.

Trailing on all judges' cards, Boltayev hit the aggressive mode in the third round but couldn't match the sharp footwork and work rate of Sumit, who kept landing precise punches before securing a unanimous victory.

In the Last-16 stage, Sumit will be up against Cuba's Yoenis Hernandez on Monday. Later on Saturday night, Sachin (80kg), Govind Sahani (48kg), and Shiva Thapa (63.5 kg) will be in



action. Govind will play for a spot in the quarter-finals whereas 2015 edition's bronze medallist Shiva and Sachin will play in the round of 32 stage.

Earlier, during the matches played late on Friday night, debutant Nishant Dev made his way into the 71kg pre-quarterfinals with a 4-1 victory against Mauritius's Merven Clair. Nishant will now square off against Mexico's Alvarez Verde in the Last-16

round on Sunday. Apart from Nishant, three more Indian boxers will play in the pre-quarterfinals stage on Sunday. The reigning Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg) will take on Georgia's Giorgi Tchigladze while Akash Kumar (54kg), who received a walkover in the last round, and Narendar (+92kg) will face Puerto Rico's Caleb Tirado and Tajikistan's Jakhon Qurbonov respectively.

Rashid's 100th T20 wicket, Asif's power hitting: T20 World Cup in numbers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 in the UAE has produced many unique and interesting statistics so far, with many more to come in the upcoming matches of the mega-event.

Rashid Khan's 100th T20 wicket, Asif Ali's power hitting, David Warner's return to form and Afghanistan's winning streak in the UAE coming to an end, have been among the top moments of the tournament.

A look at some of the most interesting statistics, which have emerged from the Super 12 of the tournament till the Pakistan-Afghanistan clash on Friday (October 29).

Rashid Khan's 100

The Afghanistan spin-whiz Rashid Khan is the latest entrant in the 100 wickets club in men's T20 Internationals. During the course of his two-wicket spell against Pakistan in the Super 12s match at Dubai International Stadium on Friday, Rashid completed his century of wickets and became only the fourth man, after Tim Southee, Shakib Al Hasan and Lasith Malinga, to achieve this milestone.

The 23-year old made his debut only in 2015 and is the quickest to the landmark in terms of matches and time. It needed him only 53 T20Is and six years to reach the century. Malinga had done it in 76 matches whereas Shakib and Southee, who also completed 100 wickets during this tournament against Pakistan, needed 84 matches each.

The power-hitting of Asif Ali

The swashbuckling Pakistan batter Asif Ali's 7 sixes from 19 balls have won Pakistan two crucial games, against New Zealand and



Afghanistan, in T20 World Cup 2021. He is the first batter from Pakistan to hit four sixes in an over in T20 Internationals. With Pakistan needing 24 off 12 balls, Asif launched four sixes in the penultimate over of the innings, bowled by Karim Janat, and sealed the game with an over to spare.

He needed only seven balls to get the 'Player of the Match' award, the least by any man who didn't have a bowling role in a T20I game. The previous record in a full 20 overs international game was Dinesh Karthik's 8-ball 29 against Bangladesh in Nidahas Trophy Final in Colombo in 2018.

Asif, who scored 100 on his T20 debut 10 years ago and has hit 68 sixes in Pakistan Super League, is now showing his prowess in international cricket. In this T20 World Cup, he has scored 52 off 19 balls at a strike-rate of 273.68 and is the only batter alongside Evin Lewis with seven sixes in the Super 12s round so far.



Babar's 1000 runs as captain During his 51 off 47 balls match-winning effort against Afghanistan in Dubai, Pakistan star batter Babar Azam also completed 1000 runs as captain in T20Is. He required only 26 innings to achieve the landmark, the least by any captain in the world. India legend Virat Kohli held the previous record -- 1000 runs in 30 innings.

Babar, who first led Pakistan against Australia in Sydney in 2019, is the ninth captain and the first from Pakistan to accumulate 1000 runs while leading the team, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said.

Warner's T20I form

David Warner may not be having a good time in the domestic T20s -- he scored only 195 runs at a strike-rate of 107.73 for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL this year and was dropped after two games during the UAE leg of the league -- but for Australia he has been in a stunning form since his comeback

in 2019.

The 35-year old scored a match-winning 65 off 42 balls against Sri Lanka in Dubai. Since 2019, he has amassed 552 runs in T20Is at an average of 78.85 and a strike-rate of 138.34 and hit one hundred and six half-centuries. There is no country apart from Sri Lanka against whom he has over 500 runs in T20Is whereas his last four scores against the Islanders are (most recent first): 65 in Dubai, 57 not out in Melbourne, 60 not out in Brisbane and 100 not out in Adelaide. Overall, he has 512 runs against Sri Lanka at an average of 56.88 and a strike-rate of 138.75.

The dots bowled by Starc

Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc played a key role in his team's win over Sri Lanka in Dubai in the Super 12s match with a spell of 4-0-27-2. Of his 24 balls, 11 were dots. He is the only man from a Test-playing nation who has a dot balls percentage of 50 in his T20I career.

The Australian speedster has bowled 972 deliveries in T20Is, 486 of which have been dots giving him a dot balls percentage of exactly 50%. Among the bowlers who have bowled at least 500 balls in men's T20Is, the next highest percentage of dots is by India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar (48.33) followed by the West Indies leg-spinner Samuel Badree (47.99).

The streaks

Afghanistan's streak of 17 consecutive wins in T20Is in the United Arab Emirates came to an end with a defeat against Pakistan in Dubai whereas Pakistan consolidated their winning streak in the same country to 14 T20 Internationals dating back to 2016.

Sathiyan-Harmeet wins doubles title at WTT Contender Tunis


Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Harmeet Desai have won the men's doubles title in the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender Tunis 2021, beating France's Emmanuel Lebesson and Alexandre Cassin 3-1 (11-9, 4-11, 11-9, 11-5) in the final played at Tunis, Tunisia on Saturday.

Sathiyan and Harmeet, who were part of the gold medal-winning Indian men's team at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia, paired up for this event and played up superbly as they did not give their French rivals, who recently played together at the Tokyo Olympics, many chances. After winning the close first game, the Indian pair lost the second easily but then came back strongly

to win the next two games to clinch the title 3-1.

Sathiyan and Harmeet started aggressively, dominating the early exchanges as they won the first game 11-9. They, however, committed a few errors that allowed the French pair to dominate the second game and win it easily. The third game was another close affair and the Indians capitalised on the chances given by their opponents, who struggled with the angles, to take a 2-1 lead.

Having gained ascendancy, Sathiyan and Harmeet took an early 5-1 lead in the fourth game and went on to wrap it up at 11-5 to win the title. This is Sathiyan's second title in the WTT Contender 2021 series having won the mixed doubles crown at the Budapest with Manika Batra in August.



Ranveer lauds NCERT's move to introduce school texts in sign language

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Ranveer Singh, who has been lobbying with authorities to declare Indian Sign Language (ISL) as the country's 23rd official language, and signed a petition in support of the cause, has lauded the steps taken by India to make textbooks and other educational material accessible for deaf children in sign language.

Ranveer's independent record label, IncInk, which he has launched with Navzar Erane, has released mul-

iple sign language music videos. In September, the 'Gully Boy' star released two sign language videos to increase awareness about ISL.

He also lauded the MoU signed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) with the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) to assist deaf children in Classes I to V with educational material in sign language.

In a statement, Ranveer said that it was "a huge step forward in a truly inclusive society". He added that "inclusivity leads to accessibility" and that he was "hopeful of what is to come in 2022" because the country's leaders are "identifying with this movement".

The availability of NCERT textbooks in ISL will ensure hearing-impaired children can now access educational resources and they will be a useful resource for teachers, teacher educators, parents and the hearing-impaired community.

"The National Education Policy 2020 is a progressive move that is much needed by the deaf community and the nation and I commend this big step. This is an important start to equalise the playing field for the 70 lakh-plus citizens of the deaf community," Ranveer said.



Chiranjeevi, Venkatesh pay homage, shed tears for Puneeth

Telugu megastars Chiranjeevi and Venkatesh shed tears while paying their last respects to Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Both the actors reached Bengaluru along with actor Srikant and comedian Ali to pay homage to the young actor who succumbed to cardiac arrest on Friday. They placed wreaths on the body and consoled the actor's elder brother, Shrivikram.

Chiranjeevi said: "We miss you Appu (Puneeth). God has taken you because you were a good person. May the Almighty give strength to your family. May your soul rest in peace. Whenever we came to Bengaluru, we visited Rajkumar's family. We got used to it. It was a good experience. Puneeth was a genuine person with a good heart and soul."

Srikant said: "Puneeth was a down to earth person who respected elders. We are going to miss him. I worked with him in the movie



'James'. All Telugu heroes respected Puneeth. 'James' was supposed to be dubbed in Telugu, therefore, Puneeth had called me a week ago."

Popular actor Arjun Sarja also paid his last respects to Puneeth.

He said: "We will always remember you. May the Almighty give strength to the family to cope with this situation. Puneeth was a fitness freak.

How it happened to him is a million dollar question. The government has made good arrangements," he said.

Meanwhile, Puneeth's elder daughter Dhruthi reached Bengaluru from New York and broke down in front of her father's body. The sight of his two daughters holding their mother while crying in front of the body of their father was heart wrenching.

'HUM DO HAMARE DO': A FROTHY FAMILY DRAMA THAT KEEPS YOU ENTERTAINED

FILM REVIEW

BY TROY RIBEIRO

'Hum Do Hamare Do' (Streaming on Disney+ Hotstar)

Direction: Abhishek Jain

Cast: Rajkummar Rao, Kriti Sanon, Paresh Rawal, Ratna Pathak Shah, Aparshakti Khurana, Manu Rishi, Prachi Shah

Duration: 129 minutes.

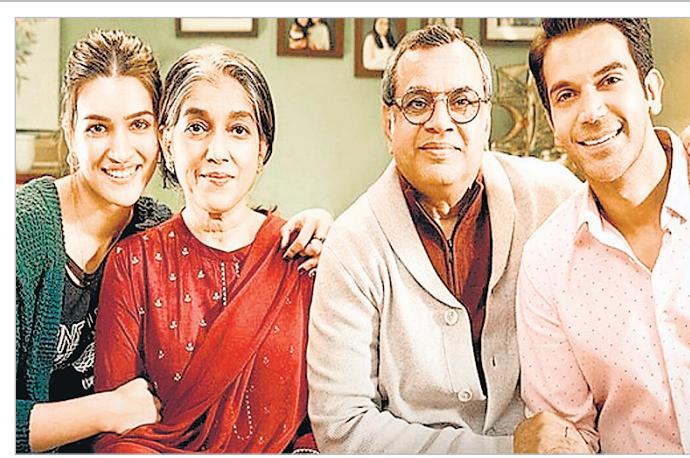
Ratings: *** (three star)

Director Abhishek Jain's 'Hum Do Hamare Do', is a frothy entertainer that claims to be about reversal adoption (where kids adopt their parents), but in

reality, the film is about what constitutes a family, people sharing the same surname or people who bond with each other irrespective of their origin?

Here, adoption should not be taken in the literal sense. It simply means accepting someone as a family member and presenting them as one. In this case, Dhruv (Rajkummar Rao), an orphan presents Purshotam Mishra (Paresh Rawal) and Deepi Kashyap (Ratna Pathak Shah) as his parents to the love of his life, Anya (Kriti Sanon) who too is an orphan living with her foster parents, her uncle Dr Sanjeev Mehra (Manu Rishi) and his wife Rupa (Prachi Shah). How this fake relationship is exposed and then the couple unite is the core essence of this film.

The concept of presenting fake parents or family members is hackneyed in the Hindi film industry and to add to this, the plot of the film lacks novelty.



Despite the narrative being filled with past trauma, frustration, deep loss, and heartbreak almost throughout, the realness of the hero's journey is lost, in the rosy picture of a happy family ending. How Dhruv rose from being a dhaba attendant to becoming an ace app developer, an entrepre-

neur, and teaching street children during his spare time, is simply taken for granted.

The script is uninventive right from the first scene to the last. Every aspect of the characters developed in the narrative is filled with clichés and even the climax is oft-seen. The only metaphor of

comparing the vehicles on the highway to life is unique and an eye-opener in the film.

On the performance front, with the pairing of Paresh Rawal and Ratna Pathak Shah, you'd expect some light moments, but alas, they seemed to have kicked the funny bone out of their characters, making the drama between them staid and far from funny.

Similarly, Aparshakti Khurana as Sandeep a.k.a. Shunty despite giving a good performance appears as a clichéd lackey. Rajkummar Rao and Kriti Sanon are just themselves, sleepwalking through their characters.

Mounted with moderate production values, the music, cinematography, editing, and production designs are nothing exceptional to write home about.

Overall, since the couple had adopted a dog too at the end, the numbers in the film literally or figuratively do not match.

Neha Sharma

SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI HOPES TO BE GOOD REPRESENTATIVE OF TALENT THAT EXISTS IN UP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Siddhant Chaturvedi, who will be seen in the crime comedy, 'Bunty Aur Babli 2', is hopeful that he gets the opportunity to be the representative of talent that exists in his state, Uttar Pradesh.

The actor hails from the small town of Ballia, Uttar Pradesh and he wants to make the town and state proud of his achievements.

Talking about his struggle to make it big, Siddhant said: "For someone who comes from a small town like Ballia, first getting a break in Bollywood, to now being a hero of a commercial big Hindi film is truly a dream come true." "I never thought I could make it because I had seen so many talented people from small towns like me struggle hard to get noticed."

He added: "It is very tough but I have to admit that there is a lot of learning in that struggle. It grounded me, showed me the reality of a big



town, and guided me to not look at anything with rose-tinted glasses. "My struggle made me stronger and I can't complain about that. I'm truly fortunate that I got my break with Excel Films and a visionary film-maker like Zoya Akhtar." Siddhant says he "wants to represent Ballia well with his work and make people from my town proud of him."

"I hope I'm a good representative of the talent that exists in UP and also in small towns across the length and breadth of our beautiful country." "I'm hungry to be one of the best actors of our industry. I have miles to go and I'm willing to learn every single day because that's what will help me realise my goal", he concluded. Produced by Yash Raj Films, 'Bunty Aur Babli 2' also stars Saif Ali Khan and Rani Mukerji as the OG Bunty and Babli. While debutante Sharvari essays the role of the new Babli. The film derives its comedy by pitting the two con pairs together as one constantly tries to have an edge over the other. The film directed by Varun V. Sharma is slated to hit the cinemas on November 19.

Rajkummar -Bhumi starrer 'Badhaai Do' to release in cinemas on Republic Day weekend 2022!

Three years after their National Award-winning film, 'Badhaai Ho', Junglee Pictures is all set to take the love for the movie to the next level with 'Badhaai Do'. The movie directed by Harshavardhan Kulkarni, is one of the most eagerly awaited family entertainers



releasing next year. Ever since the makers have announced the on-screen couple Rajkummar Rao and Bhumi Pednekar, it has generated huge anticipation and piqued curiosity among the movie buffs and fans. Besides Rajkummar and Bhumi, the family entertainer also boasts of an ensemble cast featuring seasoned actors like Seema Pahwa, Sheeba Chadha, Lovleen Mishra, Nitish Pandey, Shashi Bhushan amongst others essaying pivotal roles taking the narrative ahead. Building the anticipation further, the makers have now officially announced the theatrical release date of 'Badhaai Do' on Republic Day Weekend, 2022. Sharing the screen space for the first time, Rajkummar and Bhumi will be seen portraying interesting characters they have never played on screen before. While Raj will be essaying the role of a cop in a Mahila police thana, Bhumi plays the role of a PT Teacher in the film.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

